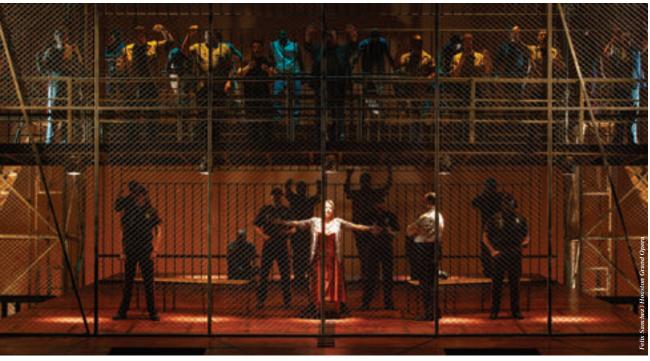






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The thrill of the new 1 pp. 12-15





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At Lyric, you'll be amazed, replenished, and inspired with must-see, must-hear live experiences. Through the timeless power of voice, acting that brings characters to life in triumph and tragedy, the splendor of a great orchestra and chorus—coupled with theater, dance, design, and truly magical stagecraft—Lyric is devoted to immersing audiences in worlds both familiar and unexpected, creating shared experiences that resonate long after the curtain comes down.



Lyric attracts audiences of all ages

Welcome to your Lyric

From the Chairman and the General Director

Opera at its best takes the universal themes of humanity and brings them to life in the space and time of a live performance.

Many of the most deeply complex issues human beings will ever face are at the heart of many great operas, including the one you are about to experience at Lyric. In the emotional and spiritual journeys of its two central characters, *Dead Man Walking* makes us think in new ways about basic, life-changing concepts, such as guilt, innocence, punishment, and forgiveness.

In the opera, there is no question that death row inmate Joseph De Rocher is guilty, but he is portrayed as thoroughly human, not a monster, allowing us to enter into his painfully conflicted, multilayered emotions. It is also essential to the opera's cumulative impact that composer Jake Heggie and librettist Terrence McNally devote equal attention – and equal sensitivity – to both sides: the agony of the victims' families, and also that of De Rocher and *his* family. The creators of this opera do not preach; instead, they present the story straightforwardly and ask audiences to make up their own minds.

The opera's own journey began with the book of the same name by Sister Helen Prejean, one of the most remarkable women of her generation, whose passionate advocacy against the death penalty continues to make a worldwide impact today. The book's operatic adaptation offers audiences an unsparingly honest, devastatingly moving libretto set to superbly imaginative, instantly accessible, totally memorable music. The full impact of the piece in the opera house is something no operagoer will ever forget. It's hardly surprising that, following its acclaimed world premiere 19 years ago, it has become one of the most frequently performed of all contemporary operas, acclaimed not just in America but all over the world.

Dead Man Walking is typical of today's Lyric, where we are producing more new work than ever before. From the world premiere of *Bel Canto* at the Lyric Opera House to the Chicago premieres of *An American Dream, Fellow Travelers, Charlie Parker's Yardbird,* and other chamber operas produced in smaller venues, contemporary work has become a thrilling way for us to attract new audiences to Lyric.

Those productions have all earned critical and public acclaim, but the real measure of success is how often and in how many different ways people choose to interact with Lyric. The opera house is our home, and our mission is also to engage people where they are, reflecting the city and communities we serve. In everything we do at Lyric, we strive to use our art form to create connection, understanding, and inspiration.

If you are experiencing Lyric for the first time, we hope your initial encounter with Lyric is so impactful and engaging that you will make the company a part of your life. By focusing on building our audience of the future, we will ensure that both Lyric and the art form of opera remain culturally relevant and artistically important for the next generation.

Everyone involved in the Lyric premiere of *Dead Man Walking* has approached it with extraordinary dedication. We know you will find it an overwhelming experience in the opera house.





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The thrill of the new

By Magda Krance

Discovery. That's an essential part of what opera is all about.

Much as we love the familiar melodies and stories of our favorite classic operas, there's a special thrill in hearing and seeing something that's either new to us or completely new.

Jake Heggie and Terrence McNally's *Dead Man Walking* comes to Lyric this month, having profoundly moved audiences in 60+ productions on five continents over the past two decades. "It is deeply, deeply human," says Susan Graham, who created the central role of Sister Helen Prejean and now portrays the death-row inmate's mother. "It touches something in everybody." The music in this opera, she assures us, "is gorgeous, very melodic, full of every emotion from turbulence to lyricism. It's about the world we live in now, about people working through pain."

The midwest premiere next June of the new chamber opera Blue, by Jeanine Tesori and Tazewell Thompson, addresses another facet of American life: ongoing tensions and confrontations between law enforcement and young black men. Co-commissioned by Lyric, Glimmerglass Festival (world premiere, August), and Washington National Opera, Blue concerns an African American family headed by a police officer and his wife, whose only child is killed by a white police officer. A New York Times review called it "powerful – as well as sadly timely. Drawing on her deep experience in musical theater, her keen ear for elements of contemporary classical music and her abundant imagination, Ms. Tesori has written a strong vet subtle score that avoids the obvious and exudes a personal voice. Mr. Thompson, who also directed the production, has written one of the most elegant librettos I've heard in a long time." Lyric will present Blue in collaboration with Chicago Shakespeare Theater at The Yard on Navy Pier.

"This is a very exciting time for contemporary opera," says Cayenne Harris, vice president, Lyric Unlimited - Learning & Creative Engagement. "Important, new stories are being told on opera stages across the country, stories that resonate deeply with people from many backgrounds. Lyric is proud to present these works in Chicago, both on and off the mainstage. We're offering our audiences and broader communities new ways to connect with the art form."

Harris notes that "there's a buzz in the air that begins before the performances of these new works. Opera aficionados are there alongside first-timers, some of whom have come because the subject matter speaks to their cultural or individual experience and they are hungry to see that represented onstage. The operas are in English (with projected texts) and the theaters we're in are typically more intimate, so there's an immediacy to the experience. Contemporary operas tend to be shorter than classic ones, so when audiences want to stay to talk about what they've just experienced – and they seem compelled to do just that – it feels like a natural extension of the experience. There's a connection to the stories and characters that feels very personal, and audiences



Lyric's latest world premiere, Jimmy López's *Bel Canto*, premiered during the 2015/16 season and was subsequently telecast on PBS.



Among the chamber operas presented by Lyric in recent seasons is Daniel Schnyder's *Charlie Parker's Yardbird*, seen at the Harris Theater.



Pepe Martínez and Leonard Foglia's *El Pasado Nunca Se Termina* (world premiere, 2014/15) is one of two mariachi operas presented at Lyric.

make those connections in their comments." Harris adds that "the musical language of many contemporary operas is tonal, highly melodic," and is more welcoming than some may assume.

Families have enjoyed delightfully engaging new operas each fall in recent years. This month youngsters and their grownups will explore inner and outer space with *Earth to Kenzie*. Previous opera adventures for young audiences include *Rhoda* and the Fossil Hunt, Scorpion's Sting, and Jason and the Argonauts – relatable stories set to lively, exciting music that gets little heads bobbing and feet swinging, and provokes astonished gasps and giggles.

With mainstage world premieres, the excitement really amps up. "Electric! That was the feeling on the opening night of *Bel Canto* – people were walking into an opera that no one had ever seen or heard," recalls Mary Burke-Peterson, who observed audience reactions firsthand as a Lyric usher for the past several years. "When we had Q&As after *Bel Canto*, particularly when composer Jimmy López was there, people were just in awe – how had he done it? What was the creative process like? Renée Fleming [Lyric's creative consultant] got lots of props for curating the project and creative team. Book groups talked about the book vs. what they saw and heard onstage."

Based on Ann Patchett's best-selling novel (inspired by the Peruvian hostage crisis of 1996/97), *Bel Canto* exemplifies the energy a brand-new work generates. Fleming searched for the right composer for a year before choosing Peruvian-born composer Jimmy López, who'd been immersed firsthand in the hostage-crisis news as a teen, and whose musical style incorporates indigenous instruments not often found in the orchestra pit. He and Cuban-American playwright-librettist Nilo Cruz worked closely with Fleming and Lyric's music director Sir Andrew Davis to develop the score. The resulting production packed the Lyric Opera House, captivated audiences and critics, and was later televised nationally on PBS's *Great Performances*.

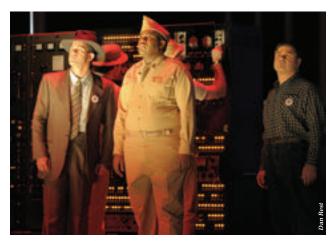
Lyric's presentation of *An American Dream* by Jack Perla and Jessica Murphy Moo at the Harris Theater stirred similar engagement. Audience members for whom the story of wartime displacement was personally resonant found it intensely gratifying to witness a variation of their family histories onstage. Many eyes filled with tears, triggered by a profound connection to the onstage drama and poignant music. Audiences were similarly moved by the recent Chicago premieres of Daniel Schnyder's *Charlie Parker's Yardbird* and Gregory Spears's *Fellow Travelers*.

For anyone hesitating to check out a new opera, remember that pushing the envelope of human emotion and experience through drama and music goes back to ancient times. Operas we now consider classic were often shocking or unsettling in the time of their creation. This season's 21st-century offerings engage audiences with dynamic, relatable stories that reflect contemporary life and concerns, and with melodic, tonal music that propels the stories.

Compelling contemporary operas sung in English have always been central to Lyric's repertoire since the very beginning. Granted, Lyric's old nickname was "La Scala West," referring to the founders' fondness for Italian operas and singers, but in 1954, the company's debut season, Lyric premiered the first full-scale staging of *The Taming of the Shrew* by American composer Vittorio Giannini to great public and critical acclaim – right



The 2012/13 season featured Renée Fleming as Blanche DuBois in André Previn's A Streetcar Named Desire, which she had previously sung with the rest of the Lyric cast at Carnegie Hall (pictured here).



The Lyric premiere of John Adams's *Doctor Atomic* during the 2007/08 season featured (left to right) Gerald Finley, Eric Owens, and Richard Paul Fink.



Toward the 21st Century, Lyric's initiative focused on contemporary opera, was launched during 1990/91 with Dominick Argento's *The Voyage of Edgar Allan Poe*.



The Gershwins' *Porgy and Bess* was so successful in its Lyric premiere in 2008/09 that it returned in 2014/15 (pictured here).



Lyric presented the Chicago premiere of Gregory Spears's *Fellow Travelers* at the Athenaeum Theatre during the 2017/18 season.



The world-premiere production of William Bolcom's A View from the Bridge (1999/00 season) was covered in an unprecedented nine-installment series of articles in The New York Times.



Lyric's first world premiere, Vittorio Giannini's *The Harvest*, premiered in 1961.

between the two performances of Bellini's *Norma*, starring Maria Callas in her American debut.

Lyric's commitment to contemporary operas has taken many forms over the company's 65-year history. There have been an impressive 50+ mainstage productions of 20th- and 21st-century operas written or performed in English (including eight mainstage world premieres); six fully staged operas created under Lyric's composer-in-residence program (1984 through 2002) and presented outside the opera house; and three fully staged chamber operas and five operas for young people presented at outside venues.

Additionally, two bilingual mariachi operas (one a world premiere) thrilled new audiences at Lyric and in community venues. Recalls Burke-Peterson, "There was so much excitement and pride, with so many families coming into a place they never thought they'd be in, listening to a style of music they grew up with. It felt like exactly what Lyric was meant to do."

In earlier seasons Lyric presented several 20th-century European operas in English, including Berg's *Wozzeck*, Prokofiev's *Fiery Angel, The Love for Three Oranges*, and *The Gambler*; Bartok's *Bluebeard's Castle*, and Janácek's *Katya Kabanova*.

Lyric's "Toward the 21st Century" artistic initiative had far-reaching impact on American opera here and abroad. Throughout the 1990s Lyric produced one 20th-century European and one 20th-century American opera each year as part of the regular season. Within that decade Lyric commissioned and premiered three new works: William Bolcom's *McTeague* (1992/93); Anthony Davis's *Amistad* (1997/98); and Bolcom's *A View from the Bridge* (1999/00). The latter world premiere, based on Arthur Miller's play about the personal struggles of an immigrant family living in the shadow of the Brooklyn Bridge, was explored in a nine-part series in *The New York Times* on "The Making of an Opera," which helped make Lyric the place to be to experience the riveting new work.

The accompanying timeline is a source of great pride, demonstrating Lyric's enduring commitment to presenting a wide range of operatic works well beyond the core repertoire. As part of Lyric's overall vision for the future, general director Anthony Freud shares, "We want to be the great opera company of the 21st century, and producing new work is essential to achieving that goal. Now more than ever, audiences are ready to be excited by the new and to make connections between what they see onstage and their own lives."

These contemporary operas, written in English or performed in English translation, have been produced at Lyric.

1054		1007	
1954	The Taming of The Shrew, Vittorio Giannini (American)	1997	Between Two Worlds (The Dybbuk) world premiere,
1955	Lord Byron's Love Letter, Raffaelo De Banfield (British)		Composer-in-Residence Shulamit Ran
1959	Jenůfa, Leoš Janácek (Czech), sung in English		(Israeli-American), performed by LOCAA:
1961	The Harvest world premiere, Giannini		Amistad world premiere, Anthony Davis
1965	Wozzeck, Alban Berg (Austrian), sung in English		(American); Peter Grimes, Britten
1966	Fiery Angel, Sergei Prokofiev (Russian), sung in English	1998	Mourning Becomes Electra, Marvin David Levy
1968	Oedipus Rex, Igor Stravinsky (Russian),		(American); Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny,
	in English and Latin		Kurt Weill (German, later American), sung in English
1970	Billy Budd, Benjamin Britten (English); Bluebeard's	1999	A View from The Bridge world premiere, Bolcom
	Castle, Béla Bartók (Hungarian), sung in English	2000	The Great Gatsby, John Harbison (American)
1972	Wozzeck, Berg, sung in English	2001	Lovers and Friends (Chautauqua Variations) world
1974	Peter Grimes, Britten		premiere, Composer-in-Residence Michael John
1976	The Love for Three Oranges, Prokofiev, sung in English		LaChiusa (American), performed by LOCAA;
1977	Peter Grimes, (Britten)		Street Scene, Weill; Billy Budd, Britten;
1978	Paradise Lost world premiere, Krzysztof Penderecki (Polish)		Composer-in-Residence program concludes
1979	The Love for Three Oranges		with workshop performance of Morning Star,
			Ricky Ian Gordon (American) by LOCAA
1984	LYRIC LAUNCHES COMPOSER-IN- RESIDENCE PROGRAM	2002	Sweeney Todd, Stephen Sondheim (American); Susannah, Floyd
		2003	Regina, Marc Blitzstein (American)
1986	The Guilt of Lillian Sloan world premiere, Composer-	2004	A Wedding world premiere, Bolcom
	in-Residence William Neil (American), performed by	2005	The Midsummer Marriage, Sir Michael Tippett (English)
	the Lyric Opera Center for American Artists (LOCAA,	2007	Doctor Atomic, John Adams (American)
	now known as The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan	2008	Porgy and Bess, George Gershwin (American)
	Opera Center)	2010	A Midsummer Night's Dream, Britten
1986	Katya Kabanova, Janácek, sung in English	2013	A Streetcar Named Desire. André Previn
1987	Satyagraha, Philip Glass (American)		(German-American); Cruzar la cara de la luna,
1989	The Fan world premiere, Composer-in-Residence		José Pepe Martínez (Mexican), sung in English
	Lee Goldstein (American), performed by LOCAA		and Spanish
	100 Colucioni (Americany, penermou 2, 100AA	2014	Porgy and Bess, Gershwin
1989	LYRIC ANNOUNCES "TOWARD THE	2015	El Pasado Nunca Se Termina world premiere, Martínez;
	21ST CENTURY" ARTISTIC INITIATIVE,		The Property (chamber opera) world premiere,
	TO PRESENT ONE EACH 20TH-CENTURY		Wlad Marhulets (Polish); Second Nature (youth
	AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN OPERA PER		opera) world premiere, Matthew Aucoin (American)
	SEASON FOR A DECADE	2015	Bel Canto world premiere, Jimmy López
	CLAUCH TOR A DECADE		(Peruvian-American)
1990	The Voyage of Edgar Allan Poe, Dominick Argento	2016	Jason and the Argonauts (youth opera) world premiere,
1770		2010	
1991	(American)	2017	Gregory Spears (American) Charlie Parker's Verdhind Daniel Schmyder (Swiss)
	Antony and Cleopatra, Samuel Barber (American) The Gambler, Prokofiev, sung in English	2017	Charlie Parker's Yardbird, Daniel Schnyder (Swiss); Scorpion's Sting (youth opera), Dean Burry
1992	McTeague world premiere, William Bolcom (American)		(Canadian)
1993	Susannah, Carlisle Floyd (American);	2018	Trouble in Tahiti, Bernstein; Fellow Travelers
	Orpheus Descending world premiere, Composer-in-		(chamber opera), Spears; Rhoda and the Fossil Hunt
			(youth opera), John Musto (American)
	Residence Bruce Saylor (American), performed		(, , (, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , -
	Residence Bruce Saylor (American), performed by LOCAA	2019	An American Dream (chamber opera), Jack Perla
1994	by LOCAA Candide, Leonard Bernstein (American); The Rake's	2019	An American Dream (chamber opera), Jack Perla (American); Dead Man Walking, Jake Heggie
	by LOCAA	2019	An American Dream (chamber opera), Jack Perla
1994 1995 1996	by LOCAA Candide, Leonard Bernstein (American); The Rake's	2019	An American Dream (chamber opera), Jack Perla (American); Dead Man Walking, Jake Heggie

A troubled young man, Joseph De Rocher, commits a horrific crime and awaits his fate on death row. A compassionate nun, Sister Helen Prejean, guides him through his own desperately conflicted spiritual journey. In the process, Sister Helen finds herself experiencing her own turbulent crisis of faith. Widely acknowledged as one of the most riveting operas of the 21st century – this is Dead Man Walking.



