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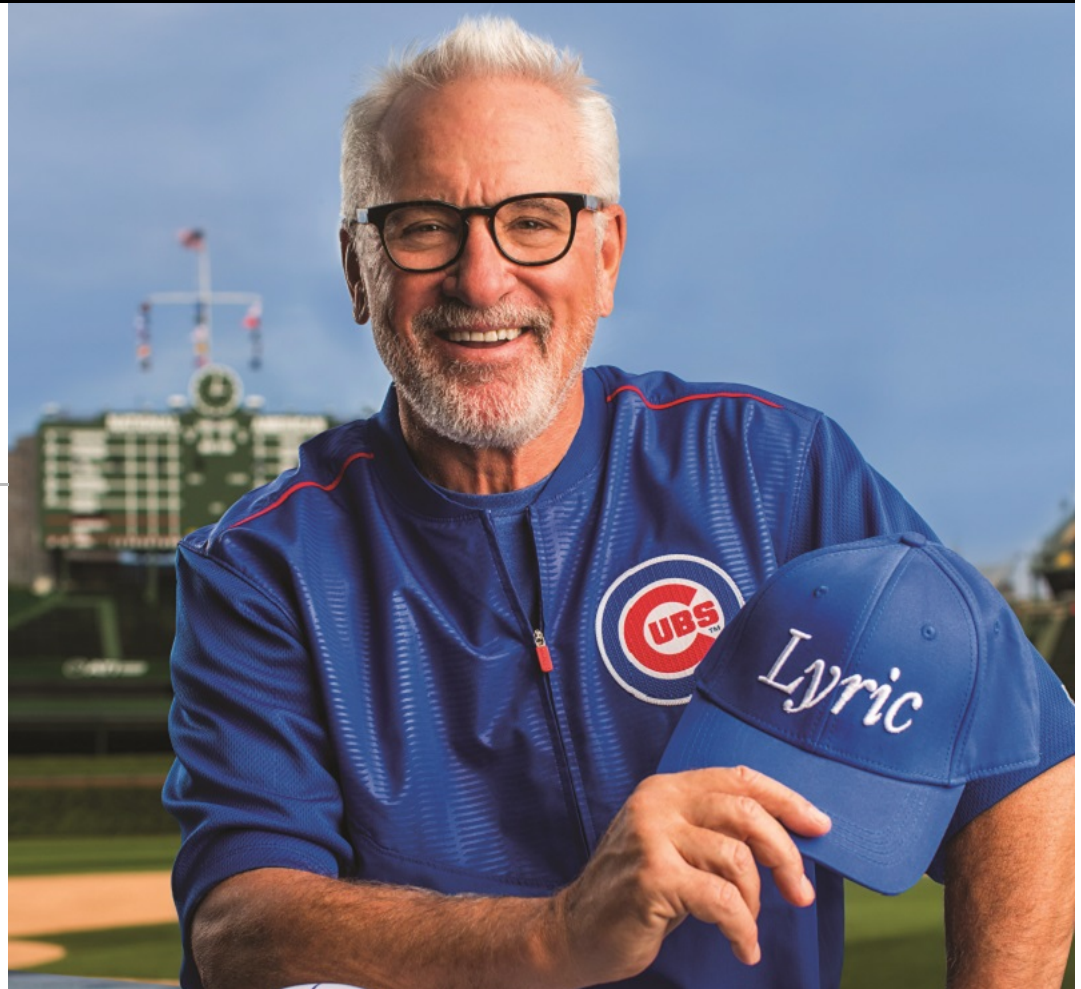
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Chicago Cubs Manager Joe Maddon

PHOTO: Todd Rosenberg

**HATS OFF TO LYRIC FROM CUBS MANAGER JOE MADDON!  
OPERATHON 2016 on 98.7WFMT & [WFMT.com](http://WFMT.com)  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 9AM TO 7PM**

**CHICAGO – (Oct. 12) On Saturday, October 15, 9am to 7pm, OPERATHON 2016**, Lyric Opera of Chicago's 37th annual radio marathon fundraiser, will be broadcast live on **98.7WFMT** radio and live stream on [WFMT.com](http://WFMT.com). The marathon radio fundraiser supports **Lyric Unlimited**, which encompasses Lyric's education and community-engagement programs.

And talk about a confluence of operatic and athletic all-stars flying the W! Chicago Cubs Manager **Joe Maddon** graces the cover of this year's OPERATHON catalog (headline "All Hits, No Misses"), doffing a Cubbie-blue Lyric baseball cap that goes beautifully with his stylin' Cubs shirt.

Two Lyric baseball caps autographed by Cub manager **Joe Maddon** will be auctioned during Operathon 2016, with the highest bidders to be announced at 6:45pm. By happy coincidence, the Cubs will be playing their first NLCS game in Chicago on Saturday, too!

(The cap also comes in red, and can be had for just \$20, along with lots of other great items being offered as premiums for support.)

This Saturday, 9am-7pm, the phone lines will be open and **Operathon 2016** will broadcast live from Lyric's Civic Opera House on **98.7WFMT** (streamed on [WFMT.com](http://WFMT.com)). A marvelous mix of artists from Lyric's new season and behind-the-scenes staffers will engage in lively conversations about everything that Lyric does at the opera house and beyond. Musical interludes will be plentiful, highlighting operas and artists of current and past Lyric seasons. Lyric's general director **Anthony Freud** and **Sir Andrew Davis**, Lyric's music director and principal conductor, will appear on the air several times over the course of the day.

