

# LYRIC UNLIMITED

was established in

### 2012

as a nimble arm of Lyric Opera of Chicago, positioned to connect to the city through collaborative programming.

From the beginning,
Lyric Unlimited has focused on:

Introducing new audiences to opera

Developing programming for young people

Collaborating with
community organizations

Commissioning and presenting new
works and exploring new formats

As a result of innovative programming both in the Lyric Opera House and across Chicagoland, Lyric's impact has expanded in all directions.

On average 100,000+

Lyric Unlimited programming each season.

Introducing opera to youth Experiencing a live opera for the first time can be awe-inspiring, especially for children. **OPERA IN THE** Early exposure to the **45%** 20,000 art form can grow into **NEIGHBORHOODS** lifelong appreciation. is an annual tour of a free, of students students attend Opera fully-staged production are from Chicago in the Neighborhoods for students in grades 3-6 Public Schools. each year. at venues across the Chicago area. Photo by Jaclyn Simpson

Introducing opera to youth

Lyric Unlimited presented three large-scale family performances in the Lyric Opera House:

2012

POPCORN & PASQUALE

**2013** 

THE FAMILY BARBER

**2014**  $\diamond$ 

THE MAGIC VICTROLA

and three small-scale operas for families in community venues:

2015

**SECOND NATURE\*** 

2016

JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS\*

2017

THE SCORPIONS' STING

**2018** 

2019

#### **FAMILY DAY AT LYRIC**

a new annual event will provide an opportunity to explore opera with fun activities for all ages

**RHODA AND THE FOSSIL HUNT\*** 

a new, site-specific opera for families will be performed at The Field Museum

\*Lyric Unlimited commission or co-commission





## Enhancing the opera experience for adults

## PRE-OPERA TALKS

offer audiences fascinating background about each production before every performance.

31,000+

people attend Pre-Opera Talks each season on average.

#### OPERA INSIDER SERIES

is a scholar-led discussion on mainstage productions that delivers behind-the-scenes knowledge for adults.

#### PUBLIC BACKSTAGE TOURS

bring groups and individuals into the Lyric Opera House for an artist's-eye view of how opera makes its way to the stage.

2,100+

people toured the Lyric Opera House in 2016/17. Lyric Unlimited develops season-specific programming to provide in-depth information and exploration of select operas.

#### THE PASSENGER

Memory and Reckoning—a series of events created in partnership with many Chicago-area organizations—explored the historic and cultural aspects of the opera.

#### BEL CANTO

Audiences enjoyed panel discussions, chamber music, and post-performance talk-backs featuring artists and creative team for this Lyric world premiere.

Lyric Unlimited will create programming to enhance the audience experience for Lyric's **RING CYCLE**.

2020

2015

2016



### Collaborating and engaging communities

an aim to engage the entire city in celebration of the power of the human voice.

2016

#### SING

The Chicago Voices van traveled to famous locations to video record Chicagoans channeling their inner divas

#### **COMMUNITY CREATED PERFORMANCES**

Three Chicago groups—Harmony, Hope & Healing, Tellin' Tales Theatre and Kirin-Gornick Band participated in an intensive creative process to transform their unique stories into fully-produced music theater pieces presented at the Harris Theater

#### SING: SCHOOL SLAM

A video crew traveled to schools to record students singing their favorite songs and original compositions

2017

#### **TALK**

A series of panel discussions with live performances at the Chicago History Museu

#### **VIEW**

Photographic exhibits of iconic Chicago vocalists displayed at locations on the north, west and south sides



## Collaborating and engaging communities





#### **GALA CONCERT**

A celebration of the vocal heritage of Chicago that featured cross-genre collaborations by: Renée Fleming, Jessie Mueller, Kurt Elling, Michelle Williams, Matthew Polenzani, Shemekia Copeland, The Handsome Family, John Prine and Lupe Fiasco

#### **EXPERT PANELS AND MASTERCLASSES**

A series of symposia hosted by Renée Fleming at Columbia College Chicago

#### STUDENT SONGWRITING WORKSHOP

High school songwriters, with the aid of teaching artists, wrote original songs and created professional recordings

#### **COMMUNITY CREATED PERFORMANCES**

In round two of this program, Kuumba Lynx, YOLO Boomers and Blu Rhythm Collective shared their stories in a performance at the Harris Theater

### 2018

#### THE MESSAGE IN THE MUSIC

Lyric Unlimited is partnering with Foundations of Music to launch a performance program for students in grades 3-6 that highlights Chicago's vocal music legacy

80,000+

participated in Chicago Voices since 2016.

# Commissioning and presenting: exploring the future of opera

2013

#### CRUZAR LA CARA DE LA LUNA

a groundbreaking mariachi opera presented in partnership with the National Museum of Mexican Art

**GUIDE TO THE OPERA** 

brought Lyric and the famed

comedy troupe together for a

hilarious look into opera culture

With a focus on collaboration, important social commentary, and styles and stories not frequently

to explore new ways to experience the art form.

associated with opera, Lyric Unlimited invites audiences

7,345

people attended

performances of Cruzar

la Cara de la Luna.

people experienced the

one-night Second City

Guide to the Opera.





