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.
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2021/22 Board of Directors
LYRIC OPERA OF CHICAGO
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS
As of June 30, 2022 and 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating Results</th>
<th>12 months ended</th>
<th>12 months ended</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 30, 2022</td>
<td>June 30, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ticket Sales</td>
<td>$ 11,667,223</td>
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<td>Other Operating Revenue</td>
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<td>$ 25,788,639</td>
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<td>Total Operating Revenue and Support</td>
<td>$ 65,064,497</td>
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<td>Net Operating Results</td>
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<td>$ 0</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Balance Sheet Highlights</th>
<th>As of June 30, 2022</th>
<th>As of June 30, 2021</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long-Term Pledges</td>
<td>$ 26,060,657</td>
<td>$ 19,505,593</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long-Term Investments</td>
<td>$ 186,506,844</td>
<td>$ 227,939,616</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$ 283,191,852</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets</td>
<td>$ 195,839,102</td>
<td>$ 214,383,121</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating Revenue as a percentage</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of Operating Expenses</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The full report can be found at: lyricopera.org/financialstatements
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
The 2021/22 Season: Live and in Person!

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

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

Lyric Opera of Chicago | 7
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

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
**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

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**CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM**

- **Tamino**  Pavel Petrov
- **First Lady**  Mathilda Edge
- **Second Lady**  Katherine DeYoung
- **Third Lady**  Kathleen Felty
- **Papageno**  Huw Montague Rendall
- **Queen of the Night**  Lila Dufy
- **Monostatos**  Brenton Ryan
- **Pamina**  Ying Fang
- **Three Genii**  Daelyn Calloway, Elyssa Hall, Henry Lombardo
- **Sarastro**  Tareq Nazmi
- **First Armored Man**  Martin Luther Clark
- **Second Armored Man**  Anthony Reed
- **Papagena**  Denis Vélez
- **Conductor**  Karen Kamensek
- **Original Directors**  Suzanne Andrade, Barrie Kosky
- **Revival Director**  Tobias Ribitzki
- **Animation Designer**  Paul Barritt
- **Chorus Master**  Michael Black
- **Makeup Designer**  Sarah Hatten
- **Wigmaster and Assistant Director**  Jordan Braun, Rachel Tobias
- **Stage Managers**  Sandra Zamora, Jerad Mosbey, Stefano Sarzani
- **Hammerklavier**  Noah Lindquist
- **Stage Band Conductor**  Jerad Mosbey, Chris Reynolds, Stefano Sarzani
- **Musical Preparation**  Komische Oper Berlin

**PRODUCTION SPONSORS**

- The Negaunee Foundation
- Nancy & Sanfred Koltun
- Liz Stiffel
- Gramma 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

**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.

---

“The Best Theatre Show of 2021: A night at the opera doesn’t get more spectacular than this.”

—**Time Out Chicago**

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**PROJECTED ENGLISH TITLES**

- 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.

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**Lyric Opera of Chicago | 9**
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
Ethan Vincent+
Rosalba
Gabriella Reyes+
Paula
Deborah Nansteel
Alvaro
Levi Hernandez
Captain
Raymond Aceto
Florencia
Ana María Martínez
Arcadio
Mario Rojas
Dancers
Dwayne Brown+
Joshua Leon Eguia+
Joseph Hernandez
Michael Francis McBride+
Akua Noni Parker+
Benjamin Holliday Wardell
Hannah Zin+

Conductor
Jordan de Souza+

Director
Francesca Zambello

Set Designer
Peter J. Davison

Costume Designer
Catherine Zuber

Lighting Designer
Mark McCullough

Projection Designer
S. Katy Tucker

Choreographer
Michael Black

Ballet Mistress
Eric Sean Fogel

Wigmaster and Makeup Designer
August Tye

Assistant Directors
Sarah Hatten

Stage Manager
Katrina Bachus

Musical Preparation
Hester Warren-Steijn

Ballet Accompanist
William C. Billingham

Prompter
Noah Lindquist

Projected English Titles
Matthew Piatt

Yasuko Oura

Susan Miller Hult

Patricia Houk, adapted by Jeremy Johnson

*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

**CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angelotti</td>
<td>Rivers Hawkins*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacristan</td>
<td>Alan Higgs**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mario Cavaradossi</td>
<td>Russell Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floria Tosca</td>
<td>Michelle Bradley+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baron Scarpia</td>
<td>Fabián Veloz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spoletta</td>
<td>Rodell Rosel**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sciarrone</td>
<td>Anthony Reed*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepherd</td>
<td>Liam Brandonbrener+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jailer</td>
<td>Leroy Davis*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conductor** | Eun Sun Kim+  
**Director** | Louisa Muller
**Set Designer** | Jean-Pierre Ponnelle
**Lighting Designer** | Marcel Escoffier
**Chorus Master** | Duane Schuler
**Chicago Children's Choir** | Michael Black

