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Join us for an array of special programming across the city

with many free and low-cost events coming this season

Chicago (9/5/2017) – In addition to nine operas, one classic hit musical, and an assortment of one-time-only concerts and recitals, **Lyric Opera of Chicago** is excited to offer audiences across the city a variety of free and low-cost special events and programming. From an opera created specifically for children and families, to the thrilling experience of singing a popular song with several hundred other Chicagoans, there's truly something for everyone. Many of these activities are presented in conjunction with **Lyric Unlimited**, Lyric's branch dedicated to community engagement and education.

Check out these upcoming free and low-cost Lyric events:

- **Stars of Lyric Opera at Millennium Park – Friday, September 8 at 7:30pm** – (FREE) Enjoy an evening under the stars with a concert featuring some of operas most thrilling music sung by major artists of the season, along with the Lyric Opera Chorus and Orchestra conducted by Sir Andrew Davis.
- **Chicago Voices Community Created Performances: *Stories and Songs of Chicago* – Sunday, September 10 at 2pm** –

(FREE) Three Chicago-based groups perform the untold stories of their communities through original music theater works, presented at the Harris Theater.

- **Backstage Tours** – (\$15) New dates to explore the backstage of Lyric's Opera House begin **Friday, September 8** with availability through April 3, 2018.
- **An Eternal Story of Love and Loss: Orpheus and Opera** – **Tuesday, September 19 at 6pm** – (FREE) A panel discussion featuring music experts who will take a deep historical dive into Lyric's upcoming production of *Orphée et Eurydice*, featuring The Joffrey Ballet's Lyric debut, presented at the Newberry Library.
- **The Scorpions' Sting** – **Saturday, October 14 (2 & 4pm) and Sunday, October 15 (noon & 2pm)** – (\$10-20) Journey to the Egyptian Lost Temple of Isis in the U.S. premiere of this opera for young people and families, presented at the Studebaker Theater.
- **Open House Chicago** – **Saturday, October 15** – (FREE) Presented by the Chicago Architecture Foundation, view the beautiful and dramatic Lyric Opera House during the Open House Chicago weekend.
- **NEW! Choir! Choir! Choir!** – **Saturday, October 21 at 8pm** – (\$25) Take part in the international singing phenomenon at Lyric for the first time, forming a unified choir and singing a popular song.
- **NEW! Family Day at Lyric** – **April 7, 2018 11am – 3pm** – (\$5-10) Bring the whole family to experience behind-the-scenes fun and exploration in this inaugural event at the Lyric Opera House.

Stars of Lyric Opera at Millennium Park

Friday, September 8 at 7:30pm
Jay Pritzker Pavilion, Millennium Park
Free admission; no ticket required

Each September, thousands of music lovers join together to enjoy a free concert at the ***Stars of Lyric Opera at Millennium Park***. This special event features performances from much-admired Lyric voices accompanied by the **Lyric Opera Orchestra, Chorus** and members of **The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center**, conducted by **Sir Andrew Davis**.

This year's concert features excerpts from Mozart's ***The Marriage of Figaro***, Verdi's ***Rigoletto***, Puccini's ***Turandot***, Gounod's ***Faust***, Bellini's ***I Puritani***, Gluck's ***Orphée et Eurydice***, Bizet's ***The Pearl Fishers***, Wagner's ***Die Walküre*** and more! The all-star lineup will feature **Andriana Chuchman, Dmitry Korchak, Eric Owens, Matthew Polenzani**, and many others.

