

Lyric
LYRIC OPERA OF CHICAGO



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What You Need to Know About

***ORPHÉE ET EURYDICE* at Lyric Opera of Chicago**

& Lyric's first collaboration with The Joffrey Ballet --

An extraordinary performance experience created by

John Neumeier, the visionary director-choreographer-designer

September 23 - October 15

One of opera's most touching masterpieces, the French version of Gluck's exquisite drama follows the trials faced by Orphée when he loses his beloved Eurydice. Refusing to accept her death, he courageously journeys to the Underworld to bring her back to life, not once but twice, encouraged by Amour.

- **Dance legend John Neumeier makes his Lyric debut** | Director, Choreographer, and Set/Costume/Lighting Designer of *Orphée et Eurydice*
- **Considered one of the world's leading choreographers** | Neumeier is originally from Milwaukee, trained as a dancer in Chicago, and has been based in Germany for nearly 50 years; currently artistic director of the Hamburg Ballet
- **Brand-new coproduction with Los Angeles Opera & Hamburg Opera** | See it here first!
- **Timeless tragedy propelled by a beautiful classical score and newly created choreography** | Faced with unspeakable

catastrophe, what would you do to recapture love?

- **Ancient Greek myth in contemporary setting** | Orphée the poet and musician is reimagined as a choreographer, and his beloved Eurydice is a ballerina; dance moves the plot as much as music
- **Lyric's first-ever collaboration with The Joffrey Ballet** | Virtuoso singing, dancing, acting, and orchestral playing will make for a truly unforgettable emotional experience
- **These performances = Lyric premiere of French version of Gluck's opera** | Four previous productions at Lyric were all in the original Italian (with less dance)
- **This is a landmark work that exemplifies noble simplicity** | A move away from the complex plots and musical twists of Baroque opera
- **7 Performances** | Sat 9/23 through Sun 10/15 at Lyric Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Drive
- **Opening Night for Lyric's 63rd Season** | Saturday, September 23: Doors open at 4:15pm, performance starts at 6:30pm
- **2 hours 20 minutes, including intermission** | In the beautiful surroundings of the Art-Deco theater and foyer
- **Outstanding international singers** | Dmitry Korchak (Orphée), Andriana Chuchman (Eurydice) and Lauren Snouffer (Amour)
- **Sung in French** | With projected English translations
- **60 members of the Lyric Opera Chorus portray the Denizens of Hades & the Blessed Spirits of Elysium** | Prepared by Michael Black, Lyric's chorus master
- **47 members of the Lyric Opera Orchestra in orchestra pit + 6 banda musicians backstage** | Conducted by Harry Bicket, who also led performances of the Italian version at Lyric in 2005
- **42 dancers of The Joffrey Ballet** | Prepared by director-choreographer John Neumeier

The opening-night performance of Orphée et Eurydice can be heard live locally on 98.7WFMT and globally on wfmt.com, beginning at 6:15pm on Saturday, September 23.

For more information and to order tickets, visit lyricopera.org/Orphee or call 312-827-5600

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. #Lyric1718 #LongLivePassion



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**.

The Opening-Night Gala performance of *Orphée et Eurydice* on Saturday, September 23 is sponsored by **Aon**. The Opera Ball at the Hilton Chicago is sponsored by **ITW** and **Northern Trust**. For information and Opera Ball reservations please call the Lyric Opera Women's Board: 312-827-5682.

The Lyric Opera of Chicago Broadcasts are generously sponsored by **The Richard P. and Susan Kiphart Family**, **The Matthew and Kay Bucksbaum Family**, and **The John and Jacolyn Bucksbaum Foundation**.

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