

Lyric
LYRIC OPERA OF CHICAGO



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Thrilling music, powerhouse international casts, company premieres, and stirring new productions to experience in

Lyric Opera of Chicago's 2018/19 Season

La bohème, Idomeneo, Siegfried,

Il trovatore, Cendrillon, Elektra,

La traviata, Ariodante, and An American Dream

Next season also includes a new coproduction and Lyric premiere of

West Side Story,

plus special performances:

Anna Netrebko in Recital and

The Renée Fleming 25th Anniversary Concert and Gala

Subscriptions to Lyric's 64th Season on sale Wednesday,

February 7 at 10am

New in 2018/19: Weeknight (Monday - Friday) performances

to start at 7pm

CHICAGO (2/6/18; updated 7/13/18) – A season filled with unforgettable music,

thrilling singers from around the world, and stirring new productions goes on sale via subscription **Wednesday, February 7 at 10am**. Seven new and new-to-Chicago productions, including four Lyric premieres, will engage and entertain audiences from October 2018 through June 2019.

New and renewing subscribers have first access to the best seats at the best prices – and for the first time, Lyric is making it possible to purchase customized subscriptions that combine remaining performances of the current 2017/18 Season and performances in the new 2018/19 Season.

General Director **Anthony Freud** and Music Director **Sir Andrew Davis** announced today the repertoire and casting for the company's 2018/19 Season – the fourth season that they have fully planned together.

"I know we say this each year, but it's true – we are very excited about next season," said Freud. "Audiences will experience a tremendous variety of musical and theatrical styles. We will present fresh interpretations of familiar works, as well as an opportunity to experience works we have never performed before."

Freud noted that "several outstanding international artists will make their Lyric debuts in new and new-to-Chicago productions, alongside many fantastic artists who are well known to Lyric audiences. Continuing our new *Ring* with *Siegfried* will be a major highlight. *Cendrillon*, *Ariodante*, and *West Side Story* will be seen on our stage for the very first time, along with the Lyric Unlimited premiere of the chamber opera *An American Dream* at the Harris Theater."

"This season's repertoire includes three of the most deservedly popular Italian operas," said Davis. "I think La Scala West (as Lyric was once known) was due for an overdose and I suspect there are many in our audience who will agree. And alongside them we have both Wagner AND Strauss and three rarities – in which I include Mozart's *Idomeneo* – that will astonish and delight."

The pleasures of familiar melodies permeate the 2018/19 Season. Even opera and musical novices will enjoy the frisson of recognition when they hear Rodolfo's aria "Che gelida manina" in *La bohème*, the "Anvil Chorus" in *Il trovatore*, Violetta and Alfredo's duet "Libiamo" in *La traviata*, and Tony and Maria's soaring "Tonight" in *West Side Story*.

"In planning our latest season," Freud said, "we have assembled a truly exceptional roster of well-known singers returning to Lyric, including **Maria Agresta, Jamie Barton, Janai Brugger, Alice Coote, Iestyn Davies, Danielle de Niese, Christine Goerke, Kyle Ketelsen, Zeljko Lučić, Michaela Martens, Eric Owens, Matthew Polenzani, Albina Shagimuratova, Heidi Stober, Russell Thomas, Elza van den Heever, Erin Wall, and Samuel Youn.**"

Davis noted that "it's quite a coup to have **Alice Coote** starring in not one but two company premieres at Lyric next season – *Cendrillon* and *Ariodante*. I am tickled pink about this because she's one of my favorite people!"

"We are also immensely excited to welcome a dazzling array of thrilling artists who will make their Lyric debuts," Freud continued. "We are pleased to welcome to the Lyric stage for the first time **Giorgio Berrugi, Angela Brower, Michael Fabiano, Burkhard Fritz, Matthias Klink, Iain Patterson, George Petean, Brenda Rae, Siobhan Stagg, Nina Stemme, Roberto Tagliavini, and Tamara Wilson.**"

"The company debut of **Nina Stemme** is a special milestone," said Davis. "We have long sought to engage this outstanding dramatic soprano, and her portrayal of Elektra, one of her signature roles, is something no one should miss."

Sir Andrew Davis will conduct three operas here next season, beginning with Mozart's *Idomeneo* (seen previously at Lyric in 1997 and 1977). He will also return to lead the highly-anticipated continuation of Wagner's *Ring* cycle, *Siegfried*; and the company premiere of Massenet's *Cendrillon*. Lyric's roster of guest conductors for the 2018/19 Season includes **Domingo Hindoyan** (debut, *La bohème*), **Marco Armiliato** (*Il trovatore*), **Donald Runnicles** (debut, *Elektra*), **Michael Christie** (debut, *La traviata*), and **Harry Bicket** (*Ariodante*).

The 2018/19 Season's operas will be staged by internationally acclaimed and award-winning directors including **Richard Jones** (*La bohème* and *Ariodante*), **David Pountney** (*Siegfried*), **Laurent Pelly** (*Cendrillon*), and **Arin Arbus** (*La traviata*), along with productions originally directed by **Jean-Pierre Ponnelle** (*Idomeneo*) and **Sir David McVicar** (*Il trovatore* and *Elektra*).