Dead Man Walking at the Teatro Real de Madrid, 2018.

Dead Man Walking

Lyric Premiere

Dead Man Walking

Jake Heggie I An opera in two acts in English Libretto by Terrence McNally, based on the novel by Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ

CHARACTERS IN ORDER OF VOCAL APPEARANCE

A teenage boy
A teenage girl
Joseph De Rocher
Anthony De Rocher,
Joseph's younger brother
Sister Helen Prejean
Sister Rose
Children
A Mother
Sister Lillianne
Sister Catherine
Mrs. Charlton
A motorcycle cop
Father Grenville,

the prison chaplain

the prison warden

George Benton,

Prison guards

Solo inmates

A paralegal
Joseph's 19-year-old brother
Mrs. Patrick De Rocher,
Joseph's mother
Owen Hart,
father of the murdered girl
Jade Boucher,

mother of the murdered boy

Miles Borchard⁺
Ari Kraiman⁺
Ryan McKinny⁺

Michael Saubert, Jr. *
Patricia Racette
Whitney Morrison *
Chicago Children's Choir
Maia Surace
Corinne Wallace-Crane

Desirée Hassler Marie Sokolova Christopher Kenney®

Clay Hilley

Gordon Hawkins
David Weigel*, Anthony Reed*+
Joe Shadday, Nicholas Ward,
Matthew Carroll, Kenneth Nichols,
Nikolas Wenzel
Emily Pogorelc*
Eric Ferring*

Susan Graham

Wayne Tigges ***

Lauren Decker

Kitty Hart,

mother of the murdered girl Howard Boucher,

father of the murdered boy Joseph's 14-year-old brother

Conductor
Director
Set Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Projection Designer
Sound Designer
Chorus Master
Children's Chorus Master
Wigmaster and

Makeup Designer Associate Director Assistant Director Stage Manager Musical Preparation

Fight Director Intimacy Director Dialect Coach Projected English Titles Talise Trevigne⁺

Allan Glassman⁺ Ethan Warren⁺

Nicole Paiement*
Leonard Foglia
Michael McGarty*
Jess Goldstein*
Brian Nason
Elaine J. McCarthy
Roger Gans*
Michael Black
Josephine Lee

Sarah Hatten
Katrina Bachus
David Carl Toulson
Rachel C. Henneberry
William C. Billingham
Noah Lindquist
Matthew Piatt
Stefano Sarzani
Chuck Coyl
Tonia Sina+
Kate DeVore
Colin Ure

Lyric debut

Current member, The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center

Alumni, The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center

First performed by San Francisco Opera on October 7, 2000 First performed by Lyric Opera of Chicago on November 2, 2019



INTRODUCTION

Time early 1980s | Place Louisiana

Joseph De Rocher is on death row at Angola State Penitentiary in Louisiana, awaiting execution for rape and murder. He begins corresponding with Sister Helen Prejean. This central relationship of the opera presents two people from radically different backgrounds and life experiences, who connect with each other through the most horrifying circumstances: a nun devoted to community service and a criminal raised in poverty, living as if in a descending spiral that has led him to catastrophe.

Everything about Joseph's crime horrifies Sister Helen, and yet she's drawn to the human being writing the letters. A bold, determined woman who never in her life has heeded the warning "Be careful," she sees in his letters someone truly reaching out in need. When she finally meets him face to face and becomes his spiritual adviser, she discovers a 29-year-old man full of spirit and asserting his innocence, yet at the same time overwhelmed and frightened.

Meeting Joseph's family – especially his simple, loving, uncomprehending mother – draws Sister Helen more deeply into his situation. She advocates for him to be spared, even when confronted by the parents of the dead couple, who castigate her for seemingly ignoring their suffering.

As the date for Joseph's execution draws near, Sister Helen experiences her own desperate crisis of faith as she's pursued by dreams of Joseph and the couple he killed. She is motivated by a desire to make him understand that he is a child of God and will be forgiven. He remains defiant, even belligerent, and in denial of his crime. As he becomes increasingly terrified by what's to come, he confronts Sister Helen's continuing exhortation: "The truth will set you free."

LYRIC OPERA OF CHICAGO

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Music Director

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ROBERTA L. AND ROBERT J. WASHLOW

Commissioned by San Francisco Opera.

This production was originally created by Opera Pacific, Cincinnati Opera, New York City Opera, Austin Lyric Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Pittsburgh Opera, and Baltimore Opera.

By arrangement with Bent Pen Music. Sole Agent: Bill Holab Music.

Lyric Opera of Chicago gratefully acknowledges the support of the Robert and Ellen Marks American Opera Endowed Chair.

Lyric Opera of Chicago wishes to thank its Official Airline, American Airlines.

The projected titles used in this production are owned by Houston Grand Opera: Patrick Summers, Artistic and Music Director; Perryn Leech, Managing Director.

APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

Act One 1 hour, 20 minutes Intermission 30 minutes
Acts Two & Three 1 hour, 5 minutes
Total 2 hours, 55 minutes

Artist profiles



JAKE HEGGIE | COMPOSER
Lyric debut

Jake Heggie is the composer of the operas *Dead Man Walking, Moby-Dick, It's a Wonderful Life, If I Were You, Great Scott, Three Decembers,* and

Two Remain, among others. He has also composed nearly 300 songs, as well as chamber, choral, and orchestral works. His operas – most created with Terrence McNally or Gene Scheer – have been produced on five continents. Dead Man Walking has been recorded twice and, with 70 productions internationally, is one of the most performed operas of our time. Moby-Dick was telecast throughout the United States as part of PBS's Great Performances' 40th season and subsequently released on DVD. Great Scott was a 2019 Grammy Award nominee for Best New Composition, Classical. A Guggenheim fellow, Heggie has served as a mentor for the Washington National Opera's American Opera Initiative and is a frequent guest artist at universities, conservatories, and festivals through the U. S. and Canada.



TERRENCE MCNALLY | LIBRETTIST Lyric debut

The American playwright has had a new work on Broadway in each of the last six decades. A member of the American Academy of Arts and

Letters and the Theater Hall of Fame, he received a Special Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2019. He has also received the Dramatists Guild Lifetime Achievement Award, the Lucille Lortel Lifetime Achievement Award, four Tony Awards (Love! Valour! Compassion!, Master Class, Kiss of the Spider Woman, Ragtime). Among many other honors are an Emmy Award, four Drama Desk Awards, and two Obie Awards. In addition to Dead Man Walking, he wrote the libretto for Jake Heggie's Great Scott. Other plays include Mothers and Sons; Lips Together, Teeth Apart; The Lisbon Traviata; Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune; A Perfect Ganesh; The Visit; The Full Monty; Corpus Christi; Bad Habits; Next; The Ritz; Anastasia; It's Only a Play; Where Has Tommy Flowers Gone?; and The Stendhal Syndrome.



PATRICIA RACETTE I SISTER HELEN PREJEAN

Previously at Lyric: Seven roles since 2000/01, most recently title role/*Madama Butterfly* (2013/14, 2008/09); Mme. Lidoine/*Dialogues of the Carmelites* (2006/07).

The celebrated American soprano, making her role debut, has starred in the world premieres of Tobias Picker's *Dolores Claiborne* (San Francisco), *An American Tragedy* (Metropolitan Opera), and *Emmeline* (Santa Fe); Paul Moravec's *The Letter* (Santa Fe); and Carlisle Floyd's *Cold Sassy Tree* (Houston). Racette has earned acclaim repeatedly with those companies, as well as with the major companies of London, Paris, Barcelona, Munich, Vienna, San Francisco, Toronto, and Dallas. Recent new roles include the heroines of *Salome, Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk, La*

voix humaine, The Consul, and The Ghosts of Versailles. This season's highlights include La voix humaine (Dallas), which Racette also directs, and Street Scene (Monte Carlo, where she will perform her one-woman show, "Diva on Detour"). Last season included a reimagined La voix humaine (Philadelphia), Kát'a Kabanová (Barcelona), Kostelnička/Jenůfa (Santa Fe), and Trouble in Tahiti (Ravinia). Among Racette's honors are the Grammy, Opera News, Richard Tucker, and Marian Anderson awards.



RYAN McKINNY I JOSEPH DE ROCHER

Lyric debut

Last season the acclaimed American bassbaritone sang his first *Don Giovanni* (the most

recent of his many Houston Grand Opera roles) and Wotan/Das Rheingold (Opéra de Montréal). He also returned to the Bayreuth Festival (Amfortas/Parsifal) and Dutch National Opera (John Adams's Girls of the Golden West, European premiere). McKinny has also been featured at The Metropolitan Opera (Tannhäuser, The Magic Flute, Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg, Billy Budd); LA Opera (The Barber of Seville, The Marriage of Figaro, A Streetcar Named Desire, Handel's Tamerlano); The Santa Fe Opera (Doctor Atomic, Salome), Washington National Opera (Ring cycle, The Marriage of Figaro), and The Glimmerglass Festival (The Flying Dutchman, Carousel). Successes abroad encompass works of Handel (Radamisto, London), Gluck (Alceste, Leipzig), Wagner (The Flying Dutchman, Hamburg; Tristan und Isolde, Berlin), Strauss (Arabella, Wiesbaden), and Bizet (Carmen, Hamburg, Dresden). McKinny has been heard with the major orchestras of Chicago, Cleveland, Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Cleveland, among others.



SUSAN GRAHAM I MRS. PATRICK DE ROCHER

Previously at Lyric: Eight roles since 1989/90, most recently Dinah/*Trouble in Tahiti* ("Bernstein at 100" Celebration, 2017/18); Didon/*Les Troyens* (2016/17).

The renowned American mezzo-soprano's new roles in recent seasons include Mrs. De Rocher/Dead Man Walking (Washington), the Witch/ Hansel and Gretel (Los Angeles), the title role/Regina (St. Louis), Mrs. Anna/The King and I (Paris), Countess Geschwitz/ Lulu (Metropolitan Opera), Orlofsky/Die Fledermaus and Clairon/Capriccio (both in Santa Fe). Among Graham's triumphs in French repertoire are the heroines of Les Troyens (Paris, New York, San Francisco), Iphigénie en Tauride (Met, Salzburg, Madrid, San Francisco, London, Paris, Toronto), Béatrice et Bénédict (Santa Fe), Werther (Met, St. Louis, Amsterdam, Paris), and La Grande-Duchesse de Gérolstein (Santa Fe). Her recitals have included a program themed around Schumann's Frauenliebe und Leben, debuted at London's Wigmore Hall and heard last season in Urbana-Champaign, Orange County, and Rochester (New York). This season Graham sings her first Herodias/Salome (Houston), presents a recital at Lincoln Center, and returns to one of her signature works, Berlioz's Les nuits d'été (Vancouver Symphony).



WHITNEY MORRISON I SISTER ROSE

Previously at Lyric: Four roles since 2017/18, most recently Confidante/*Elektra*, First Cretan Woman/*Idomeneo* (both 2018/19).

The soprano, a Chicago native and a Ryan Opera Center alumna, debuts at Munich's Bavarian State Opera later this season as Floria Tosca/Marina Abramovic's 7 Deaths of Maria Callas (world premiere). Other credits include the Harris Theater's "Beyond the Aria" series; Miss Pinkerton/The Old Maid and the Thief at the Grant Park Music Festival; an appearance at the Rochester Institute of Technology's celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy; her debut at Rochester's Kodak Hall with the Eastman Wind Ensemble; and Donna Anna/Don Giovanni with Chicago's Floating Opera Company. A graduate of Alabama's Oakwood University, Morrison completed her training at the Eastman School of Music (master's degree), Germany's Neil Semer Vocal Institute (Germany), and Italy's Georg Solti Accademia di Bel Canto. Competition successes include top prizes in the National Classical Singer University Competition, the R. Nathaniel Dett Club NANM Scholarship Competition, and the Musicians Club of Women Competition.



GORDON HAWKINS I GEORGE BENTON

Previously at Lyric: Amonasro/Aida (2011/12); Porgy/Porgy and Bess (2008/09).

Among the renowned American baritone's many

successes onstage have been Alberich/Ring cycle (Deutsche Oper Berlin, San Francisco Opera), Telramund/Lohengrin (Deutsche Oper Berlin), Alberich/Siegfried and Kaspar/Der Freischütz (Seville's Teatro de la Maestranza), the Villains/Les contes d'Hoffmann (Tokyo), the title role/Simon Boccanegra (New Zealand Festival), Amonasro/Aida (Houston, Cincinnati), George/Of Mice and Men (Houston), Porgy/ Porgy and Bess (Dallas, Seattle, Houston, Washington, Detroit, San Francisco), Thoas/Iphigénie en Tauride (Metropolitan Opera), and Renato/Un ballo in maschera (New Orleans, Montreal), and more than 200 performances as Rigoletto to international acclaim. Hawkins has also appeared in Vaughan Williams's A Sea Symphony (Kennedy Center), Jake Heggie's A Great Hope Fell (EOS Orchestra of New York, world premiere). Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 (St. Louis Symphony), and concert selections from American musicals (Deutsche Welle WDR 4, Cologne); with the BBC Symphony Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall; and with the major orchestras of Chicago, Washington, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Prague, and Vienna.



CLAY HILLEY | FATHER GRENVILLE Lyric debut

Among the American heroic tenor's successes onstage in recent seasons have been the title role/Dvorak's Dimitrij and Paul/Die Tote Stadt at

Bard Summerscape, the title role/*Idomeneo* at Theater Würzburg, and the Landestheater in Salzburg, Canio/*Pagliacci* at Virginia Opera, and Erik/*The Flying Dutchman* at Austin Lyric Opera. Concert highlights include Mahler's *Symphony No. 8* at Ravinia with the Chicago

Symphony Orchestra, Florestan/Fidelio with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Menelaus/Die ägyptische Helena with Odyssey Opera, and Strauss's Feuersnot with the American Symphony Orchestra (Hilley's Carnegie Hall debut). The Wagner Society of New York presented Hilley in recital, following their recognition of the tenor with the Robert Lauch Award. He is an alumnus of the University of Georgia, Georgia State University, the Manhattan School of Music, and the Opera Institute at Boston University.



WAYNE TIGGES | OWEN HART

Previously at Lyric: Nine roles since 2002/03, most recently Basilio/*The Barber of Seville*, Achilla/*Giulio Cesare* (both 2007/08).

The bass-baritone, a Ryan Opera Center alumnus who previously portrayed Owen Hart in Washington, Atlanta, and Des Moines, has appeared throughout North America and internationally in a diverse repertoire. Among his other achievements in contemporary works are Sgt. Aaron Marcum/An American Soldier (world premiere, St. Louis), Howie Albert/Champion (Washington), Henry Isaacson/Oscar (Philadelphia), Joe St. George/Dolores Claiborne (world premiere, San Francisco), Gideon March/Little Women (Omaha), Blitch/Susannah (Milwaukee), Willy Wonka/The Golden Ticket (European premiere, Wexford Festival), Roy Cohn/Angels in America (New York City), and John Proctor/The Crucible (Santa Barbara). Appearances in standard repertoire include Don Giovanni (Costa Mesa, Austin), Escamillo (Glyndebourne), Don Basilio/The Barber of Seville (Detroit), Wagner's Dutchman (Atlanta), and Baron Douphol/La traviata (Los Angeles). Tigges has appeared with the Teatro Regio di Parma orchestra and the major orchestras of Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, and Cleveland, among many others.