Commissioning and presenting: exploring the future of opera

2014

#### **CANCIONES Y ARIAS**

drew connections between mariachi and opera through narration, musical examples and songs in a dynamic concert

2015

#### **EL PASADO NUNCA SE TERMINA\***

revived the exciting blend of mariachi and opera through a story of forbidden love and family legacy

#### **THE PROPERTY\***

a world-premiere klezmer opera, adapted from a graphic novel by Rutu Modan, explored the impact of the Holocaust on future generations

2016

#### LONGER! LOUDER! WAGNER!

the next collaboration with The Second City spoofed Richard Wagner, his eccentricities and the most monumental operatic work

2017

#### Charlie Parker's YARDBIRD

a jazz-infused opera, based on the life of legendary saxophonist Charlie Parker, that attracted both opera and jazz lovers

2018

#### CARIBE CLASICO

a performance highlighting the musical heritage of Puerto Rico produced in collaboration with The Puerto Rican Arts Alliance

#### **FELLOW TRAVELERS**

an American opera set in Washington, D.C. about a love affair between two men that unfolds during the Lavender Scare of the 1950s

\*Lyric Unlimited commission or co-commission



### LYRIC UNLIMITED

champions significant stories that deserve to be heard. This is often accomplished by building collaborative partnerships or commissioning operas that speak to a new audience.

For young audiences of all backgrounds, expanding access to opera and opera education is a major focus for the future.

Lyric Unlimited is inspiring people to go to the opera for the first time, to think about opera in a new way, or to get involved in creating art of their own.

BECOME A PART OF THE JOURNEY as Lyric Unlimited looks ahead to the next five years and beyond.

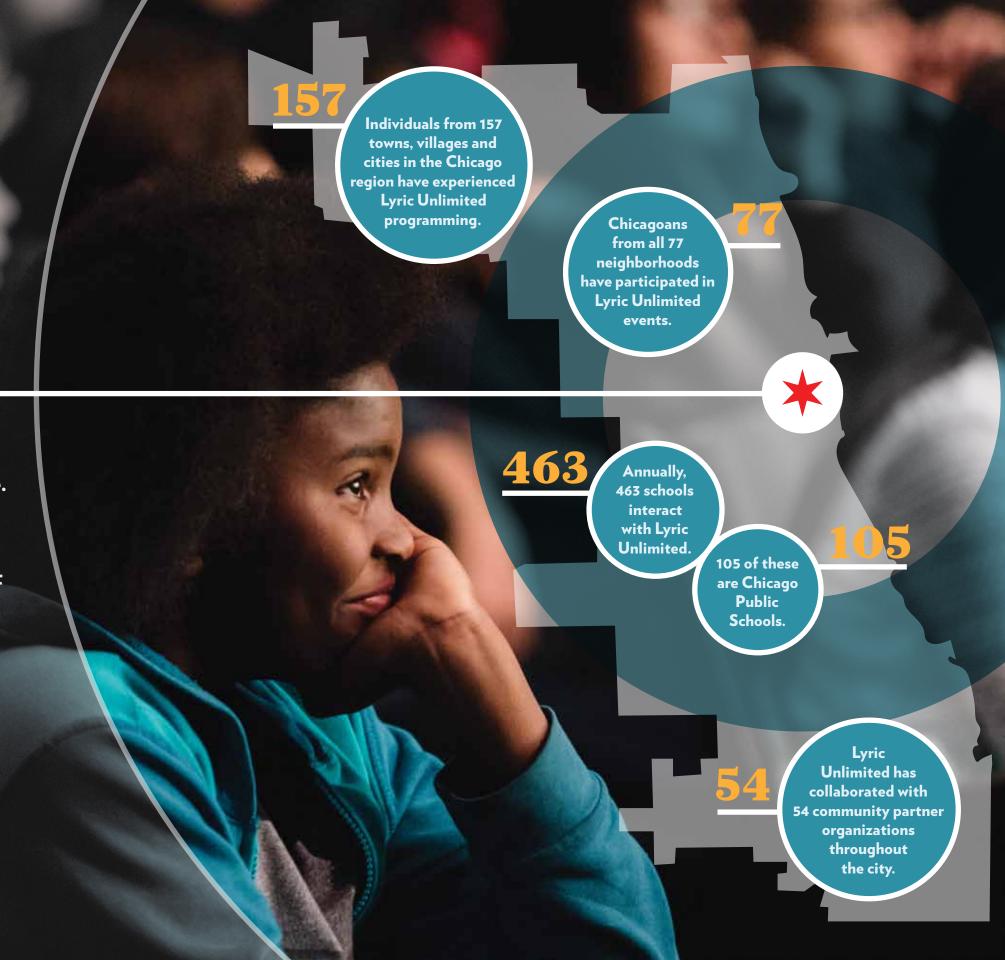




Photo by Jaclyn Simpson