When Lyric first presented *Idomeneo* in 1977, it was in a different production directed and designed by Ponnelle for the Cologne Opera. The production he created for the Metropolitan Opera will be seen at Lyric for the first time next season.

Lyric Unlimited will present the Midwest premiere of *An American Dream*, by composer **Jack Perla** and librettist **Jessica Murphy Moo**. Inspired by World War II-era events, the chamber opera earned national critical acclaim in its world premiere at Seattle Opera in 2015. Sung in English, *An American Dream* will have two performances at the Harris Theater in March 2019.

Following the operas of the 2018/19 Season, Lyric will present a new coproduction of *West Side Story* May 3 – June 2, 2019. **Francesca Zambello** will direct this Lyric premiere, with set designs by **Peter J. Davison**, costume designs by **Jessica Jahn**, original choreography by **Jerome Robbins**, and lighting design by **Mark McCullough**. (The conductor, choreographer, and cast will be announced at a later date.) Members of the **Lyric Opera Orchestra and Chorus** will participate in performing this 20th-century masterpiece with music by **Leonard Bernstein**, lyrics by **Stephen Sondheim**, and book by **Arthur Laurents**.

Two of the world's most renowned sopranos will offer thrilling special performances for Lyric audiences:

- On **December 2, 2018**, Lyric will present **Anna Netrebko in Recital**. The internationally celebrated Russian soprano (who triumphed at Lyric in the 2013 production of *La bohème*) will perform some of her favorite repertoire with renowned pianist **Malcolm Martineau**.
- On **March 23, 2019**, Lyric will present **The Renée Fleming 25th Anniversary Concert and Gala** to celebrate the anniversary of her Lyric debut and all that has followed. Fleming has starred in ten different operas at Lyric; she has given three dazzling concerts with the Lyric Opera Orchestra and a duo recital; she has been featured in Lyric's 50th and 60th anniversary gala concerts; and she was named Lyric's first creative consultant in 2010. Fleming herself will take part in a spectacular evening of music highlighting the operas she has performed at Lyric. She will be joined by several special guest artists (to be announced at a later date) and the **Lyric Opera Orchestra**.

Lyric Opera of Chicago's 2018/19 Season

New Coproduction

La bohème by Giacomo Puccini (1858 – 1924)

11 performances, Oct. 6 - 20, 2018; Jan. 10 - 25, 2019

Sung in Italian with projected English translations

Why have audiences have been falling in love with *La bohème* for more than 100 years? Because, in the most captivating music Puccini ever composed, he shows us exactly what love is about. Mimì and Rodolfo are young lovers we all understand, and when they suffer, our hearts break for them. Their romance ultimately leads to tragedy, but along the way are treasured moments of pure ecstasy. We get to know this endearing pair and their Bohemian friends, and we totally connect with their feelings. *La bohème* remains forever youthful, eternally fresh.

Mimì

Maria Agresta

Rodolfo

Michael Fabiano*

Musetta

Danielle de Niese

Marcello

Zachary Nelson

Colline

Adrian Sămpetrean

Benoît & Alcindoro

Jake Gardner

Conductor

Domingo Hindoyan*

Director

Richard Jones

Designer

Stewart Laing*

Lighting Designer

Mimi Jordan Sherin

Chorus Master

Michael Black

*Lyric debut

Anthony Freud: "Perhaps the most adored opera of all, the music of *La bohème* is incredibly beautiful from start to finish. It's an eternally youthful work, with a freshness that invigorates as well as a deep expressiveness that touches hearts. Our wonderful cast will bring this great masterpiece to extraordinarily vivid life. By being faithful to music and text, Richard Jones's marvelous production takes us into the heart of this most romantic of all operas."

Sir Andrew Davis: "The conductor and orchestra of *La bohème* must feel totally connected to the stage in order to respond to the tricky pacing of the conversational passages in the score. And of course in the more touching scenes, the orchestra needs to plumb great depths of emotion. **Domingo Hindoyan** is on the cusp of a very important career, and we're thrilled to have him debut at Lyric on the podium for this spectacular production."

A coproduction of Lyric Opera of Chicago, Royal Opera House Covent Garden, and Teatro Real Madrid.

New Lyric Opera coproduction of Puccini's *La bohème* generously made possible by the **Abbott Fund, Liz Stiffel, The Michael and Susan Avramovich Charitable Trust, Howard L. Gottlieb and Barbara G. Greis, and Roberta L. and Robert J. Washlow.**

New-to-Chicago Production

Idomeneo by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791)

6 performances, Oct. 13 – Nov. 2, 2018

Sung in Italian with projected English translations

One of Mozart's noblest characters, King Idomeneo of Crete, is also the most loving of operatic fathers. Shipwrecked, he gets safely to shore only after promising Neptune to sacrifice the first person he sees – but it's his son, Idamante! As Idomeneo agonizes over the catastrophe facing him, Idamante woos one princess, the lovely Ilia, and is madly pursued by another, the jealous Elettra. Through all their sorrows and joys, the constant is Mozart's heavenly music – ravishing in its beauty, stirring in its eloquence, and reaching deeply into the soul of every character. Premiered in 1781, this is Mozart's great choral opera.

