



FROM:  
**Lisa Middleton**  
Director of Marketing

**Lyric Opera of Chicago**  
**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

### **Lyric Opera of Chicago's 2017/18 Season**

offers 3 new and 3 new-to-Chicago opera productions at

Lyric's Civic Opera House:

***Orphée et Eurydice, Rigoletto, Die Walküre,***  
***The Pearl Fishers, Turandot, I Puritani,***  
***Così fan tutte, and Faust***

Next season also includes a new-to-Chicago production of

***Fellow Travelers*** and a new production of ***Jesus Christ Superstar***,

plus special concert performances:

**Piotr Beczala** in recital and a musical tribute to **Leonard Bernstein**

**Subscriptions to Lyric's 63<sup>rd</sup> season on sale Tuesday, February 7**

**CHICAGO** (2/7/17) – A season of superb music and spectacle is now on sale to Lyric subscribers – including three new mainstage opera productions, three new-to-Chicago opera productions, one new musical production, and one new-to-Chicago chamber opera production.

General Director **Anthony Freud** and Music Director **Sir Andrew Davis** announced today the repertoire and casting for the company's 2017/18 season – the third season that they have fully planned together. Joining them for the announcement was Creative Consultant **Renée Fleming**.

"We are very excited about the 2017/18 season," said Freud. "Continuing our new **Ring** cycle with **Die Walküre** will be a major highlight, as will be our first collaboration with **The Joffrey Ballet** in **Orphée et Eurydice**. We're also including several of the Lyric audience's favorites – **Rigoletto, Turandot, and Così fan tutte**, as

well as three ravishingly beautiful romantic dramas – ***I Puritani***, ***The Pearl Fishers***, and ***Faust***. Of these, ***Orphée***, ***Walküre***, and ***Faust*** are brand-new productions; and ***Rigoletto***, ***Turandot***, and ***The Pearl Fishers*** are new-to-Chicago productions. Musically, dramatically, and visually, the season will offer abundant rewards for longtime opera lovers and newcomers alike.”

Freud also noted that a new production of the musical ***Jesus Christ Superstar*** (presented at Lyric’s Civic Opera House) and a new-to-Chicago production of the 2016 chamber opera ***Fellow Travelers*** (presented by Lyric Unlimited at the Athenaeum Theatre) will both receive company premieres.

Audiences will experience a generous variety of musical and dramatic styles, and an array of settings and costumes ranging from mythical to historic and exotic. With three operas sung in French, four in Italian, and one in German, projected English translations will make it possible for everyone to follow the stories of love lost and found, illicit passion and retribution, mistaken identities, family battles, royal riddles, romantic triangles, the pursuit of perpetual youth, and more.

The thrill of familiar melodies permeates the 2017/18 season. Even opera novices will enjoy the frisson of recognition when they hear the Duke’s jaunty “La donna è mobile” in ***Rigoletto***, the orchestral “Ride of the Valkyries” in ***Die Walküre***, Nadir and Zurga’s pledge of faithful friendship in ***The Pearl Fishers***, Calaf’s soaring “Nessun dorma” in ***Turandot***, the sublime farewell trio in ***Così fan tutte***, and the Soldiers’ Chorus in ***Faust***.

The casting for Lyric’s 63rd season is full of stellar national and international artists whom opera lovers will instantly recognize. “In planning our latest season, we have assembled a truly exceptional roster of well-known and multi-faceted singers including **Piotr Beczala, Lawrence Brownlee, Andriana Chuchman, Alessandro Corbelli, Christine Goerke, Brandon Jovanovich, Quinn Kelsey, Mariusz Kwiecień, Ana María Martínez, Eric Owens, Matthew Polenzani, Marina Rebeka, Albina Shagimuratova, Christian Van Horn, Amber Wagner, and Erin Wall**,” Freud said.

“We are also immensely excited to welcome a dazzling array of talented and vocally thrilling artists who will make their Lyric debuts,” the general director noted. “We are pleased to welcome to the Lyric stage **Maria Agresta, Ain Anger, Benjamin Bernheim, Janai Brugger, Rosa Feola, Dmitry Korchak, Stefano La Colla, Edward Parks, Elisabet Strid, Elena Tsallagova, and Alexander Tsymbalyuk**.”

**Sir Andrew Davis** will conduct three operas next season, beginning with the highly-anticipated continuation of Wagner’s ***Ring*** cycle, ***Die Walküre***. He will also return to lead ***The Pearl Fishers*** and ***Turandot***. In addition to Davis, conductors for the 2017/18 season include **Harry Bicket (*Orphée et Eurydice*)**, **Marco Armiliato (*Rigoletto*)**, **Enrique Mazzola (*I Puritani*)**, **James Gaffigan (*Così fan tutte*)**, and **Emmanuel Villaume (*Faust*)**.

The 2017/18 season’s operas will be staged by internationally acclaimed and award-winning directors including **John Neumeier**

(*Orphée et Eurydice*), **David Pountney** (*Die Walküre*), **John Cox** (*Così fan tutte*), and **Kevin Newbury** (*Faust*).

Lyric will present **Jesus Christ Superstar** (reimagining Timothy Sheader's production from Regent's Park Open Air Theatre) April 27 - May 20, 2018, featuring an all-star cast (to be announced at a later date), along with members of the Lyric Opera Orchestra and Chorus.