TALISE TREVIGNE | KITTY HART Lyric debut

The American soprano first attracted significant attention as Pip/Jake Heggie's *Moby-Dick* (Dallas world premiere, subsequently San Francisco,

San Diego, Washington, PBS, DVD). Other roles she created are the title role/Judith Weir's Armida (BBC), June Gibbons/Errollyn Wallen's The Silent Twins (Almeida Opera), Ma/Missy Mazzoli's Proving Up (Omaha, New York), Beloved/Liza Lim's The Navigator (Melbourne, subsequently Moscow and Paris), and Clara/Heggie's It's a Wonderful Life (Houston). Her diverse operatic repertoire also encompasses Euridice/Orfeo ed Euridice (Caramoor Festival), Heroines/Les contes d'Hoffmann (Lyon, Tel Aviv), Cio-Cio-San/Madama Butterfly (Basel, Louisville, Raleigh), title role/Iris (Bard Summerscape), and Bess/Porgy and Bess (Glimmerglass, Cincinnati, UMS). Other successes include Nedda/Pagliacci (Madison), Leila/The Pearl Fishers (Raleigh), and Micaëla/Carmen (San Diego, Honolulu). Major concert engagements include Strauss's Four Last Songs and Tippett's A Child of Our Time (City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra - U.K., Dortmund, Hamburg). Trevigne won the Royal Philharmonic Society Music Award for La traviata with Birmingham Opera (U.K.).



LAUREN DECKER I JADE BOUCHER

Previously at Lyric: Seven roles since 2016/17, most recently Annina/*La traviata*, First Maid/ *Elektra* (both 2018/19).

The Wisconsin-born contralto, a fourth-year member of the Ryan Opera Center, has been featured at the Grant Park Music Festival and in the Harris Theater's "Beyond the Aria" series. She debuted at the San Francisco Symphony this summer singing Elgar's Sea Pictures. Decker was a finalist in the 2019 Operalia competition and a national semifinalist in the 2018 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. The UW-Milwaukee alumna has participated in the Institute for Young Dramatic Voices, the American Wagner Project, and the Georg Solti Accademia di Bel Canto. Decker has appeared with the Apollo Chorus/Elmhurst Symphony, Civic Orchestra of Chicago, and Harare International Festival of the Arts (Zimbabwe). She was awarded the American Opera Society of Chicago's 2018 Lola Fletcher Scholarship. Lauren Decker is sponsored by an Anonymous Donor, Susan M. Miller, and the Thierer Family Foundation.



ALLAN GLASSMAN I HOWARD BOUCHER Lyric debut

The tenor appears regularly at the Metropolitan Opera, where he has been featured in 13 works.

One of his acclaimed Met roles, Herod/Salome, has also been a great success at Ravinia and the major companies of San Diego, Fort Worth, San Antonio, and Cape Town. Among his other leading roles have been the title roles/Les contes d'Hoffmann and Idomeneo (LA Opera), the title role/Otello (Philadelphia, Phoenix, Palm Beach, Dallas, des Moines, Chautauqua), Samson/Samson et Dalila (Costa Mesa), and Don José/Carmen, Pinkerton/Madama Butterfly, and Cavaradossi/Tosca (all at New York City Opera). Appearances internationally include Manrico/Il trovatore (Deutsche Oper Berlin), Samson (New Israeli Opera), the Prince/Rusalka (Frankfurt), and the title role/Ernani, Don José, and Arrigo/I vespri siciliani (L'Opéra de Nice). Glassman has appeared in concert with the Munich Philharmonic, Fort Worth Symphony, and Boston Concert Opera, among many other ensembles.



ERIC FERRING I JOSEPH'S 19-YEAR-OLD BROTHER

Previously at Lyric: Five roles since 2018/19, most recently Sergeant/*The Barber of Seville* (2019/20); Lurcanio/*Ariodante* (2018/19).

The Iowa-born tenor, a second-year Ryan Opera Center member, is an alumnus of Drake University and Boston Conservatory, Ferring is a former Pittsburgh Opera resident artist and Santa Fe Opera apprentice artist. He made his role debut as Tamino/*The Magic Flute* at the 2019 Verbier Festival and will reprise that role later this season at North Carolina Opera, New Orleans Opera, and The Santa Fe Opera. He has also been heard at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Wolf Trap Opera, and Seagle Music Colony. This summer he participated in the Britten-Pears Young Artist Programme at Snape-Maltings (England) and the Vocal Residency of the Aix-en-Provence Festival. Among Ferring's honors

have been a Sara Tucker Study Grant from The Richard Tucker Foundation and a Career Grant from The Sullivan Foundation. Eric Ferring is sponsored by Richard O. Ryan, Richard W. Shepro and Lindsay E. Roberts, and Cynthia Vahlkamp and Robert Kenyon.



ETHAN WARREN I JOSEPH'S 14-YEAR-OLD BROTHER Lyric debut

The actor has been seen in a wide variety of roles. Among them are The Brother/All That He

Was (Pride Films & Plays), Shermy/A Charlie Brown Christmas (Broadway Playhouse), Jack/Into the Woods (Metropolis Performing Arts Centre), Pinocchio/Shrek (Marriott Theatre), Prince Herbert/Monty Python's Spamalot (Barn Theatre), Kane/Love & Human Remains (Cor Theatre), Skiddoo/The Tail of the Little Mermaid (Theatre at the Center), and Victor/Cabaret (Entr'acte Theatre). Warren earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in musical theater from The Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University.



CHRISTOPHER KENNEY I MOTORCYCLE COP

Previously at Lyric: Three roles since 2018/19, most recently Fiorello/*The Barber of Seville* (2019/20); Marquis d'Obigny/*La traviata* (2018/19).

A Minnesota native and a second-year Ryan Opera Center member, the baritone made his Grant Park Music Festival debut in 2018 portraying Bob/*The Old Maid and the Thief.* Kenney is a former member of Washington National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program (*The Barber of Seville, The Little Prince,* Missy Mazzoli's *Proving Up* — world premiere). He was also a featured soloist in Bernstein's *Songfest* with the National Symphony Orchestra. A former Santa Fe Opera apprentice artist, Kenney is a three-time winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council District Auditions. The baritone is an alumnus of Concordia College, the University of Kentucky, and Philadelphia's Academy of Vocal Arts. *Christopher Kenney is sponsored by an Anonymous Donor, Sasha Gerritson and Eugene Jarvis, and Blythe J. McGarvie.*



DAVID WEIGEL I FIRST PRISON GUARD

Previously at Lyric: Dr. Grenvil/La traviata, First Minister/Cendrillon, Voice of Neptune/ *Idomeneo* (all 2018/19).

Born in California and raised in North Carolina, the bass-baritone is a second-year Ryan Opera Center member and will also sing the Bonze/ Madama Butterfly and Sourin/The Queen of Spades at Lyric this season. Weigel is an alumnus of Furman University, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, the A. J. Fletcher Opera Institute, and the University of Michigan. A Michigan District winner of the 2016 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, he performed with San Francisco Opera's Merola Opera Program in 2017 (Death/Savitri) and 2013 (Collatinus/The Rape of Lucretia). Weigel, who sang the title role/The Marriage of Figaro at the Aspen Festival this summer, has also been heard with North Carolina Opera, Greensboro Opera, Piedmont

Opera, Asheville Lyric Opera, Opera North, and the Brevard Music Center. *David Weigel is sponsored by Lois B. Siegel, Michael and Salme Harju Steinberg,* and *Mrs. J. W. Van Gorkom.*



ANTHONY REED |
SECOND PRISON GUARD
Lyric debut

A first-year member of the Ryan Opera Center, the bass returns to the Lyric stage later this

season in Madama Butterfly and The Queen of Spades. Reed was recently seen at Wolf Trap Opera as Friar Laurence/Romeo and Juliet. A former Adler Fellow at San Francisco Opera, he has appeared there in Aida, The Magic Flute, and La traviata, among other roles. Additionally, his repertory encompasses such major roles as Sarastro/The Magic Flute, Don Magnifico/La Cenerentola, and Don Basilio/The Barber of Seville. He has performed with some of the world's most esteemed conductors, among them Nicola Luisotti and Donald Runnicles. Reed is an alumnus of the Curtis Institute of Music and the Merola Opera Program. Anthony Reed is sponsored by J. Thomas Hurvis.



EMILY POGORELC I A PARALEGAL

Previously at Lyric: Confidante/Elektra, Noémie/Cendrillon (both 2018/19).

The soprano, a Milwaukee native and second-year Ryan Opera Center member, returns to the Lyric stage later this season in *The Queen of Spades*. Among her major successes have been Cunegonde/Candide (Washington National Opera); Romilda/Xerxes, Berenice/L'occasione fa il ladro, and Johanna/Sweeney Todd (all at The Glimmerglass Festival); and Chan Parker/Charlie Parker's Yardbird (New York's Apollo Theater). She has also appeared at Carnegie Hall in Berio's Sinfonia. In 2018 Pogorelc received the Ginette Theano Prize for Most Promising Talent at the inaugural Glyndebourne Opera Cup competition. She has participated in England's Britten-Pears Programme and at the Aix-en-Provence Festival's Mozart Residency. The soprano is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music. She has received first prize in numerous competitions, including The Carolyn Bailey and Dominick Argento Vocal Competition. Emily Pogorelc is sponsored by Sally and Michael Feder, Ms. Gay K. Stanek, and Jennifer L. Stone.



ARI KRAIMAN | A TEENAGE GIRL
Lyric debut

The actress has been seen at The August Wilson Center (Tilly/She Kills Monsters), Williamstown Theatre Festival (Grandchild/Once Upon a Time...,

Prisoner/Far Away), Clock Productions (Becca/Six Views of Love), Cuckoo's Theatre Project (Kaliope/She Kills Monsters), and Chicago's Babes with Blades Theater Company (Tilly/The Lady Demands). She has also appeared in The Hunchback of Notre Dame at Pittsburgh Musical Theater and, at the University of Pittsburgh – of which she is a recent alumna, in such major roles as Tytania/A Midsummer Night's Dream and Saraghina/Nine. She has trained with the Society of American Fight Directors and is a former participant in both the Williamstown Theatre Festival Professional Training Program and the Stella Adler Summer Conservatory.



MILES BORCHARD |
A TEENAGE BOY
Lyric debut

The actor has appeared in a wide variety of roles at the Patrick O'Malley Theatre at Roosevelt

University. He was featured there as John Buchanan/Summer and Smoke, Tonino and Zanetto/The Venetian Twins, and David Kingsley/ Stage Door, and also portrayed Theseus/A Midsummer Night's Dream, Prof. Claude Knight/Good Night Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet), and Max/Cabaret. Borchard starred earlier this year at Chicago's Greenhouse Theater Center as Paul Morel/Sons and Lovers. He has appeared on film in leading roles for DePaul Productions, Philhouse Productions, and SHOED! Productions. Borchard graduated with a bachelor of fine arts degree in acting from the Chicago College of Performing Arts.



CHICAGO CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Previously at Lyric: 11 productions since 2000/01, most recently *La bohème* (2018/19); *Turandot* (2017/18).

Chicago Children's Choir (Josephine Lee, president and artistic director) is the nation's preeminent youth choral organization, serving 5,200 students across the city of Chicago. Founded in Hyde Park in direct response to the Civil Rights Movement in 1956, CCC has grown from one choir into a vast network of in-school and after-school programs driven by one mission: to inspire and change lives through music. CCC has impacted the lives of more than 50,000 diverse youth throughout its 62-year history. Since its founding, CCC has focused on building programs that reflect the racial and economic diversity of Chicago. Eighty percent of youth served are from low-moderate income homes, with over 4,000 students annually participating completely free of charge. All singers in CCC programs receive some level of subsidy. High-school seniors enrolled in CCC have a 100% graduation and college acceptance rate, becoming global ambassadors who carry on CCC's core values in a wide array of professional fields.



NICOLE PAIEMENT |
CONDUCTOR
Lyric debut

Nicole Paiement is an internationally recognized conductor of contemporary music and opera.

She is the artistic director of Opera Parallèle in San Francisco and the principal guest conductor at The Dallas Opera. Also an active guest conductor, Paiement recently appeared with Seattle Opera, Glimmerglass Festival (2016-2018) and the Washington National Opera. Earlier this year she conducted the world premiere of Jake Heggie's latest work, If I Were You, with San Francisco's Merola Opera Program. In 2020, Opera Parallèle will present a new version of Stewart Wallace's Harvey Milk in San Francisco with Paiement at the helm. Other upcoming engagements include George Benjamin's Written on Skin at L'Opéra de Montréal, a return to The Dallas Opera for a double bill of Poulenc's La voix humaine and Stravinsky's Pulcinella, and a debut with the BBC Symphony Orchestra with Joby Talbot's Everest at the

Barbican Centre, London. *Nicole Paiement is sponsored by the* **Loretta Julian/Julian Family Foundation**.



LEONARD FOGLIA I

Previously at Lyric: El Pasado Nunca Se Termina (2014/15); Cruzar la Cara de la Luna (2012/13).

Leonard Foglia directed the world premieres of Moby-Dick (filmed for PBS), Everest, It's a Wonderful Life, Cold Mountain, The End of the Affair, Three Decembers, Stonewall, Cruzar la Cara de la Luna/To Cross the Face of the Moon (also librettist), A Coffin in Egypt (also librettist), and El Pasado Nunca Se Termina/The Past Is Never Finished (also librettist). His production of Dead Man Walking, produced by New York City Opera, has been seen across the U.S. and Europe. Broadway productions include Master Class, Wait Until Dark, Thurgood (filmed for HBO), The People in the Picture, On Golden Pond, The Gin Game. Off-Broadway productions include One Touch of Venus, The Stendhal Syndrome, If Memory Serves, About Alice, Let Me Down Easy (filmed for PBS), and Notes From The Field (filmed for HBO). Among the director's upcoming projects is the world premiere of El Milagro del Recuerdo/The Miracle of Remembering (librettist and director) at Houston Grand Opera in December.



MICHAEL McGARTY | SET DESIGNER Lyric debut

Michael McGarty set designs for *Dead Man*Walking have been seen previously at New York

City Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Opera Pacific, and most recently the Teatro Real (Madrid). McGarty also designed the world premiere of Jake Heggie's *The End of the Affair* (Houston, subsequently Kansas City, Seattle). Broadway productions include *Master Class, Wait Until Dark* (revival), and Julia Sweeney's *God Said Ha!* McGarty has worked extensively in New York and in regional theater nationwide. He has a 36-year association with Trinity Repertory Company in Providence, Rhode Island (where he is a resident designer) and is a resident designer at the Gamm Theatre (Warwick, Rhode Island), where he recently designed *Festen* (New England premiere) and *The Night Watch* (American premiere). Recent world premieres include *The 27th Man* (New York's Public Theater) and *A Tale of Two Cities*. McGarty headed the design program at Brown University for 14 years and teaches at Rhode Island School of Design.



JESS GOLDSTEIN I COSTUME DESIGNER Lyric debut

The designer's Broadway credits include Jersey Boys, Disney's Newsies, On the Town, The Rivals

(2005 Tony Award), The Merchant of Venice (Tony nomination), Henry IV (Tony nomination), Proof, Love! Valour! Compassion!, Tintypes, Buried Child, How I Learned to Drive, and The Mineola Twins (Lortel and Hewes Awards). Opera designs include Il trittico (Metropolitan Opera), La traviata and Lucia di Lammermoor (Washington National Opera), Two Women and Heart of a Soldier (San Francisco Opera), The

End of the Affair (Houston Grand Opera), Dead Man Walking (New York City Opera, Opera Pacific) and Of Mice and Men, Agrippina, and The Pirates of Penzance (New York City Opera, Glimmerglass Festival). Designs for film and television include A Walk on the Moon, The Substance of Fire, and Talking With and Far East for PBS's Great Performances. Goldstein, the 2015 recipient of the Irene Sharaff Lifetime Achievement Award, is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama. Jess Goldstein is supported by the Richard P. and Susan Kiphart Costume Designer Endowed Chair.



BRIAN NASON I LIGHTING DESIGNER

Previously at Lyric: Cruzar la Cara de la Luna (2012/13).

The lighting designer's work on Dead Man Walking has been seen at nine companies, among them Houston Grand Opera, New York City Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, and the Teatro Real de Madrid. Last season Nason returned to San Francisco Opera for Jake Heggie's It's a Wonderful Life, also seen in Houston and at Indiana University. Other major credits include A Little Night Music (Houston); West Side Story (La Scala); Salome (New York City Opera, Opera Pacific); and numerous contemporary operas, among them Jake Heggie's Three Decembers (San Francisco, Houston); Pepe Martínez and Leonard Foglia's Cruzar la Cara de la Luna (Houston, Fort Worth, San Diego); Ricky Ian Gordon's A Coffin in Egypt (Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia); and Jennifer Higdon's Cold Mountain (Santa Fe, Philadelphia, Raleigh). Nason has been nominated for a Tony Award, two Outer Critics Circle Awards, and three Audelco Awards. He has won a Barrymore Award for lighting design. Brian Nason is supported by the Mary-Louise and James S. Aagaard Lighting **Director Endowed Chair.**

> PROJEC Previously (2014/15).

ELAINE J. McCARTHY I PROJECTION DESIGNER

Previously at Lyric: El Pasado Nunca Se Termina (2014/15).