Idomeneo

Matthew Polenzani°

Elettra

Erin Wall°

Ilia

Janai Brugger

Idamante

Angela Brower*

Arbace

David Portillo°

Conductor

Sir Andrew Davis

Original Director

Jean-Pierre Ponnelle

Revival Director

David Kneuss*

Designer

Jean-Pierre Ponnelle

Lighting Designer

Chris Maravich

Chorus Master

Michael Black

*Lyric debut °Ryan Opera Center alumni

Anthony Freud: “*Idomeneo* has become a rarity because of the extraordinary demands it places on the cast, conductor, and production team. With our superb lineup of artists, it promises to be one of the most profoundly moving experiences that opera has to offer.”

Sir Andrew Davis: “*Idomeneo* is Mozart’s Greek tragedy and that alone sets it apart from anything else that he wrote. As you would expect, the role of the chorus (and don’t we have a great one!) is vital. But also the main protagonists must be wonderful actors and above all great Mozartian musicians. Our cast checks these boxes and then some. And as *primus inter pares*, in the title role we have the great **Matthew Polenzani**, whom I wish we could cast in every opera we perform!”

Production owned by The Metropolitan Opera. All scenery, properties, and costumes constructed by The Metropolitan Opera Shops. This production was originally directed by Jean-Pierre Ponnelle and premiered at The Metropolitan Opera on October 14, 1982.

Lyric Opera presentation of Mozart’s *Idomeneo* made possible by **Lead Sponsor The Negaunee Foundation.**

New Lyric Production

Siegfried by Richard Wagner (1813 – 1883)

4 performances, Nov. 3 – 16, 2018

Sung in German with projected English translations

Like all brash young men, Siegfried is fearless. Follow him on his valiant, spectacularly adventurous path through the opera. Watch in amazement as he vanquishes the dragon Fafner and gets the better of his own wickedly devious guardian, Mime. Will our hero heed the warnings of his wise grandfather, Wotan, disguised as The Wanderer? And what happens when he braves the magic fire, awakens the sleeping Brünnhilde, and is enraptured by love for the very first time? In this, the third opera of Wagner’s *Ring* cycle, the characters are unforgettable, the music utterly exhilarating.

Siegfried

Burkhard Fritz*

Brünnhilde

Christine Goerke

Mime

Matthias Klink*

The Wanderer/Wotan

Eric Owens

Alberich

Samuel Youn

Erda

Conductor

Sir Andrew Davis

Director

David Pountney

Original Set Designer

Johan Engels

Set Designer

Robert Innes Hopkins

Costume Designer

Marie-Jeanne Lecca

Lighting Designer

Ronnita Miller*

Fabrice Kebour

Woodbird

Choreographer

Diana Newman°

Denni Sayers

Fafner

Patrick Guetti°

*Lyric debut °Ryan Opera Center alumni

Anthony Freud: "Christine Goerke and Eric Owens have shown in our *Ring* productions so far what unforgettable interpreters they are of the roles of Brünnhilde and Wotan. In *Siegfried*, they are joined by the superb German tenor **Burkhard Fritz**, making his Lyric and role debut in the title role. Also making his Lyric debut will be another outstanding German tenor, **Matthias Klink**, as Mime. **David Pountney's** enthralling production will offer an array of delightful surprises."

Sir Andrew Davis: "I am especially fond of *Siegfried*. After the powerhouse of *Die Walküre* it offers a different and, by Wagnerian standards, lighter atmosphere. There are even a couple of jokes in the second act as well as Wagner's gorgeous contribution to impressionism, the 'Forest Murmurs.' And the final love duet raises the emotional temperature to sizzling point."

New Lyric Opera production of the *Ring* cycle generously made possible by **Lead Sponsor: Anonymous Donor** and cosponsors **Mr. & Mrs. Dietrich M. Gross**, the **Gramma Fisher Foundation of Marshalltown, Iowa**, **Ada and Whitney Addington**, and **Bulley & Andrews**.

New Lyric Opera production of Wagner's *Siegfried* generously made possible by **Stefan Edlis and Gael Neeson**, the **Harris Family Foundation**, and **Helen and Sam Zell**.

Il trovatore by Giuseppe Verdi (1813 – 1901)

7 performances, Nov. 17 – Dec. 9, 2018

Sung in Italian with projected English translations

For this hot-blooded tale of love, jealousy, and retribution, Verdi created music that truly bursts with excitement! And what wonderful characters – bold and courageous Manrico, his beloved Leonora, the vengeful Count di Luna, and the wild, obsessed Azucena, whose terrible secret is central to the story. Each has thrilling music to sing as the drama unfolds in the smoldering atmosphere of darkly mysterious 15th-century Spain. The "Anvil Chorus," Leonora's "Miserere," Manrico's hair-raising call to arms – these are just a few of the fabulous highlights that make ***Il trovatore*** a feast of sumptuous singing.

