

*Lyric*

OPERA OF  
CHICAGO

**2021 / 22**

**IMPACT REPORT**



# From the Chair and the General Director

Looking back at Lyric Opera of Chicago's 2021/22 Season, we think first of celebrations. The season marked the start of Enrique Mazzola's tenure as Music Director and a return to live performance—a major goal that was achieved in grand fashion. The Lyric family was finally able to gather again, to have our spirits enriched and our hearts thrilled with the sounds of our orchestra and chorus. It was a glorious season and you were a major part of bringing it to life.

The season was a legacy moment in our history. We made tremendous progress toward our goal of catapulting Lyric into a new era of excellence, popularity, and diversity, all while adhering to the best business practices. While we are still on our journey of post-pandemic recovery, there is much to rejoice about. In this Impact Report, we are pleased to review the many artistic successes we all experienced on our stages, as well as share some of the company's other highlights—in attracting new audiences, creative engagement, education and learning, financial development, and many other areas.

One element of the 2021/22 Season seems abundantly clear: Opera itself continues to evolve as an art form and as entertainment, and Lyric is leading the way. The city of Chicago has taken note: In a full-page editorial, the *Chicago Tribune* editorial board put Lyric front and center of civic pride as a harbinger of our city's recovery and international cultural stature. Our productions were continuously praised in the press: *Telemundo* covered our first mainstage Spanish-language opera, *Florencia en el Amazonas*; *Town & Country* named Lyric in their *Top Things to Do in Chicago*; and our breathtaking *Magic Flute* was named Best Theater Show of 2021 by *TimeOut Chicago*, to name just a few highlights. Lyric was even featured on TikTok when a video of a local influencer attending a performance was liked by 100,000 people and viewed by many more. All this to say: We are truly the place to be.

This season was filled with thrilling moments. We can't imagine any of us who were there will soon forget the tremendous emotion in the Opera House on the sold-out opening night of our new production of *Macbeth*. Our final production of the season, *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*, was an artistic and cultural sensation that welcomed a large number of new audience members.

We thank you all, our donors, subscribers, and Board members, from the bottom of our hearts for your leadership and unwavering support of this great company. While the past season presented enormous challenges, with your help Lyric navigated them all with consummate positivity and grace. The Lyric family continues to grow, and we are excited to see what our future holds.



Todd Rosenberg

*Sylvia Neil*

**SYLVIA NEIL**

Chair



Todd Rosenberg

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<sup>◦</sup> Deceased

**LYRIC OPERA OF CHICAGO  
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS  
As of June 30, 2022 and 2021**

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<b>Operating Results</b>	<b>12 months ended June 30, 2022</b>	<b>12 months ended June 30, 2021</b>
Ticket Sales	\$ 11,667,223	\$ 42,375
Other Operating Revenue	27,608,635	14,838,084
Total Operating Revenue	<u>39,275,858</u>	<u>14,880,459</u>
Total Operating Support	<u>25,788,639</u>	<u>25,327,795</u>
Total Operating Revenue and Support	65,064,497	40,208,254
Total Operating Expenses	<u>65,064,497</u>	<u>40,208,254</u>
Net Operating Results	\$ 0	\$ 0

<b>Balance Sheet Highlights</b>	<b>As of June 30, 2022</b>	<b>As of June 30, 2021</b>
Long-Term Pledges	\$ 26,060,657	\$ 19,505,593
Long-Term Investments	\$ 186,506,844	\$ 227,939,616
Total Assets	\$ 283,191,852	\$ 311,919,170
Total Net Assets	\$ 195,839,102	\$ 214,383,121
Operating Revenue as a percentage of Operating Expenses	60%	37%

The full report can be found at: [lyricopera.org/financialstatements](http://lyricopera.org/financialstatements)

# Enrique Mazzola's first season

Perhaps the most significant milestone of the 2021/22 Season was the arrival of new Music Director Enrique Mazzola for his first full season. Renowned as an expert interpreter of *bel canto* opera and a specialist in French repertoire and early Verdi, he is just the third artist to hold the title in the company's history. Enrique Mazzola is the John D. and Alexandra C. Nichols Endowed Chair.

Lyric audiences first experienced the Italian conductor's artistry in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* in 2016/17, and subsequently in Bellini's *I puritani* in 2017/18. During 2019/20, he led Verdi's *Luisa Miller* to launch the company's Early Verdi Series. In the 2021/22 Season, Mazzola conducted Verdi's *Macbeth*, followed by Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love* as well as *Verdi Voices* and *Rising Stars in Concert*.

**Maestro Mazzola has received a warm welcome:**

"Enrique Mazzola, the company's new music director, led the orchestra with a *bel canto*-inspired buoyancy."

—*The Wall Street Journal*

"Mazzola's arrival represents an aspect of the city's recovery. It is vital for Chicago's future that world-class artists choose to make their homes here."