Two special concerts are planned for early 2018. On February 25, 2018, internationally celebrated Polish tenor **Piotr Beczala** (who triumphed at Lyric earlier this season in *Lucia di Lammermoor* and previously in *Faust*) will perform a recital of opera and song as a Subscriber Appreciation event; and on March 10, 2018, Lyric will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of composer, conductor, and pianist **Leonard Bernstein** in a spectacular evening of music.

**Lyric Unlimited** will present the Chicago premiere of **Fellow Travelers**, by composer Gregory Spears and librettist Greg Pierce. Based on the evocative novel by Thomas Mallon, the 2016 chamber opera earned national critical acclaim in its world premiere at Cincinnati Opera. Kevin Newbury directs four performances at the Athenaeum Theatre in March 2018.

### **Lyric Opera of Chicago's 2017/18 Season**

New Coproduction (featuring The Joffrey Ballet)

**Orphée et Eurydice** by Christoph Gluck (1714 – 1787)

Seven performances, Sept. 23 - Oct. 15, 2017

In French with projected English translations

One of the most influential works in the history of opera, *Orfeo ed Eurydice* (1762) – presented at Lyric in its original Italian version most recently in 2005/06 – was revised significantly by Gluck for the Paris Opera in 1774. This version altered the role of Orpheus from alto castrato to tenor, while also adding a significant amount of ballet music to the score (including two celebrated scenes, the "Dance of the Furies" and the "Dance of the Blessed Spirits"). Familiar from Greek myths, the plot centers on the poet-musician Orphée (Orpheus), whose singing was so beautiful that it could charm the fierce guardians of the Underworld. After receiving encouragement from the god of love, Amour, Orphée travels to Hades to bring his dead wife, Eurydice, back to earth. Integral to the production will be the participation of **The Joffrey Ballet** in the company's first collaboration with Lyric.

**Orphée**

Dmitry Korchak\*

**Conductor**

Harry Bicket

**Eurydice**

Andriana Chuchman<sup>o</sup>

**Director/Choreographer**

John Neumeier\*

**Amour**

Lauren Snouffer

**Set/Costume/Lighting Design**

John Neumeier\*

**Associate Set Designer**

Heinrich Tröger\*

## **Lighting Realization**

Chris Maravich

## **Chorus Master**

Michael Black

\*Lyric Debut ° Ryan Opera Center Alumna

**Anthony Freud:** "*Orphée et Eurydice* requires artists of deep sensitivity and intelligence, both to produce it and to perform it. We're thrilled that world-renowned choreographer John Neumeier – in a very exciting collaboration between Lyric and The Joffrey Ballet – will not only create the vital dance elements of this opera, but also direct and design it. Harry Bicket, who has already proven himself a superb interpreter of Gluck in Lyric's previous production, will conduct. I know the marvelous Russian lyric tenor Dmitry Korchak will lavish on the role of Orphée all the beauty of sound, dazzling technique, and deep expressiveness it requires. Andriana Chuchman, one of our most successful Ryan Opera Center alumni of recent years, will return as Eurydice, and the delightful Lauren Snouffer will be back with us to sing Amour."

**Sir Andrew Davis:** "Gluck's version of the Orpheus myth is one of the most exquisite in the entire repertoire. We've produced it at Lyric before with great success, but not in the version that has Orpheus recast as a tenor (rather than male or female alto). There's virtuosity in the music for the hero, as well as captivating ballet music, added to satisfy the expectations of Paris audiences. At the same time, all the musical and dramatic glory of the original version is retained, making for an unforgettably beautiful and profoundly moving experience."

A coproduction of Lyric Opera of Chicago, Los Angeles Opera, and Staatsoper Hamburg.

New Lyric Opera coproduction of Gluck's *Orphée et Eurydice* generously made possible by **The Monument Trust (UK)**, the **Abbott Fund, Margot and Josef Lakonishok**, the **NIB Foundation**, an **Anonymous Donor, J.P. Morgan, The Anne and Burt Kaplan Fund, Bill and Orli Staley Foundation**, and **Liz Stiffel**.

### New-to-Chicago Production

**Rigoletto** by Giuseppe Verdi (1813 – 1901)

Eight performances, Oct. 7 – Nov. 3, 2017

In Italian with projected English translations

*Rigoletto*, Verdi's masterpiece of 1851, presents a magnificent, deeply moving characterization of a hunchbacked court jester consumed by bitterness and revenge. Rigoletto is the father of Gilda, who is seduced and abandoned by the licentious Duke of Mantua. Sparafucile is the assassin hired by Rigoletto to murder the Duke; Maddalena is Sparafucile's seductive sister; and Count Monterone's curse on Rigoletto initiates the drama of the opera.