Leonora

Tamara Wilson*

Azucena

Jamie Barton

Conductor

Marco Armiliato

Original Director

Sir David McVicar

Manrico

Russell Thomas

Di Luna

George Petean*

Ferrando

Roberto Tagliavini*

Revival Director

Roy Rallo*

Set Designer

Charles Edwards

Costume Designer

Brigitte Reiffenstuel

Original Lighting Designer

Jennifer Tipton

Revival Lighting Designer

Chris Maravich

Chorus Master

Michael Black

*Lyric debut

Anthony Freud: "*Il trovatore* is full of 'primary-color' emotions, and contains some of Verdi's most darkly intense music. It is unforgettably tuneful and powerfully dramatic. From Manrico's thrilling 'Di quella pira' to the 'Anvil Chorus,' one of the most famous choruses in all opera, *Il trovatore* is the epitome of Italian grand opera: stirring and spectacular."

Sir Andrew Davis: "**Tamara Wilson, Russell Thomas, and Jamie Barton** exemplify the best of what American singers of their generation can offer an audience: beautiful voices, terrific musicianship, highly individual interpretation, and imposing stage presence. **Marco Armiliato** comes to *Il trovatore* with a profound understanding of what it takes to bring to life Verdi's unique combination of virility and pathos. He is a 'singers' conductor' in the finest sense: he is a great enabler and inspirer."

A coproduction of Lyric Opera of Chicago, The Metropolitan Opera, and San Francisco Opera Association.

Lyric Opera production revival of Verdi's *Il trovatore* generously made possible by the **Earl and Brenda Shapiro Foundation**.

Lyric Premiere and New-to-Chicago Production**Cendrillon** by Jules Massenet (1842 – 1912)

6 performances, Dec. 1, 2018 – Jan. 20, 2019

Sung in French with projected English translations

"Blissful" and "enchanting" aptly describe this version of everyone's favorite fairytale. Massenet adapted *Cinderella* with an irresistible blend of wit, sensitivity, and elegance. The love duets are the very essence of romance, but there's hilarity, too, thanks to the most outrageous of all stepmothers. And if you want to hear glittering top notes sail into the stratosphere, there's the vocally high-flying fairy godmother. But at the heart of **Cendrillon** is the delectable heroine – and when she sings to her beloved, "You are my Prince Charming," it's

pure magic.

Cinderella

Siobhan Stagg**

Prince Charming

Alice Coote

Fairy Godmother

Marie-Eve Munger*

Madame de la Haltière

Elizabeth Bishop*

Pandolfe

Derek Welton*

Conductor

Sir Andrew Davis (Dec. 1-8, Jan. 17-20)

Francesco Milioto* (Jan. 11)

Director

Laurent Pelly*

Set Designer

Barbara de Limburg*

Costume Designer

Laurent Pelly*

Lighting Designer

Duane Schuler

Chorus Master

Michael Black

Original Choreographer

Laura Scozzi*

*Lyric debut **U.S. debut

Anthony Freud: "I am thrilled that we will be introducing this enchanting and magical piece to Lyric audiences for the first time.

Laurent Pelly's production is endlessly witty and alluring, and **Sir Andrew Davis**, a distinguished interpreter of Massenet, will bring this beautifully romantic score to irresistible life."

Sir Andrew Davis: "Even more than Rossini's famous version of the Cinderella story, Massenet's makes very clear the power of love to overcome all obstacles. That in itself makes it immensely appealing. The casting of Prince Charming with a mezzo rather than a tenor allows for the most exquisite vocal blending in their ravishing duets. I have already waxed eloquent about **Alice Coote**, who will be our Prince; our eponymous heroine is **Siobhan Stagg**, a young Australian soprano who has sung (beautifully) with me and the Melbourne Symphony and is now lighting up the operatic stages of Europe. With comedy from the bossy stepmother, tenderness from Cendrillon's father, and fabulous coloratura fireworks from the Fairy, this piece is a feast for the ear. The whole of it is characterized by an elegance that is quintessentially French. I conducted this production in Barcelona. It's great!"

Produced in association with the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, London; Gran Teatre del Liceu, Barcelona; Théâtre Royal de La Monnaie, Brussels; and Opéra de Lille. This production was first performed at The Santa Fe Opera.

Lyric Opera presentation of Massenet's *Cendrillon* generously made possible by the **NIB Foundation**.

Elektra by Richard Strauss (1864 – 1949)
6 performances, Feb. 2 – 22, 2019

Sung in German with projected English translations

There's no operatic tour de force to surpass **Elektra**, with a title role that demands a truly great singing actress. It's a stunning vocal marathon, with a riveting intensity that just doesn't quit. You owe it to yourself to experience the vocal grandeur and blazing drama of this passionate heroine. She's the Mycenaean princess whose father, Agamemnon, was murdered by her mother, Klytemnestra, leaving Elektra hell-bent on revenge. As Strauss's staggeringly powerful orchestra moves inexorably toward the opera's hair-raising finale, the music gives you a composer at his zenith – magnificently theatrical and devastatingly moving.

