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#ChicagoVoices



Watch a special broadcast of Lyric's ***Chicago Voices*** concert  
on **WTTW11 Thursday, March 30 at 9pm**  
featuring internationally hailed singers  
in multiple musical genres  
performing together for the first time

Chicago (3/23/17) – Lyric Opera of Chicago's landmark ***Chicago Voices Concert*** thrilled a sold-out crowd of 3,500+ at the Civic Opera House in early February with an unprecedented collaboration of vocal artists with Chicago connections in wide-ranging genres. Now a huge audience can enjoy the concert in a 90-minute broadcast specially edited for public-television viewers on Thursday, March 30 at 9pm on **WTTW11**.

The acclaimed performance, conceived by Lyric Opera of Chicago's Creative Consultant **Renée Fleming**, who also served as artistic director, was an all-star salute to Chicago's vocal traditions and their profound impact on the American musical landscape. The ***Chicago Voices*** broadcast special showcases stunning solo performances and exciting new collaborations from the biggest names in opera, blues, jazz, Broadway, hip-hop, folk, gospel and R&B, performed by an incredible lineup of artists with deep ties to Chicago. Along with performances by internationally acclaimed soprano and four-time Grammy winner Fleming, the program includes:

- Grammy-nominated "New Queen of the Blues" **Shemekia Copeland**

- Grammy winner and Downbeat Male Singer of the Year for 14 consecutive years, jazz vocalist **Kurt Elling**
- Three-time Grammy nominee and independent rapper **Lupe Fiasco**
- Alternative/country/indie folk duo **The Handsome Family**
- Broadway star of *Waitress* and *Beautiful*, Tony and Grammy Award winner **Jessie Mueller**
- World-renowned tenor and Beverly Sills Artist of the Year **Matthew Polenzani**
- Legendary folk singer, songwriter and Grammy Hall of Famer **John Prine**
- From the hit series *Empire*, NAACP Image Award winner **Jussie Smollett** and Oscar-nominated **Terrence Howard**
- Acclaimed R&B, pop, gospel and Broadway artist **Michelle Williams**
- The beloved **Voices of Trinity Mass Choir**

The **Chicago Voices** broadcast is an unforgettable celebration of the city's musical gifts to the world. **Doug Peck**, a six-time Joseph Jefferson Award winner, served as music director, conductor, and pianist for the concert. **Billy Bungeroth**, who directed the critically hailed *The Second City Guide to the Opera* at Lyric, directed the stage production. The *Chicago Tribune* wrote that the **Chicago Voices Concert** "made tangible this city's enormous impact on how America — and, arguably, the world — sings...You didn't have to be a Chicagoan to be struck by the caliber of these performers and the musical lineage that led up to them....The sheer sweep of the proceedings and breadth of musical languages made this a concert like none other."

The televised version of the **Chicago Voices Concert** was created by **HMS Media**, whose co-founders **Matt Hoffman** and **Scott Silberstein** served respectively as director/editor and producer. Since its first special for public television in 1989, HMS has received 17 Emmy Awards and 24 additional nominations for documentaries and live-performance specials including *First You Dream: The Music of Kander & Ebb*, *A Christmas Carol: The Concert*, *Celtic Woman: Emerald*, *Under The Streetlamp*, *Second To None* (featuring Tina Fey), *Steppenwolf Theatre Company: 25 Years on the Edge*, *Songs on the Road to Freedom* (with the Chicago Children's Choir) and *The Chicago Dance Project*, featuring Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Giordano Dance Chicago, The Joffrey Ballet, and more than three dozen other Chicago dance companies and artists.

The **Chicago Voices** concert and broadcast is one element of Lyric Unlimited's groundbreaking **Chicago Voices** initiative. Chicago Voices is a multi-year initiative celebrating Chicago's vibrant, diverse vocal music culture. This innovative project aims to create an inclusive platform for celebrating the human voice, while illuminating the legacy of Chicago vocal traditions and amplifying the narratives of everyday Chicagoans.

**Link for preview screening available on request. Please contact [press@lyricopera.org](mailto:press@lyricopera.org)**

Download Chicago Voices Concert  
Video Trailer

Download Chicago Voices  
Concert Images

### **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 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

### **About WTTW**

**WTTW** is a premier public media organization committed to creating and presenting unique television and digital media content across four distinct television channels – WTTW11, WTTW Prime, WTTW Create/WTTW WORLD, and WTTW PBS Kids – and on [wttw.com](http://wttw.com). Recognized for award-winning local and national productions such as *Chicago Tonight*, *Check, Please!*, and *MEXICO – One Plate at a Time*, WTTW presents the very best in public affairs, arts and culture, nature and science, history and documentary, and children's programming. Visitors to [wttw.com](http://wttw.com) can access a full library of local and national video content for kids and adults, immersive web-exclusive stories and features, event and membership opportunities, and more. Connect with WTTW on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).



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