—*Chicago Tribune*

"Lyric Opera could not be in better hands than those of its new Music Director, Enrique Mazzola. From the moment he wielded his baton in the overture, one could sense his measured devotion to the golden passages inscribed before him in the score."

—*The Times Weekly*

"His *Elixir* offers a deft balance between *bel canto*'s crisp, high-flying, ornamented melodies and heftier early Verdi."

—*Chicago Sun-Times*

"A virtual Renaissance man who is a champion of both great wine and great opera. Chicago could not be more fortunate."

— *The Times Weekly*



Mazzola is just the third Music Director in Lyric's history.

## ENRIQUE CIRCLE

Maestro Enrique Mazzola is generously sponsored by **Alice & John Butler, H. Gael Neeson, Sylvia Neil & Daniel Fischel**, and the **Robert and Penelope Steiner Family Foundation** as members of the Enrique Circle. The Enrique Circle is comprised of Lyric's most dedicated supporters who are committed to championing Maestro Enrique Mazzola's exciting artistic vision and legacy.

# The 2021 /22 Season: *Live and in Person!*



Ken Howard

A fiery production of *Macbeth* provided a dramatic season opener.

**In September 2021, after 18 months** without live performance, Lyric Opera of Chicago returned to the stage with Verdi's *Macbeth*. That program marked the beginning of Enrique Mazzola's first full season as the company's music director, the reunion of Lyric's artists and audience, and the re-emergence of one of the world's greatest performing arts organizations.

The 2021/22 Season featured 37 performances including six mainstage productions, two concerts, and an original children's production that gathered the forces of the Lyric Opera Orchestra, Lyric Opera Chorus, and The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center Ensemble.

**Let's look back at the highlights of the 2021 /22 Season, generously sponsored by Invesco QQQ.**

# Macbeth

**New Production** | Opera in four acts in Italian

Music by **Giuseppe Verdi**

September 17, 23, 30, and October 3, 6, 9



Sondra Radvanovsky and Craig Colclough starred as the troubled, ambitious couple.

**A brand-new production** from Scottish director Sir David McVicar and Scottish set designer John Macfarlane, along with renowned artists Moritz Junge (costume designer), David Finn (lighting designer), and Andrew George (choreographer)... Sondra Radvanovsky's role debut as Lady Macbeth marked her 9th role at Lyric... The production featured six current Ensemble members of The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center, as well as one alumnus... Mexican-American tenor Joshua Guerrero made his Lyric debut as Macduff.

**"A stunner of a performance."**

—*Chicago Tribune*

## PRODUCTION SPONSORS

**Julie & Roger Baskes**

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## ENRIQUE CIRCLE

**Alice & John Butler**

**Sylvia Neil &**

**Daniel Fischel**

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**Family Foundation**

**Co-produced with Canadian Opera  
Company**

## CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

Macbeth

Banquo

Lady Macbeth

Servant

Macduff

Lady in Waiting

Assassin

First Apparition

Second Apparition

Third Apparition

Malcolm

Doctor

Conductor

Director

Set Designer

Costume Designer

Lighting Designer

Chorus Master

Choreographer

Wigmaster and

Makeup Designer

Associate Director

Assistant Director

Stage Manager

Stage Band Conductor

Musical Preparation

Fight Director

Projected English Titles

**Craig Colclough<sup>+</sup>**

**Christian Van Horn<sup>••</sup>**

**Sondra Radvanovsky**

**Christopher Filipowicz**

**Joshua Guerrero<sup>+</sup>**

**Mathilda Edge<sup>+</sup>**

**Anthony Reed<sup>•</sup>**

**Anthony Reed<sup>•</sup>**

**Maria Novella Malfatti.**

**Denis Vélez<sup>+</sup>**

**Matthew Vickers<sup>+</sup>**

**Rivers Hawkins<sup>+</sup>**

**Enrique Mazzola**

**Sir David McVicar**

**John Macfarlane**

**Moritz Junge**

**David Finn**

**Michael Black**

**Andrew George**

**Sarah Hatten**

**Leah Hausman**

**Jordan Braun**

**Rachel Tobias**

**Stefano Sarzani**

**Noah Lindquist**

**Chris Reynolds<sup>•</sup>**

**Stefano Sarzani**

**Eric Weimer**

**Nick Sandys**

**Colin Ure**

**<sup>+</sup>Lyric debut**

**<sup>•</sup>Member, The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center**

**<sup>••</sup>Alumnus, The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center**

# The Elixir of Love

**New-to-Chicago Production** | Opera in two acts in Italian

Music by **Gaetano Donizetti**

September 26, 29, and October 2, 5, 8



Charles Castronovo pursues Ailyn Pérez.