Elektra

Nina Stemme*

Chrysothemis

Elza van den Heever

Klytemnestra

Michaela Martens

Orest

Iain Paterson*

Aegisth

Robert Brubaker*

Conductor

Donald Runnicles*

Original Director

Sir David McVicar

Revival Director

Nick Sandys**

Designer

John Macfarlane

Lighting Designer

Jennifer Tipton

Chorus Master

Michael Black

*Lyric debut **Lyric directorial debut

Anthony Freud: "I am delighted to welcome **Nina Stemme** to Lyric for the first time in one of her greatest roles. Her immensely distinguished career has taken her to the great opera houses of the world in very wide-ranging repertoire. She is a towering interpreter of Elektra – once seen and heard, never forgotten. Nina is joined by a sensational cast who will raise the roof with the excitement and intensity of their performances."

Sir Andrew Davis: "**Donald Runnicles** has, of course, had a fantastically successful career with major opera companies and orchestras internationally for nearly 30 years. With his vast experience in Strauss and Wagner, he's always been able to master stupendously large musical structures, while imbuing everything with a powerful sense of drama and passion."

Lyric Opera production revival of Strauss's **Elektra** generously made possible by **Julie and Roger Baskes, Sylvia Neil and Daniel Fischel, the Mazza Foundation, and Exelon.**

La traviata by Giuseppe Verdi (1813 – 1901)

10 performances, Feb. 16 – Mar. 22, 2019

Sung in Italian with projected English translations

Verdi's music is incomparable, boasting one heartstoppingly beautiful melody after another, in this exquisitely romantic story. Within the social whirl of sophisticated Paris, the courtesan Violetta lives purely for pleasure but longs for true love. She finds the right man in Alfredo, but their happiness is cut short: at his father's insistence, Violetta leaves Alfredo for the sake of his family. Her spirit broken, her health shattered, Violetta now lives only with the hope that Alfredo will return to her. ***La traviata*** gives us one of opera's most glorious heroines, a woman of boundless humanity and emotional depth.

Violetta

Albina Shagimuratova

Alfredo

Giorgio Berrugi*

Germont

Zeljko Lučić

Conductor

Michael Christie*

Director

Arin Arbus

Set Designer

Riccardo Hernandez

Costume/Puppet Designer

Cait O'Conner

Lighting Designer

Marcus Doshi

Projection Designer

Christopher Ash

Chorus Master

Michael Black

Choreographer

Austin McCormick

*Lyric debut

Anthony Freud: "***La traviata*** is, in many ways the perfect opera: glorious music full of tenderness and humanity, and one of the most heartbreaking of tragic love stories. With **Albina Shagimuratova** as Violetta and our wonderful cast, this is sure to be a spell-binding series of performances."

Sir **Andrew Davis:** "I'll never forget **Giorgio Berrugi's** audition for us. It was in the chorus room at Covent Garden. We had been listening to singers of varying talents when all of a sudden Verdi and Puccini came leaping to life from this man! I can't wait for his debut now. This is a lovely and lively cast under the baton of **Michael Christie**, another debuting artist about whom I am very excited. And for me ***Traviata*** remains the most moving of all middle-period Verdi."

Coproduction of Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, and Canadian Opera Company.

Lyric Opera production revival of Verdi's ***La traviata*** generously made possible by the **Donna Van Eekeren Foundation**, **The Michael and Susan Avramovich Charitable Trust**, and **BMO Harris Bank**.

Lyric Premiere and New Coproduction

Ariodante by George Frideric Handel (1685 – 1759)

6 performances, Mar. 2 – 17, 2019

Sung in Italian with projected English translations

Villainous Polinesso lusts after Ginevra, but she loves noble Ariodante, who loves her in return. Dastardly, manipulative Polinesso will stop at nothing to get his way. Will Ariodante win out over his rival? The dramatic sparks fly, and so do the vocal fireworks in a score calling for the maximum in dazzling virtuosity. Thanks to Handel's incomparable genius, ***Ariodante*** also offers deeply soulful arias to melt any listener's heart. Here is one of the greatest glories of Baroque opera in its long-awaited Lyric premiere.

Ariodante

Alice Coote

Ginevra

Brenda Rae*

Dalinda

Heidi Stober

Polinesso

Iestyn Davies

King of Scotland

Kyle Ketelsen

Lurcanio

Jonathan Johnson°

Conductor

Harry Bicket

Director

Richard Jones

Production Designer

ULTZ*

Lighting Designer

Mimi Jordan Sherin

Chorus Master

Michael Black

Choreographer

Lucy Burge*

*Lyric debut °Ryan Opera Center alumnus

Anthony Freud: "This is Handel at his most melodically inspired, his most moving, and his most exhilarating. Richard Jones's superb production finds extraordinary dramatic intensity and psychological depths in this work. The Lyric premiere of this great Baroque masterpiece is long overdue."

