

A woman with dark, curly hair is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark, sequined dress and long, red, sequined gloves. She is holding her hands up to her face, with her fingers spread, partially obscuring her eyes. The background is dark and out of focus, with some warm, glowing lights visible on the left and right sides.

Lyric

OPERA OF
CHICAGO

Richard Strauss

Salome



DAVID ZIVAN

Lead Writer and Editor

CATHY KIEPURA

ROBERT JOHNSON

Program Book Designers

JESSICA M. PEDROZA, PMP

Marketing Project Manager

Administrative Offices
20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 860
Chicago, Illinois 60606
lyricopera.org

SAMETZ BLACKSTONE ASSOCIATES

Visual Direction

PMGMA, Inc.

PMGMA, Inc.
340 Anthony Trail
Northbrook, IL 60062
pmgma.com

Gail McGrath
Publisher & President

Sheldon Levin
Finance

Rand Brichta
Sales Manager

Jill Wettersten
Account Manager

For advertising information call 847-770-4621.

To see our Advertising Terms and Conditions,
visit our website at pmgma.com.

All contents copyrighted. All rights reserved.
Nothing may be reproduced in any manner
without written permission. © 2026

PMGMA, Inc. is a Woman Owned Business.

**You can view this program on your mobile device
at www.pmgma.com.**

**For the latest information on this
performance, please scan this QR code.**



In this issue



Tristram Kenton / Royal Opera House

Salome | pp. 12-29

4 WELCOME TO YOUR LYRIC

- 6 A warm welcome from the Board Chair and General Director
- 7 Board of Directors
- 9 Jennifer Holloway joins a long line of legendary sopranos who have sung Salome at Lyric and around the world.

12 TODAY'S PERFORMANCE

- 15 Title page and cast
- 16 Synopsis
- 18 Opera Notes: How Richard Strauss transformed Oscar Wilde's controversial and popular play into one of the repertoire's most chilling operas.
- 22 Artist profiles
- 28 Orchestra and Chorus

30 THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

- 32 Bravissimi
- 34 Production sponsors
- 35 Supporting our future — endowments at Lyric
- 36 Ardis Krainik Society
- 40 Corporate partnerships
- 42 Aria Society
- 46 Annual individual and foundation support
- 52 Commemorative gifts
- 54 Lyric staff
- 59 Artistic roster

56 RYAN OPERA CENTER

- 58 Distinguished alumni perform all over the globe.

60 LYRIC UNLIMITED

- 62 The new Pathfinders program helps Chicago students create and perform an opera from their own experiences.
- 64 People of Lyric: The Director of Company Management transforms the innumerable moving parts of opera-making into a well-oiled machine.

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.



John Mangum
*General Director,
President & CEO*
Enrique Mazzola
Music Director

Lyric

Welcome to your Lyric

From the Chair and the General Director

Welcome to Lyric Opera of Chicago!

Salome premiered in 1905 in Dresden, and opera would never be the same. Word of Richard Strauss' work got out — it helped that it set the text of a scandalous Oscar Wilde play — and at its next run, in the Austrian provincial city of Graz, Gustav and Alma Mahler, Schoenberg, Zemlinsky, Webern, and Puccini were all in the audience. Strauss' music sounded like nothing that had come before — bitonal and dissonant, yes, but sweeping and sensual at the same time. He called it “a scherzo with a fatal conclusion.” It was strikingly modern, but also timeless.

Its American premiere, at the Metropolitan Opera in 1907, caused such outrage that it wasn't performed again there until 1934. It has since become a repertoire staple, although it's been 19 years since its last Lyric



performance. This is the second production in our season to come from Sir David McVicar, and it presents a stark and riveting vision of the work; it is the first outing for this production in the United States.

Above all, the opera depends on a profoundly compelling exponent of the title role, and we are fortunate to welcome American soprano Jennifer Holloway to Lyric for her debut on our stage. Known throughout the opera world as one of the leading Salomes of our time, she has performed the role to acclaim, most recently at the Vienna and Berlin State Operas. Nicholas Brownlee makes his Lyric debut as the object of her abhorrent obsession, Jochanaan. He is a recent recipient of the prestigious Richard Tucker Award and a Grand Prize winner at the Metropolitan Opera's Laffont Competition.

They are joined by two true Lyric favorites. Brandon Jovanovich, playing Herod, has sung ten roles here since the 2009/10 Season, most recently Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* and Gherman in *Queen of Spades* in 2019/20. And finally there is the formidable Tanja Ariane Baumgartner, who last dazzled us as Fricka in the first two operas of our most recent *Ring* cycle.

Speaking of that, perhaps you've heard the news: Our *Ring* cycle, cut short by the pandemic, will rise again starting in the 2029/30 season. We hope to see you there, and, of course, many, many times before. Enjoy the performance, and thank you for being with us at Lyric!

Sylvia Neil
SYLVIA NEIL
Chair of the Board

John Mangum
JOHN MANGUM
General Director, President & CEO,
The Women's Board Endowed Chair

Board of Directors

OFFICERS

The Honorable J.B. Pritzker
The Honorable Brandon
Johnson

*Honorary Chairs
of the Board*

Sylvia Neil
Chair of the Board

Craig Martin
Chair-Elect

Edgar D. Jannotta

Allan B. Muchin
Co-Chairs Emeritus

David T. Ormesher
*Co-Chair Emeritus &
Chair of the Executive
Committee*

John Mangum
*General Director,
President & CEO
The Women's Board
Endowed Chair*

James L. Alexander
Enrique Mazzola
Shirley Welsh Ryan
Eric S. Smith
Penelope Steiner
Nasrin Thierer
Vice Chairs

Donna Van Eekeren
Secretary

Dan Grossman
Treasurer

Vincente F. Milianti
Assistant Treasurer

LIFE DIRECTORS

Julie Baskes
Gilda R. Buchbinder
Sonia Florian^o
Ronald J. Gidwitz
Ruth Ann M. Gillis
J. Thomas Hurvis
Edgar D. Jannotta
George E. Johnson
Stephen A. Kaplan
Susan Kiphart
Robert W. Lane
Allan B. Muchin
Gordon Segal
Robert E. Wood II

DIRECTORS

Katherine A. Abelson⁺
James L. Alexander^{*}
Jennie Huang Bennett
Louise Bernard
Santino Bibbo
Bruce Braun
Allan E. Bulley, III
John E. Butler
Marion A. Cameron-Gray^{*}
Amy Carbone^{*}
Orit Carpenter
Jane Chu^{*}
Richard W. Colburn^{**}
Francesca Cornelli
Vinay Couto
Lester Crown^{*}
Laura DeFelice
Dan Draper⁺

Allan Drebin^o
Charles Droege⁺
Chaz Ebert
Anne Edwards
Lois Eisen
James E. Fellowes
Matthew A. Fisher
Steven L. Fradkin^{*}
Karen Freeman-Wilson
Denise Gardner
Sarah Garvey⁺
Ethel C. Gofen
Melvin Gray
Karen Z. Gray-Krehbiel
Maria C. Green
Dan Grossman^{*}
Gary Haase^{*}
Gregory K. Jones
Neil T. Kawashima
Kip Kelley II^{*}
Lori Ann Komisar
Josef Lakonishok^{*}
Philip G. Lumpkin^{*}
John Mangum^{*}
Craig C. Martin^{*}
Samir Mayekar^{*}
Enrique Mazzola^{*}
Robert J. McCullen
Blythe J. McGarvie
Dorri McWhorter⁺
Mimi Mitchell
Frank B. Modruson^{**}
Linda K. Myers
Jeffrey C. Neal
H. Gael Neeson

Sylvia Neil^{*}
Gregory J. O'Leary^{*}
Sharon F. Oberlander
Olufunmilayo I. Olopade
David T. Ormesher^{*}
Anna Paglia
Matthew J. Parr
Jane DiRenzo Pigott^{*}
Tanya Polsky^{*}
Jose Luis Prado
Don M. Randel
John Robak
Brenda Robinson^{*}
Joseph O. Rubinelli, Jr.^{*}
Richard O. Ryan
Shirley Welsh Ryan^{*}
E. Scott Santi^{*}

Nancy Santi
Christine Schyvinck
Nancy S. Searle
Marsha Serlin
Brenda M. Shapiro^{*}
Richard W. Shepro^{*}
Eric S. Smith^{*}
Kevin Smith
Penelope Steiner^{*}
Mary Stowell
Nasrin Thierer^{*}
Cherryl T. Thomas^{*}
Bryan Traubert^{*}
Olivia Tyrrell^{*}
Donna Van Eekeren^{*}
Roberta L. Washlow

William Mason
General Director Emeritus

⁺ Audit Committee
^{*} Executive Committee
[•] National Member
^o Deceased

The **2025 | 26** Season

Lyric
OPERA OF
CHICAGO

Richard Strauss

Salome

January 25 - February 14, 2026

Mozart

Così fan tutte

February 1 - 15, 2026

Renée Fleming in Recital

Voice of Nature: The Anthropocene

February 5, 2026

Puccini

Madama Butterfly

March 14 - April 12, 2026

Gabriela Lena Frank & Nilo Cruz

El último sueño de Frida y Diego

March 21 - April 4, 2026

Movie Nights at Lyric

Mary Poppins in Concert Live to Film

April 10 & 11, 2026

avery r. young

safronia

April 17 & 18, 2026

Create your own series and save!
lyricopera.org 312.827.5600

**ROBERT AND PENELOPE
STEINER FAMILY FOUNDATION**
2025/26 Presenting Season Sponsor

Lyric Opera of Chicago thanks its Official Airline, **United Airlines**, and acknowledges support from the **Illinois Arts Council**.
Photo: John Shaw/Big Foot Media

Princesses of the Past

The title role in *Salome* is demanding in every respect — and since the work's premiere, she has been sung by legendary sopranos, including many incandescent performances at Lyric.

By F. Paul Driscoll



Dan Rees

Deborah Voigt's performance in the 2006/07 Season at Lyric was a legendary success.

For more than a century, sopranos (and music critics) have been haunted by Strauss's seemingly impossible combination of requirements for his ideal Salome: "A sixteen-year-old princess with the voice of Isolde." The *Salome* libretto, devised by Strauss from a German translation of Oscar Wilde's extravagantly flowery French text, immediately establishes the girl's youth and loveliness with Narraboth's opening exclamation, "Wie schön ist die Prinzessin Salome heute Nacht!"

Unlike Wilde's play, the opera libretto omits specific reference to the figurative loss of Salome's virginity, but

the implications of Strauss's violently colored score are inescapable as the composer charts Salome's life-changing journey from an innocent to a woman consumed by titanic lust. Strauss expresses the complicated inner life of Salome with vocal requirements as challenging as any in the repertoire.

In order to achieve the full impact of the opera's punishing final scene, Salome must sound fresh, eager, and uncalculating as she meets the crashing, demonic power of Strauss's orchestra: If Salome snarls her way through the scene, in the manner of a villainous schemer, the opera's macabre spell is broken.



From left: Marie Wittich (seen here as Siegelinde) sang the title role in the 1905 premiere in Dresden; Scottish soprano Mary Garden became Chicago's first Salome, at the Auditorium Theatre in 1910; the German Inge Borkh sang the role in the Lyric premiere in 1956.