Highlights of the American designer's work on Broadway include *Wicked, Monty Python's Spamalot, Impressionism, The People in the Picture, Assassins, Man of La Mancha* (2002 revival), *Into the Woods* (2002 revival), *Thurgood,* and *Judgment at Nuremberg.* Among McCarthy's extensive off-Broadway credits are *Frequency Hopping* (set and projections), *Distracted* (set and projections), *Speaking in Tongues, Suitcase, The Stendhal Syndrome, Once in a Lifetime,* and *Gloria: A Life.* In addition to *Dead Man Walking* (New York City Opera, subsequently seen nationwide), her association with Jake Heggie's works includes *Great Scott, It's a Wonderful Life,* and *Moby-Dick* (world premieres, Dallas Opera). Among other world premieres are Jennifer Higdon's *Cold Mountain* (The Santa Fe Opera) and Joby Talbot's *Everest* (Dallas). McCarthy has designed projections for *Tristan und Isolde* (Dallas); *Mazeppa* and *War and Peace* (both at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg).



MICHAEL BLACK I CHORUS MASTER

The Australian chorus master held this position in Sydney at Opera Australia from 2001 to 2013. Black has served in this capacity for such distinguished organizations as the Edinburgh

International Festival, Opera Holland Park (London), and, in Australia, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, the Philharmonia Choir, Motet Choir, Cantillation chamber choir, and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Recent activities include preparing the *Damnation of Faust* chorus at the Grant Park Music Festival, where he has worked for two seasons. As one of Australia's most prominent vocal accompanists, Black has regularly performed for broadcasts and recordings. He has served as chorus master on four continents, and his work has been recorded and/or aired on ABC, BBC, PBS, for many HD productions in movie theaters, and on television. *Michael Black is the Howard A. Stotler*





JOSEPHINE LEE I
CHILDREN'S CHORUS MASTER
Previously at Lyric: 11 productions since
2000/01, most recently La bohème (2018/19);
Turandot (2017/18).

The president and artistic director of Chicago Children's Choir has revolutionized youth choral music, encompassing cutting-edge performances of diverse repertoire; ongoing partnerships with Lyric, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and Ravinia; and extensive national and international tours. Among Lee's recent projects have been two world premieres (Long Way Home with the Q Brothers Collective, Sita Ram with David Kersnar of Lookingglass Theatre) and a collaboration with Chance the Rapper (Coloring Book). In 2019 she made a conducting debut with members of the National Philharmonic at Strathmore. In 2015 Lee founded a new young-people's chorus, Vocality, heard with the CSO at Ravinia (Porgy and Bess, Bernstein's Mass). Future engagements include a new theatrical work by David Kersnar, J. Nicole Brooks, and CCC composer-in-residence Mitchell Owens III, to premiere in 2020. An experienced singer herself, Lee appeared in the critically praised 2018 world premiere of Ted Hearne's Place at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Next Wave Festival.



SARAH HATTEN I WIGMASTER & MAKEUP DESIGNER

Lyric's wigmaster and makeup designer has worked in a wide repertoire at Des Moines Metro Opera and Michigan Opera Theatre, as

well as Columbus Opera, Toledo Opera, the Cabrillo Music Festival, and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. She has also worked at the Glimmerglass Festival and the major opera companies of Los Angeles, Omaha, Cleveland, Sarasota, and Central City, as well as Wisconsin's American Players Theatre and, in Los Angeles, the Pantages Theatre and the Geffen Playhouse. Sarah Hatten is the Marlys Beider Wigmaster and Makeup Designer Endowed Chair.

KATRINA BACHUS I ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Previously at Lyric: Associate director/Luisa Miller (2019/20); five productions as assistant director, most recently Siegfried (2018/19).

The American director, who will return to Lyric later this season for the *Ring* cycle, is closely associated with Houston Grand Opera. She has worked on more than 20 productions there since 2013/14, including both standard repertoire and contemporary works. The latter have included the world premieres of Tarik O'Regan's *The Phoenix*, Carlisle Floyd's *The Prince of Players*, and Iain Bell's *A Christmas Carol*. Bachus returns to HGO this season for *La favorite*. After working with John Neumeier on *Orphée et Eurydiceat* Lyric, she was associate director for that production at LA Opera in 2018. She has also assistant-directed Bartlett Sher's new Metropolitan Opera production of *Otello*. Among the other distinguished directors with whom she has collaborated are John Caird, Francesca Zambello, John Cox, Carlos Padrissa, and James Robinson.



CHUCK COYL I FIGHT DIRECTOR

Previously at Lyric: Five operas since 2006/07, most recently *Porgy and Bess* (2014/15, 2008/09); *The Damnation of Faust* (2009/10).

A professional fight director for more than 30 years, Coyl is a three-term president and two-term vice president of the Society of American Fight Directors. Recent credits include the Broadway production and national tour of August Osage County, The Crucible and Superior Donuts at Steppenwolf Theatre Company, World of Extreme Happiness, Magnolia, The Upstairs Concierge, 2666 at the Goodman Theatre, and Private Lives at Chicago Shakespeare Theater. Other notable productions include, the world premieres of Killer Joe, Bug, and The Point of Honor. He is a founding member of the Single Action Theatre Company, and is on the faculty of the Actor's Gymnasium and Roosevelt University in Chicago.



KATE DEVORE I

Previously at Lyric: West Side Story (2018/19).

The voice coach/speech pathologist, with 25 years experience, operates Total Voice, Inc.,

providing voice, speech, and presence coaching. DeVore teaches at The School at Steppenwolf, Columbia College, and Acting Studio Chicago. She frequently presents at conferences and workshops nationwide and is author of *The Voice Book: Caring For, Protecting, and Improving Your Voice*, and the eBook *Accent Modification: Neutral American Dialect.* Select Chicago coaching credits include *The King's Speech* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); *Sweat, A Christmas Carol, A View from the Bridge, Uncle Vanya, The Jungle Book, Sweet Bird of Youth* (Goodman Theatre); *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time, finl* (Steppenwolf); *And Then There Were None, Matilda, Mamma Mial, Beauty and the Beast* (Drury Lane); *Evening at the Talk House, The Opponent, Butcher of Baraboo, Abigail's Party* (A Red Orchid Theatre).

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Judith Zunamon Lewis

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- + Season substitute
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5 ways to make the most of your Lyric Opera House experience

It's a jewel in Chicago's cultural crown and a home for music lovers from far and wide here are a handful of ways to enhance your Lyric Opera House visit

- Visit our concierge | Have a question? Whether it's "Where's the coat check?" or "Where can I catch a taxi post-show?" our lobby concierge is here to help.
- Take a selfie! I Favorite locations include the 2nd floor mezzanine with a bustling view of below, and the main staircase of the Rice Grand Foyer. And don't forget to snap a pic in the glorious theater itself. (Just make sure it's before or after the show!)



- Dine with us | With three restaurants onsite, plan a meal steps from the theater the next time you join us. It's not too late to enjoy champagne and dessert in the Pedersen Room after the show!
- Skip the lines and use our drink app to order at intermission | visit the App store or Google Play and download the Lyric Opera Drink app.
- Visit our photo booth | Take a free "red carpet" photo to share on social media—don't forget to tag us @LyricOpera!

Lyria

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Learn more about our amenities for those who may need assistance at lyricopera.org/accessibility

Still on the journey

Sister Helen Prejean, who wrote the best-selling book on which Jake Heggie's opera Dead Man Walking is based, lives her cause both in everyday life and as a character in the opera.

By Sister Helen Prejean

Thursday, January 28, 1999. I'm at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, watching the audience file into the auditorium for my lecture. Someone touches my arm and says there is a man wanting to meet me. I turn and see a young man with a skimpy goatee and I immediately think, "he's an ex-prisoner." Happens all the time in my line of work. He comes toward me, his hand extended, and introduces himself as John Packard. "I'm auditioning for the opera *Dead Man Walking*," he tells me, and I smile. I know immediately that he will be perfect for the role of Joseph De Rocher.

That is how the whole opera version of my book *Dead Man Walking* came together – the pieces just falling into place one by one. The key people getting involved as if drawn in by some force. Not just a force to make a successful modern opera, but a force strong enough to actually take people on a journey. The music and the words are so powerful that audiences find themselves walking down the path taken by my character – and that path travels through both the brightest and the darkest aspects of our humanity. It's a difficult path to take, I know, and there are moments of discomfort, heartache, and outrage along the way. But it's an important path to travel. I look forward to being with the people of Chicago as they take this journey.

Originally, as the opera was coming together, Jake Heggie and Terrence McNally shared the libretto and snippets of the music with me. I told them from the outset that as long as they captured the theme of redemption, I would be satisfied. In the end, I was more than satisfied. They captured the feel and the struggle of my own spiritual journey, and at the same time gave us a glimpse at the lives of death row inmates and murder victims' families. It is so much more than an opera about redemption: it is



Sister Helen Prejean

a window to a whole new world for most people, and it shows all sides of the issue. The savage and heinous crime is not ignored, but fully revealed. The emotional pain experienced by the family members of the victims is explored. *Dead Man Walking* is an artistic reflection on what happens behind the scenes, away from the public eye, when we as a society condemn and execute a person.

A true work of art is one that brings people to a deeper level of reflection. William Faulkner, when he received the



Measha Brueggergosman (left) as Sister Rose and Joyce DiDonato (right) as Sister Helen Prejean in *Dead Man Walking* at the Teatro Real/Madrid (2018).

Nobel Prize for literature, said that the only thing worth writing about is the conflict in the human heart. True art brings you to both sides of a conflict. Through *Dead Man Walking*, I see audience members going to a deeper place within themselves. We see a murderer, and then we see an execution. Are they essentially the same thing, or are they different? Is that the only way to respond as a society, or are there alternatives? The opera shows us we can look at different options in regards to using the death penalty. Art helps us explore alternatives, allows us to make new choices, and brings us to a deeper place where all this reflection can happen. This opera is particularly helpful as audiences navigate the moral dilemmas that surround capital punishment.

In more than twenty years of traveling around the country on speaking tours, I have realized that the American people are ready to talk about the death penalty. They need someone to take them through the discussion. The book *Dead Man Walking* was my first opportunity to do this. I was pleased when the film was made by Tim Robbins, Susan Sarandon, and Sean Penn, because I knew we were going to have a new, tangible way to help the American people reflect on the death penalty. It's a moral issue that is not discussed very often, but I think people are more ready for deeper spiritual reflection than we give them credit for.

To reach out to people, you have to tell stories. This is one of the reasons I think *Dead Man Walking* in all its forms touched so many people, because in my stories I allowed people to see how it was for me, and for the inmate, and for the families involved. It was hard, it was like opening your front door and saying, "Well, come on in," and then allowing strangers to poke around in your cupboards and drawers. But I know that it is through this baring of the soul that people – who would otherwise never be caught up in our capital punishment system – will come to understand just

how the system works, and how it prolongs the grieving and suffering of all the families involved.

Though it sounds unlikely, this opera was the next logical step in the unfolding of my story. If you have seen the movie Dead Man Walking, you know that music is an integral part of the story. Most of the music was written specifically for certain scenes. It's a very powerful part of the film. And why not? We know that music can change consciousness and music can open up parts of our hearts we don't even know we have. Music also brings about healing and connectedness among human beings. Jake Heggie was incredibly aware of this fact. In the opera, "You Don't Know What It's Like" is an ensemble sung by both victims' and death row families and it demonstrates the common unifying experience of suffering and loss. Also, Jake allowed a spiritual hymn - "God Will Gather Us Around, All Around" - to thread through the story, without resorting to the stereotypes we often see when nuns are portrayed. His sensitivity to the issues and emotions involved make it a stronger and truer production, and I am so proud of him and his work.

These days, I am still on the journey. Speaking out about what I have witnessed comes naturally to me. There are many roads taken as I travel the world, giving talks to help people see the system for what it really is, and offering alternatives if they're ready to change things. My second book was also about the men I've counseled on death row, this time focusing on those who I'm certain were innocent, yet were executed anyway. I am amazed when I look back over the last two decades at how the discussion on the death penalty has grown and matured, but yet we are still finding innocent people on death row. It is going to take the books and the movies and the news programs and, of course, the operas to continue this discussion, and to keep the American people moving forward in their awareness and their advocacy. It's a journey. I thank the people of Chicago for joining me in it.

Adapted from an article that originally appeared in the program of New York City Opera.

The journey of *Dead Man Walking*

By Jake Heggie

When Terrence McNally and I first met in 1996 to discuss a possible opera collaboration, it was a comedy that the producer had in mind. Something light and celebratory for the millennium. Being virtually unknown as a composer, with this incredible opportunity placed before me, I was hardly in a position to disagree with Lotfi Mansouri, San Francisco Opera's general director. Terrence, however, was. And he did – he couldn't have been less interested in such a project.

With Terrence's passion for opera and my devotion to composing for the operatic voice, Lotfi believed that this



Sister Helen Prejean and Jake Heggie at the world premiere of *Dead Man Walkina*. San Francisco. 2000.

collaboration must happen. Removing the mandate of comedy, he asked us to find a story that would inspire both of us. In mid-1997 in San Francisco, Terrence and I sat down to lunch and he brought out a list of ten ideas, only one of which he really wanted to do. He wouldn't tell me which it was. He started reading the list. *Dead Man Walking*.

The hair on the back of my neck stood up and I immediately started to hear music. This was the right story. He continued reading, but to this day, I can't remember any other idea because I was already figuring out how *Dead Man Walking* would sound. What kind of architecture would the music have? What kinds of musical motifs? The range of characters and their transformations

was incredible. There would be room for large ensembles and great possibilities to build emotional tension, to find transcendence in musical terms. Fortunately, that was the idea Terrence was most enthusiastic about, too.

Why was the story so compelling? Sister Helen Prejean, a Louisiana nun, becomes the spiritual advisor to a convicted murderer on death row and accompanies him to his execution. She experiences a journey most of us can't imagine and witnesses



Jake Heggie



Michael Mayes as Joseph De Rocher and Joyce DiDonato as Sister Helen Prejean in *Dead Man Walking* at the Teatro Real/Madrid.

a level of grief that even she hadn't imagined. Parents. Children. Families. Torn apart. Amidst all the grief, tragedy, loss, and anger, it's love that transcends, unites, and redeems. Very operatic stuff.

We wanted our opera to be a contemporary American drama. *Dead Man Walking* is a story of our time, but also timeless – a distinctly American story, but with universal resonance.

This drama makes sense for people to sing and is large enough to fill an opera house, yet it's incredibly intimate. It takes us deep into the most difficult struggles we can experience, and to places that only intensify with music. The more we talked about it, the more it seemed like an opera just waiting for the music.

Much as we admired and respected Sister Helen and her nonfiction book, *Dead Man Walking*, the opera wouldn't be a documentary or a biography. It would also not be a "soapbox" opera pushing a political agenda. We didn't want to recreate Tim Robbins's brilliant movie, either. We would go from the book, telling the story honestly without preaching, while letting people make up their own minds.

Supportive and enthusiastic from the start, Sister Helen allowed us to do whatever was needed for her story to work onstage, with only one mandate: it had to remain a story of redemption. Right before the announcement of the project, Sister Helen called me and said, in a thick Louisiana accent, "When they called and told me that San Francisco wanted my permission to make an opera out of *Dead Man Walking*, I said, 'Well of COURSE we're gonna make an opera out of *Dead Man Walking!*' But, Jake, I don't know boo-scat about opera, so you're gonna have to educate me."

Why is Sister Helen such an operatic character? Against the enormous background of the prison system, death row, and a man convicted of a monstrous crime, there is this one small woman and her faith: her belief in the individual dignity of every person on earth. She travels this path as a kind of "everyman," and it's easy for us to go along: from the security of working with children in the projects to meeting a convicted killer, then his family, then the families of the murder victims, to an execution chamber, all propelling her to a place of spiritual crisis and ultimate resolution. At first, she's like one of your gal pals, with great humor and zest for life – neither we nor she are aware of the bravery and power

inside her when she's tested. But I think it puts all of us to the test: How much could I take? How far could I go? What are my convictions?

It's this that makes these characters operatic, for they're all regular folks thrown into a tornado, being tested, strained, and pushed to the edge. The story puts a human face on capital punishment. It's no longer a comfortable question one can consider while watching television or reading the paper. Real lives are at stake at every turn in this story.

Terrence told me that he intended to write a play, creating language and situations that would inspire music. He recognized that an opera is about the music, and that he'd do whatever he could to serve that. If the music took me in a certain direction, I should follow it. If his words didn't work for me, I could add my own, checking with him later. It's the most generous, gratifying collaboration a composer could hope for. Another goal was to explore a medium that was neither traditional theater nor traditional opera, but a music drama, an opera musical, opera theater, or perhaps finally, American opera theater.

My compositional voice is based primarily on direct emotional portraits of characters. I wanted clear melodic and rhythmic motifs to propel a constantly moving tide of emotion with lyricism, without alienating the characters or the audience. The piece's architecture was clear, too: a building of layers throughout Act One – a long crescendo to the point where Sister Helen faints, overwhelmed by the emotional intensity and the demands made on her. Act Two, a gradual stripping away of layers to reveal the essence of what is at stake: life and love. Since the San Francisco Opera premiere in 2000, the opera has received more than 300 performances by 70 international companies on five continents. Director Leonard Foglia's production, first seen in 2002, has traveled to more than a dozen U.S. opera houses as well as Madrid's Teatro Real. New casts and productions continue to bring different perspectives to the opera. But it's Sister Helen's compelling journey that continues to capture the imagination; our opera, hopefully, continues to take people right along with her. L

This article was adapted from the original version, printed in the program of Michigan Opera Theatre.

