

**Lyric**  
LYRIC OPERA OF CHICAGO



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An image from the *Faust* technical rehearsal. PHOTO: Cory Weaver

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**What would *you* do to become young again?**

**What you need to know about**

***Faust* at Lyric Opera of Chicago**

**and the multifaceted artistic vision**

**behind the new production of Gounod's popular French opera**

**Starring Benjamin Bernheim, Ailyn Pérez/Ana María Martínez**

**(3/21), Christian Van Horn, Edward Parks, Jill Grove**

**Seven performances March 3-21, 2018**

*Be careful what you wish for. That's the lesson at the heart of the timeless tale of Faust, who sells his soul to recapture his youth.*

*Lyric's imaginative new production opens with Faust (**Benjamin Bernheim**/American debut) as an aging artist lamenting over his wasted life. In a deal with the demon Méphistophélès (**Christian Van Horn**), he's transformed into a handsome young man. He's smitten with innocent Marguerite (**Ailyn Pérez**, 3/3-18; **Ana María Martínez**, 3/21), with disastrous consequences involving Marguerite's brother Valentin (**Edward Parks**/Lyric debut) and her own illicit pregnancy. Siébel (**Annie Rosen**) is the boy who loves Marguerite, and Marthe (**Jill Grove**) is the busybody neighbor who provides comic relief.*

- **Acclaimed artist John Frame's theatrical debut as production designer.** His work has been exhibited extensively in the United States, Europe, Japan, and China. Elements of Frame's meticulously crafted assemblages have been adapted as the set designs and projections of this new production, directed by **Kevin Newbury**.
- **Artistic and technical collaboration expanded Frame's artwork to fit the stage of the Lyric Opera House.** Set and costume designer **Vita Tzykun** and projection designer **David Adam Moore** (both Lyric debuts) worked closely with lighting designer **Duane Schuler** and with Frame to transfer his vision to the stage.
- **Sophisticated technology integrates projections into the production design to enhance the story telling and engage the senses.** Explains **Chris Maravich**, Lyric's lighting director, "Faust uses three projectors projecting 4K-resolution images through Media Servers from Disguise, utilizing the same cutting-edge 3D video mapping technology that is used at the Olympics, at rock concerts, and more. Each portion of the Faust set is a mapped video surface, allowing the projection to bring John Frame's work to life across the entire production."
- **A familiar story told in a whole new way.** Even if you already know Goethe's story and/or Gounod's opera, you've never seen it done like this! Be the first to experience this boldly imagined new production, with stage movement by choreographer **Zack Winokur** and exciting fight scenes by fight choreographer **Nick Sandys**.
- **Emmanuel Villaume returns with his gift for conducting French opera.** The Strasbourg native has previously wowed Lyric audiences with Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* (2015/16) and Offenbach's *Les contes d'Hoffmann* (2011/12), along with a range of other works.
- **Kevin Newbury breaks away from bel canto.** Previously at Lyric, Newbury has directed the bel-canto masterpieces *Norma* and *Anna Bolena*, and the world premiere of *Bel Canto*, the contemporary work based on Ann Patchett's best-seller novel.
- **French tenor Benjamin Bernheim makes his American debut** at Lyric as Faust. He's acclaimed for his leading-role portrayals in several top European opera houses.
- **American sopranos Ailyn Pérez (Mar. 3-18) & Ana María Martínez (Mar. 21)** portray lovely Marguerite, with whom Faust is infatuated. Pérez debuted at Lyric last season in a concert honoring Plácido Domingo, which included Act Two of *La traviata*; this is her first full stage role with the company. This is Martínez's ninth production at Lyric; she stars in Lyric's *Così fan tutte* Feb. 17-Mar. 16.
- **American bass-baritone Christian Van Horn returns to Lyric as the charming demon Méphistophélès.** The Ryan Opera Center alumnus has excelled in 15 roles previously at Lyric, most recently Escamillo/*Carmen* and Narbal/*Les Troyens* last season.
- **American baritone Edward Parks makes his Lyric debut** as Marguerite's headstrong brother Valentin. Parks created the title role in *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* at The Santa Fe Opera last summer.
- **3 hours and 35 minutes, including 2 intermissions** (25 minutes each) in the beautiful surroundings of the Art-Deco

theater and foyer. Refreshments available for purchase.

- **7 Performances** beginning March 3 at 7:30pm through March 21 at 2pm.
- **Sung in French**, with projected English translations.

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The opening-night performance of **Faust** can be heard live locally on **98.7WFMT** and globally on [wfmt.com](http://wfmt.com), beginning at 7:15pm CST on Saturday, March 3.

For more information and tickets, visit [lyricopera.org/faust](http://lyricopera.org/faust) or call 312-827-5600.

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#### 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 current season, go to [lyricopera.org](http://lyricopera.org). You can also join the conversation with @LyricOpera on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. **#Lyric1718 #LongLivePassion**



New Lyric Opera production of Gounod's **Faust** generously made possible by production sponsors **Liz Stiffel, Henry M. and Gilda R. Buchbinder, Stefan Edlis and Gael Neeson, Ethel and William Gofen, Harris Family Foundation, and ITW.**

Christian Van Horn's appearance generously sponsored by **Lois B. Siegel.**

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