**After triumphant performances** in Lyric's *The Magic Flute* (2011/12) and *Eugene Onegin* (2016/17), Charles Castronovo returned as Nemorino, a signature role... With over 60 productions in 17 countries under his belt, British director Daniel Slater made his Lyric debut... Ailyn Pérez took the role of Adina, which she had previously performed to great acclaim at the Bayerische Staatsoper, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Wiener Staatsoper, and Washington National Opera.

"The production is heart-wrenching and high-spirited, an expert blend of gentle slapstick and sincere emotion."

—Chicago Sun-Times

## PRODUCTION SPONSOR

**Sonia Florian**

## ENRIQUE CIRCLE

**Alice & John Butler**

**Sylvia Neil & Daniel Fischel**

**Robert & Penelope Steiner Family  
Foundation**

**A co-production with San Francisco Opera,  
originally created by Opera North, UK.**

## CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

Giannetta  
Nemorino  
Adina  
Belcore  
Dulcamara

**Denis Vélez\***  
**Charles Castronovo**  
**Ailyn Pérez**  
**Joshua Hopkins**  
**Kyle Ketelsen**

Conductor  
Director  
Designer  
Original Lighting Designer  
Revival Lighting Designer  
Chorus Master  
Choreographer  
Wigmaster and  
Makeup Designer  
Assistant Director  
Stage Manager  
Stage Band Conductor  
Musical Preparation

**Enrique Mazzola**  
**Daniel Slater+**  
**Robert Innes Hopkins**  
**Simon Mills+**  
**Sarah Riffle**  
**Michael Black**  
**Tim Claydon**  
**Sarah Hatten**

**David Toulson**  
**Dan Sokalski**  
**Elizabeth Askren**  
**William C. Billingham**  
**Susan Miller Hult**  
**Noah Lindquist**  
**Jerad Mosbey**  
**Susan Miller Hult**  
**Opera North, UK**

Prompter  
Projected English Titles

**+Lyric debut**

**\*Member, The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center**



# The Magic Flute

**New-to-Chicago Production** | Singspiel in two acts in German

Music by **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

November 3, 7, 11, 14, 17, 19, 27



The production design was inspired by the silent films of the 1920s.

**Created by the team of** Suzanne Andrade and Barrie Kosky and directed by Tobias Ribitzki... Ying Fang, who made her Lyric debut as Zerlina in 2019/20's *Don Giovanni*, starred as Pamina, a role she has performed at the Met and in Zurich... Stunning projections by animator Paul Barritt and innovative stage design and costumes by Esther Bialis... Six members of The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center Ensemble appeared in this production.

"Best Theatre Show of 2021:  
A night at the opera doesn't get  
more spectacular than this."

—*Time Out Chicago*

## PRODUCTION SPONSORS

**The Negaunee Foundation**

**Nancy & Sanfred Koltun**

**Liz Stiffel**

**Gamma Fisher Foundation**

**of Marshalltown, Iowa**

**Mr. & Mrs. Dietrich M. Gross**

**Randy L. & Melvin R.\* Berlin**

\*deceased

**A production of the Komische Oper Berlin,  
co-produced by Los Angeles Opera and  
Minnesota Opera**

## CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

Tamino  
First Lady  
Second Lady  
Third Lady  
Papageno  
Queen of the Night  
Monostatos  
Pamina  
Three Genii

Sarastro  
First Armored Man  
Second Armored Man  
Papagena

Conductor  
Original Directors

Revival Director  
Designer  
Animation Designer  
Chorus Master  
Wigmaster and  
Makeup Designer  
Assistant Director  
Stage Managers

Hammerklavier  
Stage Band Conductor  
Musical Preparation

Projected English Titles

**Pavel Petrov+**  
**Mathilda Edge\***  
**Katherine DeYoung+**  
**Kathleen Felty\***  
**Huw Montague Rendall+**  
**Lila Dufy+**  
**Brenton Ryan**  
**Ying Fang**  
**Daelyn Calloway**  
**Elyssa Hall+**  
**Henry Lombardo**  
**Tareq Nazmi+**  
**Martin Luther Clark+**  
**Anthony Reed\***  
**Denis Vélez\***

**Karen Kamensek+**  
**Suzanne Andrade+**  
**Barrie Kosky+**  
**Tobias Ribitzki+**  
**Esther Bialis+**  
**Paul Barritt+**  
**Michael Black**  
**Sarah Hatten**

**Jordan Braun**  
**Rachel Tobias**  
**Sandra Zamora**  
**Jerad Mosbey**  
**Stefano Sarzani**  
**Noah Lindquist**  
**Jerad Mosbey**  
**Chris Reynolds\***  
**Stefano Sarzani**  
**Komische Oper Berlin**

+Lyric debut

\*Member, The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center

# Florencia en el Amazonas

**Lyric Premiere** | Opera in two acts in Spanish

Music by **Daniel Catán** | Libretto by Marcela Fuentes-Berain

November 13, 18, 21, 26, 28



Ana María Martínez starred as the titular character on a vivid river journey.