Director's note

By Leonard Foglia

WHAT IS OUR CAPACITY OF FORGIVENESS?

That is the question I am confronted with every time I return to *Dead Man Walking*. This piece can be viewed (usually by people who have never seen the opera) as a referendum on the death penalty. I find that lets everyone off the hook far too easily.

Generally people's views on capital punishment are fixed: you are either for it or against it, end of discussion. What, I believe, this piece really asks the audience is something far more difficult. Would you have the capacity to forgive someone who perpetrated a horrible crime, such as the ones depicted in this piece, against a loved one?

I find myself very low on the forgiveness scale, something of which I am not proud. When I am confronted with the question of, could I forgive, I don't honestly know the answer. Each time I work on *Dead Man Walking*, I carefully chart Sister Helen's journey, step by step, and I am constantly surprised when I reach the moment that she cannot answer the question herself, as to whether she has forgiven the killer. Her faith is based on being

able to see the face of God in each and every person. What if she finds she is unable see it in this man? Or forgive him?

The centerpiece of the first act is an aria, sung by Sister Helen as she travels to the prison for the first time to meet the murderer, Joseph De Rocher:

This journey.

This journey to Christ.

This journey to my God.

This journey to myself.

To my Jesus.

To this man.

This journey.

This journey to the truth.

This journey.

Helen's journey is our journey, our journey to the truth, the truth about ourselves. $\[\[\]$



After the curtain falls

Thank you for attending Dead Man Walking, one of the 21st century's most remarkable operas. We hope you were moved by the experience.

Having experienced the opera, you're bound to want to talk about it. Here are a few suggested conversationstarters to get you going:

- What moments of the opera grabbed you the most
- How do you respond to the opera now (as opposed to how you might have responded when it premiered nearly 20 years ago)? Has anything changed in the political landscape that has impacted how you view what you saw onstage?
- This is one of the most often-performed operas of the 21st century, with productions all over the world. What do you think accounts for its acclaim?
- Do you think it's different for an artist to portray roles grounded in contemporary reality, as opposed to fictional characters living centuries ago? If you were to trade places with one of the principal artists in this cast, how would you feel about taking on this kind of role?
- What do you think is the real root of what makes a story "operatic"? How do you think Dead Man Walking exemplifies that?

MORE, PLEASE

Craving to know more about Dead Man Walking? Lyric has lots of suggestions and resources to help you explore more about this production and its stories. Visit lyricopera.org/AfterCurtain for cast profiles, video extras, behind-the-scenes content, and suggestions on further reading and listening.

Join the conversation on social media with #LyricDeadMan and share your experience on:











From Lyric's archives





Throughout their careers, Patricia Racette and Susan Graham have both enjoyed an extensive association with Lyric Opera of Chicago. Among the highlights have been Racette's portrayal of Marguerite/Faust in 2003/04 and Graham's Donna Elvira/Don Giovanni in 2004/05.

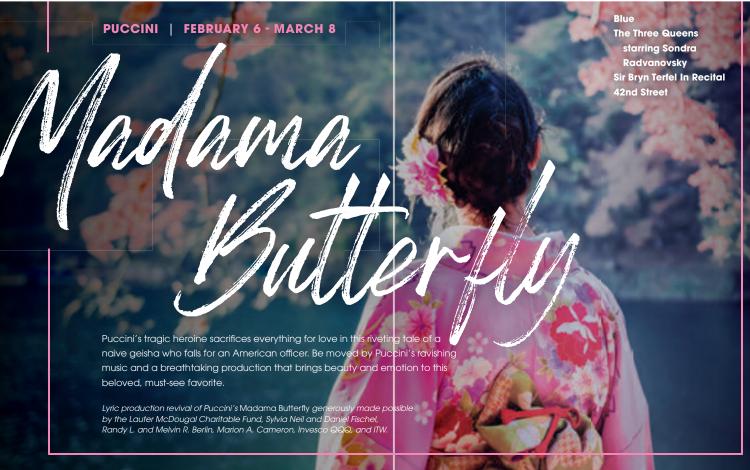
What happens when a notorious womanizer goes too far? Don Giovanni meets his match in Lyric's lavish production of Mozart's masterpiece, which features a finale so powerful that it changed music forever. Packed with thrilling melodies that you know, high drama, and eye-popping costumes, don't miss the passion and ultimate retribution of this iconic classic.

Lyric production revival of Mozart's Don Giovanni generously made possible by Lead Sponsor The Negaunee Foundation and cosponsors Howard L. Gottlieb and Barbara G. Greis, Nancy and Sanfred Koltun, and the Mazza Foundation.

Lyric

2019/20 **SEASON**

Dead Man Walking Don Giovanni **Madama Butterfly** The Queen of Spades Gotterdämmerung The Ring Cycle



Beyond the stage, and beyond the boundaries that often define opera companies, Lyric is igniting creativity across Chicago.

Through innovative learning opportunities, creative exploration, and artistic creation and collaboration, Lyric, with your support, encourages students, educators, families, audiences, and Chicagoans from neighborhoods across the city to share their voices and embrace the power and relevance of opera as a catalyst for growth and change.



Opera in the Neighborhoods brings live opera performances to neighborhoods throughout the Chicago area

Beyond the stage

We are all Lyric

Some years ago, in a landscape where many performing arts organizations were scaling back their educational and community engagement programs, Lyric took a bold step and *increased* its commitment to innovative learning, civic engagement, and to of-our-time creative programming.

Launched under a new Lyric Unlimited brand, these initiatives for audiences, students, teachers, families and community groups across the city proved wildly successful, made real positive differences in people's lives, and evolved Lyric into an organization that is deeply connected with the city it is here to serve.

Now, as Lyric continues to invest in signature learning opportunities, develop new partnerships, and increase its civic footprint, providing value to all we serve, the *Lyric Unlimited* brand is being retired. Why? Because all of its initiatives are now so integral to Lyric – so central to its vision to redefine what a 21st century opera company can be to an ever more diverse range of constituents – that programs that were once branded *Lyric Unlimited* will now be known as *Lyric*.

This brings forward and integrates the full range of Lyric activities, expanding what the Lyric brand means in our city and across the country – from grand opera to community-created performances; from chamber operas that explore contemporary issues to boundary-breaking school and youth programs.

Through your support and participation, Lyric is truly leading the advancement of opera in America.



Teacher Professional Development Workshops | Each fall, Lyric welcomes teachers from across Chicago to free Teacher Professional Development Workshops. Through these events, high school and elementary teachers work side by side with Lyric staff and professional teaching artists to plan lessons, making curricular connections and exploring strategies for bringing opera into their classrooms. In the 2018/19 season, 40,049 students participated in Lyric programs, including 15,227 Chicago public school students from a total of 102 Chicago public school districts.

Earth to Kenzie

Kenzie is a fifth-grader with homework, asthma, and a big imagination. When she and her mother have to move into a family shelter, Kenzie finds refuge in the world of video games alongside her avatar, Edwin. Through their imaginary space adventures, Kenzie dares to go farther than ever before. Can she find the confidence to make friends and succeed in the classroom? And can she find her way home?

This is the heart of *Earth to Kenzie*, a captivating new opera by composer Frances Pollock and librettist Jessica Murphy Moo. Co-commissioned by Lyric and Seattle Opera, *Earth to Kenzie* will be presented by Lyric Unlimited—Learning & Creative Engagement for school groups in venues throughout the Chicagoland area October 15 through November 15. There will also be family performances at the Vittum Theater on November 9 and 10. Featuring a cast of four singers with piano accompaniment, this work is meant to introduce audiences ages 7-12 to storytelling through song, introducing them to the magic of opera.

EARTH TO KENZIE

In creating *Earth to Kenzie*, "we needed to be sensitive to students who were dealing with homelessness," says Jessica, "and they needed to be the audience we were going to focus on." She wanted the students to see themselves onstage and feel supported. "I also started thinking a lot about humor. This is a tough subject, but we needed to have some lightness and sparkle to balance things out. I've seen first-hand how humor really draws an audience together."

Frances is very aware that "every audience I compose for, regardless of age, gravitates towards their own musical language." In this opera, "I had to include music that could live in a video-game world. I'm trying to capture a world that sounds adventurous and always full of energy because that's what the characters in video games do – they go on adventures." At the same time, Frances wants to give young audiences "what we love about opera. You have this music that sounds like video games, but also these really touching moments between Kenzie and her mom that sound like *Onegin*."

Jessica considers this opera "a slice of life – there's no standard happily-ever-after ending. They're still in the shelter at the end of the opera, but Kenzie does realize that her mom is her home and she doesn't have to deal with this alone."

The production is a co-commission with Seattle Opera. Lyric Unlimited's educational partner for Earth to Kenzie is Codeverse, the world's first fully interactive coding studio and development platform for kids ages 6-13.



Frances Pollock (composer)



Jessica Murphy Moo (librettist)

Contributors to Lyric Unlimited - Learning & Creative Engagement

Lyric is grateful to the following generous donors for their support of Lyric Unlimited - Learning & Creative Engagement initiatives.



With major support provided from the Nancy W. Knowles Student and Family Performances Fund

Opera always played an important role in the life of the late Nancy W. Knowles. Her love for the art form was nurtured by her family's musical

traditions. "My father had hundreds and hundreds of records to play," she fondly recalled, "so classical music was always in my home." Nancy Knowles generously invested her time, talents, and leadership abilities to advance Lyric as a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, and formerly as a Guild Board member.

In recognition of her extraordinary gift to the Campaign for Excellence, Lyric named the Nancy W. Knowles Lobby in 2007.

Ms. Knowles once again made a significant gift in support of the Breaking New Ground Campaign to support the Nancy W. Knowles Student and Family Performances Fund. Ms. Knowles generously underwrote the appearance of Lyric's world premiere *Bel Canto* on PBS Great Performances in 2017, and had previously cosponsored several mainstage operas. In recognition of her outstanding generosity and enthusiasm, she received the Carol Fox Award, Lyric's highest honor, in 2014. Lyric will forever be grateful for Nancy's extraordinary generosity.

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Earth to Kenzie

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To keep opera a must-see, must-hear experience, the art form needs outstanding artists who can convey through singing and acting the emotional range and engaging storytelling that are opera's hallmarks. Lyric, through The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center, identifies exceptionally talented emerging artists from around the world and provides them with comprehensive training and performance opportunities. On the world's stages, the Center's impressive roster of alumni continually proves the value of training at Lyric.



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WHITNEY MORRISON

At Lyric this season: Sister Rose/Dead Man Walking.
Pictured here: Countess Ceprano/Rigoletto (2017/18).
Upcoming: Floria Tosca/7 Deaths of Maria Callas (world premiere, 2019, reprise 2020),
Bayarian State Opera.

The Ryan Opera Center has been, for me, a dream come true. Being a part of this program has afforded me countless opportunities to grow and learn as a budding professional performing artist. From master classes with world-renowned singers and conductors to coaching with accomplished and brilliant staff, I was constantly in the process of collaborative work, which led to creating memorable performances. Equally important were the numerous moments of close observation as an audience member and understudy. Those were the times when I was able to most clearly perceive the high level of execution and consummate artistry to which I aspire. For all these experiences and every other one that the Ryan Opera Center has provided for my development as an artist, I am truly grateful. I count it a distinct honor and privilege to have been an Ensemble member.



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With the generous support of individuals and organizations, Lyric is leading the advancement of opera in America—continually advancing artistic excellence, increasing relevance and reach for both traditional and new audiences, engaging our diverse communities through signature learning and exploration initiatives, and expanding our role as a cultural cornerstone in Chicago. You are our partners in this important shared enterprise—and we sincerely thank you.



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Thank you for your support

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Aria Society spotlight 2019 | 20

The Aria Society I The Aria Society is one of Lyric's most generous donor groups. Members are recognized prominently as champions of the art form and have multiple opportunities throughout the year to engage in meaningful ways with Lyric's leadership and main stage artists.



Miles D. White

ABBOTT FUND

Abbott and the Abbott Fund are leading corporate contributors to Lyric Opera of Chicago, with a longstanding tradition of dedicated support. Over the last three decades, Abbott has generously cosponsored 25 Lyric productions, including this season's

revival of *The Barber of Seville*. Abbott has championed Lyric's achievements by making a leadership commitment to the Breaking New Ground Campaign. "Lyric is one of the treasures that make Chicago the world-class city that it is. We're proud to be associated with it," says Miles D. White, Abbott's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer and a valued member of Lyric's Board of Directors.



ADA AND WHITNEY ADDINGTON

Ada and Whitney Addington are dedicated Lyric subscribers and donors. They have contributed generously to the Annual Campaign and the Breaking New Ground Campaign, and have made a leadership

gift in support of Lyric's new *Ring* cycle. The Addingtons have also invested in the company's future through their planned gift to Lyric. Lyric is fortunate to have Dr. Whitney Addington as a member of its Board of Directors and Executive Committee.



Franco Tedeschi

AMERICAN AIRLINES

This season we celebrate 38 years of vital corporate partnership with American Airlines, the Official Airline of Lyric Opera of Chicago. In recognition of the company's significant contribution to the Building on Greatness Capital Campaign, the mezzanine

level of the Lyric Opera House is named the American Airlines Mezzanine. American Airlines provides important in-kind support for Lyric's programs and special events. Franco Tedeschi, Vice President of American Airlines, proudly serves on Lyric's Board of Directors and Labor Relations Committee.



The Paul M. Angell Family Foundation strives to advance society through the performing arts, conservation of the world's oceans, and alleviation of poverty. The Foundation's namesake, Paul M. Angell, founder of Newly Weds Foods, dedicated the early part of his life to serving his country and performing as a member of John Philip Sousa's U.S. Navy Band during World War I. He believed in hard work, self reliance, and optimism, and the

Foundation is intended to honor him and his ideals. At Lyric, the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation has been a loyal supporter of Lyric's Annual Campaign and Lyric Unlimited programming, and has generously committed to a high level of multi-year support.



JULIE AND ROGER BASKES

Lyric treasures the exemplary leadership and dedication of Julie and Roger Baskes. Subscribers for more than four decades, they have generously supported Lyric's Ryan Opera Center activities as previous cosponsors of

Rising Stars in Concert, and currently underwrite the Ryan Opera Center Recital Series on 98.7WFMT. They have cosponsored many productions including last season's *Elektra* and this season's *Luisa Miller*. They also made a leadership commitment to the Breaking New Ground Campaign to strengthen the future of Lyric Opera of Chicago. Lyric is honored to have Julie Baskes serve on its Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Julie is also Chairman of the Production Sponsorship Committee, and is a past President of the Ryan Opera Center Board.



MARLYS A. BEIDER

As an aficionada of Lyric for more than 30 years, Marlys has contributed to the Annual Campaign and is a Bel Canto Benefactor of the planned giving Overture Society. Her planned gift commitment created the

Marlys Beider Wigmaster and Makeup Designer Endowed Chair in memory of her late husband, Harold Beider. Marlys Beider cosponsored several productions including *Elektra* (2012/13), *Parsifal* (2013/14) and *Tosca* (2014/15), and has committed generous leadership gifts to cosponsor two of Lyric's new *Ring* cycle productions, *Das Rheingold* (2016/17) and this season's *Götterdämmerung*.



RANDY L. AND MELVIN R. BERLIN

Devoted fans of opera education and the arts, Randy and the late Melvin Berlin are beloved members of the Lyric family. "It's part of Chicago for us. It enriches the city and the community, and we like to be part of that,"

said the late Mr. Berlin. The Berlins have contributed significantly to the Annual Campaign and made a leadership gift to the Breaking New Ground Campaign. Together they have generously cosponsored many productions including last season's *West Side Story* and this season's *Madama Butterfly*.



BMO HARRIS BANK

At BMO, our purpose is to "Boldly Grow the Good, in business and life" by driving positive change for our customers, employees and the communities we serve. BMO is proud to support Lyric through various special projects and joined the

production sponsorship family last season supporting La traviata. BMO is supporting Lyric's chamber opera *Blue* this season. Lyric is honored to have Richard "Rick" Pomeroy, Senior Managing Director, BMO Family Office, serve on its Board of Directors and Investment Committee. "Opera is truly an inspiration. It affects how we see and interpret the world around us, and it's our hope that the support we provide Lyric will help increase exposure to such a beautiful form of BMO (Harris Bank artistic expression."