**Wigmaster and Makeup Designer** | Josephine Lee
**Assistant Director** | Sarah Hatten
**Stage Manager** | Jordan Lee Braun
**Stage Band Conductor** | Rachel A. Tobias
**Musical Preparation** | Stefano Sarzani
**Prompter** | Susan Miller Hult
**Projected English Titles** | Jerad Mosby

**PRODUCTION SPONSORS**

- Frances Pietch Trust
- Julius Frankel Foundation
- Josef & Margot Lakonishok
- Mazza Foundation

**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

---

**Todd Rosenberg**

Russell Thomas and Michelle Bradley
Fire Shut Up in My Bones

New Co-Production | Opera in three acts in English
Music by Terence Blanchard
Libretto by Kasi Lemmons based on the memoir by Charles M. Blow
March 24, 27, 29, and April 2, 6, 8

Nearly 30 percent of the show’s audience were experiencing Lyric for the first time... Composer Terence Blanchard has won six Grammy Awards... The production leadership included co-directors James Robinson and Camille A. Brown, who also co-directed the Met’s production and made their Lyric debuts... Daniela Candillari, who led Lyric’s chamber performances of Fellow Travelers (2017/18) and An American Dream (2018/19), was the third woman to conduct at Lyric in the 2021/22 Season

PRODUCTION SPONSORS
Anonymous Donor
Zell Family Foundation
The Harris Family Foundation
Lauter McDougal Charitable Fund

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM
Will Liverman**
Brittany Renee+
Latonia Moore+
Benjamin Preacely+
Charles-Curtis+
Oleode Oshotse+
Ejiro Ogodo+
Kenneth La’Ron Hamilton+
Reginald Smith, Jr.
Norman Garrett
Martin Luther Clark+

Rehanna Thelwell+
Chauncey Packer+
Joelle Lamarre
Marguerite Jones+
Chris Kenney**
Leah Dexter+
Leroy Davis*
Calvin Griffin+
Lunga Eric Hallam+
Emily Mwilo+
William Powell III
Darell Haynes+
Daniela Candillari
James Robinson+
Camille A. Brown+
Allen Moyer+
Paul Tazewell
Christopher Akerlind
Greg Emetaz
Michael Black
Camille A. Brown+
Jay Staten+
August Tye
Sarah Hatten

Lydia M. Galasso
H. Gael Neeson
Ethel & William Gofen
Susan & Robert Morrison

“ If the goal of Lyric Opera of Chicago was to attract a more diverse crowd... the revered institution clearly succeeded.”
—Downbeat magazine

*Lyric debut
**Member, The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center
***Alumnus, The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center
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
Buildings

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

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; Lauretta 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

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

PRODUCTION SPONSORS
The Nancy Knowles Fund for Children and Family Performances
Mary Pat Gannon

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.

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

David Alan Anderson
Elyssa Hall
Kiran Mali*
Leroy Davis*
Maria Novelia Mallatti*
Denis Vélez*
Nathaniel Catasca
Katherine DeYoung*
Kathleen Felty*
Mathilda Edge*

Conductors
Stefano Sarzani
Donald Lee III*
David Kersnar
Scott Marr

Director
Donald Lee III*

Set and Costume Designer
David Kersnar

Lighting and Projection Designer
Chris Maravich

Wigmaster and Makeup Designer
Sarah Hatten

Assistant Director
Sandra Moore

Stage Manager
Rachel A. Tobias

Musical Preparation
William C. Billingham

Assistant Stage Managers
Dan Sokalski
Amy Thompson
Bill Walters

Projected English Titles
Colin Ure
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
Dr. Scholl Foundation
Sue & Melvin Gray
Chauncey & Marion D. McCormick Family
Foundation
Patricia A. Kenney & Gregory J. O’Leary
Philip G. Lumpkin
Thierer Family Foundation
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 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
- **2,500** Kids and family members attended *The Magic Victrola*
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
- **31** Classrooms hosted opera residencies
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

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Go Behind the Scenes
lyricopera.org/engage
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

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


- **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

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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.

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**By the numbers**

**$2.9M**
Amount received from estates in FY22

**575**
Members of the Ardis Krainik Society

**52**
New planned gift commitments—3x the usual average
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