### **Rigoletto**

Quinn Kelsey°

### **Conductor**

Marco Armiliato

**Gilda**  
Rosa Feola\*

**Director**  
E. Loren Meeker

**Duke**  
Matthew Polenzani<sup>o</sup>

**Set Designer**  
Michael Yeargan

**Sparafucile**  
Alexander Tsymbalyuk\*

**Costume Designer**  
Constance Hoffman

**Maddalena**  
Zanda Švėde\*

**Lighting Designer**  
Chris Maravich

**Monterone**  
Todd Thomas

**Chorus Master**  
Michael Black

\*Lyric Debut   <sup>o</sup>Ryan Opera Center Alumni

**Anthony Freud:** "It is a source of immense pride to all of us at Lyric that Quinn Kelsey, an alumnus of our Ryan Opera Center and one of today's few true Verdi baritones, will return to lead the cast of ***Rigoletto***. The title role has become his signature at major houses all over North America and Europe. His fellow Ryan Opera Center alumnus, Matthew Polenzani, one of the foremost tenors of our time, will be back with us after his recent triumph here as Tamino. These two Lyric favorites will be joined by Rosa Feola, an entrancing young Italian soprano, and by the charismatic Ukrainian bass Alexander Tsymbalyuk, in their Lyric debuts. I'm delighted that Marco Armiliato – a master of his native Italian repertoire – will return to conduct, and that E. Loren Meeker will create new direction within the beautiful production from San Francisco Opera."

**Sir Andrew Davis:** "My conducting teacher in Italy, the legendary Franco Ferrara, once told me that *Rigoletto* was, in fact, the greatest of all Italian operas. Certainly its melodies are endlessly appealing (who doesn't adore 'La donna è mobile,' 'Caro nome,' and the glorious quartet?), and the protagonist Rigoletto is one of the most monumentally dramatic and powerful characterizations in the history of opera."

Lyric Opera presentation of Verdi's ***Rigoletto*** generously made possible by **Julie and Roger Baskes, Howard L. Gottlieb and Barbara Greis, and Roberta L. and Robert J. Washlow**. Production owned by San Francisco Opera.

#### New Production

***Die Walküre*** by Richard Wagner (1813 – 1883)  
Seven performances, Nov. 1 – Nov. 30, 2017  
In German with projected English translations

The second opera of Wagner's monumental *Ring* cycle, *Die Walküre* focuses on the conflict between Wotan, king of the gods, and his mortal son, Siegmund, who has unwittingly fallen in love with his own twin, Sieglinde, the wife of the brutish Hunding. This arouses the wrath of Wotan's wife, Fricka (the goddess of marriage), and the compassion of Wotan's daughter, the warrior-maiden Brünnhilde. The turning point of

the opera arrives when Brünnhilde disobeys her father by siding with Siegmund in the latter's fight against Hunding. This production continues Lyric's new **Ring**, which began with the opening production of the 2016/17 season, *Das Rheingold*.

**Brünnhilde**

Christine Goerke

**Conductor**

Sir Andrew Davis

**Sieglinde**

Elisabet Strid\*

**Director**

David Pountney

**Fricka**

Tanja Ariane Baumgartner

**Original Set Designer**

Johan Engels

**Siegmund**

Brandon Jovanovich

**Set Designer**

Robert Innes Hopkins

**Wotan**

Eric Owens

**Costume Designer**

Marie-Jeanne Lecca

**Hunding**

Ain Anger\*

**Lighting Designer**

Fabrice Kebour

**Choreographer**

Denni Sayers

\*Lyric Debut

**Anthony Freud:** "After David Pountney's thrilling production of *Das Rheingold*, which opened Lyric's new **Ring** cycle this season, I'm incredibly eager to witness his vision of **Die Walküre**, one of Wagner's most human dramas with its exploration of family relationships. The production will renew David's collaboration with Sir Andrew Davis, which was so memorable not just in *Rheingold* but also in *The Passenger* two seasons ago. Returning to us will be four brilliant, internationally acclaimed Wagnerians: Christine Goerke, Eric Owens, Brandon Jovanovich, and Tanja Ariane Baumgartner. We'll also welcome to Lyric the remarkable Swedish soprano Elisabet Strid and the formidable Estonian bass Ain Anger."

**Sir Andrew Davis:** "I find **Die Walküre** a deeply engrossing work, in which relationships between the major characters are revealed psychologically in the most remarkably insightful way by Wagner. At the same time, this opera's music is surely the most beautiful in the entire **Ring** cycle, from the arias of Siegmund and Sieglinde to Wotan's grandiose farewell and the ravishing Magic Fire Music that ends the opera. I found conducting **Walküre** during Lyric's 2004/05 season one of the most rewarding experiences of my operatic career, and I very much look forward to returning to it."

New Lyric Opera production of the **Ring** cycle generously made possible by Lead Sponsor an **Anonymous Donor** and cosponsors **Mr. & Mrs. Dietrich M. Gross**, the **Gramma Fisher Foundation of Marshalltown, Iowa**, and **Ada and Whitney Addington**.



New Lyric Opera production of Wagner's ***Die Walküre*** generously made possible by the **Lloyd E. Rigler-Lawrence E. Deutsch Foundation**, the **Mazza Foundation**, **Helen and Sam Zell**, and the **Marianne Deson Trust, in memory of her parents Samuel and Sarah Deson**.