Among the stars\* and Lyric stalwarts appearing during the Saturday broadcast are:

- Lyric creative consultant **Renée Fleming**
- Lyric community ambassador and *Eugene Onegin* star **Ana María Martínez**
- Lyric community ambassador and *Das Rheingold* star **Eric Owens**
- *Les Troyens* and *Carmen* star **Brandon Jovanovich**
- *Norma* star **Sondra Radvanovsky**
- *Charlie Parker's Yardbird* star **Lawrence Brownlee**
- *Lucia di Lammermoor* conductor **Enrique Mazzola**
- Romanian bass **Adrian Sâmpetean**, Raimondo in *Lucia*
- *Longer! Louder! Wagner!* cast members **Jesse Case** and **Tim Ryder** from The Second City
- Members of the Lyric Opera Chorus
- Chorus Master **Michael Black**
- Members of the Lyric Opera Orchestra
- Members of the Ryan Opera Center Ensemble with ROC board chair **John Nitschke**, director **Dan Novak**, and music director **Craig Terry**
- Lyric Opera Board President & CEO **David Ormesher**
- Ardmore Associates President **Cherryll Thomas**, an Operathon cosponsor

\*subject to change

**Roger Pines**, Lyric's dramaturg and broadcast commentator, will co-host the broadcast from a temporary studio at the Civic Opera House, along with WFMT's **Dennis Moore** (9am-12 noon) and **Candice Agree** (4-7pm). For the early

afternoon stretch, **Holly Gilson**, Lyric's deputy director of communications, will co-host with WFMT's **Carl Grapentine** (12-4pm). Interviews will alternate with special merchandise offers and musical selections highlighting Lyric's 2016-17 season. Listeners will also be invited to use an all-weekend promotional code to save on select performances of opera, musical, and special events at [lyricopera.org](http://lyricopera.org), encouraging them to experience Lyric live at the Civic Opera House.

Anyone can order and enjoy a range of merchandise created especially for Lyric. Lyric supporters may order exclusive merchandise at [Lyric's OperaShop](http://Lyric's OperaShop). Those wishing to order merchandise and make a donation may call **1-888-726-5700** during OPERATHON on Sat., Oct. 15. Premiums include:

- two Lyric baseball caps signed by Cubs Manager Joe Maddon – priceless! The highest bids for this special auction offering will be announced at 6:45pm.
- limited-edition Sir Andrew Davis bobblehead – a Lyric first! (\$100, or \$150 with autograph)
- a stunning stainless travel mug (\$25)
- handsome enamel and sterling cufflinks (\$75)
- an adorable Rheingold and Magic Flute-inspired plush toy dragon (\$15)
- a ravishing Rheingold-inspired silk scarf (\$250)
- a Troyens long-sleeved T-shirt (\$30)
- costume-design note cards (\$20)
- “Ringhead” baseball cap and socks (\$25 and \$10)
- and more

These items can also be purchased anytime from Lyric's online [OperaShop](http://OperaShop).

Go Team Lyric! And Go Cubs Go!! Fly the W!

**Operathon 2016** supports the Education and Community Engagement Programs of **Lyric Unlimited**, which provides a broad, deep, and relevant cultural service to the Chicagoland area through a diverse range of programs and performances.

**Operathon 2016** is a project of **Lyric Opera Chapters**. Co-chairs are **Claudia Winkler** and **Rick Greenman**, and Chapters Executive Board president is **Sherie Shapiro**.

Be part of the OPERATHON excitement throughout the day and night on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/lyricopera), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/lyricopera), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/lyricopera), too.

#### 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.

To learn more about Lyric's new season, go to [lyricopera.org](http://lyricopera.org). You can also join the conversation with @LyricOpera on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. #Lyric1617 #LongLivePassion

#### **About Lyric Unlimited**

Lyric Unlimited, a division of Lyric Opera of Chicago, offers a multifaceted program of education, community engagement and artistic initiatives. The purpose of Lyric Unlimited is to provide a relevant cultural service to communities throughout the Chicago area, including communities for whom opera and opera companies have been largely irrelevant; to explore a wide range of ways in which Lyric can collaborate with cultural and community organizations throughout the area; and to advance the development of opera, exploring ways in which opera as an art form can resonate more powerfully, and in a range of different ways, with people of multiple backgrounds, ethnicities, and interests. In the 2015/16 season, 94,386 individuals participated in Lyric Unlimited programs.

For more information about Lyric Unlimited program offerings, visit [lyricopera.org/lyricunlimited](http://lyricopera.org/lyricunlimited).

#### **About WFMT**

**WFMT** is one of the nation's most respected classical music radio stations, available on-air at 98.7WFMT, online at [wfmt.com/streaming](http://wfmt.com/streaming), and via app on [Apple](#) and [Android](#) mobile devices. WFMT showcases superlative programs, concerts, and live events you cannot hear anywhere else – broadcasts from [Lyric Opera of Chicago](#), the [Chicago Symphony Orchestra](#), the [Metropolitan Opera](#), the [Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival](#), and many more. **The WFMT Radio Network** is a leading producer and syndicator of a diverse selection of outstanding musical series, including [Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin](#), the Beethoven Network, and the Jazz Network. Connect with WFMT on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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Operathon 2016 is generously cosponsored by **Walgreens** and **Ardmore Associates**.



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