



FROM:

Lisa Middleton

Director of Marketing

MEDIA INQUIRIES:

Holly H. Gilson

hgilson@lyricopera.org

312-827-5939

Magda Krance

mkrance@lyricopera.org

312-827-5924

Kamaria Morris

kmorris@lyricopera.org

312-827-5928

#LyricTroyens



Soprano Christine Goerke makes her role debut as Cassandre in Lyric's all-new production.

PHOTO: Michael Cooper/Canadian Opera Company

Once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see this epic opera!

The Trojans (Les Troyens)

Premieres at Lyric on Sunday, November 13 at 1:00 pm

Only five performances through December 3

CHICAGO (10/19/16) – In a new production, **Lyric Opera of Chicago** presents the much-anticipated Midwest premiere of ***Les Troyens*** by French Romantic composer Hector Berlioz (1803-1869). ***Les Troyens*** opens Sunday, November 13, with only five performances through December 3 at Lyric's Civic Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Drive, Chicago. Tickets are available at lyricopera.org/Troyens or at **312-827-5600**.

Christine Goerke returns to Lyric's stage as the Trojan princess and clairvoyant, Cassandra, who accurately predicts the fall of Troy and commits suicide after predicting that the Trojan hero, Aeneas (**Brandon Jovanovich**) will one day found a new Troy in Italy. Aeneas arrives in Carthage and falls in love with Queen Dido (**Sophie Koch**). They enjoy glorious days until the ghosts of Cassandra, Troy's King Priam (**David Govertsen**), the hero Hector (**Bradley Smoak**), and Cassandra's

lover Coroebus (**Lucas Meachem**) appear, urging Aeneas to leave Carthage at once for Italy. Enraged, Dido kills herself, declaring “Rome! Rome eternal!”

Sir Andrew Davis conducts the new production directed by **Tim Albery**, with set and costume designs by **Tobias Hoheisel**, lighting designs by **David Finn**, and projection designs by **Illuminos** (Lyric debut). **Michael Black** is chorus master and **Helen Pickett** makes her Lyric debut as choreographer. **Les Troyens** will be performed in French with projected English translations.

Lyric’s general director **Anthony Freud** notes, “This is a Lyric premiere that our audience has long awaited, because there’s nothing else in the repertoire like **Les Troyens**. It is one of the greatest challenges an opera company can face, and we have the cast and creative forces to do it glorious justice.”

“I’m a huge admirer of Berlioz’s music, and ever since I began conducting opera more than 40 years ago, it’s been a dream of mine to conduct **Les Troyens**,” says **Sir Andrew Davis**, Lyric’s music director. “This is truly one of the greatest works in the history of opera, with a beauty, grandeur, and dramatic power that put it in a category all its own. I’m thrilled to share it with Lyric audiences for the first time.” Maestro Davis has had several Berlioz recordings released on Chandos Records, and is renowned for his expertise in this repertoire.

Please note the early performance times for *The Trojans*: Nov. 13 and 17 and Dec. 3 at **1pm**, Nov. 21 and 26 at **5:30pm**. Performances will last approximately five hours, including two intermissions.

\$15 pre-packed meals will be available for purchase before all performances, to be picked up during the first intermission. (These will include a choice of beef, turkey, or vegetable sandwich, chips, and bottled water.) Lyric’s **Pedersen Room Restaurant** and **Florian Opera Bistro** will offer regular dining service.

The opening performance of **Les Troyens** will be recorded for delayed broadcast locally on **98.7WFMT** and globally on wfmt.com on **Tuesday, November 15** beginning at 7:15pm.

**For information about the production and press ticketing
please contact press@lyricopera.org**

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. You can also join the conversation with @LyricOpera on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. #Lyric1617 #LongLivePassion

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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**.



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