

# Lyric

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#LyricSecondCity

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**Lyric Opera of Chicago and The Second City – together again!**  
**Longer! Louder! Wagner! The Second City Wagner Companion**

**An original musical comedy inspired by *RING* composer Richard  
Wagner**

**6 performances October 27 – October 30**

*Lyric*  
&  
*The Second City*

CHICAGO –**Lyric Opera of Chicago** and **The Second City** are thrilled to announce an all new collaboration with the fall premiere of **Longer! Louder! Wagner!**, an all new and hilarious comedy inspired by **Ring** composer Richard Wagner.

Why Wagner, and why now? Because Lyric is launching its brand-new **Ring** cycle – the mind-blowing four-opera saga created by **Richard Wagner** over the course of 26+ years. Part One, ***Das Rheingold***, opens Lyric’s 2016/17 season October 1, with the next three operas presented one per season until

2020, when the full cycle will be presented three times over the course of three weeks, attracting audiences from around the world.

Lyric Opera, through its **Lyric Unlimited** division, and The Second City join forces once again to take on everyone's favorite four-day fifteen-hour opera. **Longer! Louder! Wagner!** brings us to 1848 Germany where Wagner first began work on the *Ring*, to modern day Bayreuth, home of Wagner's personally-designed opera house. **Longer! Louder! Wagner!** hilariously illustrates the lasting effects of his masterpiece and the headaches an opera company might encounter trying to mount this behemoth. *Note: show may contain inaccurate German accents.*

**Longer! Louder! Wagner!** is written by **Timothy Sniffen** and directed by **Anneliese Toft**. Sniffen co-wrote *The Second City Guide to the Opera*, the first collaboration between Lyric and The Second City during Lyric's 2012/13 season, and also wrote *Death of a Streetcar Named Virginia Woolf: A Parody*, currently running to great acclaim at Writers Theater. **Jesse Case** returns as music director, following the success of *The Second City Guide to the Opera*. The cast includes six actors from The Second City and two classically trained singers.

**Longer! Louder! Wagner!** opens on **Thursday, October 27 at 7pm** with six performances through October 30. Shows will take place backstage in Lyric's William Mason Rehearsal Hall. The space will be transformed into an intimate, comedy club-like venue, giving ticket holders a unique opportunity to enjoy the show within the backstage spaces rarely seen by the public. Running time is approximately 80 minutes, without intermission. Ticket prices are \$35, \$45 and \$65, and food and beverage service will be available.

*The Second City Guide to the Opera*, a lively revue-style show, featured cast members from The Second City, singers from **The Ryan Opera Center**, and appearances by Lyric's creative consultant and legendary soprano **Renée Fleming** and actor **Sir Patrick Stewart**. The critically-acclaimed show won two **Joseph Jefferson Awards** for Best Production: Revue and Best Director: Revue. The single performance sold out the entire opera house and prompted a month-long series of cabaret-style shows with audience and performers onstage together, following the regular opera season.

"I can't wait to see what our two great companies come up with this time around," says **Anthony Freud**, Lyric's general director. "Wagner's complicated life and astonishing creative output, culminating in the *Ring*, will doubtless inspire the creative minds of The Second City to improbable new heights – and depths! This show will entertain fans of great music and great comedy alike."

**Erica Daniels**, president of Second City Theatricals, agrees: "We are thrilled to once again collaborate with our friends at Lyric and the source material could not be richer."

Tickets for **Longer! Louder! Wagner! The Second City Wagner Companion** are on sale now and can be purchased at [lyricopera.org/secondcity](http://lyricopera.org/secondcity) or by calling 312-827-5600.

Wagner's *Ring* cycle, inspired by Norse sagas, centers on the magically powerful ring made from stolen Rhine gold, which sets in motion a series of catastrophic and unexpected events and consequences for gods and mortals alike that unfold over four individual operas. Lyric will present *Das Rheingold* in the 2016/17 season, followed by *Die Walküre* (2017/18), *Siegfried* (2018/19), *Götterdämmerung* (2019/2020), and finally the full *Ring* cycle of all four operas in the spring of 2020.

## About Lyric

Lyric Opera of Chicago's mission is to express and promote the life-changing, transformational, revelatory power of great opera. Lyric exists to provide a broad, deep, and relevant cultural service to Chicago and the nation, and to advance the development of the art form.

Founded in 1954, Lyric is dedicated to producing and performing consistently thrilling, entertaining, and thought-provoking opera with a balanced repertoire of core classics, lesser-known masterpieces, and new works; to creating an innovative and wide-ranging program of community engagement and educational activities; and to developing exceptional emerging operatic talent.

Under the leadership of general director Anthony Freud, music director Sir Andrew Davis, and creative consultant Renée Fleming, Lyric strives to become The Great North American Opera Company for the 21st century: a globally significant arts organization embodying the core values of excellence, relevance, and fiscal responsibility. Visit [www.lyricopera.org](http://www.lyricopera.org) for more information.

## About Lyric Unlimited

**Lyric Unlimited** is a long-term, evolving initiative that encompasses company activities that are not part of Lyric's mainstage opera season. Its mission is to provide a relevant cultural service to communities throughout the Chicago area and to advance the development of opera by exploring how opera as an art form can resonate more powerfully with people of multiple backgrounds, ethnicities, and interests. It also leads the development of innovative partnerships with a wide range of cultural, community, and educational organizations to create a breadth of programming through which Chicagoans of all ages can connect with Lyric. In the 2014/15 season, more than 126,000 children, students, and adults participated in Lyric Unlimited activities. For more information about Lyric Unlimited program offerings, visit [lyricopera.org/lyricunlimited](http://lyricopera.org/lyricunlimited).

## About Second City Theatricals

Second City Theatricals produces an eclectic array of entertainment in venues worldwide. Recent productions include The Second City's *Almost Accurate Guide to America*, a customized show for The Kennedy Center; *The Art of Falling*, a critically acclaimed collaboration with Hubbard Street Dance Chicago (Ahmanson Theater, Los Angeles); *Let Them Eat Chaos* (The Woolly Mammoth Theatre); *#DateMe*, an original comedy in partnership with OK Cupid and; *Death of a Streetcar Name Virginia Woolf*, with Writers Theatre. Upcoming productions include *Unelectable You*, a political show in partnership with *SLATE Magazine*. The Second City Theatricals is the exclusive provider of sketch and improv comedy for Norwegian Cruise Line.

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