Lyric's first Salome, in 1956, was Inge Borkh, a ravishing German soprano whose experience included training as an actress and a dancer as well as Sieglinde in Bayreuth, Beethoven's Leonore in Edinburgh, and Elektra in San Francisco. Borkh's glamorous, athletic, full-voiced Salome established the Lyric tradition of casting singers who meet the dramatic as well as the vocal demands of the role. American soprano Felicia Weathers, whose Salome opened Lyric's 1968 season, told local broadcaster Studs Terkel that she had sung the role in more than a dozen productions before her Chicago performances, averring that whatever the *Salome* production scheme, she maintained her basic idea for the character — to be convincing as a young girl who “showed her youth and absolute innocence [while] she is a part of this corrupt society.”

Weathers was succeeded as Salome at Lyric by four of 20th-century opera's most celebrated singing actresses — Anja Silja (1971), Grace Bumbry (1978), Maria Ewing (1988/89), and Catherine Malfitano (1996/97). Lyric's most recent exponent of Salome, Deborah Voigt, had what the *New York Times's* Anthony Tommasini called “a personal and artistic triumph” in Francesca Zambello's striking new 2006 production. In her staged role debut as Salome, Voigt capped her reputation as one of the greatest Strauss interpreters of her era.

The Salome at the work's premiere, Marie Wittich, was 37 and at the peak of her vocal prowess when she created the title role at Dresden's Konigliches Opernhaus. Already a veteran member of the Dresden ensemble at the time,

Wittich counted several Wagner heroines among her successes there. Her vocal suitability for Salome was never seriously questioned, but Strauss was considerably less enthusiastic about the soprano's stage presence. Wittich was a handsome woman, and a vibrant, intelligent singer, but she was neither slim nor lithe, much to the annoyance of Strauss, who referred to his Salome as “Tante” (Auntie). Wittich also opted not to perform Salome's “Dance of the Seven Veils,” which was taken on by a ballerina from the Dresden company. This odd double-casting practice was also used when *Salome* had its 1907 U.S. premiere, at the Metropolitan Opera, which cast the magnificent Swedish-American diva Olive Fremstad, another formidable Wagnerian, as the princess and drafted company ballerina Bianca Froelich for the dance.

The city of Chicago's first Salome was the beautiful Scots prima donna Mary Garden, who made her debut in the role for Oscar Hammerstein's Manhattan Opera Company in 1909. Garden was a charismatic performer who gave full play to the opera's dramatic possibilities, although critic James Gibbons Huneker termed her voice “a serious mirage.” Garden chose to perform Salome in French, executed the dance herself and — according to *The New York Sun's* critic W. J. Henderson — “deliberately spoke” rather than sang, several of Salome's more taxing lines.

When Garden's Salome reached the Auditorium Theatre in Chicago in 1910, she caused a full-out scandal. The president of the Chicago Law and Order League wrote a furious (and well-publicized) letter to the Chief of Police, saying, “Miss Garden wallowed around like a cat in a bed of catnip...I would not call it immoral. I would say it



David H. Fishman

Formidable diva Anja Silja sang Salome at Lyric in 1971 — and would return in the work as Herodias in 1996/97; Jennifer Holloway as Salome at Atlanta Opera.

is disgusting.” The opera’s scheduled third performance in Chicago was moved out of town to Milwaukee in an attempt to quiet the local controversy.

Now, with considerable excitement, and for a less censorious public, Lyric Opera of Chicago welcomes Jennifer Holloway as the latest troubled princess in the royal line of Salomes who have dazzled the city. *Salome* is an opera with a great tradition at what was first known as the Civic Opera House; Holloway’s vocal prowess and dramatic imagination make her a worthy successor to the legendary artists who have preceded her. **L**

F. Paul Driscoll is the former editor of OPERA NEWS.

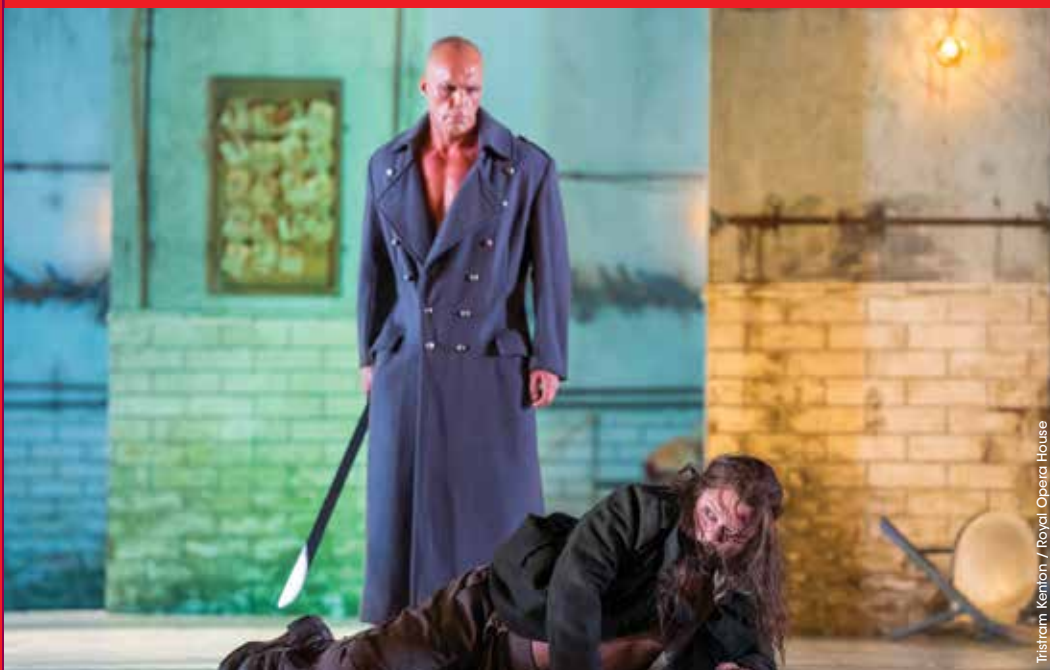


Reffeman Photography - Atlanta Opera

Based on Oscar Wilde's one-act play, *Salome* has been thrilling and fascinating audiences for more than a century. Lyric brings Sir David McVicar's decadent production — which is set in pre-war fascist Italy and sheds a harsh light on the timeless greed and entitlement of the elite — to Chicago.

This gory thrill ride returns to Lyric for the first time in 20 years starring Jennifer Holloway in the demanding title role of a teenage femme fatale whose infatuation has fatal implications, alongside Lyric favorites Brandon Jovanovich and Tanja Ariane Baumgartner.

Salome drips with decadence that matches Strauss's lyrical score and German libretto. From the infamous "Dance of the Seven Veils" to Salome's shocking last kiss, this production will leave you breathless.



Tristram Kenton / Royal Opera House

Salome

Lyric

Salome



Local Focus, Global Reach

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP delivers unparalleled legal advice and dedicated client service across a wide spectrum of business areas, industries, countries and cultures.

Willkie's Chicago office is a destination for commercial and business legal matters of strategic, economic and reputational impact. In addition to our laser focus on service excellence, we are committed to civic involvement, pro bono, and diversity & inclusion.

Willkie Chicago | Est. 2020 | 100+ lawyers | Craig C. Martin

WILLKIE

1,200 LAWYERS | 15 OFFICES | 6 COUNTRIES

Attorney Advertising

Salome

New-to-Chicago production | Opera in German

Music by **Richard Strauss**

Libretto from **Hedwig Lachmann's** German translation

of **Oscar Wilde's** play *Salomé*

January 25, 29 | February 3, 6, 11^M, & 14, 2026

CHARACTERS IN ORDER OF VOCAL APPEARANCE

Narraboth
Page
First Soldier
Second Soldier
Jochanaan
A Cappadocian
Salome
A Slave
Herod
Herodias
First Jew
Second Jew
Third Jew
Fourth Jew
Fifth Jew
First Nazarene
Second Nazarene

Ryan Capozzo^{••}
Catherine Martin
Scott Conner⁺
Christopher Humbert, Jr.[•]
Nicholas Brownlee⁺
Sankara Harouna[•]
Jennifer Holloway⁺
Angela De Venuto
Alex Boyer⁺
Tanja Ariane Baumgartner
Bille Bruley⁺
Travon D. Walker[•]
Daniel Luis Espinal[•]
Zhengyi Bai⁺
Benjamin R. Sokol[•]
Aleksey Bogdanov⁺
Sihao Hu^{•+}

Actors

Lenessa Age, Jon Beal, Becca Blatt, Miles Borchard, Tony DiFalco, Emerson Elias, Adam Fane, Graham Hawley, John B. Leen, Irene Lo, Chris Logan, Alyson Lyon, Daniel Martin, Talia Neidorf, Carrie Lee Patterson, and Michael Saubert

Conductor
Original Director
Revival Director
Designer
Original Lighting Designer
Revival Lighting Designer
Video Designer
Original Choreographer
Revival Choreographers

Wig & Makeup Designer
Assistant Directors

Stage Manager
Stage Band Conductor
Musical Preparation

Fight & Intimacy Director

Tomáš Netopil⁺
Sir David McVicar
Julia Burbach⁺
Es Devlin⁺
Wolfgang Göbbel
Chris Maravich
59 Studio⁺
Andrew George
Emily Piercy⁺
Noelle Kayser
John Metzner
Jordan Lee Braun
Marinette Gomez[•]
Rachel A. Tobias
Levi Hammer
William C. Billingham
Keun-A Lee
Samantha Kaufman

First performed by Semperoper Dresden, Germany on December 9, 1905.
First performed by Lyric Opera of Chicago on October 17, 1956.

⁺ Lyric debut
[•] Current Member, The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center
^{••} Alumnus, The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center

Synopsis

PLACE | **The palace of Herod**

It is night. In the banqueting hall, Herod and his second wife, Herodias, entertain guests from Rome, Egypt, and Jerusalem. Outside, Narraboth, the captain of the King's Guard, stares longingly in at Salome, Herod's stepdaughter. Herodias's Page, himself obsessed with Narraboth, tries to distract him, fearing that his infatuation can only bring misfortune.

From the depths of an old cistern where he has been imprisoned, the voice of Jochanaan (John the Baptist) is heard by the soldiers who guard him. To them, his prophecies are incomprehensible and they warn a curious Cappadocian servant that it is forbidden for anyone to see him. Salome suddenly appears. Unable to endure the lascivious gaze of her stepfather any longer, she has fled the banquet, longing to bask in the pure rays of the moonshine. Jochanaan's voice echoes from the cistern, cursing her mother. Salome is intrigued and demands to see him, refusing Herod's order to return to the table. The soldiers refuse but Salome uses her power over the besotted Narraboth and he orders the prophet to be brought out before her.

Jochanaan is dragged out of his prison and rails against the marriage of Herod and Herodias, an incestuous match made possible by the murder of Herod's brother, Philip, Herodias's former husband. Salome is appalled but fascinated. Despite the frantic pleas of Narraboth, she conceives a passion for the prophet that quickly turns to an obsession. In turn, she longs to touch his body, run her fingers through his hair and, finally, to kiss his mouth. The distraught Narraboth stabs himself in the heart. Salome does not even notice, so intense is her desire to kiss the prophet. Jochanaan repulses her in disgust and commands her to seek the forgiveness of the Son of Man. Uncomprehending, Salome tries again to kiss him and he curses her before the soldiers throw him back into the cistern.

Herod now comes in pursuit of Salome, wife and guests in tow. He slips in Narraboth's blood — an ill omen that drives the paranoid Tetrarch to distraction. He denies Herodias's demands to return to the banqueting hall and orders the servants to bring food and wine. He tries to persuade Salome to join him, even offering her own mother's throne beside him, but she refuses.