New-to-Chicago Production

***The Pearl Fishers*** by Georges Bizet (1838 – 1875)

Seven performances, Nov. 19 – Dec. 10, 2017

In French with projected English translations

Bizet's captivating 1863 opera, ***The Pearl Fishers***, is beloved by audiences everywhere for its score, which includes the most popular tenor-baritone duet in opera. The libretto and music conjure up a particularly exotic locale: ancient Ceylon, where the priestess Leïla is loved by both the fisherman Nadir and Zurga, king of the pearl fishers. The travails of this love triangle lead to disaster when Zurga believes himself betrayed by Leïla and Nadir.

**Leïla**

Marina Rebeka

**Conductor**

Sir Andrew Davis

**Nadir**

Matthew Polenzani<sup>o</sup>

**Director**

Andrew Sinclair

**Zurga**

Mariusz Kwiecień

**Set and Costume Designer**

Zandra Rhodes\*

**Nourabad**

Andrea Silvestrelli

**Lighting Designer**

Ron Vodicka\*

**Chorus Master**

Michael Black

**Choreographer**

John Malashock\*

\*Lyric Debut    <sup>o</sup>Ryan Opera Center Alumnus

**Anthony Freud:** "We're delighted to welcome back director Andrew Sinclair and to introduce Lyric audiences to the fabulously colorful set and costume designs of Zandra Rhodes, a leading figure in international fashion. Sir Andrew will lead a cast of great Lyric favorites: Marina Rebeka, who was so remarkable as both Violetta and Donna Anna at Lyric; Matthew Polenzani and Mariusz Kwiecień, who triumphed together in this opera in a new Met production last season; and Andrea Silvestrelli, currently performing in our *Norma*, who will be singing a French role at Lyric for the first time."

**Sir Andrew Davis:** "For years I've been eager to take on ***The Pearl Fishers***. What exquisite music this is! We all know the famous tenor-baritone duet, but there's a great deal more to savor – not just the arias and the soaring love duet, but also sweepingly dramatic ensembles and choral scenes. It's an exotically beautiful score, with Ceylon brought to life through an elegant, quintessentially French sensibility."

Lyric Opera presentation of Bizet's ***The Pearl Fishers*** generously made possible by the **Harris Family Foundation** and **Sylvia Neil and Daniel Fischel**. Production owned by San Diego Opera.

New-to-Chicago Production

***Turandot*** by Giacomo Puccini (1858 – 1924)

Ten performances, Dec. 5, 2017 – Jan. 27, 2018

In Italian with projected English translations

*Turandot* (1926), the final work of Puccini's career, showcases the composer's magnificent melodic outpourings (including the tenor's celebrated "Nessun dorma") and reveals Puccini at his peak as a creator of exotically beautiful orchestration. Taking place in ancient Peking, the story centers on the icy Princess Turandot, who will marry the prince who answers her three riddles correctly, but any suitor who fails is put to death. Calaf is the unknown prince who falls in love with Turandot at first sight and, victorious in the riddles, challenges her to learn his name. Calaf is loved by the slave Liù, who serves his father Timur, the exiled Tartar king. The lighter side of the opera is contributed by Turandot's three lively ministers – Ping, Pang, and Pong.

**Turandot**

Amber Wagner<sup>o</sup>

**Conductor**

Sir Andrew Davis (12/5 – 1/21)

Robert Tweten (1/27)

**Liù**

Maria Agresta (December)\*

Janai Brugger (January)\*

**Director**

Rob Kearley\*

**Calaf**

Stefano La Colla\*

**Set and Costume Designer**

Allen Charles Klein\*

**Timur**

Andrea Silvestrelli

**Lighting Designer**

Chris Maravich

**Ping**

Zachary Nelson

**Chorus Master**

Michael Black

**Pang**

Rodell Rosel<sup>o</sup>

**Pong**

Keith Jameson

\*Lyric Debut    <sup>o</sup>Ryan Opera Center Alumni

**Anthony Freud:** "In the years since Amber Wagner concluded her tenure at the Ryan Opera Center, her voice has been recognized as one of the most thrilling on the international scene. After her great successes at Lyric in *Il trovatore* and *Tannhäuser*, all of us look forward to welcoming her back for the awe-inspiring title role of ***Turandot***. Performing opposite her will be three debuting artists who have distinguished themselves in major international houses: Italian soprano Maria Agresta, American soprano Janai Brugger, and Italian tenor



Stefano La Colla. We'll present Puccini's opera in a beautiful production that originated at The Dallas Opera."

**Sir Andrew Davis:** "It's exhilarating to conduct *Turandot*, since Puccini was such a stupendous orchestrator. When I conducted this opera previously at Lyric, the orchestra and I simply reveled in the exoticism of the instrumentation and the sheer grandeur of the score. At the same time, I'm also attracted to the intimate arias of the lyric soprano Liù, and of course, I – like the rest of the world – can't resist 'Nessun dorma,' which has become perhaps the most popular of all tenor arias!"

Lyric Opera presentation of Puccini's *Turandot* generously made possible by **Robert S. and Susan E. Morrison**. Production owned by Lyric Opera of Chicago, originally created by Bliss Hebert and Allen Charles Klein for Florida Grand Opera, Dallas Opera, and San Francisco Opera.