Sir Andrew Davis: "We have become rather famous for our Handel productions over the years and we were overdue for another one. ***Ariodante*** is for me one of the most perfect operas: Handel's inventiveness is awe-inspiring. Our orchestra will once again be in the tender care of **Harry Bicket**, whom I consider the finest exponent of this music, and who can wean them away from the wild excesses of Strauss and Wagner and transform them into the perfect Baroque band. All praise both to him and to them!"

Production of the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, in coproduction with Dutch National Opera, Amsterdam; Canadian Opera Company, Toronto; and Lyric Opera of Chicago.

New Lyric Opera coproduction of Handel's ***Ariodante*** generously made possible by **The Monument Trust (UK), Sidley Austin LLP, and Margot and Josef Lakonishok.**

Lyric Unlimited Premiere and New Production

An American Dream by Jack Perla and Jessica Murphy Moo March 15 and March 17, 2019
Presented at the Harris Theater (205 E. Randolph St.) Performed in English

Treasured possessions become symbols of home in this contemporary opera inspired by true stories from American history. Taking place during the Second World War, this opera explores the lives of two women: a Japanese-American forced to leave her home, and a German-Jewish immigrant preoccupied by those she left behind. In its Seattle Opera world premiere, it was called, "a heart-wrenching opera...eloquent and moving" by *The Seattle Times*. Join us for the Lyric Unlimited premiere of a contemporary American chamber opera.

Eva Crowley

Catherine Martin

Jim Crowley

Christopher Magiera*

Setsuko Kobayashi

Boya Wei*

Hiroko Kobayashi

Nina Yoshida Nelsen*

Makoto Kobayashi

Ao Li*

Conductor

Daniela Candillari

Director

Matthew Ozawa

*Lyric debut

The designers for ***An American Dream*** will be announced at a later date.

Anthony Freud: "For the third consecutive season, Lyric Unlimited is presenting a recent American chamber opera, allowing us to extend our repertoire to encompass intimate works of great appeal. ***An American Dream*** is a beautiful, lyrical work of enormous emotional power. Its story, set during World War Two, is historic, timeless, and topical."

Sir Andrew Davis: "The music is subtle and sensitive and has an immediacy that successfully underlines the tensions and conflict in this drama of discrimination and redemption. It is an important part of this season."

Lyric Unlimited was launched with major catalyst funding from **The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** and receives major support from the **Caerus Foundation, Inc.**

Lyric Premiere and New Coproduction

West Side Story by Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990) and Stephen Sondheim (1930)
May 3 - June 2, 2019

Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* is brilliantly transposed to the back streets of mid-20th-century New York in this all-American musical masterpiece packed with explosive, exuberant dance sequences (originally choreographed by Jerome Robbins). As two rival gangs battle each other, Tony and Maria persist in longing

for “a place for us.” Leonard Bernstein’s music and Stephen Sondheim’s lyrics illuminate every scene, from the romance of “Maria” and “Tonight” to the sarcastic exultation of “America” and wisecracking wit of “Gee, Officer Krupke.”

Conductor

James Lowe

Director Francesca Zambello

Set Designer Peter J. Davison

Costume Designer

Jessica Jahn

Lighting Designer Mark

McCullough **Chorus Master** Michael

Black

Original Director & Choreographer

Jerome Robbins

The cast and revival choreographer for **West Side Story** will be announced at a later date.

Anthony Freud: “In **West Side Story**, Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim, and Arthur Laurents created one of the supreme masterpieces of musical theater. The story of Romeo and Juliet has never been more compelling and moving than in this reimagining. Bernstein’s brilliant score overflows with passion and energy.”

Sir Andrew Davis: “I shall never forget seeing **West Side Story** for the first time. It was in Paris at the Opéra Comique. It was in French. I was 14. It still knocked me sideways. I’m so happy it’s finally hitting the Lyric stage.”

Based on a conception of Jerome Robbins. Book by Arthur Laurents. Music by Leonard Bernstein. Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim.

A coproduction of Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, and Glimmerglass Festival.

Lyric Opera premiere of **West Side Story** generously made possible by **Lead Sponsor The Negaunee Foundation** and cosponsors an **Anonymous Donor, Randy L. and Melvin R. Berlin, Robert S. and Susan E. Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. William C. Vance, and Northern Trust.**

2018/19 Season Special Performances and Events

Opening Night Gala

Saturday, October 6, 2018 – Doors open at 5:30pm, performance begins at 6:30pm

Lyric Opera House

Elegantly dressed guests will make their red-carpet entrances at the Lyric Opera House on Saturday, October 6. It’s the opening night of Puccini’s **La bohème**, which launches **Lyric Opera of Chicago’s** highly-anticipated 64th Season. The **Opera Ball** takes place at the Hilton Chicago following the performance (separate tickets required). Festivities will also continue at the opera house in the Pedersen Room and Florian Opera Bistro restaurants (reservations required).