LYRIC'S 2025/26 PRESENTING

SEASON SPONSOR:

**The Robert and Penelope
Steiner Family Foundation**

PRODUCTION SPONSOR

Richard O. Ryan

Salome is produced by the Royal Ballet and Opera. This production was first seen at the Royal Opera House, London on February 21, 2008.

Lyric Opera of Chicago gratefully acknowledges the support of the Irma Parker German Opera Endowed Chair.

Additional costumes provided by:

Krostyne Studio
Lynae Vandermeulen
Giliberto Designs
San Francisco Opera
Austin Pettinger

Lyric Opera of Chicago thanks its Official Airline, United Airlines.

APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

**This production will be performed
with no intermission.**

Act 1 1 hour 40 minutes

Jochanaan is heard again, railing against Herodias who furiously asks why Herod will not turn him over to the Temple Authorities in Jerusalem. The superstitious Herod, though himself not a Jew, prefers to keep him in captivity; he has heard rumors that this man may be the prophet Elias, returned to Earth. The Jews from Jerusalem are appalled by this suggestion and a noisy theological debate erupts between them, interrupted by Jochanaan's voice proclaiming the coming of the 'Savior'. Two guests from Nazareth interpret this to Herod. The Messiah, they say — to the amused disbelief of Herodias — has come and already is working miracles in the land, turning water to wine and raising the dead.

Herod stops his ears to the prophet. He asks Salome to dance for him. Once again she declines, but he is determined and promises her whatever she desires as a reward. Salome makes him swear before the assembled guests, and despite the angry protestations of her mother, agrees. She dances before Herod.

An enraptured Herod asks her to name her price. She demands to be given, on a silver dish, the head of Jochanaan. Horrified, Herod refuses, but Salome, to the delight of her mother, is adamant. In mounting panic, Herod offers Salome jewels and power, half of his kingdom, even the Veil of the Sanctuary of the Temple of Jerusalem itself. She denies him. Herod finally agrees and the Executioner, Naaman, is given the death-ring by Herodias herself. He descends into Jochanaan's prison as Salome, frantic with impatience, listens above. Hearing something fall to the ground below, she fears the Executioner's nerve has failed him and cries for help from the terrified Page and the soldiers. But she is wrong; the bloody head of Jochanaan is duly brought to her. Seizing it, she triumphantly sings to it. Jochanaan can no longer deny her the kiss she sought.

As Herod climbs the stairs to his palace, Salome's longing is fulfilled. Herod pauses on the stairs and commands her death.

Sir David McVicar



Salome: Desire and Reckoning

By Martha C. Nussbaum

Salome meets her shocking, tragic ending, in a production at the Royal Ballet and Opera.

Tristram Kenton / Royal Opera House

Power and seductive charm, utterly without accountability: alarming to contemplate, horrifying to encounter. In Oscar Wilde's novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1890), an enchanting and glamorous youth has a piece of very good or very bad luck: his face and body show no trace of his vile, destructive, and selfish life, remaining beautiful and apparently kind — while his portrait, hidden away, tells the story of who he has really become, body and soul. (Eventually, confronting the portrait at last, he commits suicide by stabbing it in the heart.) This idea of a sensuality unfettered by accountability — and of an eventual reckoning — continued to fascinate Wilde, and in *Salome* (1892), he creates a female Dorian, her unchecked power over others through sensuous beauty and royal rank creating a total absence of moral concern. Because, unlike Dorian, she has no telling portrait, we (and the orchestra) must witness who she is for ourselves. Composer Richard Strauss uses Wilde's play to create a terrifying opera, his searing and superbly crafted music imparting new depth to the play's ideas.

The opera has always elicited passionate, and contradictory, reactions. Strauss's conservative father disliked the fraught and nervous work, saying, "It is exactly as if one had one's trousers full of maybugs." By contrast, composer Gustav Mahler called it "one of the greatest masterpieces of our time." The controversy continues. Musicologist Joseph Kerman, known for his pithy put-downs, called Salome's final monologue (admired by most critics as the work's finest passage) a "sugary orgasm." But on the whole Mahler's view has prevailed: it is among Strauss's finest works, and it deserves its secure place in the repertory.

The opera's basic story — Salome's dance before Herod, his promise to give her whatever she asks for, her request for the head of John the Baptist on a platter, and Herod's reluctant compliance — is already told in the Gospels by both Mark and Matthew. But there she is simply called the "daughter of Herodias": the name Salome appears only in later sources. (Ironically, the name is related to Hebrew "shalom," "peace.") In the Gospels it is at her mother's bidding that she makes her fatal request and to her mother that she delivers the grisly platter. She has no personal motives, so far as we are told.

Salome's dance became famous in art and literature through the ages. Many later sources (including the 19th-century French writers Gustave Flaubert, Stéphane Mallarmé, and Joris-Karl Huysmans, all well-known to Wilde) focus on Salome's seductive sensuality. The German poet Heinrich Heine suggested in 1843 that Salome developed a morbid fascination with the severed head, an idea that clearly influenced the playwright. In the 1870's, the painter Gustave Moreau created a series of Salome paintings — including one of her dance and one called "The Apparition," which, following Heine, depicts her fascination with the head. Both images are known to have obsessed the playwright, who reports that he kept dreaming about her. But the key idea that Salome's request is motivated by frustrated desire and a thirst

for revenge is Wilde's original contribution, in pursuit of which he basically sidelines Herodias.

Wilde's drama — written in the winter of 1891-92 in French for a London production starring the great actress Sarah Bernhardt — was ultimately refused production in London by the censors, since British norms forbade the representation on stage of Biblical characters. Bernhardt said she would try to arrange a production in Paris, but this never happened. The play was published in French in 1893 to great admiration, and in English a year later — in a translation made by Wilde's lover, Lord Alfred

Douglas, whose French was very bad. Wilde made some essential corrections, but did not begin from scratch, and the English version we have is unsatisfactory, full of awkwardness and archaic "thees" and "thous," a sad contrast with Wilde's graceful French. Someone should do a new one! Meanwhile, the play was eventually mounted in Paris in 1896, though not with Bernhardt.

By then, however, Wilde was in prison — sentenced to two years at hard labor for consensual sex acts with men (all in their twenties and treated by Wilde with courtesy and generosity). The trial judge, revealing British attitudes of the time, said: "It is the worst case I have ever tried." Health broken, Wilde died in France in 1900. But while still in prison, he wrote one of his best works, in the form of a book-length letter to Douglas: *De Profundis*, a meditation on love, suffering, Christ's life as paradigm, a person's responsibility to cultivate his own soul — themes highly pertinent to his Salome, and

Salome never had a strong grip on outer reality... but now she has retreated fully into her own mind.



Malin Byström as Salome and John Daszak as Herod in the unsettling, legendary dance at the Royal Ballet and Opera.

Tristram Kenton / Royal Opera House

to Strauss's opera. Douglas the addressee, a beautiful young narcissist incapable of love and driven by vindictive fantasies (against his father), could be seen as a Salome prototype, though Wilde himself, loving and generous to the end, did not so see him.

The play, meanwhile, had become a hit across Europe. A production at Max Reinhardt's Kleines Theater in Berlin, in a translation by Hedwig Lachmann from Wilde's French, was especially noteworthy. The German poet Anton Lindner had approached Strauss in 1902, proposing a verse libretto for an opera based on Wilde's play, and he sent a few samples. But when Strauss saw the Reinhardt production, he decided to work directly from the German text of the play. He proved a wonderful librettist, judiciously cutting about one-third of the play's dialogue, streamlining verbose language, eliminating several minor characters, and arranging the whole in the service of a tightly organized musical conception that goes beyond Wilde's words in its emotional power. By 1905 the work had its premiere.

Salome is both an opera and a dramatic tone-poem. Its psychological and dramatic themes are advanced as much by the extraordinary orchestration as by the words that are sung. Strauss, as skillfully as Wagner before him, uses musical *leitmotifs* to trace the evolution of themes and characters, and his virtuosic use of individual instruments — perhaps especially woodwinds — gives them a key expressive role, from the opening clarinet glissando that introduces

the princess to the end of the opera — including, along the way, the first known symphonic use of the “heckelphone,” an extended bass oboe with a wider bore, known for its penetrating sound.

Two aspects of Strauss's musical realization have been panned by critics: the music for Salome's dance, and the music written for Jochanaan (John the Baptist). The famous dance was probably written after the rest of the opera, since the version Strauss played for Mahler did not yet contain it (he said he would do it later). It is indeed, as critics say, little more than a pastiche of other parts of the opera, though it does achieve its dramatic purpose. But the attacks on Jochanaan's music as banal and simplistic are, I believe, misguided, because Strauss made clear in letters that he fully intended to depict the prophet as an “imbecile,” “more or less a clown,” and for that reason gave him a “pedantic motif.” Beneath this creative decision lies the primary difference between Wilde and Strauss. Wilde was profoundly religious — not in the conventional high-church Victorian sense, but devoted to the personality and moral message of Christ, who, as he writes in *De Profundis*, “could bring peace to souls in anguish,” and cause those who had lived entirely for pleasure to hear “for the first time the voice of love.”

In Wilde, then, Salome's tragedy is that she sees only her own desires and fails entirely to hear the prophet's powerful message. Strauss, by contrast, had no use for religion, and in the opera he turns the prophet into a banal figure whom Salome's narcissistic

desires clothe in a beauty of her own invention. Critics may disagree with Strauss's conception, but they should not say that he did not execute his purpose.

But the heart of Strauss's music-drama is the Princess, and here he achieves, all agree, a stunning success. Salome is a child who never became fully human — and this production, which shows her as very young, emphasizes this. All young children initially feel that they are the centers of the universe — what (Strauss's contemporary) Freud called “infantile omnipotence.” But in a loving family they soon understand that their actions can hurt those who love and sustain them, and this crisis jolts them into recognition of the reality of others. Salome has two strikes against her: terrible parents — one utterly selfish, the other a would-be pedophile — and unlimited royal power. She therefore never undergoes any check to her omnipotence. She moves through the world arranging everything to accord with her desires, as we see early on from her manipulation of the charmed Narraboth, whom she destroys without even acknowledging his existence. A leading post-Freudian analyst, conversing with a narcissistic patient of this sort, speaks with him of a “struggle that never was,” the struggle that might have checked omnipotence and opened the door to concern and even love. Salome never encounters any such struggle, nor does she have any models of sanity and concern to steer her toward it. So she sees the world as a toy of her own mind, a mind at times delighted, at others petulant and vindictive.

Salome gets her wish, as usual. The head is delivered to her on a silver platter. She then launches into one of opera's most remarkable and brilliant monologues — around seventeen minutes long — addressing the head with hair-trigger alternations between rapture and fury, tightly organized musically around a series of harmonic oppositions that signal the ambivalence of her passion. Salome never had a strong grip on outer reality, a world peopled by other human beings, but now she has retreated fully into her own mind, declaring her obsession with his mouth, his body, his hair, which she now triumphantly possesses. Repeatedly she berates Jochanaan for not returning

her desirous gaze — as if he were alive — but she then announces her triumph over his resistance by proclaiming that she is alive and he is dead. She notices no contradiction.

She kisses the head with passion and then spirals into a demented declaration of her complete success. Forgetting that he never returned his gaze or listened to her, she is now utterly, serenely, delighted: She has kissed his mouth. The music, in the key of C sharp major, expresses the sweet climax of her passion. (This is what Kerman means by the “sugary orgasm” comment,

wrong if used to put down Strauss, but accurate if it refers to Strauss's insight into his character's complete detachment from all awareness of her failure and of the hideous crime she has committed.)