***I Puritani*** by Vincenzo Bellini (1801 – 1835)  
Seven performances, Feb. 4 – Feb. 28, 2018  
In Italian with projected English translations

The opera takes place at a fortress near Plymouth during the English Civil War of the 1640s. Elvira is betrothed to Sir Riccardo Forth, a Puritan colonel, although she is not in love with him. Instead, she loves Arturo Talbot, a Cavalier and a Stuart sympathizer, who loves her in return. Once aware of Elvira's unhappiness, Elvira's uncle, Sir Giorgio, convinces her father, Lord Walter, to give his permission for her to marry Arturo. At the wedding celebration, Arturo discovers that Queen Enrichetta has been imprisoned in the castle. By covering the queen in a wedding veil, Arturo helps her escape. Elvira believes she has been abandoned by Arturo, but in the end, the two are happily reunited.

<b>Elvira</b> Albina Shagimuratova	<b>Conductor</b> Enrique Mazzola
<b>Arturo</b> Lawrence Brownlee	<b>Director</b> Eric Einhorn
<b>Riccardo</b> Anthony Clark Evans <sup>o</sup>	<b>Set Designer</b> Ming Cho Lee
<b>Giorgio</b> Adrian Sâmpetrean	<b>Costume Designer</b> Peter J. Hall
	<b>Lighting Designer</b> Chris Maravich
	<b>Chorus Master</b> Michael Black

<sup>o</sup>Ryan Opera Center Alumnus

**Anthony Freud:** "Opera companies can produce *I Puritani* only when four extraordinary singers are available, and I'm delighted to say that we have them. Albina Shagimuratova, the Russian soprano who was so

enthraling as both Gilda and Lucia at Lyric, will return for the virtuosic role of Elvira. Lawrence Brownlee, after his dazzling Lyric debut last season as Ramiro in *Cinderella*, will sing the even more stratospheric role of Arturo. Baritone Anthony Clark Evans, a gifted Ryan Opera Center alumnus now embarked on what will certainly be a major career, portrays Riccardo, with the marvelous Romanian bass Adrian Sâmpetean, who made an indelible impression at Lyric in this season's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, returning as Giorgio. That production also saw the company debut of Enrique Mazzola, and I'm very pleased to welcome him back to conduct this wonderfully romantic production."

**Sir Andrew Davis:** "Bel canto works provide opera goers with endless pleasure, and within that repertoire, Bellini stands supreme for the sheer grace and elegance of the melodies. *I Puritani* is one of his greatest masterpieces, abounding with one unforgettable moment after another, including the baritone's romantic soliloquy, the soprano's mad scene, and the tenor's final aria with its famous F above high C!"

Lyric Opera presentation of Bellini's *I Puritani* generously made possible by the **Donna Van Eekeren Foundation** and an **Anonymous Donor**, with additional support provided by the **National Endowment for the Arts**. This production was originally directed by Sandro Sequi and premiered at The Metropolitan Opera. All scenery, properties, and costumes constructed by The Metropolitan Opera.

***Così fan tutte*** by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791)  
Seven performances, Feb. 17 – Mar. 16, 2018  
In Italian with projected English translations

The most sophisticated and intimate of the three Mozart/da Ponte operas, *Così fan tutte* (1790) is a fascinating "school for lovers" story in which two couples learn a great deal about their true feelings for each other. The cynically mischievous Don Alfonso stirs the pot with two earnest young officers, Ferrando and Guglielmo, wagering that their fiancées, sisters Dorabella and Fiordiligi, cannot remain faithful for 24 hours. The officers depart as if to go to war, then return disguised to woo each other's beloved. Don Alfonso manipulates the proceedings in cahoots with the sisters' maid, the ever-resourceful Despina.

<b>Fiordiligi</b> Ana María Martínez	<b>Conductor</b> James Gaffigan*
---	-------------------------------------

<b>Dorabella</b> Marianne Crebassa	<b>Director</b> John Cox
---------------------------------------	-----------------------------

<b>Despina</b> Elena Tsallagova*	<b>Set &amp; Costume Designer</b> Robert Perdziola
-------------------------------------	---

<b>Ferrando</b> Antonio Poli	<b>Lighting Designer</b> Chris Maravich
---------------------------------	--

<b>Guglielmo</b> Joshua Hopkins	<b>Chorus Master</b> Michael Black
------------------------------------	---------------------------------------

**Don Alfonso**

Alessandro Corbelli

\*Lyric Debut

**Anthony Freud:** "With just six characters onstage in *Così fan tutte* and constant interaction between them, this opera needs perfect musical and dramatic rapport between the artists. Sir Andrew and I both feel we have assembled an ideal cast, including Ana María Martínez, a great Lyric favorite whose Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni* showed her to be a masterful interpreter of Mozart's music and a marvelous comedic actress; Alessandro Corbelli, today's ultimate master of comic repertoire; three young artists who have captivated our audiences – Marianne Crebassa, Antonio Poli, and Joshua Hopkins; and Elena Tsallagova, who will make what I know will be an enchanting Lyric debut. No director understands this opera better than the legendary John Cox, and he'll collaborate with the brilliant American conductor James Gaffigan, who has rapidly ascended to the top rank internationally."

**Sir Andrew Davis:** "The music is so extraordinarily satisfying! I'm endlessly intrigued by it dramatically as well, since there are so many ways it can be interpreted. It needs tremendous sophistication from the performers onstage, and also the ability to relate to each other on a very intimate level as an ensemble. It is, in fact, the ensemble opera par excellence, but the solo opportunities for individual characters are glorious, too!"