Chicago Voices Community Created Performances: Stories and Songs of Chicago

Sunday, September 10 at 2pm
Harris Theater for Music and Dance (205 E Randolph, Chicago)
Free admission, but tickets must be reserved
Performance may contain strong adult themes and language

Lyric Unlimited's groundbreaking **Chicago Voices Community**

Created Performances program invited Chicago-based groups to tell the compelling, untold stories of their communities through music. The three finalist groups are ready to share their original music-theater works with the public in a free performance at the Harris Theater. To reserve tickets and to read more about each group's journey to the stage, visit chicagovoices.lyricopera.org/ccp

Backstage Tours

10:00am on September 8 and 30; October 6 and 26; November 10 and 30; December 14 and 17; January 3 and 17; February 24 and 28; March 8 and 18; April 2 and 3

Lyric Opera House (20 N. Wacker Drive, Chicago)

\$15

Visiting tourists, architecture buffs and music fans alike are now able to experience a compelling behind-the-scenes look at the storied 1929 Lyric Opera House during a one-hour interactive tour. Tour patrons begin their experience in the elegant "front-of-house" Rice Grand Foyer. From there, they are led by a Lyric docent who provides an up-close-and-personal view of theater highlights such as the orchestra pit where the acclaimed Lyric Orchestra plays, and a series of unique backstage destinations where skilled professionals bring operatic stagecraft to life. Tour tickets are \$15 and can be purchased online at lyricopera.org/backstagetours or at the Lyric Opera House's Box Office at 9:30am on tour dates. Group tours may be arranged on these or additional dates by contacting our group sales department at 312-827-5927 or groupsales@lyricopera.org.

An Eternal Story of Love and Loss: Orpheus and Opera

Tuesday, September 19 at 6pm

Newberry Library – Ruggles Hall (60 W. Walton Street, Chicago)

Free; registration beforehand encouraged

This fall, Lyric is mounting an exciting new production of ***Orphée et Eurydice*** featuring **The Joffrey Ballet**. Music experts **Linda Austern** and **David Buch** will engage in discussions to reflect on the importance of Orpheus in the history of opera and how this story of love and loss continues to resonate today. This program is presented in partnership with the Newberry Library.

The Scorpions' Sting

Saturday, October 14 at 2pm & 4pm

Sunday, October 15 at noon & 2pm

Studebaker Theater (410 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago)

\$20 Adult/\$10 Child

Lyric Unlimited is thrilled to bring ***The Scorpions' Sting*** to Chicago audiences this October. Created specifically for young children and families, this is the perfect opera for budding young enthusiasts. From acclaimed Canadian composer and librettist **Dean Burry** and director **Elise Sandell**, the opera is inspired by the ancient Egyptian legend of Isis and the Seven Scorpions. Performances are presented in English with piano accompaniment, and will take place at the Studebaker Theater. For more information and to reserve tickets, visit lyricopera.org/lyricunlimited/scorpionssting

Open House Chicago

Saturday, October 14

Lyric Opera House (20 N. Wacker Drive, Chicago)

Free admission; no tickets required

Presented by the Chicago Architecture Foundation, this event is the city's annual architecture festival. For one weekend in October, explore Chicago's most iconic and unique architectural treasures. The Civic Opera Building, home to the second largest opera house in North America and the largest stage in downtown Chicago, is opening its doors to welcome visitors! Explore the dramatic Rice Grand Foyer and the elegant Ardis Krainik Theatre, plus examine Art Deco and Art Nouveau styling and ornamentation, along with decorative musical motifs and an impressive arcade that runs the length of the east façade.

NEW! Choir! Choir! Choir!

Saturday, October 21 at 8pm

Lyric Opera House (20 N. Wacker Drive, Chicago)

Rice Grand Foyer

\$25

Get ready to sing your heart out! Hailed by The New Yorker as "a profound way for people to connect and interact," **Choir! Choir! Choir!** blurs the lines between being an audience member and a performer by bringing strangers together to sing a popular song. All attendees will receive a sheet of music lyrics, be evenly divided based on voice types and ranges, and taught vocal harmonies. Magically, a beautifully unified choir will be formed within only 90 minutes. There are no auditions and no experience is needed to participate.

NEW! Family Day at Lyric

Saturday, April 7, 2018 11am-3pm

Lyric Opera House (20 N. Wacker Drive, Chicago)

\$10 Adults/\$5 Child

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 discover opera with family members of all ages. The event includes exclusive access to Lyric's backstage areas, 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.

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

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 2016/17 season, more than 100,000 individuals participated in Lyric Unlimited programs.

For more information about Lyric Unlimited program offerings, visit lyricopera.org/lyricunlimited.



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