**The first Spanish-language work** to be presented as part of Lyric's mainstage opera season... Marcela Fuentes-Berain suffused the libretto with the magical realism of her mentor, Gabriel García Márquez... Fresh off a four-year term at the Komische Oper Berlin, conductor Jordan de Souza made his Lyric debut... Audience favorite Ana María Martínez returned to Lyric for her 11th mainstage role... Director Francesca Zambello, who collaborated with Catán and Fuentes-Berain in developing the opera, revisited her world-premiere production on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

"Lights and projections immersed us in a richness only found in oil paintings. Among the action, sunrises and thunderstorms are masterfully done."

—Chicago Reader

## PRODUCTION SPONSORS

**Anonymous**

**Marion A. Cameron-Gray**

**Original production from Houston Grand Opera**

## CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

Riolobo  
Rosalba  
Paula  
Alvaro  
Captain  
Florencia  
Arcadio  
Dancers

**Ethan Vincent+**  
**Gabriella Reyes+**  
**Deborah Nansteel**  
**Levi Hernandez\*\***  
**Raymond Aceto**  
**Ana María Martínez**  
**Mario Rojas\*\***  
**Dwayne Brown+**  
**Joshua Leon Eguia+**  
**Joseph Hernandez**  
**Michael Francis McBride+**  
**Akua Noni Parker+**  
**Benjamin Holliday Wardell**  
**Hannah Zin+**

Conductor  
Director  
Set Designer  
Costume Designer  
Lighting Designer  
Projection Designer  
Chorus Master  
Choreographer  
Ballet Mistress  
Wigmaster and  
Makeup Designer  
Assistant Director  
Stage Manager  
Musical Preparation

**Jordan de Souza+**  
**Francesca Zambello**  
**Peter J. Davison**  
**Catherine Zuber**  
**Mark McCullough**  
**S. Katy Tucker+**  
**Michael Black**  
**Eric Sean Fogel**  
**August Tye**  
**Sarah Hatten**

**Katrina Bachus**  
**Hester Warren-Steijn**  
**William C. Billingham**  
**Noah Lindquist**  
**Matthew Piatt**  
**Eric Weimer**  
**Yasuko Oura**  
**Susan Miller Hult**  
**Patricia Houk, adapted by**  
**Jeremy Johnson**

Ballet Accompanist  
Prompter  
Projected English Titles

+Lyric debut

\*\*Alumnus, The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center

# Tosca

**New-to-Chicago Production** | Opera in three acts in Italian

Music by **Giacomo Puccini**

March 12, 15, 18, 23, 26, and April 3, 7, 10



Russell Thomas and Michelle Bradley

**Conductor Eun Sun Kim**, San Francisco Opera's new music director, was the first Asian woman to conduct an opera at Lyric... Kim was part of a female-forward leadership team, including director Louisa Muller and Chicago Children's Choir director Josephine Lee... This was the opera's 19th presentation at Lyric since 1954... Michelle Bradley made her Lyric and role debut as Tosca, and Fabián Veloz made his Lyric debut as Scarpia... A new-to-Chicago production, with traditional sets (never seen at Lyric) by Jean-Pierre Ponnelle and costumes from Marcel Escoffier, based on his iconic original designs for Maria Callas.

"Brilliant voices, interesting performances,  
and gorgeous sets and costumes.  
The attention to every detail brings  
this traditionally-staged version to vivid life."

—*Splash*

## PRODUCTION SPONSORS

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WILLKIE FARR & GALLAGHER<sup>LLP</sup>

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Josef & Margot Lakonishok

Mazza Foundation

## CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

Angelotti  
Sacristan  
Mario Cavaradossi  
Floria Tosca  
Baron Scarpia  
Spoletta  
Sciarrone  
Shepherd  
Jailer

Rivers Hawkins<sup>•</sup>  
Alan Higgs<sup>••</sup>  
Russell Thomas  
Michelle Bradley<sup>+</sup>  
Fabián Veloz<sup>+</sup>  
Rodell Rosel<sup>••</sup>  
Anthony Reed<sup>•</sup>  
Liam Brandfonbrener<sup>+</sup>  
Leroy Davis<sup>•</sup>

Conductor  
Director  
Set Designer  
Costume Designer  
Lighting Designer  
Chorus Master  
Chicago Children's Choir  
Chorus Master  
Wigmaster and  
Makeup Designer  
Assistant Director  
Stage Manager  
Stage Band Conductor  
Musical Preparation

Eun Sun Kim<sup>+</sup>  
Louisa Muller  
Jean-Pierre Ponnelle  
Marcel Escoffier  
Duane Schuler  
Michael Black

Josephine Lee  
Sarah Hatten

Jordan Lee Braun  
Rachel A. Tobias  
Stefano Sarzani  
Susan Miller Hult  
Noah Lindquist  
Jerad Mosbey  
Stefano Sarzani  
Susan Miller Hult  
Colin Ure

Prompter  
Projected English Titles

+Lyric debut

•Member, The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center  
••Alumnus, The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center



# Verdi Voices

Giuseppe Verdi  
February 6



Enrique Mazzola conducted the virtuosic all-Verdi program.