Lyric Opera presentation of Mozart's *Così fan tutte* generously made possible by Lead Sponsor **The Negaunee Foundation** and cosponsors **Randy L. and Melvin R. Berlin, Marion A. Cameron, and Nancy and Sanfred Koltun**. A joint production of Opéra de Monte Carlo and San Francisco Opera.

#### New Production

**Faust** by Charles Gounod (1818 – 1893)

Seven performances, Mar. 3 – Mar. 21, 2018

In French with projected English translations

This exceptionally romantic, universally popular work had its premiere in Paris in early 1859. The story is one of the most justly celebrated in opera. The aged philosopher Faust – at the urging of Satan's agent, Méphistophélès – is made young again in exchange for his soul. The drama encompasses Faust's encounter with the innocent Marguerite, his wooing and subsequent abandonment of her, the death of her brother Valentin at Faust's own hand, and Marguerite's ensuing madness, death, and redemption. Siébel is the boy in love with Marguerite, Marthe, Marguerite's busybody neighbor, offers comic relief.

#### **Faust**

Benjamin Bernheim\*

#### **Conductor**

Emmanuel Villaume

#### **Marguerite**

Erin Wall<sup>o</sup> (3/3 – 3/18)  
Ana María Martínez (3/21)

#### **Director**

Kevin Newbury

**Méphistophélès**  
Christian Van Horn<sup>o</sup>

**Production Designer**  
John Frame\*

**Valentin**  
Edward Parks\*

**Set/Costume Designer**  
Victoria Tzykun\*

**Siébel**  
Annie Rosen<sup>o</sup>

**Lighting Designer**  
Duane Schuler

**Marthe**  
Jill Grove

**Projection Designer**  
David Adam Moore\*

**Chorus Master**  
Michael Black

\*Lyric Debut    <sup>o</sup>Ryan Opera Center Alumni

**Anthony Freud:** "I'm delighted that this quintessentially French opera will have a French conductor at the helm – Emmanuel Villaume, whose immaculate sense of style has graced many Lyric productions. For all of us who have followed the dazzling international careers of two Ryan Opera Center alumni, Erin Wall and Christian Van Horn, it will be a joy to welcome them back to our stage, as well as Ana María Martínez. Both she and Erin have triumphed as Marguerite at Lyric previously. We'll also present a remarkably gifted young French tenor, Benjamin Bernheim, and a dashing American baritone, Edward Parks, in their Lyric debuts. Directing our new production will be Kevin Newbury, with us most recently for *Norma* and the world premiere of *Bel Canto*."

**Sir Andrew Davis:** "I've adored *Faust* for many years, thanks to its irresistible, overwhelmingly romantic music. Of course, I also relish the fabulously elegant characterization Gounod gives the devil! There are wonderful arias, as well as the spectacular final trio – music that has enraptured opera audiences for more than 150 years."

New Lyric Opera coproduction of Gounod's *Faust* generously made possible by **Stefan Edlis and Gael Neeson**. *Faust* is a coproduction of Lyric Opera of Chicago and Portland Opera.

#### New Production & Lyric Premiere

**Jesus Christ Superstar** by Andrew Lloyd Webber (1948) and Tim Rice (1944)

Twenty-six performances, Apr. 27 - May 20, 2018

One of the greatest stories ever told comes to life in the groundbreaking, iconic rock opera that reinvented musical theater for the modern age. With music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice, this global blockbuster tells the story of the final weeks of Jesus Christ from the perspective of Judas Iscariot. As Christ's followers grow more fervent, Judas must make his fateful choice between faith and betrayal. Filled with an exciting mix of musical styles that draw upon 1970s rock, gospel, folk, and funk themes, this contemporary imagining of the biblical tale features high-energy dance and powerful storytelling.

**Director**

Timothy Sheader\*  
**Choreographer**  
Drew McOnie\*  
**Set/Costume Designer**  
Tom Scutt\*  
**Lighting Designer**  
Lee Curran\*

\*Lyric Debut

The conductor and cast will be announced at a later date.

Lyric Opera premiere of Lloyd Webber's *Jesus Christ Superstar* generously made possible by Lead Sponsor **The Negaunee Foundation** and cosponsor **Mr. and Mrs. J. Christopher Reyes**. Production by The Regent's Park Theatre London.

### **2017/18 Season Special Performances and Events**

#### **Opening Night Gala**

**Saturday, September 23, 2017**

**Doors open at 5:30pm, performance begins at 6:30pm**

Elegantly dressed guests will make their red-carpet entrances amidst the paparazzi and onlookers at Lyric's Civic Opera House on Saturday, September 23. It's the opening night of Gluck's *Orphée et Eurydice*, which launches **Lyric Opera of Chicago's** highly-anticipated 63<sup>rd</sup> season. Doors open at 5:30pm and the performance begins at 6:30pm. The **Opera Ball** takes place at the Hilton Chicago following the performance. Festivities will also continue at the opera house in the Pedersen Room and Florian Opera Bistro restaurants (reservations required).

The Opening Night Gala is sponsored by **Aon**. Opera Ball 2017 is cosponsored by **ITW** and **Northern Trust**.