The **Opening Night Gala** is sponsored by **Aon**. Opera Ball 2018 is cosponsored by **ITW** and **Northern Trust**.

**Anna Netrebko in Recital Sunday, December
2, 2018, 3pm Lyric Opera House
Malcolm Martineau, Pianist**

Lyric will present world-renowned Russian soprano **Anna Netrebko**, one of the most exciting artists of our time, in a rare recital accompanied by renowned pianist **Malcolm Martineau** at the Lyric Opera House. Netrebko has been featured in *Time* magazine's annual list of the 100 most influential people, and *Musical America* has called her "a genuine superstar for the 21st century." In 2018, there's only one place in Chicago to experience the sumptuous voice of this international star soprano.

Anna Netrebko in Recital is sponsored by **NIB Foundation**.

**The Renée Fleming 25th Anniversary Concert and Gala Saturday, March
23, 2019, 7pm
Lyric Opera House**

In 1993 Lyric Opera of Chicago audiences first experienced the incomparable artistry of soprano **Renée Fleming** in the title role of Carlisle Floyd's *Susannah*, and have loved her ever since for her spectacular portrayals in *Faust*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Alcina*, *Otello*, *Thais*, *La traviata*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Capriccio*, and *The Merry Widow*. She has also given brilliant concerts with the Lyric Opera Orchestra (both alone and in collaboration with Jonas Kaufmann and with the late Dmitri Hvorostovsky), a recital with Susan Graham, and has also been featured in the company's 50th and 60th anniversary gala concerts.

Since 2010, Fleming has served as Lyric's first Creative Consultant. She has fostered emerging artists through important work as Advisor of **The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center**, and encouraged a future generation of opera lovers through **Lyric Unlimited** programs. She has been the driving force behind projects such as Lyric's world-premiere opera *Bel Canto*, collaborations with **The Second City**, and the **Chicago Voices** initiative, which bridged genres and generations in a groundbreaking, multi-faceted series of programs during the past two years.

Lyric will celebrate and honor the 25th anniversary of Renée Fleming's Lyric debut, her extraordinary commitment to Chicago, and her unparalleled contributions to our art form on March 23, 2019, with **The Renée Fleming 25th Anniversary Concert and Gala**. Fleming herself will perform, of course, along with several guest artists and the **Lyric Opera Orchestra** (conductor and artists to be announced at a later date.) Following a thrilling evening of music and memories at the Lyric Opera House, there will be a post-concert Gala at the Ritz Carlton (separate tickets required).

Lyric Unlimited

Lyric Unlimited is a long-term, evolving initiative that encompasses company activities beyond Lyric's main stage opera season. Its mission is to provide a relevant cultural service to communities throughout the Chicago area and to advance the development of opera by exploring how opera as an art form can resonate more powerfully with people of multiple backgrounds, ethnicities, and interests. It also leads the development of innovative partnerships with a wide range

of cultural, community, and educational organizations to create a breadth of programming through which Chicagoans of all ages can connect with Lyric. In the 2016/17 Season, more than 100,000 individuals participated in Lyric Unlimited programs.

Lyric Unlimited will offer an array of new and ongoing educational and community engagement programs during the 2018/19 Season. For more information about Lyric Unlimited program offerings, visit lyricopera.org/lyricunlimited.

Lyric Unlimited was launched with major catalyst funding from **The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** and receives major support from the **Caerus Foundation, Inc.**

Stars of Lyric Opera at Millennium Park Friday,
September 7, 2018, 7:30pm
Jay Pritzker Pavilion

For the 18th year in a row, thousands of music lovers will flock to hear **Stars of Lyric Opera at Millennium Park**, a free concert under the stars. The performance features acclaimed artists of Lyric's new season, along with the **Lyric Opera Orchestra and Chorus**, conducted by **Domingo Hindoyan**, who will also lead the season-opening performances of *La bohème* in his Lyric debut.

Family Day at Lyric
Saturday, April 6, 2019, 11am – 3pm Lyric Opera
House

Lyric Unlimited and Lyric's Guild Board of Directors is excited to offer a day of behind-the-scenes fun and exploration with the second annual **Family Day at Lyric**, a wonderful way to explore opera with family members of all ages. The event features exclusive access to Lyric's backstage areas, including the orchestra pit, props area, costume department, and more. Participants will enjoy demonstrations of operatic stagecraft and costume try-ons. 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. Family Day is open only to subscribers through July 2018, priced at \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

Opera Insider Series
Individual dates September 25, 2018 – February 19, 2019, 10am – noon
Lyric Opera House Office Building

This illuminating series with music historian and opera expert **David Buch** provides an in-depth exploration of each of the operas in the 2018/19 Season. Each session will discuss a work's creation, its composer, its musical and dramatic highlights, and its particular magic. Special guests from Lyric's technical team will share insights into set and costume design, interpretation, stagecraft, and more.