## PRODUCTION SPONSORS

Lyric's Guild Board of Directors

## ENRIQUE CIRCLE

Alice & John Butler

H. Gael Neeson

Sylvia Neil &

Daniel Fischel

Robert & Penelope Steiner

Family Foundation

Soprano

**Tamara Wilson**

Tenor

**Russell Thomas**

Conductor

**Enrique Mazzola**

Members of the Lyric Opera Orchestra

# Sir Andrew Davis Conducts Beethoven 9

Ludwig van Beethoven  
April 1



Sir Andrew Davis was welcomed upon his return to the Lyric stage.

## PRODUCTION SPONSOR

**BULLEY &  
ANDREWS**

Bulley & Andrews

Soprano

**Mathilda Edge**♦

Mezzo-Soprano

**Kathleen Felty**♦

Tenor

**Matthew Polenzani**♦♦

Bass-Baritone

**Eric Owens**

Conductor

**Sir Andrew Davis**

Chorus Master

**Michael Black**

Members of the Lyric Opera Orchestra & Chorus

♦Member, The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center  
♦♦Alumnus, The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center

This was the first time Beethoven's 9th had been performed at Lyric. The evening also featured the world premiere of *A Seed of Joy*, composed by Ed Frazier Davis.

**An evening dedicated to the memory of  
Lady Gianna Rolandi Davis.**

# The Magic Victrola

Written by **David Kersnar** and **Jacqueline Russell**

April 24



Elements of various operas come to life for the children visiting their grandfather.

## CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

Grandpa, Sam and Gracie's grandfather

Gracie, age 12

Sam, age 8, Gracie's little brother

Papageno, the bird catcher  
from Mozart's *The Magic Flute*

The Doll Olympia from Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann*; Laretta from Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*

Lakmé from Delibes' *Lakmé*; and  
Papagena from *The Magic Flute*

Nemorino from Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love*;  
and Tamino from *The Magic Flute*

Mallika from *Lakmé*; Second Lady from  
*The Magic Flute*; and Gracie and Sam's Mom

Carmen from Bizet's *Carmen*; and  
Third Lady from *The Magic Flute*

First Lady from *The Magic Flute*

+Lyric debut

•Member, The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center

**David Alan Anderson**

**Elyssa Hall**

**Kiran Mali**<sup>+</sup>

**Leroy Davis**<sup>•</sup>

**Maria Novella Malfatti**<sup>•</sup>

**Denis Vélez**<sup>•</sup>

**Nathaniel Catasca**

**Katherine DeYoung**<sup>•</sup>

**Kathleen Felty**<sup>•</sup>

**Mathilda Edge**<sup>•</sup>

## PRODUCTION SPONSORS

**The Nancy Knowles Fund  
for Children and Family  
Performances**

**Mary Pat Gannon**

**BANK OF AMERICA** 

**To conclude the season,** Lyric Unlimited hosted a family presentation of *The Magic Victrola*, an opera designed for children ages 5 to 10 years old to offer opportunities for families to be transported to a magical world... The Lyric Opera Orchestra and artists from The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center Ensemble performed... More than 2,500 kids and family members attended the matinee program... Tickets were \$5 for children and \$10 for adults.

Conductors

**Stefano Sarzani**  
**Donald Lee III**<sup>•</sup>  
**David Kersnar**  
**Scott Marr**

Director  
Set and Costume  
Designer

**Chris Maravich**

Lighting and Projection  
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**Sarah Hatten**

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**Amy Thompson**  
**Bill Walters**  
**Colin Ure**

Assistant Director  
Stage Manager  
Musical Preparation  
Assistant Stage Managers

Projected English Titles

# Sunday in the Park with Lyric's Rising Stars

August 29



Anthony Reed and Enrique Mazzola lifting the crowd's spirits.

## PRODUCTION SPONSORS

Lead Sponsor: **BMO** 

**Rhoda & Henry Frank Family Foundation,  
Walter E. Heller Foundation, CNA,  
In Loving Memory of Beatrice G. Crain by  
the Crain-Mailing Foundation, The Recording  
Industry's Music Performance Trust Fund,  
Film Funds Trust Funds, and Debbie K. Wright.**

**Conducted by Enrique Mazzola** as well as the new Ryan Opera Center conductor Donald Lee III, the program restarted live performance and previewed a number of selections from the upcoming season. Free and open to the public, the concert took place at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion at Millennium Park and featured all 13 Ryan Opera Center artists, including pianist Chris Reynolds.

# Rising Stars in Concert

February 5



The entire Ensemble takes the stage for a final bow.