HENRY M. AND GILDA R. **BUCHBINDER FAMILY**

Dedicated lovers of the arts, Henry and Gilda Buchbinder are longstanding members of the Lyric family. Committed to sustaining the exceptional quality of Lyric's artistic

product, the Buchbinders made a leadership gift to Lyric's Breaking New Ground Campaign to name the Henry and Gilda Buchbinder Family Foundation Rehearsal Room. They have also been longtime generous donors to the Annual Campaign, and are members of the production sponsorship family, cosponsoring this season's production of Luisa Miller. "I really do believe that Lyric is the best opera company in the world," is Gilda's heartfelt assessment, to which Hank adds, "the productions are done so well, and stage sets are marvelous." Lyric is honored to have Gilda Buchbinder serve on its Board of Directors and the Production Sponsorship Committee.



BULLEY & ANDREWS

Founded 1891, Bulley & Andrews is one of the Midwest's most trusted and accomplished construction companies. The fourth generation, family-owned firm offers clients a full-range of construction services including general contracting,

construction management, design/build, and masonry and concrete restoration. Bulley & Andrews has, for many seasons, supported Lyric Unlimited's Performances for Students programs, and is a cosponsor of Lyric's Ring cycle. Lyric is pleased to have Allan E. Bulley,



THE BUTLER FAMILY FOUNDATION

Longtime members of the Lyric family from Dubuque, Iowa, John and Alice Butler recently made a leadership gift to Lyric's Breaking New Ground Campaign's stage improvement project. John says, "When Alice

John and Alice Butler and I heard that Lyric was unable to share productions with other houses due to our outdated and unreliable

stage technology, we understood that to be a serious problem that needed to be addressed. We believe in Lyric's mission to be the best opera company in North America, and in order to be the best, we must have access to the best productions." Lyric is honored to have John Butler serve on its Board of Directors and Investment Committee.



MARION A. CAMERON

Lyric is sincerely honored to have the support and leadership of Marion A. Cameron. A subscriber and donor for more than 20 years, Lyric gratefully acknowledges her outstanding generosity, through her

leadership gift to the Breaking New Ground Campaign, and her many production cosponsorships, including this season's Madama Butterfly. Ms. Cameron is the CEO of Sipi Metals Corp., which continues to support the widely popular Stars of Lyric Opera at Millennium Park concert. Marion Cameron is a member of Lyric's Board of Directors, Executive and Finance Committees, and Chair of the Investment Committee.



Elizabeth F. Cheney

ELIZABETH F. CHENEY FOUNDATION

Lyric remains deeply grateful for the longterm generosity of the Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation, one of Chicago's nonprofit leaders in arts support and their multi-year commitment to Lyric's Ryan Opera Center.

During the 2019/20 season, the Cheney Foundation is supporting the Director of Vocal Studies faculty position, the singer sponsorship of tenor Mario Rojas, and Guest Master Teacher and Artist residencies. Lyric is honored to have foundation director Allan Drebin serve on its Board of Directors and the Ryan Opera Center Board.



MRS. JOHN V. CROWE

Peggy and the late Jack Crowe are generous and passionate members of the Lyric family, evidenced by their major support of the Breaking New Ground Campaign and the Renée Fleming Initiative. Jack and Peggy

Crowe's significant contribution to Lyric was recognized in naming the Isabelle Cavagnaro Crowe Foyer on the fifth floor in memory of Jack Crowe's mother. Lyric was very fortunate to have Jack Crowe serve as an esteemed member of the Executive Committee of Lyric's Board of Directors. Their beloved daughter Mimi Mitchell, past President of Women's Board, is proud to carry on the family legacy as a newly appointed member of the Board Directors.



THE CROWN FAMILY

Two of Chicago's leading philanthropists, Renée and Lester Crown, are devoted patrons of Lyric. The Crown Family is a sponsor of the Renée Fleming Initiative and made generous gifts to Lyric's Annual Campaign and Breaking New Ground Campaign. Mrs. Crown is a past President of the Women's Board. Mr. Crown

joined Lyric's Board of Directors in 1977 and serves as Chairman

of the Executive Committee. In 2004, Renée and Lester Crown were recipients of the Carol Fox Award, presented in recognition of their outstanding leadership and commitment to Lyric. Lyric is also honored to have Mrs. Nancy Carrington Crown serve on its esteemed Women's Board. Lyric is forever indebted to The Crown Family for their many years of dedicated service to Lyric Opera of Chicago.

THE DAVEE FOUNDATION

Lyric is extremely grateful to The Davee Foundation and the late Ruth Dunbar and Ken M. Davee for their tremendous generosity over the years. The Foundation's exemplary support of Chicagoarea charities reflects the Davees' wide-ranging interests, including their great love of music and the arts. Lyric is fortunate to be among the organizations benefiting from The Davee Foundation's enduring philanthropy, which helps secure Lyric's future for generations to come. The Davee Foundation provided critical preliminary support to enhance amplification and sound systems used in Lyric's musicals and has generously cosponsored the annual musical including this season's 42^{nd} Street.



STEFAN T. EDLIS AND GAEL NEESON

Passionate patrons of the arts, Stefan Edlis and Gael Neeson are actively involved with organizations in Chicago, New York, and Aspen. Mr. Edlis and Ms. Neeson have supported and subscribed to Lyric for more

than 30 years. They have cosponsored six mainstage operas, including last season's *Siegfried*. Stefan and Gael also made a leadership gift to the Breaking New Ground Campaign. Lyric is honored to have Stefan Edlis serve on its Board of Directors and Production Sponsorship Committee.



Julius Franke

JULIUS FRANKEL FOUNDATION

A founding patron of Lyric Theatre (now Lyric Opera of Chicago) and a Lyric Board member at the time of his death in 1982, Julius Frankel devoted his philanthropic giving to making Chicago a great place to live and enjoy life. The Julius Frankel Foundation

has sustained this noble legacy under the guidance and longtime dedication of former trustees Nelson Cornelius and John Georgas and current trustee BMO Harris Bank, N.A. Lyric's audiences have benefited greatly from the Foundation's major grants for general operating support and production sponsorships. "Mr. Frankel was particularly interested in making Chicago one of the greatest places in the world to live and enjoy life," Nelson Cornelius once said. "The foundation's giving supports things that enhance the reputation of Chicago; which, of course, Lyric does." Lyric has named Mezzanine Box 25 in honor of Julius Frankel in grateful recognition of the Foundation's significant gift to the Breaking New Ground Campaign. Last season, the Julius Frankel Foundation was a generous cosponsor of Lyric's new coproduction of *La bohème*.



Elizabeth Morse Genius

ELIZABETH MORSE GENIUS CHARITABLE TRUST

One of two trusts established in memory of Elizabeth Morse Genius, daughter of 19th-century industrialist Charles Hosmer Morse, the Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust is a major, and deeply appreciated, leader among Lyric's contributors. Through the Trust's support

of classical fine arts, Co-Trustees Bank of America, N.A. and James L. Alexander seek to enrich the quality of life in Chicago, especially for youth and elderly citizens. In recognition of the Trust's Building on Greatness Capital Campaign support, Lyric named the distinctive Opera House chimes and music library in honor of Elizabeth Morse Genius. Along with its sister trust, The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust, the Genius Trust has sponsored many mainstage productions. In addition to production sponsorship, the Trust has helped underwrite Lyric's ongoing efforts to diversify its various boards and preserve Lyric's history through support of its Archives project. Most recently, Lyric named one of its key meeting rooms in its executive offices as the Elizabeth Morse Genius Conference Room in order to show its grateful appreciation for the Trust's significant gift to the Breaking New Ground Campaign, as well as to recognize the Trust's commitment over many years to helping build the company's core capacities and institutional infrastructure.



WILLIAM AND ETHEL GOFEN

William and Ethel Gofen have been attending Lyric Opera of Chicago productions for more than 50 years. They are generous donors to Lyric's Annual Campaign, and are members of Lyric's Production Sponsorship family,

cosponsoring this season's *The Three Queens* starring Sondra Radvanovsky. They have also made a leadership gift to the Breaking New Ground Campaign. Lyric is thrilled to have Ethel Gofen as a member of the Board of Directors and Lyric Unlimited Committee.



HOWARD L. GOTTLIEB AND BARBARA G. GREIS

Among Lyric's most devoted subscribers and patrons, Howard Gottlieb and Barbara Greis have generously supported Lyric through major contributions to the Annual Campaign

and the Breaking New Ground Campaign. They have cosponsored many productions, including this season's production of *Don Giovanni*. Mr. Gottlieb is the retired chairman of the Glenwood Investment Corporation and an accomplished violinist. In 2018, Mr. Gottlieb was given Lyric's highest honor, the Carol Fox Award, for his many years of generous service. Lyric is honored to have him serve as an active member of Lyric's Board of Directors and Executive Committee.

GRAMMA FISHER FOUNDATION

With an unparalleled record as sponsor of almost 30 new Lyric productions since the 1960s, the Gramma Fisher Foundation of Marshalltown, Iowa is a cornerstone of Lyric's legacy of world-class achievement in the arts. The Gramma Fisher Foundation

has made a leadership commitment to cosponsor this season's Ring cycle. Lyric is sincerely grateful for the enduring friendship and leadership of Christine Hunter, Howard Hunter and other members of the Fisher family. Lyric is fortunate to have two members of the Gramma Fisher Foundation Family serving in leadership roles; Matthew Fisher serves on its Board of Directors and Stephanie Fisher is an esteemed member of the Women's Board.



KAREN Z. GRAY-KREHBIEL AND JOHN H. KREHBIEL, JR.

Lyric is deeply grateful for the friendship and support of Karen Z. Gray-Krehbiel and John Krehbiel. Karen and John recently joined the production sponsor family with

their generous support of the 2016/17 season's Carmen and made a leadership gift to Wine Auction 2018. A devoted member of the Women's Board since 2008, Karen served as Chair of the Opening Night Opera Ball in 2011. Karen has also served on several committees for the Women's Board, most recently as the 2016 Board of Directors' Annual Meeting Chair. In addition, she contributed a very generous gift to the Breaking New Ground Campaign in support of stage renovations. The Krehbiel family plays a prominent role in the continued success of the company, and Lyric is proud to have Karen Gray-Krehbiel as a new member of Lyric's Board of Directors.



MR. & MRS. DIETRICH M. GROSS

Lyric deeply appreciates the enduring friendship and tremendous generosity of Dietrich and Erika Gross. Together, they have sponsored/cosponsored a total of 26 Lyric productions since 1987/88, including

this year's Ring cycle. Lyric is honored to name Mezzanine Box 20 in grateful recognition for their leadership gift to the Breaking New Ground Campaign. Dietrich Gross is an esteemed member of Lyric's Board of Directors and Executive Committee. In 2009, Lyric recognized the dedicated leadership and vital involvement of Dietrich Gross by granting him the Carol Fox Award, Lyric's most prestigious honor.



John R. Halligan

JOHN R. HALLIGAN **CHARITABLE FUND**

John R. Halligan was a devoted subscriber and patron of Lyric for many years until his death in 2001. With support from his Charitable Fund under the direction of the Fund's President, Norman J. Gantz, Mr.

Halligan's philanthropic legacy continues through very generous annual contributions to Lyric. The Halligan Fund is proud to support numerous artistic, cultural, and civic organizations which enhance our lifestyles, preserve our sense of history and heritage, instill knowledge, and advance our appreciation of nature. The fund focuses its attention on organizations based in the Chicago and Honolulu metropolitan areas, being the communities in which Mr. Halligan resided during his lifetime.



THE HARRIS FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Harris Family Foundation, represented by Pam Szokol and King and Caryn Harris, is a valued member of Lyric's production sponsorship family, most recently cosponsoring last season's Siegfried and this season's The

Caryn and King Harris Three Queens. The Harris Family Foundation also supports the Annual Campaign, and made a generous commitment to the Breaking New Ground Campaign to help secure Lyric's future. Lyric is thrilled to have Vice President of the Foundation Pam Szokol as a member of its Board of Directors and serving on its Development and Production Sponsorship Committees. Lyric is also grateful for the dedicated involvement of Caryn Harris. Caryn is an active member of the Women's Board and has held many leadership positions, most recently as Co-Chair of Opening Night/Opera Ball in 2015.



Dan Draper

INVESCO QQQ

Invesco QQQ, represented by Dan Draper, Managing Director and Head of Global Exchange Traded Funds, is proud to sponsor the arts as a corporate partner of Lyric. They previously cosponsored the productions of Cinderella and Romeo and Juliet (2015/16),

The Magic Flute (2016/17), Turandot (2017/18), and Cendrillon (2018/19). This season Invesco QQQ is a generous cosponsor of Madama Butterfly and the Lead Corporate Sponsor of 42nd Street. Invesco QQQ global network recognizes the value in helping investors around the world, but as members of the community in Downers Grove, "We are proud supporters both of Lyric's innovative programming and community engagement, and we laud their







efforts to foster a rich artist culture locally."

Lyric Opera of Chicago deeply appreciates the long tradition of sustaining support from Illinois Tool Works Inc. (ITW). The company has made vital contributions to the Annual Campaign and the Breaking New Ground Campaign, and since 2002, has cosponsored

the Opera Ball, one of Lyric's most important traditions. ITW has cosponsored many productions, including this season's revival of Madama Butterfly. Lyric is proud to have Chairman and CEO Scott Santi on its Board of Directors and Executive Committee, along with past ITW Chairmen and CEOs W. James Farrell, John Nichols, and the late David Speer.



JENNER & BLOCK

firms in the country. Jenner & Block has provided significant pro

Founded in 1914, Jenner & Block is a leading law firm with global impact and substantial experience in a broad range of legal issues. The firm has long played a prominent role in Chicago's legal and business communities, and is consistently ranked as one of the top

bono legal expertise to Lyric, along with generous contributions to the Breaking New Ground Campaign and the Annual Campaign. Lyric is fortunate to have Craig C. Martin, Partner and Chair of Jenner & Block's Litigation Department, as a valued member of its Board of Directors, Nominating/Governance, and Executive Committees.

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PATRICIA A. KENNEY AND GREGORY J. O'LEARY

Pat Kenney and Greg O'Leary are longtime subscribers and generous donors to Lyric, with a particular passion for supporting the emerging artists of The Patrick G., and

Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center. Greg serves on the Ryan Opera Center Board on its Fundraising Committee, and Greg and Pat have cosponsored the season-culminating Rising Stars in Concert for seven consecutive years. Greg is a proud member of the Lyric Board of Directors. This season, Pat and Greg are the Mainstage Conductor Sponsors of Enrique Mazzola, leading the production of *Luisa Miller*. Lyric is deeply grateful for their longstanding friendship. "We are thrilled to help Lyric and the Ryan Opera Center with their mission of providing world class opera and training for singers, respectively. Every time we think they hit the high plateau, they ascend to another."



KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP

Kirkland & Ellis LLP has a more than 100year history of providing exceptional service to clients in Chicago and around the world in complex litigation, corporate and tax, intellectual property, restructuring, and counseling matters. The firm is committed

to enhancing quality of life through educational opportunities, cultural awareness, youth programs, and community outreach. Kirkland & Ellis LLP has cosponsored several operas and special events in recent seasons, and is the Presenting Sponsor of Wine Auction 2021. Lyric is fortunate to have Linda K. Myers, a Partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP, as a member of its Board of Directors."





NANCY AND SANFRED KOLTUN

Close members of the Lyric family as longtime subscribers and generous supporters of the Ryan Opera Center and Lyric Unlimited, Nancy and Sanfred are valued members of the production

sponsorship family, and cosponsor this season's production of *Don Giovanni*. "In the fall of 1954, I attended *Carmen*, staged by the precursor of the Lyric. That night I fell in love with *Carmen*, opera, and my date. We were married shortly thereafter. Nancy and I have loved Lyric and have always supported one of the most cherished cultural institutions of Chicago. It is our hope that our children, grandchildren and those beyond will be able to attend the Lyric and appreciate what a gem is in their midst."



MR. AND MRS. FRED A. KREHBIEL

Kay and Fred Krehbiel are longstanding dedicated members of the Lyric Opera family. Lyric gratefully acknowledges their generous contributions to Wine Auction, the Annual Campaign, and the Breaking New Ground

Campaign. Kay Krehbiel is a leading and cherished member of Lyric's Women's Board, and Fred Krehbiel is a National Director of Lyric's Board of Directors.



JOSEF AND MARGOT LAKONISHOK

Devoted members of the Lyric family, Josef and Margot Lakonishok have subscribed to Lyric for many seasons. They have contributed to the Annual Campaign and made a significant gift to the Breaking

New Ground Campaign. They have also cosponsored several mainstage productions, including last season's *Ariodante* and this season's *Queen of Spades*. The CEO of LSV Asset Management, Josef Lakonishok is a dedicated member of Lyric's Board of Directors, serving on the Executive, Finance, and Investment Committees.



NIX LAURIDSEN AND VIRGINIA CROSKERY LAURIDSEN

Nix Lauridsen and Virginia Croskery Lauridsen of Des Moines, Iowa, support many initiatives at Lyric, including special gifts to The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan

Opera Center and Lyric Unlimited. This season, they continue as Lead Sponsors of the Ryan Opera Center Final Auditions, and also cosponsor Sir Bryn Terfel in Recital, having previously supported Lyric Unlimited's presentation of *An American Dream* last season. As an alumna of the Ryan Opera Center, Virginia is thrilled that she and her husband Nix are able to support these incredible, emerging artists. Nix is the chairman of LGI (Lauridsen Group Inc.) and a recent inductee into the Iowa Business Hall of Fame. He is a relative newcomer to the opera world but loves the excitement of the genre. The Lauridsens are pleased to be part of the Lyric family and look forward to an exciting new season.