#### **Piotr Beczala in Recital**

**Sunday, February 25, 2018, 3pm**

Lyric will present world-renowned Polish tenor **Piotr Beczala**, one of the most sought-after artists of our time, in an intimate recital of opera and song at the Civic Opera House. This Subscriber Appreciation Event is available only to Lyric subscribers, at special pricing from \$20-50.

#### **Celebrating 100 Years of Bernstein**

**Saturday, March 10, 2018, 7:30pm**

In 2018, the world celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the great **Leonard Bernstein**, a luminary artist whose musical legacy is as richly layered and eclectic as his viscerally exciting compositions. Join the Lyric Opera Orchestra under the baton of acclaimed Broadway conductor **David Chase** (who conducted Lyric productions of *The Sound of Music* and *The King and I*, will conduct *My Fair Lady* this spring) and as Lyric pays tribute to Bernstein with a thrilling night of music. The performance will include his marvelous one-act opera *Trouble in Tahiti*, followed by

a selection of beloved gems from the Bernstein vocal catalog, brought to life on Lyric's stage by a trio of renowned singers.

**Wine Auction**  
**Saturday, April 14, 2018**

In a celebration of wine, women, and song, Lyric's Women's Board will host the marquee fundraiser, which auctions some of the world's greatest wines, luxury trips to exotic locales, and one-of-a kind experiences, all from the stage of the historic Ardis Krainik Theatre.

**Northern Trust** is the Presenting Sponsor of Wine Auction 2018.

**Lyric Unlimited**

Launched in 2012 as a division of Lyric Opera of Chicago, **Lyric Unlimited** offers a multifaceted program of education, community engagement and artistic initiatives. Lyric Unlimited's programming stems from the overall vision for the company set forth by Lyric's General Director, President & CEO Anthony Freud, Music Director Sir Andrew Davis, and Creative Consultant Renée Fleming.

Its mission 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).

Lyric Unlimited was launched with major catalyst funding from **The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** and receives major support from the **Caerus Foundation, Inc.**

In addition to the events listed below, Lyric Unlimited will offer an array of new and ongoing educational and community engagement programs during the 2017/18 season.

New-to-Chicago Production, Lyric Premiere

***Fellow Travelers*** by Gregory Spears and Greg Pierce

A chamber opera based on the novel *Fellow Travelers* by Thomas Mallon

March 17, 21, 23, and 25, 2018

Presented at the Athenaeum Theatre

Performed in English with projected English texts

**Director**

Kevin Newbury

**Set Designer**

Victoria Tzykun

**Costume Designer**

Paul Carey\*



## **Lighting Designer**

Thomas Hase\*

\*Lyric Debut

The conductor and cast will be announced at a later date.

At the height of the McCarthy era in 1950s Washington, D.C., recent college graduate Timothy Laughlin is eager to join the crusade against communism. A chance encounter with a handsome State Department official, Hawkins Fuller, leads to Tim's first job – and his first relationship with a man. Drawn into a maelstrom of deceit, Tim struggles to reconcile his political convictions and his forbidden love for Fuller – an entanglement that will end in a stunning act of betrayal. Casting will be announced at a later date.

Developed and co-commissioned by G. Sterling Zinsmeyer and Cincinnati Opera.

### **Stars of Lyric Opera at Millennium Park** **Friday, September 8, 2017, 7:30pm**

For the 17<sup>th</sup> year in a row, thousands of music lovers will flock to hear **Stars of Lyric Opera at Millennium Park**, a free concert under the stars. The performance features acclaimed artists of Lyric's new season, along with the Lyric Opera Orchestra and members of the Ryan Opera Center, conducted by **Sir Andrew Davis**.

NEW!!

### **Family Day At Lyric** **Saturday, April 7, 2018, 11am – 3pm**

Lyric Unlimited is excited to offer a day of behind-the-scenes fun and exploration with the first-ever **Family Day at Lyric**, a wonderful way to explore opera with family members of all ages. The event includes exclusive access to Lyric's backstage areas, including the orchestra pit, props area, costume department, and more. Participants will enjoy demonstrations of operatic stagecraft and costume try-ons throughout the day. The afternoon will feature a short live performance and programming geared specifically to children ages 5 to 10—and the entire family can learn something new about opera at this unique event. Family Day is open only to subscribers through July 2017, priced at \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

### **The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago**

**The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center** is the professional artist development program for Lyric Opera of Chicago. Since its inception in 1974\*, the Ryan Opera Center has been recognized as one of the premier programs of its kind in the world. That standing is maintained by providing the finest up-and-coming singers and pianists with unparalleled training and experience. The program is administered by **Dan Novak**, director; **Craig Terry**, music director; **Julia Faulkner**, director of vocal studies; and **Renée Fleming**, advisor.

\*originally The Opera School of Chicago, then the Lyric Opera Center for American Artists; known as the Ryan Opera Center since September 2006.

Each year the Ryan Opera Center selects 12-15 gifted young artists to join its program from more than 500 applicants. Beginning in the spring, they arrive to join the full-year residency program, under the guidance of Novak, Terry, Faulkner, and Fleming, as well as Anthony Freud, Sir Andrew Davis, and numerous other opera professionals. Ensemble members are immediately immersed into the world of opera and vocal performance. Coaching sessions and master classes are augmented by performance and understudy experience in Lyric Opera's regular season productions as well as Ryan Opera Center concerts and recitals.