## PRODUCTION SPONSORS

Lead Sponsor: **Donna Van Eekeren Foundation**

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**Sylvia Neil & Daniel Fischel**

**This program**, featuring the Ryan Opera Center 2021/22 Ensemble and members of the Lyric Opera Orchestra, was conducted by Enrique Mazzola and was subsequently broadcast on 98.7 WFMT and wfmt.com. Repertoire included bravura selections from Offenbach, Rossini, and others, and the concert celebrated the tenure of seven departing Ryan Opera Center artists.

# Lyric Unlimited

**Lyric Unlimited serves as the company's** learning and creative engagement division. Through a continuum of programming engaging participants of all ages and backgrounds, Lyric Unlimited helps the company share opera and the performing arts with broader audiences across Chicago. Providing exceptional and enriching arts education and engagement opportunities to children, families, and lifelong learners is a fundamental part of Lyric's mission and represents the core of Lyric Unlimited programming.

During the 2021/22 Season, Robert Goodwin became the new Vice President, Lyric Unlimited. Rob is bringing to fruition a reinvigorated vision to position Lyric Opera of Chicago as the leader in learning and creative engagement programs that ignite creativity across Chicago and elevate opera as a tool for discovery and a catalyst for change.

In schools, neighborhood communities, and the Lyric Opera House, Lyric Unlimited offers opportunities to connect with Lyric and explore how this 400-year-old art form still holds relevance in our daily lives. Lyric Unlimited programs are offered at no cost or at deeply discounted rates to ensure that programs reach as many participants as possible. In 2021/22, more than 35,000 students were reached during the school year despite the loss of in-person instruction and live performances. Lyric Unlimited tailored its programming—in dialogue with teachers and stakeholders—to best address the needs of the community during the pandemic, providing classroom resources and performing arts access to students.

## Programming highlights from 2021/22 include:

- **EmpowerYouth!:** This partnership with the Chicago Urban League, which focuses on engaging Black youth in telling personal stories through the performing arts, successfully operated in a hybrid of online learning and group discussions to foster the creation of a new work, and in-person sessions where the young artists performed together. On June 8, 2022, the group came together with an in-person presentation of their newly devised songs, dances, and stories at the Chicago Urban League.
- **Engagement Programs inspired by *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*:** Community engagement programming surrounding the Chicago premiere of *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* took place from March to April 2022. Lyric collaborated with the Chicago Humanities Festival to create a presentation featuring composer Terence Blanchard, conductor Daniela Candillari, a video by Charles M. Blow, and performance excerpts from the opera.

By the numbers

**35,000**

Students reached during the school year



Kyle Flubocker

**EmpowerYouth!** dance mentor Tanji Harper teaches a dance combination to the participants.

By the numbers

**2,500**

Kids and family members attended *The Magic Victrola*



Kyle Flubocker



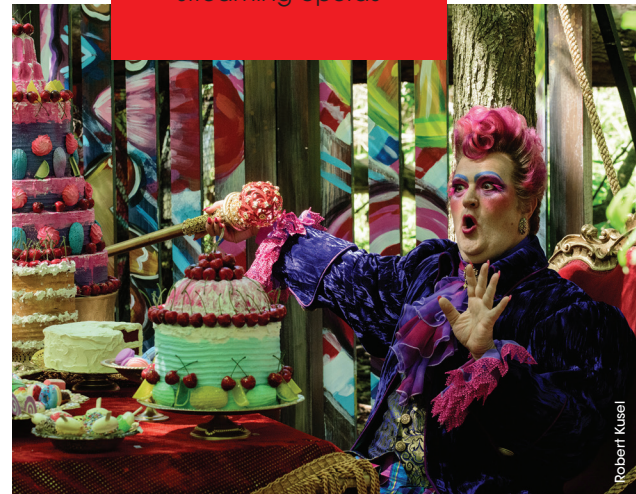
# Lyric Unlimited

- **Lyric for Kids:** A digital activity resource center, hosted on the Lyric website, specially designed to encourage children to explore new ways to learn about basic principles of live performance and storytelling. The “Lyric for Kids” online program has drawn 8,487 views and 7,261 new users since its launch.
- **Opera Streaming for Students:** Lyric Opera of Chicago offered streaming access for students to opera productions, free of charge, and accompanied the program with online classroom resources. Three mainstage productions were offered (*The Magic Flute*, *Florencia en el Amazonas*, and *Tosca*) as well as *Hansel & Gretel in the Park*, a collaboration with the Chicago Park District. Schools were enthusiastic in their response: *Hansel & Gretel in the Park* alone had over 100 schools request streaming access. In total, nearly 10,000 students streamed these productions.
- **Opera Residency Program (Elementary, Middle, and High School):** A partnership with Chicago Public Schools, Opera Residencies supports schools with limited or no arts/music programming. Lyric teaching artists engaged with students virtually, focusing on multi-disciplinary arts learning and storytelling through music and vocal instruction. Opera Residencies relaunched in January 2022 for 10 elementary schools, three middle schools, and two high schools, with a total of 31 classrooms. Nearly 800 students received enrichment programming with Lyric teaching artists. All residencies were taught virtually.