JOHN D. AND CATHERINE T. MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation supports creative people, effective institutions, and influential networks building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. MacArthur is placing a few big bets that truly significant progress is possible on some of the world's most pressing social challenges, including over-incarceration, global climate change, nuclear risk, and significantly increasing financial capital for the social sector. In addition to the MacArthur Fellows Program, the Foundation supports creativity in Chicago through its arts and culture grantmaking. The Foundation's support helps create powerful performances and exhibitions, educate young people, and engage communities, while providing arts and culture organizations the flexibility to innovate and experiment.

Lyric is very grateful for the ongoing support of the MacArthur Foundation.

MacArthur Foundation



Joseph O. Rubinelli, Jr., Mary Jane Rubinelli, Nicholas J. Lavezzorio, and Joan Lavezzorio **Schniedwind**

MAZZA FOUNDATION

Lyric deeply appreciates the abiding friendship and generosity of the Mazza Foundation. Under the guidance of its directors, Mary Jane Rubinelli, Nicholas J. Lavezzorio, Joseph O. Rubinelli, Jr., and Joan Lavezzorio Schniedwind, the Mazza Foundation provided major support for the Student Matinees for many years, helping Lyric introduce the majesty and grandeur of opera to thousands of young people each

season. Since 2005, the Mazza Foundation has been part of the production sponsorship family, most recently cosponsoring last season's production of Elektra and this season's Don Giovanni.



Marilyn Pearson

MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY

McDermott Will & Emery partners with leaders around the world to fuel missions, knock down barriers and shape markets. With more than 20 locations on three continents, our team works seamlessly across practices, industries and geographies to deliver highly

effective—and often unexpected—solutions that propel success. More than 1,100 lawyers strong, we bring our personal passion and legal prowess to bear in every matter for our clients and for the people they serve. Marilyn Pearson, McDermott's Employment Practice Group, and others at our firm, are proud to support Lyric in its mission to enrich Chicago's communities and art and culture.





Fred and Nancy McDougal

LAUTER MCDOUGAL **CHARITABLE FUND**

Nancy and her late husband Alfred have provided longstanding, vital support to the Annual Campaign as well as The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center, including Rising Stars in Concert. Last season, Nancy generously gave additional support as a

cosponsor of La traviata, Lyric Unlimited's Chicago premiere of An American Dream and the Chicago Urban League arts immersion partnership EmpowerYouth!

THE MONUMENT TRUST (UK)

Lyric is grateful for the generosity of The Monument Trust and its Chairman of trustees Stewart Grimshaw, who initiated their support for the cosponsorship of Rusalka in 2013/14 and five productions since, including last season's Ariodante. The Monument Trust is a passionate supporter of the arts in the U.K. and U.S.



MR. AND MRS. ROBERT S. MORRISON

Susan and Bob Morrison are devoted members of the Lyric Opera family. Both are loyal subscribers and patrons who take an active role in nurturing Lyric's success.

Susan Morrison is a leading member of the Women's Board.

Lyric is fortunate to have Bob Morrison serve as a member of its Board of Directors. The Morrisons have generously supported the Opera Ball and Wine Auction as well as the Annual Campaign for many years. They provided a substantial gift to the Breaking New Ground Campaign and supported the Renee Fleming 25th Anniversary Gala. Proud sponsors of Lyric's Musical Theatre Initiative, Susan and Bob have cosponsored many of Lyric's musicals including last season's West Side Story. "Lyric reaches patrons at every level. People are here because they love it. They're welcomed, embraced, and made to feel part of a family."



Elizabeth Morse Genius

THE ELIZABETH MORSE **CHARITABLE TRUST**

Lyric sincerely appreciates the tremendous ongoing support of The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust, as well as the invaluable leadership of the Trust's Co-Trustees JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. and James L. Alexander. One of two trusts established in

memory of Elizabeth Morse Genius, daughter of 19th-century industrialist Charles Hosmer Morse, The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust supports non-profit organizations that reflect the values of thrift, humility, industry, self-sufficiency, and selfsacrifice, such as Lyric. The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust, along with its sister trust, the Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust, has cosponsored many mainstage productions. To show its grateful appreciation for The Trust's generous gift to the Breaking New Ground Campaign, as well as to recognize The Trust's commitment for more than fifteen years helping build the company's core capacities and institutional infrastructure, Lyric named one of its key meeting rooms BETHMORSE

in its executive offices the Elizabeth Morse Conference Room.



ALLAN AND ELAINE MUCHIN

Allan and Elaine Muchin are longtime, valued members of the Lyric family. Allan served as President and CEO of Lyric from 2001 to 2006 and is currently Co-Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Directors and serves on the

Executive Committee. The Muchins have staunchly supported the Annual Campaign, Operathon, and the Stars of Lyric Opera at Millennium Park concert, and have committed leadership gifts to the Building on Greatness Capital Campaign, the Campaign for Excellence, and the Breaking New Ground Campaign. Allan and Elaine recently became members of Lyric's production sponsorship family with their cosponsorship of this season's Barber of Seville. Lyric is extremely grateful for Allan and Elaine Muchin's munificent friendship.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

Our support from the National Endowment for the Arts: Grants awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) have played a leading role in the advancement of Lyric's programming and expansion of the operatic repertoire, serving the public good by fostering creativity and artistic excellence in America. Through production and program funding as well as a major challenge grant, awards from the NEA have nurtured Lyric's world-class artistic achievements. The Endowment has funded important artistic initiatives at Lyric such as American Horizons, Great American Voices, and Toward the 21st Century. The NEA has provided vital support for numerous Lyric Opera premieres, new productions, and revivals,

most recently last season's *Siegfried* and this season's *Ring* cycle.



THE NEGAUNEE FOUNDATION

The founder of The Negaunee Foundation has great affection for music, the performing arts, and Mozart. These interests, combined with a strong admiration of Lyric, have been instrumental in bringing operas to Lyric's mainstage. The Negaunee Foundation has cosponsored many productions, most recently last season's productions of *Idomeneo* and *West Side Story*. This season the foundation is the lead sponsor of both *Don Giovanni* and 42^{nd} *Street*. The Negaunee Foundation has also made a generous gift to the Breaking New Ground Campaign. Lyric is very fortunate to be among the Chicago cultural institutions benefiting from The Negaunee Foundation's leadership and financial commitment. Lyric is honored to have The Negaunee Foundation's president serve as a member of its Board of Directors and Audit Committee.



SYLVIA NEIL AND DANIEL FISCHEL

Sylvia and Dan have been loyal Lyric Opera of Chicago subscribers and donors for many years, and have cosponsored several mainstage opera productions, including last season's *Elektra* and this season's *Madama*

Butterfly. They made a generous gift to the Breaking New Ground Campaign to help secure Lyric's future. "It has been very enjoyable to become part of the Lyric family and to give back to a place that has given us so much pleasure. There have been many moments for both Dan and me when we have said, tonight is incredible, it is one of the memorable performances of our lifetime. Lyric Opera of Chicago is an international star and it is evidenced by the people who choose to be involved here." Lyric is honored to have Sylvia Neil serve on its Board of Directors, Executive, Production Sponsorship, and Lyric Unlimited Committees. Sylvia also serves as the Chair of the Development Committee and is Lyric's Chair-Elect.



Jerry and Elaine Nerenberg

THE NERENBERG FOUNDATION

During their lifetimes, Jerry and Elaine Nerenberg were passionate supporters of Lyric and subscribed for more than 30 years. They were especially supportive of The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center and loved to watch these young artists perform and grow at Lyric Opera of Chicago.

Jerry Nerenberg and his wife Elaine passed away in 2005 and 2007, respectively. In their wills, they established The Jerome and Elaine Nerenberg Foundation, which was funded to make generous annual grants to Lyric for many years to come. Lyric is

very appreciative of the Nerenbergs' thoughtfulness and generosity in creating this planned gift.



NIB FOUNDATION

Founding owners/managers of former radio station WNIB, Sonia and the late William Florian established the NIB Foundation to extend their support to many worthwhile arts and environmental causes. Sonia is a devoted member of the Lyric family,

having subscribed to Lyric for more than four decades. The NIB Foundation continues to cosponsor many mainstage productions including this season's production of *Luisa Miller*, and made a major commitment to the Breaking New Ground Campaign. In addition to their magnanimous financial support, Mr. and Mrs. Florian and the NIB Foundation gave their valuable collection of operatic and other vocal recordings to Lyric, making Lyric's Educational Library Collection one of the most extensive collections of its kind in the country. Sonia Florian very generously provided a naming gift for the Florian Opera Bistro located on the third floor of the Lyric Opera House. Sonia is a vital member of Lyric's Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and Production Sponsorship Committee, and was awarded the Carol Fox

Award, Lyric's most prestigious honor, in 2015 for her outstanding commitment to the company.





JOHN D. AND ALEXANDRA C. NICHOLS

Longtime enthusiasts of arts and culture in Chicago, John D. and Alexandra C. Nichols have steadfastly supported the Annual Campaign, and are generous sponsors of the

Renée Fleming Initiative. Lyric is extremely grateful for John and Alexandra Nichols' significant leadership contributions to both the Campaign for Excellence and the Breaking New Ground Campaign, establishing the John D. and Alexandra C. Nichols Grand Staircase. They have also provided a generous gift endowing Lyric's Music Director position, the John D. and Alexandra C. Nichols Endowed Chair, currently held by Sir Andrew Davis. Retired Chairman and CEO of Illinois Tool Works and Retired Vice Chairman and CEO of The Marmon Group, Inc., John Nichols is also a dedicated National Director of Lyric's Board of Directors. "Our involvement with the opera company is a deeply rewarding experience for both of us," John said. In 2019, John and Alexandra Nichols were bestowed Lyric's highest honor, the Carol Fox Award, in recognition of their leadership and dedication to Lyric.



Steven L. Fradkin

NORTHERN TRUST

A leading global financial services provider, Northern Trust has enjoyed a long-standing and significant relationship with Lyric. Based in Chicago, the firm has played a major role supporting the Annual Campaign and Lyric Unlimited. Northern Trust also provides

vital leadership contributions to Lyric as presenting sponsor of

the triennial Wine Auction since 2000, and as cosponsor of the Opera Ball (annually since 1998). In addition, Northern Trust has cosponsored several mainstage productions including last season's *West Side Story*. Lyric is honored to have William A. Osborn, Northern Trust's retired chairman and CEO, serve as a member of Lyric's Board of Directors and Executive Committee, and Steven L. Fradkin, President of Wealth Management on Lyric's Board of Directors. "Being a good corporate citizen is very important," William Osborn once said.

"It allows us to do our part to help keep the City of Chicago strong and viable and, in the end, this is beneficial to everyone."





MR. AND MRS. DAVID T. ORMESHER

Lyric is sincerely grateful for the devotion of David and Sheila Ormesher. David is founder and CEO of closerlook, inc., a Chicagobased digital marketing agency serving the pharmaceutical industry. closerlook has given

generously to Lyric for many years, sponsoring Fantasy of the Opera from 2009 to 2014 and Stars of Lyric Opera at Millennium Park concert as the lead sponsor for eight consecutive years. Lyric is proud to have David T. Ormesher serving as its Chairman of the Board of Directors, on the Executive Committee, and on all subcommittees of the Board.



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM A. OSBORN

Bill and Cathy Osborn are devoted members of the Lyric Opera family. They have subscribed to Lyric for over two decades and enjoy participating in special events such as Opening Night/Opera Ball and

Wine Auction. The Osborns have generously contributed to the Annual Campaign and the Breaking New Ground Campaign. Cathy Osborn, a valued member of Lyric's Women's Board, was Co-Chairman of Lyric's highly successful Wine Auction 2009, and Chairman of Opera Ball 2013. William A. Osborn, Northern Trust's Retired Chairman and CEO, is a member of Lyric's Board of Directors and Executive Committee.

PRINCE CHARITABLE TRUSTS

The Prince Charitable Trusts support a broad array of programs in Chicago, Washington, DC, and Rhode Island, and Lyric is fortunate to be among the beneficiaries of the generosity of the Trusts' Chicago and Washington, DC branches. Lyric's esteemed Women's Board includes Diana Prince and Meredith Wood-Prince as members. The Trusts provided principal support for Lyric's world premiere of *Bel Canto* through their award of the 2013 Prince Prize for Commissioning Original Work to composer Jimmy López, as well as sponsoring the summer 2014 workshop presentation of the piece. This season, in addition to ongoing general operations funding, The Trusts are generously supporting Lyric's new production



Mr. and Mrs. Jay A. Pritzker

PRITZKER FOUNDATION

The Pritzker Foundation is a leading supporter of arts and education philanthropies in Chicago. Lyric Opera of Chicago is truly grateful for the Pritzker Foundation's generous support of the Breaking New Ground Campaign to underwrite the Pritzker Family Concert Shell, designed by renowned

Chicago architect Jeanne Gang and Studio Gang architects. Lyric is honored to have Life Member Mrs. Jay A. Pritzker and M. K. Pritzker serve on its esteemed Women's Board.



ANNE AND CHRIS REYES

Anne and Chris Reyes are prominent members of the Lyric family. A past President of Lyric's Women's Board, Anne also serves on Lyric's Board of Directors, Executive and Lyric Unlimited Committees; Chris is an esteemed

past member of the Board of Directors. Together they have made important contributions to Lyric as cosponsors of several mainstage productions, including the 2017/18 season's *Jesus Christ Superstar*. They have staunchly supported the Wine Auction and are major supporters of the Annual Campaign, Breaking New Ground Campaign, and Lyric Unlimited.



PATRICK G. RYAN AND SHIRLEY WELSH RYAN

Lyric cherishes the enduring friendship and dedication of Patrick G. and Shirley Welsh Ryan. Since 1966 when they first subscribed to Lyric as newlyweds, they have shared their

leadership, talents, vision, and resources to advance Lyric's mission. Over the past four decades, the Ryans have contributed generously to the Annual Campaign, Wine Auctions (which Mrs. Ryan initiated in 1988), and the Breaking New Ground Campaign in support of the Innovation Initiative. In recognition of his leadership role in the Building on Greatness Capital Campaign, Pat Ryan was a recipient of the 1994 Carol Fox Award. For many seasons, they have sponsored Lyric Opera Commentaries, underwriting this special project to honor the memory of their parents. The Ryans are sponsors of the Renée Fleming Initiative and Lyric's premier artist development program was renamed The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center in recognition of their extraordinary gift to the Campaign for Excellence. Pat and Shirley serve as Honorary Co-Chairs of the Ryan Opera Center Board. A Vice President and a member of the Executive, Nominating/ Governance, Development, and Lyric Labs Committees of Lyric's Board of Directors and a distinguished former President of the Women's Board, Shirley Welsh Ryan was awarded the 2007 Carol Fox Award, Lyric's most prestigious honor, in recognition of her many years of devoted service to the company.

of Wagner's Ring cycle.



RICHARD O. RYAN

Lyric is deeply grateful for Richard's passionate support of The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center, Lyric's premier artist-development program, through singer cosponsorship and last season's *Unprohibited* fundraiser at the

Casino Club. An ardent opera lover, Richard has been a Lyric subscriber for more than 45 years. He recently made a generous leadership commitment to Lyric's Breaking New Ground Campaign for the stage improvement project. Richard proudly serves as a member of the Ryan Opera Center Board, and is a new member of the Lyric Board of Directors.



Catherine Scholl

DR. SCHOLL FOUNDATION

Since 1983, the Dr. Scholl Foundation's commitment to children, families and educational enrichment through the arts has led it to provide essential support for one of Lyric's most popular cultural engagement opportunities available to young Chicagoans, the Student Matinees. Each year, these widely

accessible performances at Lyric reach audiences of junior high and high school students, many of whom are experiencing opera for the first time. Lyric Opera of Chicago is deeply grateful to the Dr. Scholl Foundation for its very generous ongoing support of Student Matinees/Performances for Students, commemorating Catherine A. and Jack E. Scholl, who championed cultural and institutional education.



Rose and Sydney Shure

SHURE CHARITABLE TRUST

Rose and Sydney Shure gave generously throughout their lifetimes to organizations that brought them joy. Upon her death in 2016, Rose left bequests to several charitable organizations, including Lyric. In addition, Lyric is grateful to receive continued support from the Shure Charitable Trust created

under the Will of Sidney N. Shure who passed away in 1995. "She truly loved Lyric; it was one of her most revered charities," her niece Barbara Levie says. "They had four subscription seats for every opera, and even after my uncle died, my aunt would invite three people to go with her and take them to dinner in the Graham Room before the opera." To honor them, the Trust named the Shures' four subscription seats on the main floor of the Ardis Krainik Theatre with plaques reading, "In Loving Memory of Rose L. and Sidney N. Shure."