But Strauss has a surprise in store. Two measures after the triumphant C-sharp major vocal line ends, we are assailed, in the orchestra, by a grotesquely dissonant chord, with no harmonic preparation or resolution — Newman calls it a “spasm”

— that has riveted critics and audiences ever since, although quite a few pronounce it “sickening” and “disgusting.”

What does the shocking dissonance mean? In all the pages written about this chord, I find too little recognition that it is not, cannot be, inside Salome's mind, depicting a sense of failure or self-awareness. She is too far lost in fantasy for that. Deliberately Strauss has positioned it after her happy triumph ends, as an *external* commentary on what we have just witnessed. Although nobody will have the last word about Strauss's intriguing mystery, I propose that it is the opera's analogue of the picture of Dorian Gray — the true portrait of the monstrous ugliness of Salome's words and deeds. The reckoning that she horribly avoided has come at last, although she is utterly unable to grasp it. And sure enough: Herod now commands his soldiers, “Kill that woman.” And they do. **L**

Martha C. Nussbaum is Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics at The University of Chicago. Her new book, The Republic of Love: Opera and Political Freedom, appears in April 2026.



Tristram Kenton / Royal Opera House

Artist profiles



JENNIFER HOLLOWAY SALOME

Lyric debut

The soprano began the 2025/26 Season performing *Salome* in concert with the WDR Symphony Orchestra in Cologne and Bucharest. She appears this season also as Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni* at the Teatro Carlo Felice in Genoa, before taking on Elsa in a new production of *Lohengrin* at the Rome Opera. She makes her role debut as the title character in Barber's *Vanessa*, in a debut with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. She will be heard at the Vienna State Opera as Kundry (*Parsifal*) and at the Hamburg State Opera as Chrysothemis (*Elektra*). In 2026, the Bayreuth Festival has engaged Holloway as Adriano in the first-ever production of *Rienzi* in the festival's history. Other recent highlights include her role debut as Kundry at Oper Frankfurt; her house debut at Oper Zürich as Beethoven's Leonore (*Fidelio*); *Salome* at the Vienna State Opera, the Berlin State Opera, and the Deutsche Oper Berlin; and Chrysothemis (*Elektra*), Elisabeth (*Tannhäuser*), Sieglinde (*Die Walküre*), Senta (*Der fliegende Holländer*), Leonore (*Fidelio*), and Ellen Orford (*Peter Grimes*) at the Hamburg State Opera. Further engagements included Senta at the Semperoper Dresden, Cassandra (*Les Troyens*) and Senta at the Bavarian State Opera, Sieglinde in concert with the Orchestre de Paris under Jaap van Zweden and at the Vienna Konzerthaus under Joana Mallwitz.



ALEX BOYER HEROD

Lyric debut

In 2025, the tenor made his Metropolitan Opera debut as Captain Ahab in *Moby Dick*, and also appeared in their new production of *Salome*. With West Edge Opera he recently made a role debut as Senator Robert F. Kennedy in the world premiere of Nicolas Benavides' opera *Dolores*. Future productions include performances with Pacific Opera Northwest as Bacchus in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, a return to West Edge Opera as Quint in *The Turn of the Screw*, Opera San Jose as Don José in *Carmen*, and Sacramento Opera for Cavaradossi in *Tosca*. Boyer made several role and house debuts in 2024, including Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Modesto Symphony, Puccini's *Messe di Gloria* with the Golden Gate Men's Chorus, Siegfried in *Legend of the Ring* with West Edge Opera, and Remendado in *Carmen* at San Francisco Opera. Previous highlights include Cavaradossi in *Tosca* (Opera San Jose, Livermore Valley Opera, Cinnabar Theater), and the Duke in *Rigoletto* with Opera in the Heights. Boyer also performed Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Idaho Falls Symphony (as well as with the Quad City and Glacier Symphony Orchestras) and Tybalt in *Romeo et Juliette* with Opera San Jose. In 2022 he was heard as Cassio in *Otello* with Livermore Valley Opera, and had numerous concert performances including Festival Opera at Piedmont Center for the Arts.



NICHOLAS BROWNLEE JOCHANAAN

Lyric debut

The bass-baritone is the 2025 recipient of the Richard Tucker Award, First Prize winner of the Hans Gabor Belvedere Singing Competition, winner of the Zarzuela Prize at Operalia, and Grand Prize Winner of the Metropolitan Opera Eric and Dominique Laffont Competition. This season, Brownlee debuts with Orquesta Sinfónica de Minería as Jochanaan for a recording of *Salome*. He returns to Bayerische Staatsoper for a new production of *Die Walküre* (Wotan), Bayreuther Festspiele in *Der fliegende Holländer* (title role), Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía for *Salome* (Jochanaan), and to Oper Frankfurt in *Peter Grimes* (Captain Balstrode), *Tosca* (Scarpia), and *Tristan und Isolde* (Kurwenal). On the concert stage, he debuts with the Houston Symphony for Act II of *Tristan und Isolde* (Kurwenal and Melot), returns to the Los Angeles Philharmonic for Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, and appears at the 2025 Richard Tucker event. Future seasons include debuts with Teatro Real, Teatro Colón, and Deutsche Oper Berlin, as well as returns to Gran Teatre del Liceu, Bayerische Staatsoper, Oper Frankfurt, Bayreuther Festspiele, and Opernhaus Zürich.



TANJA ARIANE BAUMGARTNER HERODIAS

Previously at Lyric: Fricka/*Die Walküre* (2017/18) and Fricka/*Das Rheingold* (2016/17).

Baumgartner opened this season as Herodias in concert performances of *Salome* with the WDR Symphony Orchestra in Bucharest and Cologne. She appears at San Francisco Opera as Kundry in *Parsifal* under Eun Sun Kim and as Ortrud in a new production of *Lohengrin* (Johannes Erath/Joana Mallwitz) at the Festspielhaus Baden-Baden. On the concert stage, she can be heard in *Das Lied von der Erde* under Zubin Mehta at the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, in Mahler's Symphony No. 3 at the Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe, and as Brangäne in concert performances of *Tristan* at Radio France under Jaap van Zweden. Highlights of recent seasons include Klytämnestra (*Elektra*) with the Salzburg Festival, Ortrud (*Lohengrin*), Fricka (*Der Ring des Nibelungen*), Brangäne (*Tristan und Isolde*), and the Amme (*Die Frau ohne Schatten*) at the Vienna State Opera; Mrs. Quickly (*Falstaff*), Countess Geschwitz (*Lulu*), Charlotte (*Die Soldaten*), and Mother (*Il prigioniero*) at the Salzburg Festival; Lisa (*The Passenger*) at the Bavarian State Opera; Brangäne and Leonore in the world premiere of Glanert's *Die Jüdin von Toledo* at the Semperoper Dresden; Kundry (*Parsifal*) at the Grand Théâtre de Genève and at the Tokyo Spring Festival; Venus (*Tannhäuser*) in Hamburg in Tcherniakov's new production and at Zurich Opera; and Brangäne (*Tristan und Isolde*) at the Deutsche Oper Berlin.



RYAN CAPOZZO NARRABOTH

Previously at Lyric: *Steuermann/The Flying Dutchman* (2023/24) and *Remendado/Carmen* (2022/23).

This season, the American tenor will make his debut at Seattle Opera singing Don José in *Carmen* and singing the Prince in *Rusalka* with Irish National Opera. Last season, he debuted the role of the Prince at the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona, made his Metropolitan Opera debut singing The Voice of a Young Man in *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, and sang Albert in *The Makropulos Affair* with Scottish Opera. For his European debut, he performed Don José in *Carmen* with the Schauspiel Zürich. In concert, while a member of Lyric's Ryan Opera Center, he performed in *Sunday in the Park with Lyric* under the baton of Enrique Mazzola. He also sang Mozart's *Requiem* with the SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Music and Rye Presbyterian Church, Handel's *Messiah* under the direction of David J. Recca, and Vivaldi's *Magnificat* with Stanwich Church and at the Rye Presbyterian Church. In the summer of 2024, Capozzo was a participant in both the Aix-en-Provence Académie and the Internationale Meistersinger Akademie in Germany.



CATHERINE MARTIN PAGE

Previously at Lyric: Four roles since 2016/17, most recently *Waltraute/Twilight: Gods* (2020/21) and *Eva Crowley/An American Dream* (2018/19).

Last season the American mezzo-soprano returned to The Atlanta Opera to sing Juno in *Semele*. She joined the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera as Santuzza in *Cavalleria rusticana* and Detroit Opera to sing the District Attorney in *The Central Park Five*. At Lyric she sang *Waltraute/Die Walküre* (2017/18) and *Hécube/Les Troyens* (2016/17). Recent highlights include her Atlanta Opera debut as *Waltraute in Die Walküre*; a role debut as *Fricka* in Dayton Opera's *Das Rheingold*; *Amneris* in *Aida* with Houston Grand Opera, Opera Carolina, Opera Colorado, and Opera Santa Barbara; *Maddalena* in *Rigoletto* with New Orleans Opera and Opera Santa Barbara; *Herodias* in *Salome* with Dayton Opera; *Adalgisa* in *Norma* with Florida Grand Opera; *Santuzza* in *Cavalleria rusticana* with Opera Colorado; *Geneviève* in *Pelléas et Mélisande* and *Clarice* in *The Love for Three Oranges* with Des Moines Metro Opera; *Mistress Quickly* in *Falstaff* and *Eboli* in *Don Carlos* for Maryland Lyric Opera; and *Orfeo* in *Orfeo ed Eurydice* with Kentucky Opera.



BILLE BRULEY FIRST JEW

Lyric debut

This season, the tenor makes debuts with Lyric Opera of Kansas City in *Of Mice and Men* (Lennie), Opera Theatre of Saint Louis in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Mitch), and Orquesta Sinfónica de Minería in Mexico City for a recording of *Salome* (First Jew). Future seasons include a

debut with Houston Grand Opera. Last season Bruley made his debut at the Metropolitan Opera in a new production of *Salome* (First Jew) directed by Claus Guth and conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin. Additional engagements included a return to Utah Opera for *Sweeney Todd* (Beadle Bamford), and his Carnegie Hall debut in *Messiah* with Masterwork Chorus. Other recent highlights include a debut at San Francisco Opera for Mason Bates and Mark Campbell's *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* (Steve Wozniak) and, on the concert stage, debuts with the Houston Symphony in *Salome* (First Jew) and Fort Wayne Philharmonic in Mozart's *Requiem*. He made his role debut in *Ariadne auf Naxos* (Bacchus) at Arizona Opera and returns to Austin Opera for *Sweeney Todd* (Beadle) and The Santa Fe Opera for *Der fliegende Holländer* (Steuermann).



TRAVON D. WALKER SECOND JEW

Previously at Lyric: Four roles since 2024/25, most recently *Parpignol/La Bohème* and *Son/Blue* (both 2024/25).

Last season, the third-year Ryan Opera Center tenor made company debuts with Opera Philadelphia in *The Anonymous Lover* and the North Carolina Symphony, followed by a return to Wolf Trap Opera as a Filene Artist (*Dialogues of the Carmelites* and *Carmen*). Walker received his master's degree from Rice University, where he sang Sam Kaplan/*Street Scene*. A native of Hinesville, Georgia, he completed his undergraduate studies at the Eastman School of Music. The tenor was invited to participate in Renée Fleming's 2023 SongStudio and Joyce DiDonato's 2024 Masterclass Series, both at Carnegie Hall, as well as the 2023 Britten Pears Young Artist Programme. Other engagements include the Sinfónica de Minería (Mexico City), Erie Philharmonic, and Houston Grand Opera. Walker received an Encouragement Award from the Kansas City District in the 2023 Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, the 2024 Best Vocal Artist Award from the American Opera Society, and the 2024 Luminarts Cultural Foundation Men's Voice Fellowship. *Travon D. Walker is sponsored by an Anonymous Donor, Robert & Isabelle Bass Foundation, Inc., the Boykins, Ford, and Mages families, and Cynthia Vahlkamp & Robert Kenyon.*



DANIEL LUIS ESPINAL THIRD JEW

Previously at Lyric: Three roles since 2024/25, most recently *Beppe/Cavalleria rusticana/Pagliacci* (2025/26) and *Don Curzio/Le nozze di Figaro* (2024/25).