By the numbers

10,000

Students viewed streaming operas



Hoss Brock as the Witch in Lyric's *Hansel and Gretel in the Park*, performed at North Park Village Nature Center.

By the numbers

31

Classrooms hosted opera residencies



A view from the stage at Smyser Elementary, at the final session of an Elementary Opera Residency.



For many students, the Opera Residency Program is their first contact with the art form.

# Digital Initiatives

**The company's capabilities** and insights in the digital space increased tremendously during the pandemic, and the momentum continues. Social media presence has been a successful part of the company's branding and marketing.

**Here are some of last season's achievements.**

**By the numbers**

**11,200**

Hours viewers spent with Lyric videos

**By the numbers**

**1M**

Audience interactions on social media

**By the numbers**

**24M**

Total viewership for stories and posts on social media

**By the numbers**

**5,419**

Average number of people reached with each social media post

**By the numbers**

**185,642**

Listens to audio streams

**By the numbers**

**410,103**

Views of Lyric Opera videos

## Connect with Lyric

[lyricopera.org/connect](https://lyricopera.org/connect)



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## Go Behind the Scenes

[lyricopera.org/engage](https://lyricopera.org/engage)

# Lyric Under the Stars

**As it turns out**, necessity is also the mother of ... *celebration!* On September 25, 2021, just a week after the triumphant opening night performance of *Macbeth*, the Women's Board of Lyric Opera of Chicago hosted 250 of Chicago's most generous philanthropists for the company's first in-person fundraising gala in more than 18 months: *Lyric Under the Stars*.

The sold-out gala was held at a new venue with a distinctly operatic perspective: Two North Riverside Plaza, located directly across the river from the Lyric Opera House. Special projections designed by So Midwest lit the rear facade of the Opera House ablaze with projections celebrating the familiar spaces of the Opera House, key figures in its history, and—of course—fireworks.

Karen Z. Gray-Krehbiel provided visionary support and creative influence as the evening's chair. She was ably assisted by Lyric's entire Women's Board, under the leadership of its president, Caroline Torrington Huebner. The entire event was designed by Bill Heffernan with HMR Designs. In a translucent tent constructed and lit by Frost, guests enjoyed a three-course dinner catered by Calihan Catering.

Anthony Freud, Lyric's General Director, President & CEO, hosted the gala, and Lyric's Board Chair Sylvia Neil and new Music Director Enrique Mazzola also welcomed the assembled guests. Three special performances punctuated the evening. Lunga Eric Hallam, a South African tenor in his second year at Lyric's Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center, delighted guests with his interpretation of the standard "I Only Have Eyes for You," accompanied on the piano by Jerad Mosbey. American soprano Ann Toomey, a recent Ryan Center alumna, performed a jazzy version of "When You Wish Upon a Star" along with the Stu Hirsh Orchestra. And fresh off his critically acclaimed Lyric debut as Macduff in the season-opening *Macbeth*, Mexican-American tenor Joshua Guerrero closed out *Lyric Under the Stars* with Puccini's famous ode to the stars—"E lucevan le stelle" from *Tosca*—with Jerad Mosbey at the piano.

Following the remarks and performances, Mr. Guerrero guided guests to the dance floor with a roving rendition of Van Morrison's "Moondance." Dancing continued for the rest of the evening under the musical direction of the Stu Hirsch Orchestra.

By the numbers

**\$1.76M**

Funds raised during  
the evening



Bob Kusel

As partygoers enjoyed the outdoor festivities, projections played on the opera house across the river.

# Women's Board



Daniel Fischel, Board Chair Sylvia Neil, President, General Director and CEO Anthony Freud, and Music Director Enrique Mazzola



Gala Chair Karen Z. Gray-Krehbiel, and Women's Board President Caroline Torrington Huebner

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# Ryan Opera Center

**The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center** was created to ensure the future of opera by identifying emerging artists from around the world and providing them with comprehensive opera training and unique performance opportunities. Since 1974, the Ryan Opera Center has trained nearly 300 artists and has helped launch major international careers. The 2021/22 Season proved to be a banner year for the world-renowned program.

