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**Lyric Opera of Chicago and The Joffrey Ballet Announce  
Agreement for Joffrey to Become the Resident Dance Company  
at the Lyric Opera House With the Start of the 2020/21 Season**

CHICAGO – (9/22/17) Lyric Opera of Chicago and The Joffrey Ballet today announced that Joffrey will become the resident dance company at the Lyric Opera House (20 N. Wacker Drive, Chicago) at the start of the 2020/21 Season. The agreement comes as the two companies prepare to perform together for the first time in John Neumeier’s production of Gluck’s *Orphée et Eurydice*.

“With The Joffrey’s arrival at the start of the 2020/21 season, the Lyric Opera House will take its rightful place among the great opera houses of the world which frequently are home to magnificent ballets, as well as thrilling opera productions,” said Lyric General Director Anthony Freud. “This is terrific news for Chicago as we further solidify our City as a cultural hub. It also marks a significant step in Lyric’s strategic plan as we identify new opportunities to grow our audience base through more regular interactions with dance patrons, who are already committed to the arts, and maximize the use of our magnificent opera house.”

The seven-year rental agreement will provide Joffrey with a wonderful performance home, opening new opportunities for the Company to showcase its artistic excellence and providing an exceptional experience for patrons, who will now have access to valet parking, three restaurants located inside and others in close proximity to the opera house, easy access to mass transit and an elevated cultural experience inside the iconic Lyric Opera House. Lyric and Joffrey will continue to operate as two separate companies, dedicated to their respective art forms. However, Lyric will provide front-of-house support for Joffrey performances and expects to benefit from the additional income these audience services provide.

Joffrey Artistic Director Ashley Wheeler added, “Like *Orphée* Director John Neumeier, one of my first and most memorable performances as

a professional dancer took place on the Lyric stage. Over the last month, I've had the opportunity to work with Lyric's incredible, committed team. I'm thrilled by what this means for the Joffrey. The backstage assets alone will provide our dancers, artists, designers and collaborators with important resources that will launch our productions to new levels of artistry."

Joffrey Executive Director Greg Cameron said, "As a lifelong Chicagoan, I'm excited to lead the Company during this time of growth and transformation. Bringing these two Chicago icons together is yet another way to support Mayor Emanuel's commitment to national and international tourism, making Chicago one of the premier cultural destinations of the world. We also look forward to making our final years at the Auditorium Theatre the most memorable yet."

Mayor Rahm Emanuel adds, "This exciting new partnership between the Joffrey Ballet and Lyric Opera, two jewels in Chicago's cultural crown, will strengthen Chicago's global reputation as worldwide leader in innovative, impactful and groundbreaking artistic performances. As someone who was inspired to study dance at a young age, I am confident Joffrey's new home at Lyric will encourage countless young fans to expand their horizons and reach for new artistic heights. Chicagoans and audiences around the world are looking forward to this novel creative collaboration."

Joffrey will continue to perform in The Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University through the end of its 2019/20 Season, when the Company's current license agreement concludes. The Joffrey and Lyric will use this time to develop plans to ensure a smooth transition and refine their season schedules. Joffrey will continue to use its space in Joffrey Tower as its primary administrative, educational and rehearsal center.

Lyric's presentation of composer Christoph Willibald Gluck's most popular work, *Orphée et Eurydice*, will be directed by internationally acclaimed Director and Chief Choreographer of The Hamburg Ballet, John Neumeier, in seven performances only at the Lyric Opera House, September 23 through October 15, 2017, as The Joffrey Ballet makes its Lyric Opera debut.

*Orphée et Eurydice is a coproduction of Lyric Opera of Chicago, Los Angeles Opera and Staatsoper Hamburg. The Joffrey Ballet will also be part of the work's West Coast debut in Los Angeles on March 10, 2018.*

Tickets for the Chicago production are available for purchase at [lyricopera.org](http://lyricopera.org) or at 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](http://lyricopera.org). You can also join the conversation with @LyricOpera on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.

#Lyric1718 #LongLivePassion

About The Joffrey Ballet

Classically trained to the highest standards, The Joffrey Ballet expresses a unique, inclusive perspective on dance, proudly reflecting the diversity of America with its company, audiences, and repertoire which includes major story ballets, reconstructions of masterpieces and contemporary works.

The company's commitment to accessibility is met through an extensive touring schedule, an innovative and highly effective education program including the much lauded Academy of Dance, Official School of The Joffrey Ballet, Community Engagement programs and collaborations with myriad other visual and performing arts organizations.

Founded by visionary teacher Robert Joffrey in 1956, guided by celebrated choreographer Gerald Arpino from 1988 until 2007, The Joffrey Ballet continues to thrive under internationally renowned Artistic Director Ashley Wheater and Executive Director Greg Cameron.

For more information on The Joffrey Ballet and its programs, visit [Joffrey.org](http://Joffrey.org). Connect with the Joffrey on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).



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