A second-year Ryan Opera Center member, the Cuban-Dominican tenor from Sarasota was a national winner of the 2024 Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, received a 2025 Sara Tucker Study Grant, and was in residence at the 2025 Aix-en-Provence Festival Académie and Ravinia Festival's Steans Institute. This season at Lyric Espinal will appear also in *El último sueño de Frida y Diego*; he debuted with the company in 2024/25 as *Jacquino/Fidelio*. This summer Espinal makes his debut with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis as *Frederic/The*

Pirates of Penzance. A graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, Espinal continued his studies at Yale University, where he received a Master of Musical Arts degree. His roles there included Tom Rakewell/*The Rake's Progress*, Rinuccio/*Gianni Schicchi*, and Male Chorus/*The Rape of Lucretia*. The tenor previously participated in San Francisco's Merola Opera Program for two summers. *Daniel Luis Espinal is sponsored by Lead Sponsor the J. Thomas Hurvis Endowment, in loving memory of Dick Kiphart and cosponsors Fred & Phoebe Boelter, Margo & Michael Oberman & Family, and Jennifer L. Stone.*



ZHENGYI BAI
FOURTH JEW
Lyric debut

In the 2025/26 season, the Chinese tenor will make his Metropolitan Opera debut in the holiday presentation of *The Magic Flute* as Monostatos, a role he will reprise in Barrie Kosky's production in German at LA Opera and Opera San Antonio. Bai will also sing the lead role of the Madwoman in Britten's *Curlew River* with Opéra national de Lorraine in France. Other recent highlights include Prince Nilsky in Peter Sellars's new production of Prokofiev's *The Gambler* with the Salzburg Festival, Monostatos at San Francisco Opera, Fong See in *On Golden Mountain* at LA Opera, Prince Charmant in *Cendrillon* with Opera Orlando, Colin in *The Anonymous Lover* with Boston Lyric Opera, Pang in *Turandot* with Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Goro in *Madama Butterfly* with Virginia Opera, Florentine Opera, and Kentucky Opera, Der Bucklige in *Die Frau ohne Schatten* with San Francisco Opera, the First Prisoner in *Fidelio* with San Francisco Opera, Dancing Master/Lamplighter in *Manon Lescaut* with San Francisco Opera, Remendado in *Carmen* with San Francisco Opera, and Alessandro in *Il rè pastore* with Merola Opera.



BENJAMIN R. SOKOL
FIFTH JEW
Lyric debut

Originally from Westbury, New York, Sokol is a first-year Ryan Opera Center bass-baritone. This season at Lyric he will also appear in *El último sueño de Frida y Diego*. He recently received his bachelor's and master's degrees in music and professional studies certificate from the Manhattan School of Music. Sokol was a winner of the 2025 Eisenberg-Fried Concerto Competition, semi-finalist in the 2025 George and Nora London Foundation Competition and 2023 Premiere Opera Foundation Competition, finalist in the 2022 Opera Index Competition, and winner of the 2021 Milnes Opera Idol Competition. He has previously participated in the artist-development programs at San Francisco's Merola Opera (Commendatore/*Don Giovanni*), Chautauqua Opera Company and Conservatory, and the Taos Opera Institute. He has also been with the Milnes VOICE Programs for several years, participating in the Florida VOICE Project and Milnes VOICE Studio and performing at the Savannah VOICE Festival. *Benjamin R. Sokol is sponsored by David & Janet Fox and Penelope R. Steiner.*



ALEKSEY BOGDANOV
FIRST NAZARENE
Lyric debut

This season the baritone debuts with The Atlanta Opera in *Götterdämmerung* (Alberich) and San Diego Opera in *Carmen* (Escamillo), and returns to San Francisco Opera for *Rigoletto* (Il Conte di Monterone). Future seasons include a debut with The Dallas Opera as well as returns to San Francisco Opera, the Metropolitan Opera, and The Atlanta Opera. In the 2024/25 Season, he made his debut with Pacific Symphony in a staged production of *Das Rheingold* (Donner), and returned to the Metropolitan Opera for *Die Frau ohne Schatten* (Der Einäugige), Palm Beach Opera for *Roméo et Juliette* (Capulet), and The Glimmerglass Festival for *The Rake's Progress* (Nick Shadow). On the concert stage, he appeared with the Cathedral Choral Society in Ethel Smyth's *Mass in D* and with The Clarion Choir in Rachmaninoff's *Spring Cantata*. Recent operatic highlights include debuts at Gran Teatre del Liceu in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* (Crespel/Luther), Royal Swedish Opera in *La fanciulla del West* (Rance), and performances of *Tosca* (Scarpia) with companies including Kaohsiung Philharmonic Cultural & Arts Foundation, Palm Beach Opera, Austin Opera, and Hawaii Opera Theatre.



SIHAO HU
SECOND NAZARENE
Lyric debut

The first-year Ryan Opera Center baritone from Shenzhen, China, studied at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music and the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama in Cardiff. This season at Lyric, he will also appear in *Madama Butterfly*. Hu participated in more than 50 performances across his homeland as well as abroad throughout his undergraduate studies. Highlights of his operatic experience include creating the title role of *Tang Xian Zu* for its world premiere in 2017 and reprising it at the Sydney Opera House, the Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, and the Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Brno, Czech Republic. Other roles in his repertoire include Ping/*Turandot*, Silvio/*Pagliacci*, Barmann/*Falscher Verrat*, Figaro/*Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Chorèbe/*Les Troyens*, Germont/*La traviata*, the title role/*Don Giovanni*, Guglielmo/*Così fan tutte*, and Conte Almaviva/*Le nozze di Figaro*. *Sihao Hu is sponsored by Lead Sponsor Peter Scheuermann and cosponsors Drs. George Dunea & Sally Metzler-Dunea, Richard W. Shepro & Lindsay E. Roberts, and Ms. Gay K. Stanek.*



SCOTT CONNER
FIRST SOLDIER
Lyric debut

This season Conner will make role debuts singing Zuniga in *Carmen* and Aldeano Three in *El último sueño de Frida y Diego* at the Metropolitan Opera, and return to Opera Philadelphia to sing Lord Sidney in Rossini's *Il viaggio a Reims*. In the 2024/25 Season he performed One-Armed Brother in *Die Frau ohne Schatten* and Jose Tripaldi in *Ainadamar*.

at the Met. The season included also his role and house debut as Ramfis in *Aida* with Arizona Opera. In concert, he sang Mozart's *Requiem* with the Jacksonville Symphony, and joined the Defiant Requiem Foundation for Verdi's *Requiem*, performed in partnership with the Dallas Symphony. Recent engagements include returns to Santa Fe Opera as Pistola in *Falstaff* and the Police Commissioner in *Der Rosenkavalier*, the Voice of Neptune in *Idomeneo* and the role of the Police Commissioner in Robert Carsen's production of *Der Rosenkavalier* at the Met, as well as Ashby in *La fanciulla del West* with The Cleveland Orchestra, the King of Clubs in *The Love for Three Oranges* at Des Moines Metro Opera, and his Canadian Opera Company debut as the Second Soldier in *Salome*.



CHRISTOPHER HUMBERT, JR. SECOND SOLDIER

Previously at Lyric: Four roles since 2024/25, most recently Captain of the Guard/*Medea* (2025/26) and 3rd Policeman/*Blue* (2024/25).

Originally from Akron, Ohio, the third-year Ryan Opera Center bass-baritone will also appear at Lyric this season in *Madama Butterfly*. In 2024/25, he sang Ceprano/*Rigoletto* and 2nd Prisoner/*Fidelio*. Other engagements this season include soloist in Haydn's *Creation* with the Seattle Symphony and in the Verdi *Requiem* with the Nashville Symphony. He has performed widely throughout his home state, including appearances with Opera Columbus, Mid-Ohio Opera, and Nightingale Opera Theatre. Other engagements include Boston Lyric Opera, Detroit Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, the Seagle Festival, Utah Festival Opera, and Annapolis Opera. Humbert was invited for the 2025 Young Singers Project at the Salzburg Festival and is a former participant in the artist-development programs at Palm Beach Opera and Opera Theatre of Saint Louis. Humbert is recipient of a 2025 Luminarts Cultural Foundation Men's Voice Fellowship and a 2024 American Opera Society of Chicago Scholarship Award. *Christopher Humbert, Jr.* is sponsored by **Lead Sponsor Patricia Frank** and cosponsors **Maria C. Green & Oswald G. Lewis, Mary Houston, in loving memory of James Houston, and the Bill & Orli Staley Foundation.**



SANKARA HAROUNA A CAPPADOCIAN

Previously at Lyric: Marullo/*Rigoletto* (2024/25) and Benny Paret and Benny Jr./*Champion* (2023/24).

A Chicago native, the second-year Ryan Opera Center baritone will appear later this season in *Madama Butterfly*. The summer of 2025 featured Harouna's debut with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis in the world premiere of Ricky Ian Gordon's *This House* as well as with the Grant Park Music Festival. He joined Portland Opera as a Resident Artist in the 2023/24 Season, where he was seen in *Le nozze di Figaro* and *The Snowy Day*. A former apprentice artist at Des Moines Metro Opera, he performed there as Morales/*Carmen* and Homecoming Soldier/Redler's *The Falling and the Rising*. Other previous engagements include Greensboro Opera, Atlanta Opera, Dayton Opera, Kentucky Opera, and Cincinnati Opera. In concert, Harouna performed Mozart's *Missa Brevis* with

the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra. The baritone has participated in the artist-development programs of Atlanta Opera, Kentucky Opera, and Dayton Opera. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Music in Vocal Performance at Kentucky State University. *Sankara Harouna* is sponsored by **Lead Sponsors Michael Steinberg and Salme Harju Steinberg** and cosponsors **Mary Ellen Hennessy and Virginia Tobiasen.**



TOMÁŠ NETOPIĽ CONDUCTOR

Lyric debut

Netopil is currently in his first season as Chief Conductor of the FOK-Prague Symphony Orchestra. From 2018 to 2024, he was Principal Guest Conductor of the Czech Philharmonic, and from 2013 to 2023 served as General Music Director of Aalto Musiktheater and Philharmonie Essen. He was Music Director at the Prague National Theatre from 2008 to 2012. Recent highlights include productions at Geneva Opera (*La Clemenza di Tito*), Berliner Staatsoper (*Madama Butterfly*), National Theatre Tokyo (*Die Zauberflöte*), Prague National Theatre (*Rusalka*), and Oper Köln (*Don Giovanni*). Symphonic engagements include Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Tonkünstler Orchestra Vienna, Oslo Philharmonic, Antwerp Symphony, Hong Kong Sinfonietta, and Sydney Symphony, and he continues regular relationships with Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte Carlo and Orchestre National des Pays de Loire. He opened the 2025/26 Season with Orchestre symphonique de Montréal and works with orchestras such as Fort Worth Symphony and Naples Philharmonic. Netopil is a frequent collaborator with Concentus Musicus Wien and Collegium 1704, and has numerous upcoming performances and recording projects with the new ensemble Silentium. Netopil's most recent recordings are with the Czech Philharmonic and include Richard Blackford's Cello Concerto with soloist Alisa Weilerstein, and Dvořák's *Legends and Rhapsodies*, both with the label Pentatone.