## Here are just a few of the highlights:

- **The Ryan Opera Center welcomed its first conductor/pianist**, Donald Lee III. He made his Lyric podium debut at *Sunday in the Park with Lyric's Rising Stars* and also conducted selections for *The Magic Victrola*.
- **Ensemble members** were featured every month on 98.7 WFMT with the Ryan Opera Center Recital Series.
- ***Sunday in the Park with Lyric's Rising Stars***, conducted by Enrique Mazzola, showcased the entire Ensemble on August 29, 2021. An enthusiastic Millennium Park audience greeted the return to live performance.
- **Current and alumni members** of the Ensemble understudied 30 roles during the season.
- ***Rising Stars in Concert***, held at the Lyric Opera House, showcased all 13 Ensemble members with the Lyric Opera Orchestra and was conducted by Enrique Mazzola.
- **Ensemble members were featured** in three *Beyond the Aria* recitals at the Harris Theater.
- **The seventh annual Ryan Opera Center Gala**, *The Ryan Opera Center Goes to Hollywood*, was a fabulous sold out evening held at The Casino Club with performances from current and alumni Ensemble members.

## By the numbers

# 28

Mainstage roles sung by current and alumni Ensemble members



### The 2021/22 Ryan Opera Center Ensemble

#### Sopranos

Mathilda Edge  
Maria Novella Malfatti  
Denis Vélez

#### Mezzo-sopranos

Katherine Beck  
Katherine DeYoung  
Kathleen Felty

#### Tenors

Martin Luther Clark  
Lunga Eric Hallam

#### Baritone

Leroy Davis

#### Basses

Rivers Hawkins  
Anthony Reed

#### Conductor/Pianist

Donald Lee III

#### Pianist

Chris Reynolds

Standing: Leroy Davis, Kathleen Felty, Lunga Eric Hallam, Katherine Beck, Martin Luther Clark, Katherine DeYoung, Anthony Reed, Mathilda Edge Seated: Donald Lee III, Rivers Hawkins, Maria Novella Malfatti, Chris Reynolds, Denis Vélez

# The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center Board

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# Lyric's commitment to IDEA values

**Lyric Opera of Chicago's commitment** to Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) continues. The company exists to connect people to art, music, storytelling, and the human voice. We draw strength from diversity, and we stand against racism.

Lyric pledged to ensure that IDEA principles are incorporated into decisions regarding the hiring of all professionals that work for and with Lyric. All open staff positions at Lyric are publicly posted. All new hires are made with consideration of a diverse slate of qualified candidates and include a diverse group of internal interviewers.

The diversity demographics of Lyric's staff and leadership roles, as well as those for vendors, contractors, and consultants are reported to the IDEA Steering Committee on a quarterly basis.

The 2021/22 Season saw a number of initiatives brought to life, and numerous concrete results, including:

- In Fall of 2021, Lyric conducted **implicit bias training** with Dr. Bryant T. Marks from the National Training Institute on Race & Equity for the Administrative Staff. Parallel training was also made available to all of Lyric's union groups.
- A new orientation program for front of house staff was implemented at the start of the 2021/22 Season with a focus on the Patron experience, and **welcoming guests** into an inclusive environment.
- The company created a new program, The New Employee Experience Onboarding Program, **to onboard all new staff members in a welcoming and inclusive environment.**
- Lyric Unlimited's ongoing partnership with the Chicago Urban League began its fifth year with the **Empower Youth!** program, designed for Black high school aged students to engage in artistic exploration and creation of an original performance-based work.
- **Lyric officially designated Juneteenth as an annual company holiday**, ahead of state and national holiday designations.
- Lyric is committed to diversifying both the range of stories we tell and **the storytellers we engage** to tell them. For example, in the 2021/22 Season, we presented our first mainstage Spanish language opera, *Florencia en el Amazonas*, and the Lyric premiere of *Fire Shut Up In My Bones* by Terence Blanchard and Kasi Lemmons, based on the book by Charles M. Blow.
- In Lyric's 2021/22 Season, **all of our conductors**, apart from our music director, were female, BIPOC, or both.
- The first of the new paid positions in the **Ryan Opera Center Ensemble** that were announced in March 2021—a conductor/pianist—was successfully filled with a diverse candidate who began in May with the start of the 2021/22 Ensemble season.
- **Broadcast monthly** from October through June, the nine individual programs of the 2021/22 Ryan Opera Center Recital Series on 98.7 WFMT/WFMT.com each featured works by **one or more BIPOC composers.**

# Gift planning at Lyric

**Ardis Krainik Society** | This group consists of dedicated supporters who have designated a special gift through their will, trust, IRA, or other planned giving arrangements to benefit Lyric into the future.

## ARIA BENEFACTORS

Lyric would like to acknowledge the extraordinary philanthropy of the following individuals who have made significant commitments of \$1,000,000 or more and who comprise the Aria Benefactors of the Ardis Krainik Society.

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Anne Zenzer

<sup>°</sup> Deceased

By the numbers

**\$2.9M**

Amount received from  
estates in FY22

By the numbers

**52**

New planned gift  
commitments—3x the  
usual average

By the numbers

**575**

Members of the  
Ardis Krainik Society



# Corporate partners

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**\$500,000 to \$999,999**

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Lyric recognizes and appreciates gifts to its operating campaign made by generous individuals, foundations, and government organizations.

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