SHURE INCORPORATED

Founded in 1925, Shure Incorporated is widely acknowledged as the world's leading manufacturer of microphones and audio electronics. Over the years, the company has designed and produced many high-quality professional and consumer audio

products that have become legendary for performance, reliability, and value. Shure's diverse product line includes world-class wired microphones, wireless microphone systems, in-ear

personal monitoring systems, conferencing and discussion systems, networked audio systems, award-winning earphones and headphones, and top-rated phonograph cartridges. Today, Shure products are the first choice whenever audio performance is a top priority. Lyric is honored to have partnered with Shure Incorporated for many years and is grateful to have Christine Schyvinck, President and CEO of Shure Incorporated, on its Board of Directors. Shure Incorporated generously provided major in-kind audio support for Lyric's annual spring musical, including this season's 42nd Street.



LIZ STIFFEL

A passionate devotee of opera and loyal subscriber at Lyric, Liz is a prominent member of Lyric's Women's Board and a longstanding member of the Guild Board of Directors. She has cosponsored many

mainstage productions, most recently last season's *La bohème*, and she was the lead sponsor of the Renée Fleming 25th Anniversary Concert & Gala. This season, she cosponsored *Barber of Seville* and *Luisa Miller*. Lyric has named Mezzanine Box 1 in recognition of her significant gift to the Breaking New Ground Campaign. Liz Stiffel was awarded the 2017 Carol Fox Award, Lyric's most prestigious honor, in recognition of her continuing dedication to Lyric. "I believe that Lyric and all art forms are beacons of light that shine as examples of the best that mankind has to offer to our children, our nation, and ourselves."



Donna Van Eekeren

DONNA VAN EEKEREN FOUNDATION

Donna Van Eekeren is a devoted opera fan, Lyric subscriber, and generous supporter of the Ryan Opera Center. She enjoys encouraging talented young artists as Lead Sponsor of Rising Stars in Concert

and Exclusive Sponsor of its radio rebroadcast on 98.7WFMT. Reflecting her passion for introducing young people to opera, the Donna Van Eekeren Foundation has supported Lyric's Performances for Students, NEXT discount tickets for college students, and Opera in the Neighborhoods. The Donna Van Eekeren Foundation has cosponsored several mainstage productions including last season's production of *La traviata* and this season's *42nd Street*. Donna also made a leadership gift to the Breaking New Ground Campaign to help secure Lyric's future. Donna Van Eekeren is a valued member of Lyric's Board of Directors, serving as Secretary of the Board, on the Executive and Finance Committees, and on the Ryan Opera Center Board.



Carol and William Vance

MRS. HERBERT A. VANCE AND MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM C. VANCE

Lyric Opera appreciates the generosity and leadership of the Vance Family. The Vances have sponsored/cosponsored several Lyric premieres and new productions, including this season's *Queen of Spades*. Mr. and Mrs. William C. Vance are generous sponsors of

the Renée Fleming Initiative. Mr. Vance is Vice President and an esteemed member of Lyric's Board of Directors and Executive Committee. He also serves as a life member of the Ryan Opera Center Board, of which he is a past President. Bill Vance was awarded the 2016 Carol Fox Award, Lyric's most prestigious honor.



ROBERTA L. AND ROBERT J. WASHLOW

Roberta and Bob Washlow are cherished members of the Lyric family. For more than four decades, they have enjoyed attending Lyric performances and special events, and

have generously supported the Annual Campaign. Since 1986, the Port, Washlow, and Errant families together have sponsored more than 20 Lyric productions. The Washlows made a generous commitment to the Breaking New Ground Campaign to support Lyric Unlimited activities. Roberta and Bob have annually remained valued members of the production sponsorship family, and generously cosponsor this season's production of *Dead Man Walking*, their twelfth opera cosponsorship, continuing a beloved family tradition. Lyric is honored to have Roberta Washlow as an

esteemed member of its Board of Directors and Lyric Unlimited Committee. "Opera has always touched me," Roberta once said. "I love the drama, passion, music, and excitement of a live performance at Lyric. Nothing can replace it, and I hope this beautiful art form will continue for generations."



HELEN AND SAM ZELL

Helen and Sam Zell are passionate supporters of Chicago's vibrant cultural scene. They are longtime subscribers of Lyric and have contributed to the Annual Campaign for many years. Helen and Sam

have cosponsored several new productions, most recently all four installments of Lyric's new *Ring* cycle, including this season's *Götterdämmerung*.



ANN ZIFF

Ann Ziff is one of the country's leading arts supporters, serving as Chairman of the Metropolitan Opera, Vice Chair of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, and a member of the board of the Los Angeles

Opera and Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Previously at Lyric, Ann sponsored Dmitri Hvorostovsky in Recital, and in honor of her close friendship with Renée Fleming, Ms. Ziff co-sponsored her Lyric appearances in concert with Dmitri Hvorostovsky in 2012 and Jonas Kaufmann in 2014. Last season, she was a Platinum Sponsor of the Renée Fleming 25th Anniversary Concert & Gala. Lyric is a grateful beneficiary of Ann Ziff's munificent generosity and friendship.





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Supporting our future— endowments at Lyric

As a perpetual fund, annually distributing a designated portion of earnings and investment income, endowments provide a steady source of funding so Lyric can be a leader in the opera world now and into the future.

LYRIC ENDOWED CHAIRS

Supports Established by Chorus Master Howard A. Stotler Mrs. R. Robert Funderburg, Concertmaster in honor of Sally Funderburg Costume Designer Richard P. and Susan Kiphart General Director The Women's Board, in loving memory of Ardis Krainik Lighting Director Mary-Louise and James S. Aagaard, in honor of Duane Schuler Music Director John D. and Alexandra C. Nichols Production and Technical Director+ Allan and Elaine Muchin

Ryan Opera Center Music Director Ryan Opera Center Director

Wigmaster and Makeup Designer+

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Anonymous

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This list includes endowments that have received partial funding and endowments that will be funded with a future commitment—to learn more about contributing to an existing endowment or establishing your own endowment please contact Lyric's Gift Planning Office at 312.827.5654 or email gift_planning@lyricopera.org.

LYRIC UNLIMITED - LEARNING & CREATIVE

The Chapters' Education Endowment, in memory of Alfred Glasser

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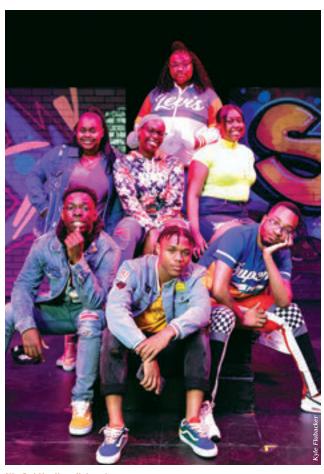
ENGAGEMENT ENDOWMENT FUNDS Katherine A. Abelson Education Endowment

Future Planned Gift

Faces of Lyric



Anthony Freud, Nancy Searle, Ellen O'Connor, Elizabeth O'Connor Cole, and David Ormesher at Opening Night



We Got Next! participants



Kara Killmer and Andrew Cheney on the red



Anthony Freud, Mark Tatro and Margarita Chavez, and Sir Andrew Davis at Opera Ball



Chicago Public School students rush to see the dress rehearsal of *The Barber of Seville*.



Barber of Seville star, Lawrence Brownlee with Liz Stiffel



Halloween at the opera



Sister Helen Prejean, Anthony Freud, Jake Heggie, and Roberta Washlow



A conversation with Sister Helen Prejean and Jake Heggie moderated by George Preston.



Susan Graham, star of *Dead Man Walking*, during the 2017 | 18 season



Ryan Opera Center members Kayleigh Decker and Christopher Kenney



Sister Helen Prejean speaks with Whitney Morrison, who will portray Sister Rose in Lyric's Dead Man Walking

PASSION... Pass it on.

The Overture Society

To learn more about leaving a lasting legacy at Lyric please contact **Mike Biver**, Director of Gift Planning mbiver@lyricopera.org | 312-827-5655

"

Experiencing great opera has been a rewarding part of our lives. We believe it's the duty of our generation to make opera available for future audiences, that's why we've included Lyric in our estate plans.

William A. & Rhoda Ann Miller

Lyric

The Overture Society at Lyric

This group consists of dedicated supporters who have designated a special gift, through bequests, trusts or other planned giving arrangements, to benefit Lyric into the future.

ARIA BENEFACTORS

Lyric deeply appreciates the extraordinary support of the following individuals who have made significant leadership gifts and who comprise the Aria Benefactors of The Overture Society. Lyric is grateful to all of them for their generous support. Anonymous (3) Paul and Mary Anderson Family Foundation Marlys A. Beider Dr. C. Bekerman Christopher Carlo and Robert Chaney David and Orit Carpenter James W. Chamberlain Robert F. Finke and Carol Keenan Mary Patricia Gannon James K. Genden and Alma Koppedraijer Bruce A. Gober, M.D. and Donald H. Ratner Howard Gottlieb Sue and Melvin Grav James C. Kemmerer Dr. Petra B. Krauledat and Dr. W. Peter Hansen Philip G. Lumpkin Robert C. Marks John Nigh Irma Parker Julia Pernet Lyn and Bill Redfield Richard Ryan Dr. Robert G. Zadylak Drs. Russ and Joan Zajtchuk

BEL CANTO BENEFACTORS

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In addition to their Overture Society membership earned through making a major planned gift to Lyric, these members also make a generous annual gift. Lyric is grateful to all of them for their generous support. Anonymous (4) Mrs. James S. Aagaard Louise Abrahams Dr. Whitney Addington Karen G. Andreae Mr. and Mrs. Ron Beata Merrill and Judy Blau Ann Blickensderfer Danolda (Dea) Brennan Dr. Gerald and Mrs. Linda Budzik Amy and Paul Carbone Thomas Doran La and Philip Engel

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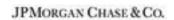








































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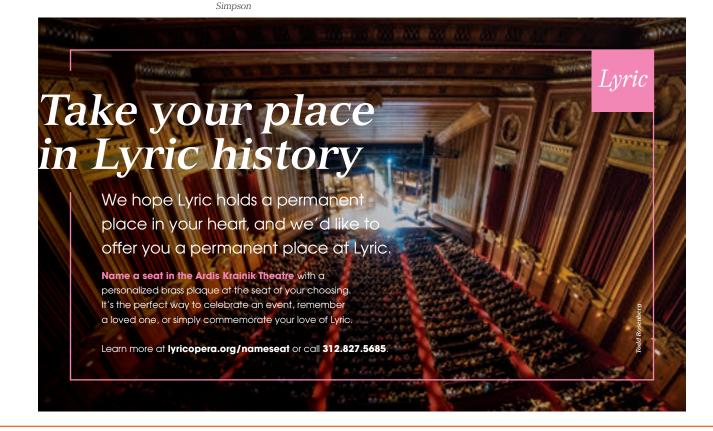
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Christopher Ainsley, Lyric Labs Strategic Projects Office Director Kara Riopelle, Lyric Labs Strategic Projects Office Manager

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Stephanie Karr, Senior Director
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Administration Associate,
Orchestra and Ballet
Sarah Cohn, Music Administration
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Supervisor

Manager

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Senior Director, Production
Katrina Bachus
Jordan Lee Braun
David Carl Toulson
Assistant Stage Directors
John W. Coleman
Rachel C. Henneberry
Rachel A. Tobias
Stage Managers
Alaina Bartkowiak
Rachel C. Henneberry
Daniel Sokalski

Briette Madrid, Stage Door

Sheila Matthews, Front of House

Lena Reynolds-Sneed, Assistant

Peggy Stenger
Amy C. Thompson
Rachel A. Tobias
Bill Walters
Sandra Zamora
Assistant Stage Managers
Ben Bell Bern, Rehearsal
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Kevin Krasinski,
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Marina Vecci,
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Richard "Doc" Wren,

Dan Donahue

Warehouse Coordinator

Warehouse Coordinator

Dan DiBennardi, Assistant

Justin Hull Ryan McGovern Assistant Carpenters Anthony Bernardy Connor Ingersoll John Ingersoll Aiden McGovern Johnny Rivers Chase Torringa Carpenters Michael C. Reynolds, Master Electrician Soren Ersbak, Board Operator John Clarke, Jr. Anthony Coia Thomas Hull Robert Reynolds Assistant Electricians Jason Combs Thomas Fernandez Gary Grenda Brian Hobbs Daniel Kuh Asiel Simpson Jose Villalpando Electricians Joe Schofield Head Audio Technician Nick Charlan Matt Eble Kelvin Ingram Audio Technicians Charles Reilly, Property Master Michael McPartlin, Properties Crew Head Phil Marcotte, Prop Carpenter Bob Ladd, Armorer Rachel Boultinghouse, Upholsterer Robert Hartge Michael O'Donnell, Jr. Richard Tyriver Assistant Properties Michael Buerger Joseph Collins Adam Gorsky Gordon Granger Joe Mathesius Kevin McPartlin Luigi Trupiano **Properties** Brian Traynor Charge Artist Tim Morrison Michael Murtaugh Scenic Artists Maureen Reilly, Costume Director, The Richard P. and Susan Kiphart Endowed Chair Lucy Lindquist, Wardrobe Mistress Kristine Anderson

Louie Barrios

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Backstage life: Yin Shen

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE AT LYRIC, AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU HELD THE POSITION?

I am the second violin principal. I have been in the position for 12 years.

WHAT LED YOU TO WORK AT LYRIC?

I went to my very first live opera at Lyric – it was such a beautiful performance. I was a graduate student at Roosevelt University, and I came with my roommate, who is a soprano. We saw *The Magic Flute*. The staging and singing were great. The orchestra's playing was first- class, with Sir Andrew Davis conducting. It was an unforgettable experience to watch a live performance. I thought it would be great to have a job in the Lyric Opera Orchestra. I took the audition a couple of years later, when I was a violinist in the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. I have been privileged to serve in the Lyric Orchestra ever since. I started playing violin at age four, and had watched some opera videos with my father when I was a kid. I am from Zhejiang, on the east China coast, and came to the United States in 2002 after I graduated from Shanghai Conservatory of Music.

WHAT'S A TYPICAL DAY LIKE FOR YOU?

I wake up around 7 a. m. and take care of my two-year-old daughter. Around 10 a.m. I take the Orange line to work, just a couple of stops. Our rehearsals usually start at 11 a.m. I usually get to the pit a half hour before rehearsal, so I can warm up and practice a little bit. After the rehearsal starts, we work through the piece with the conductor. Some rehearsals go smoothly, while some can be very intense. After the singers join us, we need to pay more attention to the vocal parts. Following the conductor and listening to the singers while we are playing keeps us busy. After rehearsals, I go home and make dinner. I try to make simple, mostly Chinese dishes. I can't say I enjoy cooking, but I do enjoy making food for my family. In the evening I practice one or two hours if there is no performance. After practicing, I have some relaxing time watching Chinese drama on TV before going to bed.



WHAT'S THE MOST CHALLENGING ASPECT OF YOUR JOB?

I have found trying to play perfectly is the most challenging. In my opinion, there are two types of orchestra parts. Some works, like Verdi's *La traviata*, appear to be easy note-wise, yet stylistically, they are difficult to execute. Other works, like Wagner's *Siegfried*, are technically hard. Those pieces require long hours of studying the score, listening to recordings, and practicing difficult passages diligently. To me, to achieve and maintain a high performance level and to keep fresh insight of the works is most challenging.

WHAT KEEPS YOU COMMITTED TO THE WORK YOU DO?

I like my job, and enjoy the music I play. In the beginning years of working in the Lyric Opera Orchestra, all the operas performed in the season were new to me. It could be challenging, but I enjoyed learning them. Through the years, the familiar works accumulated. And now, each season, I run into a few of them that I performed before. It's like revisiting an old book. One is comforted by the familiar characters, and yet refreshed by some new discoveries along the way. I am sure that our paths will across again in the years to come, and this learning and relearning process is exciting and gratifying to me. I will say I enjoy any opera when we work with a good conductor and a good cast.

WHAT'S SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR JOB THAT PEOPLE MIGHT NOT KNOW?

I am responsible for all the second violin part's bowings. I usually start to work on the bowing during the summer. It takes some readings, comparing the first violin part, and then trying out various bowings on the violin to figure out what are the best options. After the season starts, during the rehearsals, I need to listen closely if the rest of my section is playing cooperatively with other string sections so we can play together and phrase the same way.

A FAVORITE LYRIC MOMENT?

There are many. One of them is last year, when we played Strauss's *Elektra*. It is an extremely beautiful piece. There were some moments when I imagined my colleagues and I were all big birds flying together in the wind up high in the sky.

BEYOND OPERA, WHAT ARE YOUR OTHER PASSIONS?

Right now, my passion is to spend time with my daughter. It is a priceless experience to watch her grow up every day. I like to take her to the playground. Recently she made a good friend. They like each other a lot. It is so much fun to watch them playing, running, laughing together and trying to copy each other's movements.