SIR DAVID McVICAR ORIGINAL DIRECTOR

Previously at Lyric: 13 productions since 2001, most recently *Medea* (2025/26) and *Don Carlos* (2022/23).

Recent highlights for the renowned Scottish director include a new Ring cycle at La Scala; *Medea*, *Adriana Lecouvreur*, and *Roberto Devereux* at the Metropolitan Opera; *Médée* at Paris Opera and Geneva's Grand Théâtre; *Macbeth* at Canadian Opera; and *Maria Stuarda* in Madrid. Among other highlights at Lyric, he has previously directed *Macbeth* (2021-22), *Il trovatore* (2018/19, 2014/15, 2006/07), *Wozzeck* (2015/16), and *La clemenza di Tito* (2013/14). Other productions include, for La Scala, *Les Troyens*, *La Calisto*, and *I masnadieri*; for Opera Australia, *Don Giovanni* and *The Marriage of Figaro*; for the Vienna Staatsoper, *Tristan und Isolde* and *Falstaff*; and many more for the English National Opera, Glyndebourne, Scottish Opera, Opera North, Paris's Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, the Salzburg Festival, the Mariinsky Theatre, and many other major companies. In 2012 he received a knighthood for his services to opera, and was made a Chevalier de l'ordre des arts et des lettres.



JULIA BURBACH **REVIVAL DIRECTOR**

Lyric debut

Burbach began her operatic career as an observer at the Bayerische Staatsoper

Munich. She was a staff director at the Royal Ballet and Opera in London and worked with multiple directors and revived major productions worldwide. Recent highlights include: *La Cenerentola* (ENO, London Coliseum), *Der fliegende Holländer* (Opera Holland Park), *Partenope* (Oper Frankfurt), *Alcina* (Oper Wuppertal), *L'elisir d'amore* (Státní Opera Prague), *Eugene Onegin* (Theater Lübeck), *Der singende Teufel* (Theater Bonn), *Manon Lescaut* (Theater Kiel), *Götterdämmerung* and *Siegfried* (Hackney Empire), *Eugene Onegin* (Opera Holland Park), *La Bohème* (Theater Bielefeld), *Edmea* (Wexford Opera Festival), *Die Walküre* (Hackney Empire), *Wundertheater* (Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe), *Semele* (Shanghai International Festival), *Die Walküre* (Opéra National de Bordeaux), *Das Rheingold* (OFFIE nomination 2020) and *Die Walküre* (OFFIE nomination 2020, both at Grimeborn Festival), *L' amico Fritz* (Opera Holland Park), *Il trionfo del tempo e del disinganno* (Alte Münze Berlin), *The Fairy Queen* (Bury Court/Wilde Renate Berlin), *Tosca* (Grimeborn Festival), *Madama Butterfly* (Grimeborn Festival/Bury Court), as well as *The Rape of Lucretia* (Grimeborn Festival) which was awarded an OFFIE 2020 for best opera.

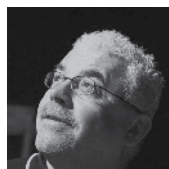


ES DEVLIN **DESIGNER**

Lyric debut

The artist and designer's opera work includes *Carmen* (Bregenzer Festspiele), *Otello*

(the Metropolitan Opera), and *Don Giovanni* (Royal Ballet and Opera), among others. Recent theatre work includes: *Hamlet* (Royal Shakespeare Company); *Dear England* (National Theatre, West End, and UK National Tour); the Broadway transfer of the Almeida production *The Hunt*; Tony Award winning *The Lehman Trilogy* (including West End and Broadway transfers); *The Motive and The Cue* and *The Crucible* (National Theatre and West End transfers); *Coriolanus*, *Light Shining in Buckinghamshire*, and *Ugly Lies the Bone* (National Theatre); *A Number* (Old Vic); *Girls and Boys* and *The Nether* (Royal Court Theatre); *Faith Healer* (Donmar Warehouse); *Hamlet* (Barbican); and *Chimerica* (Almeida Theatre). Other designs and collaborations include: *Come Home Again* for the Tate Modern; *Conference of the Trees* for COP26 in Glasgow; *Memory Palace* for Pitzhanger Manor; stage sculptures for Beyoncé, The Weeknd, U2, Kanye West, Saint Laurent, and Dior; the 2021 and 2022 Super Bowl halftime shows; Olympic ceremonies in London and Rio; and the UK Pavilion at EXPO 2020.



WOLFGANG GÖBBEL **ORIGINAL LIGHTING & PROJECTION DESIGNER**

Previously at Lyric: *La damnation de Faust* (2009/10).

The late German lighting designer's extensive opera work includes productions in Hamburg, Leipzig, Düsseldorf, Duisburg, Essen, Mannheim, Aachen, Stuttgart, Munich, and Frankfurt as well as Deutsche Oper in Berlin, Staatsoper Berlin, Komische Oper Berlin, Wiener Staatsoper, Volksoper Wien, De Nederlandse Opera Amsterdam, La Monnaie Brüssel, Vlaamse Opera Antwerpen and Gent, English National Opera, Royal Ballet and Opera, Opera North, Scottish Opera, Welsh National Opera, Grand Théâtre de Genève, Grand Teatro del Liceu Barcelona, the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, National Theatre Tokyo, Houston Grand Opera, Teatro Regio Torino, Théâtre du Châtelet, and Teatro alla Scala Milano. He was a guest at the Aldeburgh Festival, Festival d'automne, Bregenzer Festspiele, Salzburger Festspiele, Edinburgh International Festival, Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Holland Festival, Spoleto Festival dei due mondi, Styriarte Graz, Wiener Festwochen, and Theatrefestival Moscow, and in 1997 was nominated for the Lawrence Olivier Award for "Outstanding Achievement in Opera" (Best lighting design *Tristan und Isolde* at the English National Opera and *Midsummer Marriage* at the Royal Ballet and Opera).



CHRIS MARAVICH **REVIVAL LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Lyric's lighting director served in the same position from 2006 to 2012 at San Francisco Opera, where he created lighting for many productions including *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*, *Così fan tutte*, *Turandot*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Il trittico*, *Tosca*, *Simon Boccanegra*, *Don Giovanni*, *Nixon in China*, and *Attila*. He has collaborated on the lighting designs for *Wozzeck* (Finnish National Opera, Grand Théâtre de Genève), *Doktor Faust* at Staatsoper Stuttgart, *Tannhäuser* for Greek National Opera, and *La fanciulla del West*, *The Makropulos Case*, *The Daughter of the Regiment*, *Il trovatore*, *Samson et Dalila*, and *Macbeth* for San Francisco Opera. Maravich has also designed lighting for LA Opera, Opera Colorado, San Diego Opera, Opera Santa Barbara, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Florida Grand Opera, Madison Opera, Cal Performances, and Opera San José. He currently serves as lighting supervisor for The Joffrey Ballet. *Chris Maravich is supported by the Mary-Louise and James S. Aagaard Lighting Director Endowed Chair.*

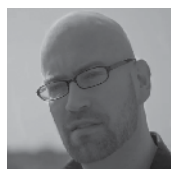


59 STUDIO **VIDEO DESIGNERS**

Lyric debut

59 Studio, based in London and New York, conceives, directs, designs, and delivers large-scale story-driven artworks, stage shows, events, and immersive experiences. Recent design for theatre and events includes: *Ragtime* (Lincoln Center), *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier*

& *Clay* (Metropolitan Opera), *Stranger Things: The First Shadow* (West End/Broadway, Tony and Olivier Awards), *Aida* (Metropolitan Opera), *Camelot* (Vivian Beaumont Theatre, Lincoln Center), *Pictures From Home* (Broadway), *Flying Over Sunset* and *Intimate Apparel* (Lincoln Center Theater), *The Last Ship* (Northern Stage/UK tour/US tour), *Oslo* (Lincoln Center/National Theatre/Harold Pinter Theatre), *Wonder.land* (Manchester International Festival/National Theatre), *An American in Paris* (Broadway/London/US tour), *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Broadway), *The Forbidden Zone* (Salzburg Festival/Schaubühne Berlin), *Les Misérables* (world tour), *War Horse* (NT/Worldwide tours), and the London 2012 Olympics Opening Ceremony. Highlights as video designers for opera include *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* (Santa Fe Opera), and *Marnie, Two Boys, Doctor Atomic, Satyagraha*, and *The Pearl Fishers* (Metropolitan Opera/ENO).



ANDREW GEORGE ORIGINAL CHOREOGRAPHER

Previously at Lyric: Six works since 2007/08, most recently *Don Carlos* and *Macbeth* (both 2022/23).

Born in Wales and trained at the Laban Centre, George's work has been seen at the Royal Ballet and Opera in *Andrea Chénier* (also Barcelona), *Les Troyens* and *Adriana Lecouvreur* (also La Scala, Metropolitan Opera, Barcelona, Vienna, Paris), and *Salome*. For the English National Opera, he choreographed *Agrippina* (also Barcelona), *The Turn of the Screw*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, and *Die Walküre*. At Lyric, he previously choreographed *Wozzeck* (2015/16), *Rusalka* (2013/14), *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* (2012/13), and *Giulio Cesare* (2007/08). His work has been seen at the Metropolitan Opera (*Agrippina*, *Cavalleria rusticana*/Pagliacci, *Anna Bolena*, *Giulio Cesare*, and *Don Giovanni*); Santa Fe Opera and Scottish Opera (*Falstaff*); and Glyndebourne (*The Abduction from the Seraglio*, *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, *Giulio Cesare* (also Lille), and *Carmen* (also Copenhagen and Dallas). In addition to numerous productions for Scottish Opera, Welsh National Opera, and Opera North, his work has been seen in Paris at the Châtelet (*A Little Night Music*) and the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées (*Ariodante*, *Semele*, *L'incoronazione di Poppea*); and at La Scala (*Tannhäuser*).



EMILY PIERCY REVIVAL CHOREOGRAPHER

Lyric debut

Recent engagements for the choreographer include *La traviata* (Glyndebourne), *Salome* (Royal Ballet and Opera), *Carmen* (Glyndebourne, Royal Danish Opera, Opera Vest, Norway), *Privates on Parade* (Michael Grandage Company), and *The Thrill of Love* (New Vic). As a dancer and actor, she has performed in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Parsifal*, *Giulio Cesare*, and *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* (Glyndebourne), *Moving in Time* (New Adventures/TEA Films), *La Bohème* and *Agrippina* (English National Opera), *Nutcracker!* (New Adventures, Sadler's Wells Theatre), *Play Without Words* (New Adventures, National Theatre UK), *Car*

Man (New Adventures, Old Vic), *Cinderella* and *Swan Lake* (New Adventures, Piccadilly Theatre, Los Angeles, Broadway), *Swan Lake* (BBC/NVC film), and *Die Zauberflöte* (film).




NOELLE KAYSER REVIVAL CHOREOGRAPHER

Previously at Lyric: *Ballet Mistress / Jenůfa* (2023/24) and *Dancer & Assistant Choreographer/Carmen* (2022/23).

