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PHOTO: David Jensen/Regent's Park Open Air Theatre

**In anticipation of high demand,  
Lyric Opera of Chicago launches ticket sales a year in advance  
for Spring 2018 production of  
*Jesus Christ Superstar***

**North American debut of the award winning, reimagined  
production from The Regent's Park Theatre, London**

**Initial block of tickets for April 27 - May 20, 2018  
engagement on sale starting Thursday, March 9, 2017**

CHICAGO (3/7/17) – In anticipation of high ticket demand, **Lyric Opera of Chicago** announced today that the initial block of tickets for its **Spring 2018** production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's iconic rock opera ***Jesus Christ Superstar*** will be available for sale a year in advance, starting Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 10 a.m. The North American debut of ***Jesus Christ Superstar***, in a reimagining of **Timothy Sheader's** award-winning production from London's Regent's

Park Open-Air Theatre, will be presented at Lyric's Civic Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Drive, Chicago, [April 27 - May 20, 2018](#). Single tickets, which start at \$44.00, will be available online at [lyricopera.org/JCS](http://lyricopera.org/JCS), by visiting Lyric's Civic Opera House box office, or by calling 312-827-5600.

Three-time Olivier Award winner Timothy Sheader directs the American debut of his acclaimed 2016 production from Regent's Park Open-Air Theatre. Sheader will be joined in Chicago by the original creative team from this production to re-envision and mount the grand-scale Lyric production, including Olivier Award-winning choreographer **Drew McOnie**, Tony Award-nominated set & costume designer **Tom Scutt** and Olivier Award-nominated lighting designer, **Lee Curran**. The Chicago production will feature an all-star cast (to be announced at a later date), along with members of the Lyric Opera Orchestra and Chorus.

***Jesus Christ Superstar*** is the sixth installment of Lyric's Musical Initiative. It follows Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe's beloved ***My Fair Lady*** which is being presented at Lyric's Civic Opera House, [April 28-May 21, 2017](#).

"Up to now in our musical theater productions, we've concentrated on American classics," notes Lyric's General Director, President & CEO **Anthony Freud**, "but in 2017/18, for the first time, we're producing an iconic rock opera, one that suits a big theater: ***Jesus Christ Superstar***." In director Timothy Sheader's production, "Our audience will be reminded that this is a truly unforgettable piece. When it arrived in America in 1972, it became one of the greatest successes in Broadway history, and it's been enthralling audiences everywhere ever since."

***Jesus Christ Superstar*** is the 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 in the life 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.

Single tickets for the balance of Lyric Opera's 2017/18 season will go on sale in July 2017. Season subscriptions are on-sale now by visiting [lyricopera.org](http://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.



The Lyric Opera premiere of Lloyd Webber's *Jesus Christ Superstar* is 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.

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