The 2017/18 season ensemble members are sopranos **Whitney Morrison, Diana Newman, and Ann Toomey**; mezzo-soprano **Lindsay Metzger**; contralto **Lauren Decker**; tenors **Alec Carlson, Josh Lovell, and Mario Rojas**; baritones **Emmett O'Hanlon and Takaoki Onishi**; bass-baritone **Alan Higgs**; bass **Patrick Guetti**; and pianist **Madeline Slettedahl**.

The roster includes three international singers – Josh Lovell from Canada, Takaoki Onishi from Japan, and Mario Rojas from Mexico – representing the continued evolution of the Ryan Opera Center, which in addition to cultivating American singers, is also identifying exceptional talent from around the globe. Lindsay Metzger (third-year ensemble member) is an Illinois native, hailing from Mundelein; and first-year ensemble member Whitney Morrison is from the Washington Park neighborhood of Chicago.

The roles that ensemble members will perform in Lyric's 2017/18 season will be announced at a later date.

### **Ryan Opera Center Alumni Return in 2017/18**

In addition to supporting the Ryan Opera Center members while they are in the program, Lyric also invites a number of alumni back to perform in mainstage roles. Next season, the following singers will return to Lyric:

Soprano **Andriana Chuchman** (2007-10) – Eurydice/***Orphée et Eurydice***

Baritone **Quinn Kelsey** (2003-06) – title role/***Rigoletto***

Tenor **Matthew Polenzani** (1995-97) –the Duke/***Rigoletto*** and Nadir/***The Pearl Fishers***

Soprano **Amber Wagner** (2007-10) – title role/***Turandot***

Tenor **Rodell Rosel** (2005-07) – Pang/***Turandot***

Baritone **Anthony Clark Evans** (2013-16) – Riccardo/***I Puritani***

Soprano **Erin Wall** (2001-04) – Marguerite/***Faust***

Bass-baritone **Christian Van Horn** (2004-06) – Méphistophélès/***Faust***

Mezzo-soprano **Annie Rosen** (2015-17) – Siébel /***Faust***

More details about the Ryan Opera Center's 2017/18 season will be announced at a later date. For further information, visit

[lyricopera.org/RyanOperaCenter](http://lyricopera.org/RyanOperaCenter).

---

## **Subscriptions on sale starting Tuesday, February 7 for Lyric's 2017/18 season**

### **Lyric subscribers can choose from fixed-date packages or variable-date "Create Your Own" packages, including:**

- Six 8-opera series including an 8-opera "Value Series" that offers up to 50% off select dates
- One 4-opera and one 5-opera series that are all Saturday-night performances
- Four 5-opera series – including the popular 5-opera all-Saturday-night series
- Nine 4-opera series – including three sets of matinee performances
- Fixed-seat series offer the same seat for every show that can be renewed from year to year and priority seating
- "Create Your Own" (CYO) series – 4 or more operas of your choice, mix-and-match performance dates
- 4 performances from just \$100

### **Additional subscriber advantages and perks include:**

- Easy payment plans – just 25% down secures your series
- The very best seating locations
- No ticket exchange fees! Easy exchanges just got better with fee-free exchanges when completed at least 5 days before a performance
- Free option to exchange into tickets for the season's opening-night gala performance
- TRADEONE enables those with 4-, 5-, or 6-opera series to customize their series
- Advance ordering privileges, priority seating for special performances, and special pricing (**Piotr Beczala Recital**, **Celebrating Bernstein**, and **Jesus Christ Superstar**)
- Discounts on additional opera and musical tickets – 10% all season long and 25% for 8-series package holders until April 1
- Priority dining reservations at Pedersen Room Restaurant and Florian Bistro
- Discounted parking at Poetry Garage
- Weekday Matinee Opera Bus service from central North Shore location, just \$20 round trip
- Opera Insider Series – informative and educational learning sessions that offer a deep dive into the histories and inner workings of each operatic production of the season
- Opportunities for out-of-town subscribers to enjoy attending Friday/Saturday/ Sunday back-to-back performances

**Discount tickets for children** attending Lyric's opera performances with adults will again be available for all performances – just \$20-50.

**Free pre-opera talks** will be available to all ticket holders before each performance.

**Single tickets** for individual operas, **Jesus Christ Superstar**, and special events will be available in early July 2017.

### **Lyric's Broadcast and Rebroadcast Season**

**98.7WFMT** will air the opening performance of each opera in Lyric's 2017/18 season live locally (also streaming live on **wfmt.com**). All eight operas will be rebroadcast internationally in Spring 2018 via The WFMT Radio Network. **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.**

### **Additional Information**

Call **312-827-5600** to purchase subscription tickets, or go to [lyricopera.org](http://lyricopera.org) after February 7. Current subscribers will receive their renewal packages in the mail in early February.

### **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, President & CEO 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 current season, go to [lyricopera.org](http://lyricopera.org). You can also join the conversation with @LyricOpera on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. #Lyric1617 #LongLivePassion



If you are having trouble viewing this message? [View online.](#)

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage Your Subscription](#)

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