An award-winning choreographer, director, and multi-disciplinary performer based in Chicago, Kayser is the inaugural resident choreographer for Open Space, a Whim W'him Choreographic Shindig winner, the 2025 BalletX Choreographic Fellow, and a 2026 Ballet Collective Commission for Developing Choreographers recipient. She has created work for companies including Dance Aspen, DanceWorks Chicago, Visceral Dance Chicago, and SALT II, among many others. She was the founding rehearsal director and administrator for PARA.MAR Dance Theatre, and is currently the Artistic Liaison for South Chicago Dance Theatre. Kayser's short dance film "dust" — produced by Open Space — has been screened in Germany, Sweden, Greece, South Korea, Mexico, Italy, London, and throughout the U.S. In addition to her choreographic work, she has performed works by Gustavo Ramírez Sansano, Ihsan Rustem, Wen Wei Wang, Danielle Agami, Robyn Mineko Williams, and Alice Klock, among others. She has performed with companies such as NW Dance Project and Visceral Dance Chicago, among others. As an actor, Kayser has narrated 16 audiobooks for Audible, appeared in advertising campaigns, and performed in numerous stage productions. Most recently, she won the 2024 Jeff Award for Best Ensemble for her performance as Selene in *The Penelopiad* at the Goodman Theatre, and starred in Anna Long's short film *Death in the Desert* (Best Actress in a Short at the Idyllwild Film Festival & Best Short Drama at the Breckenridge Film Festival).



JOHN METZNER WIG & MAKEUP DESIGNER

The versatile designer first joined the staff of Lyric for the 2022/23 Season. He has previously collaborated with Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Lookingglass Theatre, and Court Theatre. He served for nine years as Head of Wig and Makeup for Webster University's Conservatory of Theatre Arts, and designed hair and makeup for more than 50 performances at The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. Other regional credits include work at The Muny, Great River Shakespeare Festival, and Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, where he designed for *The Pirates of Penzance*, among many other productions. His advanced training includes wig styling at the Wig Room Training Academy and London School of Wig Making. *John Metzner is supported by The Marlys A. Beider Wigmaster and Makeup Designer Endowed Chair.* 

Orchestra & Chorus

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Enrique Mazzola
*The John D. and Alexandra
 C. Nichols Endowed Chair*

MUSIC STAFF

Michael Banwarth
 Kseniia Polstiankina Barrad
 William C. Billingham
 Aaron Breid
 Kyle Dickson
 Levi Hammer
 Susan Miller Hult
 Tess Jackson
 Keun-A Lee
 Chi-Yuan Lin ^{^^}
 Noah Lindquist ^{*}
 Francesco Milioto
 Jerad Mosbey
 Jacob Niemann [^]
 Stefano Sarzani
 Madeline Slettedahl
 Morgan Stevenson
 Marika Yasuda

ORCHESTRA

Violin I

Robert Hanford, *Concertmaster*,
*Mrs. R. Robert Funderburg
 Endowed Chair*
 Emily Nebel,
Assistant Concertmaster
 Eleanor Bartsch
 Alexander Belavsky
 Kathleen Brauer
 Renée-Paule Gauthier
 Laura Miller
 Liba Shacht
 Heather Wittels
 Bing Jing Yu

Violin II

Yin Shen, *Principal*
 John Macfarlane,
Assistant Principal
 Injoo Choi ^{**}
 Diane Duraffourg-Robinson
 Ann Palen
 Irene Radetzky
 John D. Robinson
 David Volfe

Viola

Carol Cook, *Principal*
 Terri Van Valkinburgh,
Assistant Principal
 Amy Hess
 Melissa Trier Kirk
 Rebecca Swan

Cello

Calum Cook, *Principal*
 Mark Brandfonbrener
 William H. Cernota
 Ana Kim
 Walter Preucil

String Bass

Samuel Shuhan,
Acting Principal
 Andrew L. W. Anderson
 Gregory Sarchet
 Collins R. Trier

Flute

Marie Tachouet, *Principal*
 Dionne Jackson,
Assistant Principal
 Alyce Johnson

Piccolo

Alyce Johnson

Oboe

Paul Lueders, *Principal*
 Judith Zunamon Lewis,
Assistant Principal

English Horn

Judith Zunamon Lewis

Clarinet

Heesoo Kim, *Principal*
 Susan Warner,
Assistant Principal

Bass Clarinet

Susan Warner,
Acting

Bassoon

Preman Tilson, *Principal*
 Lewis Kirk, *Assistant Principal*

Contrabassoon

Lewis Kirk

Horn

Abigail Black, *Principal*
 Fritz Foss, *Assistant
 Principal/Utility
 (Third Horn^{**})*

Robert E. Johnson ^{*}
 Samuel Hamzem
 Neil Kimel

Trumpet

William Denton, *Principal*
 Rebecca Oliverio,
Acting Assistant Principal

Trombone

Jeremy Moeller, *Principal*
 Mark Fisher, *Assistant Principal*
 Will Baker

Bass Trombone

Will Baker

Tuba

Andrew Smith, *Principal*

Timpani

Edward Harrison, *Principal*

Percussion

Douglas Waddell,
Acting Principal
 Eric Millstein,
Acting Assistant Principal

Harp

Lynn Williams, *Principal*

Librarian

John Rosenkrans, *Principal*

Stage Band Contractor

Christine Janicki

EXTRA MUSICIANS

Cristina Buciu, *violin*
 Christine Chon, *violin*
 Carmen Kassinger, *violin*
 Olga Kossovich, *violin*
 Kate Carter, *violin*
 Karin Gambell, *violin*
 Sheila Hanford, *violin*
 Hana Kim, *violin*
 Rose Armbrust Griffn, *viola*
 Bea Chen, *viola*
 Joey Fischer, *viola*
 Bruno Vaz da Silva, *viola*
 Ben Fryxell, *cello*
 Mara McClain, *cello*
 Isidora Nojkovic, *cello*
 Jeremy Attanaseo, *bass*
 Nick Delaurentis, *bass*
 Sam Waring, *oboe*
 Margaret Butler, *bass oboe*
 Trevor O'Riordan, *clarinet*
 Elizandro Garcia Montoya,
clarinet
 Wagner Campos, *bass clarinet*
 Hanna Sterba, *bassoon*
 Vincent Karamanov, *bassoon*
 Adam Unsworth, *horn*
 Renee Vogen, *horn*
 Greg Flint, *horn*
 Dave Inmon, *trumpet*
 Dave Gager, *trumpet*
 Mark Fry, *bass trombone*
 Sarah Christianson, *timpani/
 percussion*
 Michael Kozakis, *percussion*
 Rich Janicki, *percussion*
 Josh Jones, *percussion*
 Joel Cohen, *percussion*
 Lauren Hayes, *harp*
 Michael Banwarth, *celeste*

STAGEBAND MUSICIAN

William C. Billingham,
harmonium

The Lyric Opera Orchestra string sections utilize revolving seating. Players behind the front desk change seats systematically and are listed alphabetically in the roster above.

^{*} On leave, 2025/26 Season
^{**} Season Substitute
[^] Solti Foundation U.S. Opera Residency
^{^^} Ryan Opera Center Conductor

**CHORUS DIRECTOR
AND HEAD OF MUSIC**

Michael Black
*The Howard A. Stotler
 Endowed Chair*

REGULAR CHORUS**Soprano**

Angela De Venuto
 Cathleen Dunn
 Desirée Hassler
 Rachael Holzhausen
 Kimberly McCord
 Heidi Spoor
 Stephani Springer
 Sherry Watkins
 Kelsea Webb
 Tara Wheeler

Mezzo-Soprano

Marianna Kulikova
 Ola Rafalo
 Yvette Smith
 Marie Sokolova
 Maia Surace
 Corinne Wallace-Crane
 Pamela Williams
 Michelle K. Wright

Tenor

Geoffrey Agpalo
 Timothy Bradley
 Hoss Brock
 William M. Combs
 John J. Concepción
 Kenneth Donovan
 Jared V. Esguerra
 Joseph A. Fosselman
 Cullen Gandy
 Cameo T. Humes
 Tyler Samuel Lee
 Joseph Shadday

Bass

David DuBois
 Christopher Filipowicz
 Robert Morrissey
 Rafael W. Porto
 Craig Springer
 Nicholas Ward
 Ronald Watkins
 Nikolas Wenzel
 Max Wier
 Jonathan Wilson

**CORE SUPPLEMENTARY
CHORUS****Soprano**

Cara Collins
 Megan Fleischmann
 Emily Mwila

Mezzo-Soprano

Christina G. Adams
 Carla Janzen
 Emily Price

Tenor

Joshua Benevento
 Ace Gangoso

Bass

Michael Cavalieri
 David Govertsen
 Nicolai Janitzky
 Ian R. Prichard

**SUPPLEMENTARY
CHORUS****Soprano**

Nicole Besa
 Alexandra Burch
 Regina Ceragioli
 Anna Donnelly
 Elizabeth Fisher
 Hayley Fox
 Julia Frodyma
 Elise Hurwitz
 Mackenzie Jacquemin
 Alexandra Kassouf
 Courtney San Martin
 Taylor See
 Emlynn Shoemaker
 Alannah Spencer
 Diana Stoic
 Ariana Strahl

Mezzo-Soprano

Emily Amesquita
 Robin G. Bradley
 Leah Dexter
 Elizabeth Frey
 Miya Higashiyama
 Georgia Jacobson
 Samantha McGonigal
 Quinn Middleman
 Sarah Ponder
 Marissa Simmons

Tenor

Jerek Fernández
 Klaus Georg
 Jianghai Ho
 Ernest C. Jackson Jr
 Nathan Oakes
 Steven Michael Patrick
 Brett Potts
 Brian Skoog
 Ryan Townsend Strand
 Tristan Tournaud

Bass

Evan Bravos
 Chris DiMarco
 Dimitri German
 Stephen Hobe
 Brian Hupp
 Joseph Lodato
 Dorian McCall
 Wilbur Pauley
 William Powell III
 Douglas Peters
 Dan Richardson
 Aaron Wardell

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.



Todd Rosenberg

Lyric

**Thank you for
your support**

Bravissimi

We gratefully acknowledge members of the Lyric family who have contributed a total of \$1 million+ throughout the history of the company. Lyric thrives due to the incredible generosity of these individuals, foundations, and corporations.

