



FROM:  
**Lisa Middleton**  
Director of Marketing

MEDIA INQUIRIES:

**Holly H. Gilson**  
[hgilson@lyricopera.org](mailto:hgilson@lyricopera.org)  
312-827-5939

**Magda Krance**  
[mkrance@lyricopera.org](mailto:mkrance@lyricopera.org)  
312-827-5924

**Kamaria Morris**  
[kmorris@lyricopera.org](mailto:kmorris@lyricopera.org)  
312-827-5928



PHOTO: Todd Rosenberg

**Lyric Opera of Chicago's 62<sup>nd</sup> season opens  
with the first installment of Wagner's magnificent *Ring* cycle  
**DAS RHEINGOLD**  
Lyric Opera of Chicago's Opening Night Gala and Opera Ball  
Saturday, October 1**

Opening Night and Opera Ball are projects of the Lyric Opera of Chicago Women's Board.

**Mimi Mitchell** (Chicago), Women's Board President

**Regan Rohde Friedmann** (Chicago) and **Eileen Murphy** (Chicago),

Opening Night Gala Performance and Opera Ball Co-Chairs

CHICAGO (9/20/16) – On Saturday, October 1, elegantly dressed guests will make their red-carpet entrances amidst the paparazzi at Lyric's Civic Opera House. It's the opening night of *Das Rheingold*, which launches **Lyric Opera of Chicago's** 62<sup>nd</sup> season. Doors open at 4:45pm and the performance begins at 6pm, concluding after 8:30pm with Opera Ball immediately following the performance at 9pm at the Hilton Chicago.

The Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Grand Foyer of Lyric's Civic Opera House and the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton Chicago will be transformed for the Opening Night Gala by **HMR Designs**, the event design firm led by creative director **Bill Heffernan**. Inspired by the waters of the magical Rhine, the décor for this event will be like nothing Lyric's guests have experienced previously.

**Regan Rohde Friedmann** (Chicago) and **Eileen Murphy** (Chicago) are co-chairs for the Opening Night Gala Performance and Opera Ball. The Opening Night Gala is sponsored by **Aon** for the 32<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year.

Considered one of the greatest musical achievements in Western culture, this masterwork by Richard Wagner is the first of four operas in the legendary **Ring** cycle. Conducted by **Sir Andrew Davis**, Lyric's own celebrated music director, **Das Rheingold** is the beginning of a journey that every opera lover will want to experience. **Eric Owens** will sing Wotan, having previously portrayed Alberich in a production "so richly layered that it may become part of the history of the work" (*The New Yorker*). **Štefan Margita** returns to Lyric's stage as the demigod Loge, while **Tanja Ariane Baumgartner** and **Samuel Youn** make their highly anticipated American debuts as Fricka and Alberich. Prepare to be immersed in a brand-new production from world-renowned director **David Pountney**. Production designers are the late **Johan Engels** and **Robert Innes Hopkins** (sets), **Marie-Jeanne Lecca** (costumes), and **Fabrice Kebour** (lighting). **Denni Sayers** is choreographer. There will be six performances October 1 through 22, in German with projected English translations.

The opening-night performance of **Das Rheingold** can be heard live locally on 98.7WFMT and globally on [wfmt.com](http://wfmt.com), beginning at 5:45pm.

Tickets for all performances of **Das Rheingold** (including Opening Night) start at \$20 for children and \$34 for adults. For reservations and information call (312) 827-5600 or go to [lyricopera.org/rheingold](http://lyricopera.org/rheingold).

Individual Opera Ball reservations for \$500/person are available to those who prefer to purchase Ball admissions without performance tickets. Individual Gala reservations, which include prime seating at the performance and a reservation for the Opera Ball, are \$1,250/person.

The evening's ultimate experience is available through the **Rheingold Premium Package**, featuring round-trip transportation between Lyric's Civic Opera House and Hilton Chicago, pre-opera reception in the beautiful William B. and Catherine Graham Room, premier seating for the performance, premium wine and table service at the Opera Ball, an opportunity to host an artist or production team member at your Opera Ball table, and two tickets to an exclusive costume preview with the production designer, **Marie-Jeanne Lecca**. Other premium package levels are available as well. For information and to make reservations please call the Women's Board Office at **312-827-5682**.

The Opera Ball will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton Chicago, 720 South Michigan Avenue.

Complimentary transportation will convey Opera Ball guests from the Civic Opera House to the Hilton Chicago following the opening-night performance. The expected 400+ Opera Ball guests will make their red-carpet entrances and ascend the grand staircase to the welcoming music of a brass fanfare. A pre-performance reception in the beautiful William B. and Catherine Graham Room will be attended by Premium Package purchasers and additional honored guests.

“Taking cues from this year’s new production of Wagner’s *Das Rheingold*, the blue and gold decor at the Opera Ball takes a decidedly surrealistic bent with reinterpreted references to the show’s iconic elements: golden apples, bronze rectangular metal structures, and watery images. Simple, yet dramatic table décor is punctuated with overscaled thematic elements, creating an unusually beautiful setting for this year’s Opera Ball,” says Heffernan.

When dinner begins in this exquisitely decorated space, guests will be welcomed by Lyric President and CEO **David T. Ormesher**. The opening-night artists will then be presented by Lyric General Director **Anthony Freud** in the traditional Grand March of the Stars. **Spoken Four**, a member of the Maggie Speaks family, will provide music for dinner and dancing.

#### **About Lyric Opera of Chicago**

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. For more information, visit [lyricopera.org](http://lyricopera.org).

---

Lyric Opera’s new production of the *Ring* cycle is generously made possible by an **Anonymous Donor** (Lead Sponsor), and by cosponsors **Mr. & Mrs. Dietrich M. Gross**, the **Gamma Fisher Foundation of Marshalltown, Iowa**, and **Ada and Whitney Addington**.

Lyric Opera’s new production of *Das Rheingold* is generously made possible by **Abbott Fund**, **Marlys A. Beider**, **Bulley & Andrews**, **Liz Stiffel**, and **Helen and Sam Zell**.

The *Ring* cycle is a coproduction by Lyric Opera of Chicago and Teatro Real, Madrid.

The Opera Ball is generously cosponsored by **ITW** for the fourteenth year and by **Northern Trust** for the eighteenth year.

**The Lyric Opera of Chicago Broadcasts** are generously sponsored by the **Caerus Foundation, Inc.**, with matching funding provided by The **Matthew and Kay Bucksbaum Family**, **The John and Jacolyn Bucksbaum Foundation**, and **The Richard P. and Susan Kiphart Family**.



[Unsubscribe](#) | [Forward](#) | [View in browser](#)

Lyric Opera of Chicago | 20 N. Wacker Drive | Chicago, IL 60606