The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago

The **Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center** is the professional artist development program for Lyric Opera of Chicago. Since its inception in 1974*, the **Ryan Opera Center** has been recognized as one of the premier programs of its kind in the world. That standing is maintained by providing the finest up-and-coming singers and pianists with unparalleled training and experience. The program is administered by **Dan Novak**, director; **Craig Terry**, music director; **Julia Faulkner**, director of vocal studies; and **Renée Fleming**, advisor.

*originally The Opera School of Chicago, then the Lyric Opera Center for American Artists; known as the **Ryan Opera Center** since September 2006.

Each year the **Ryan Opera Center** selects 12-15 gifted young artists to join its program from more than 400 applicants. Beginning in the spring, ensemble members arrive to join the full-year residency program, under the guidance of Novak, Terry, Faulkner, and Fleming, as well as Anthony Freud, Sir Andrew Davis, and numerous other opera professionals. Ensemble members are immediately immersed into the world of opera and vocal performance. Coaching sessions and master classes are augmented by performance and understudy experience in Lyric Opera's regular season productions as well as **Ryan Opera Center** concerts and recitals.

The 2018/19 Season ensemble members are sopranos **Whitney Morrison**, **Emily Porgorelc**, and **Ann Toomey**; mezzo-soprano **Kayleigh Decker**; contralto **Lauren Decker**; tenors **Eric Ferring**, **Josh Lovell**, and **Mario Rojas**; baritones **Christopher Kenney** and **Ricardo José Rivera**; bass-baritones **Alan Higgs** and **David Weigel**; and pianist **Madeline Slettedahl**.

The roster includes two international singers –Josh Lovell from Canada and Mario Rojas from Mexico – representing the continued evolution of the **Ryan Opera Center**, which in addition to cultivating American singers, is also identifying exceptional talent from around the globe as well as locally. Second-year ensemble member Whitney Morrison is from the south suburbs of Chicago.

The roles that current ensemble members will perform in Lyric's 2018/19 Season will be announced at a later date.

Ryan Opera Center Alumni Return in 2018/19

In addition to supporting the **Ryan Opera Center** members while they are in the program, Lyric also invites a number of alumni back to perform in mainstage roles. Next season, the following singers will return to Lyric:

Tenor **Matthew Polenzani** (1995-97) – title role/*Idomeneo* Soprano

Erin Wall (2001-04) – Elettra/*Idomeneo*

Tenor **David Portillo** (2007-2010) – Arbace/*Idomeneo* Soprano **Diana Newman** (2015-2018) – Woodbird/*Siegfried* Tenor **Jonathan Johnson** (2014-2017) – Lurcanio/*Ariodante*

More details about the **Ryan Opera Center's** 2018/19 Season will be announced at a later date. For further information, visit lyricopera.org/RyanOperaCenter.

New and continuing enhancements for the 2018/19 Season

Earlier start times during the week. At the request of patrons to accommodate weekday schedules, as well as to optimize performances to better suit train schedules, **weekday evening opera performances will begin at 7pm starting in the 2018/19**

Season. Weekend matinee and evening opera performances will continue to start at 2pm and 7:30pm respectively. This excludes *Siegfried*, which will have weekday/weekend evening performances starting at 6pm, and matinee performances starting at 1pm, and Opening Night of the season which begins at 6:30pm.

Free pre-opera talks are open to all ticket holders, and take place in the theater an hour before each opera performance, except for Opening Night of the season.

Dining-option enhancements include the creation of sophisticated seasonal menus for the **Sarah and Peer Pedersen Room** and **Florian Opera Bistro**, plus special show-inspired entrées created by featured guest chefs for the Pedersen Room. Lyric's new Champagne bar **Cheers!**, located between Aisles 4 and 5 and open for all performances, serves an exclusive assortment of French Champagnes, international and domestic sparkling wines, and sparkling cocktails curated by sommelier **Alpana Singh**, who has also created new wine lists for the Pedersen Room and the Florian Opera Bistro.

Lyric's **Sushi Bar** is open for every Friday evening performance throughout the season with **Chef Tom Osaki** at the helm. The Sushi Bar is now in a new permanent location between Aisles 5 and 6 on the main floor of the foyer.

The **Lyric Concierge Desk**, which was well-received by patrons during the 2017/18 Season, will continue to operate in the lobby, where staff can assist guests with a variety of questions.

The **Lyric Bus**, a luxury motor coach service from Northbrook Court Shopping Mall to the Lyric Opera House, is available for weekday matinee performances for \$20 round-trip. It may be added onto subscription packages by calling Audience Services at 312-827-5600.

Discounted tickets for children 17 and under (\$20-50) are available by phone only: 312-827-5600.

Additional Information

Call **312-827-5600** to purchase subscription tickets, or visit lyricopera.org beginning February 7. Current subscribers will receive their renewal packages in the mail in early February.

A link to production images for Lyric's 2018/19 Season can be found below. Artists' headshots available on request.

DOWNLOAD IMAGES FOR THE 2018/19 SEASON

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 current season, go to lyricopera.org. You can also join the conversation with @LyricOpera on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. #Lyric1819 #LongLivePassion



Lyric Opera of Chicago
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