\$50,000,000+

The Facilities Fund of Lyric Opera of Chicago and Chicago Symphony Orchestra, John H. Bryan°, James W. Cozad°, H. Laurance Fuller°, and Patrick G. Ryan

\$30,000,000+

Nancy W. Knowles°

\$25,000,000+

Robert and Penelope Steiner Family Foundation

\$15,000,000+

Patrick G. & Shirley Welsh Ryan

\$10,000,000+

Anonymous
Julie & Roger Baskes
The Chicago Community Trust
The Crown Family
Sonia Florian°
J. Thomas Hurvis & Ann Andersen
and the Caerus Foundation
Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust
and the Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust
National Endowment for the Arts
The Negaunee Foundation

\$7,500,000+

Anonymous (3)
Julius Frankel Foundation
Gramma Fisher Foundation of Marshalltown, Iowa
Mr.° & Mrs. Dietrich M. Gross
Illinois Arts Council
Martha J. Jacobshagen°
The Kiphart Family
John D.° & Alexandra C. Nichols
Anne and Chris Reyes
Lisbeth Stiffel

\$5,000,000+

Anonymous (2)
Abbott Fund
Ameritech/SBC/AT&T
Stefan Edlis° & Gael Neeson
The Grainger Foundation
ITW
Josef & Margot Lakonishok
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
The Monument Trust (UK)
Irma Parker°
Sidney L.° & Bettie Port°
Earl & Brenda Shapiro Foundation
Mr.° & Mrs. William C. Vance

\$2,500,000+

Anonymous (2)
American Airlines
Aon
Mrs. A. Watson Armour°
Boston Consulting Group
Randy L. & Melvin R.° Berlin
Henry & Gilda Buchbinder Family
Carolyn S. Bucksbaum°
The Butler Family Foundation
David W. Carpenter° & Orit K. Carpenter
Challenge III Fund - Government
City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events
Nelson D. Cornelius°
Mr. & Mrs. John V. Crowe°
The Davee Foundation
Mrs. Mary B. Galvin
Mary Patricia Gannon°
Ann & Gordon Getty Foundation
Ethel & William° Gofen
Mr. & Mrs. William B. Graham°
Howard L. Gottlieb° & Barbara G. Greis
John R. Halligan Charitable Fund
The Harris Family Foundation
Invesco QQQ

The Edgar D. Jannotta Family
 Mr.° & Mrs. Fred A. Krehbiel
 Malott Family Foundation
 Mazza Foundation
 Fred McDougal° & Nancy Lauter McDougal°
 Robert & Susan Morrison
 Sylvia Neil & Daniel Fischel
 Northern Trust
 Mr. & Mrs. William A. Osborn
 Penny Pritzker & Bryan Traubert
 PwC
 Daniel F. & Ada L. Rice Foundation
 Dr. Scholl Foundation
 Clarke & Adine Stayman Trusts
 Howard A. Stotler°
 Mary Stowell
 Mrs. Herbert A. Vance°
 Cynthia Wood°
 Zell Family Foundation

\$1,000,000+

Anonymous (2)
 Katherine A. Abelson
 Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
 Atkinson Family Foundation
 Walter F. Bandi° & Elsa E. Bandi°
 Bank of America and Merrill
 Baxter International Inc.
 James N. & Laurie V. Bay
 Marlys A. Beider
 BMO
 The Brinson Foundation
 Bulley & Andrews
 Marion A. Cameron-Gray
 Amy & Paul Carbone
 JP Morgan Chase & Co.
 Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation
 Mr.° & Mrs. James W. Cozad
 Joanne Toor Cummings°
 The Edgar Foster Daniels Foundation
 Deutsche Bank
 Azile Dick°
 Exelon
 Maxine P. & W. James Farrell
 Elaine Frank°
 Richard° & Barbara Franke
 Brena & Lee A. Freeman, Sr. Charitable Association
 Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
 Ambassador & Mrs. Ronald Jay Gidwitz
 Sue & Melvin Gray
 Harold Hartshorne, Jr.°
 Mr. & Mrs. Ben W. Heineman°

Walter E. Heller Foundation
 H. Earl & Miriam U. Hoover°
 Invenergy
 Jenner & Block
 George Johnson
 Lori Julian for the Julian Family Foundation
 Stephen A. Kaplan
 Kemper Educational & Charitable Fund
 Kirkland & Ellis Foundation
 Mr.° & Mrs. Sanfred Koltun
 Kraft Foods
 Karen Z. Gray-Krehbiel & John H. Krehbiel, Jr.
 LaSalle Bank
 Anne P. Lederer Research Institute
 Arthur B. Logan°
 Jim° & Kay Mabie
 Brooks & Hope McCormick Foundation
 Chauncey & Marion D. McCormick Family Foundation
 Robert R. McCormick Trust
 Gerry M. Miller°
 Jim° & Vicki Mills/Jon & Lois Mills
 Richard M. Morrow°
 Allan & Elaine Muchin
 Jerome & Elaine Nerenberg Foundation
 Susan & Nick Noyes/Make It Better Media Group
 Nuveen Investments
 Gregory O'Leary & Patricia Kenney
 David & Sheila Ormesher
 I.A. O'Shaughnessy Foundation
 Peer & Sarah Pedersen°
 Polk Bros. Foundation
 Prince Charitable Trusts
 Mrs. Jay A. Pritzker
 The Regenstein Foundation
 Lloyd E. Rigler-Lawrence E. Deutsch Foundation
 Harry A. Root, Jr.°
 Richard O. Ryan
 Arthur Rubloff Residuary Trust
 Sara Lee Foundation
 Carol & Gordon Segal
 Rose L. Shure° & Sidney N. Shure°
 Joanne Silver°
 Lois B. Siegel°
 Virginia Tobiason
 Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Van Gorkom°
 The Wallace Foundation
 Lois L. Ward°
 Roberta L. Washlow & Robert J. Washlow
 Robert & Floretta Weiss
 Bernard E. Williams Trust
 Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

° Deceased

Production sponsors

Lyric's 2025/26 Season is presented by the **Robert and Penelope Steiner Family Foundation**.
Lyric Opera of Chicago's Chorus is generously sponsored by an **Anonymous Lead Sponsor**.

Medea

Lisbeth Stiffel
Julie & Roger Baskes
Marlys A. Beider
Patricia A. Kenney & Gregory J. O'Leary
Alice & John Butler⁺
H. Gael Neeson⁺
Sylvia Neil & Daniel Fischel⁺
Robert and Penelope Steiner Family Foundation⁺
Mary Stowell⁺
Zell Family Foundation⁺

Così fan tutte

The Negaunee Foundation
The Julius Frankel Foundation
Randy L. & Melvin R.° Berlin
Alice & John Butler⁺
H. Gael Neeson⁺
Sylvia Neil & Daniel Fischel⁺
Robert and Penelope Steiner Family Foundation⁺
Mary Stowell⁺
Zell Family Foundation⁺



Cavalleria rusticana & Pagliacci

Josef & Margot Lakonishok
Sonia Florian°
Alice & John Butler⁺
H. Gael Neeson⁺
Sylvia Neil & Daniel Fischel⁺
Robert and Penelope Steiner Family Foundation⁺
Mary Stowell⁺
Zell Family Foundation⁺

Madama Butterfly

Anonymous Donor
Lisbeth Stiffel
Randy L. & Melvin R.° Berlin
Marion A. Cameron-Gray



El último sueño de Frida y Diego

Zell Family Foundation
Pritzker Foundation
Ethel Gofen

Carmina Burana

Irene D. Pritzker in honor of Michael Black
Alice & John Butler⁺
H. Gael Neeson⁺
Sylvia Neil & Daniel Fischel⁺
Robert and Penelope Steiner Family Foundation⁺
Mary Stowell⁺
Zell Family Foundation⁺

safronia

Pritzker Traubert Foundation

A Night of Mellon Collie and Infinite Sadness



Salome

Richard O. Ryan

+ Enrique Circle

The Enrique Circle is composed of Lyric's most dedicated supporters who are committed to championing Maestro Enrique Mazzola's exciting artistic vision and legacy.

To learn more about Lyric sponsorship opportunities, please visit lyricopera.org/support-lyric/major-investments/production-sponsorships.

°Deceased

Supporting our future — endowments at Lyric

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 Director	Howard A. Stotler
Concertmaster	Mrs. R. Robert Funderburg, <i>in honor of Sally Funderburg</i>
Costume Designer	Richard P. and Susan Kiphart
General Director	The Women's Board, <i>in loving memory of Ardis Krainik</i>
Lighting Director	Mary-Louise and James S. Aagaard, <i>in honor of Duane Schuler</i>
Music Director	John D. & Alexandra C. Nichols
Production and Technical Director ⁺	Allan and Elaine Muchin
Wigmaster and Makeup Designer ⁺	Marlys A. Beider, <i>in loving memory of Harold Beider</i>
Ryan Opera Center Director	The Ryan Opera Center Board
Ryan Opera Center Music Director	Jannotta Family

LYRIC PRODUCTION ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Supports	Established by
Baroque Operas	Anonymous
French Operas	W. James and Maxine P. Farrell
German Operas	Irma Parker
Italian Operas	NIB Foundation
Mozart Operas	Regenstein Foundation, <i>in honor of Ruth Regenstein</i>
Puccini Operas	Mary Patricia Gannon
Verdi Operas	Guild Board
Wagner Operas	Anonymous

LYRIC ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Sarah and A. Watson Armour III Endowment
Shirley and Benjamin Gould Endowment
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Endowment
Public Engagement Endowment Fund
Joanne Silver Endowment

DISCOVER LYRIC ENDOWMENT FUNDS

The Grainger Foundation, for the *NEXT* program
Bruce Gober MD and Donald Ratner Endowment Fund⁺

RYAN OPERA CENTER ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Dr. C. Bekerman Endowment⁺
Thomas Doran Endowment⁺
Boyd Edmonston & Edward Warro Endowment⁺
James K. Genden and Alma Koppedraijer Endowment⁺
Bruce Gober MD and Donald Ratner Endowment Fund⁺
H. Earl and Miriam U. Hoover Endowment Fund
J. Thomas Hurvis Endowment Fund,
in memory of Richard P. Kiphart
Robert and Ellen Marks Ryan Opera Center Vocal Studies Director
Endowment, *in memory of Gianna Rolandi*
Lois B. Siegel Endowment
Joanne Silver Endowment
Drs. Joan and Russ Zajchuk Endowment⁺

LYRIC UNLIMITED — LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Katherine A. Abelson Education Endowment
Dr. C. Bekerman Endowment⁺
Raynette and Ned Boshell Endowment
George F. and Linda L. Brusky Youth Education Endowment⁺
The Chapters' Education Endowment, *in memory of Alfred Glasser*
James K. Genden and Alma Koppedraijer Endowment⁺
Bruce Gober MD and Donald Ratner Endowment Fund⁺



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

During her lifetime, Carol Fox Award recipient Nancy Knowles generously invested her time, talents, and leadership to advance Lyric through her membership on the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and the Guild Board. In recognition of her extraordinary gift to the Campaign for Excellence, Lyric named the Nancy W. Knowles Lobby in 2007. Later, Nancy made a significant gift in support of the Breaking New Ground Campaign, creating the Nancy W. Knowles Student and Family Performances Fund, which she secured by including Lyric as a beneficiary of her estate — a remarkable continuation of her lifetime generosity.

⁺**Future Planned Gift** These donors have named Lyric in their will, trust, IRA, or other planned giving possibilities to establish an endowment fund in their name to support Lyric, its programs, and positions forever. Learn how to leave a lasting legacy by contacting **Mike Biver**, Senior Director of Gift Planning, at **312.827.5655** or email **mbiver@lyricopera.org**.

“

That one moment of opera — the soaring aria, the breathtaking finale — can ignite a lifetime of wonder. We’re making a planned gift in our estate plan to Lyric Opera of Chicago because we want to give every child the chance to experience that magic.

Diane Marie Tkach & James F. Freundt

Your legacy. The world will listen.

The Ardis Krainik Society

To learn more about leaving a lasting legacy at Lyric, please contact **Mike Biver**, Senior Director of Gift Planning
mbiver@lyricopera.org | 312.827.5655

Lyric



Gift planning at Lyric

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

ARIA BENEFACTORS

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

Anonymous (6)
Paul and Mary Anderson
Family Foundation
Marlys A. Beider
Dr. C. Bekerman
Ann Blickensderfer
Marion A. Cameron-Gray
Christopher Carlo & Robert Chaney
David° & Orit Carpenter
Amanda & Matthew° Fox
David & Janet Fox
Patricia & Maurice J.° Frank
James K. Genden° &
Alma Koppedraier
Bruce Gober MD & Donald Ratner°
Sue & Melvin Gray
Dr. Petra B. Krauledat &
Dr. W. Peter Hansen
Susan K. Leshner
Philip G. Lumpkin
Blythe Jaski McGarvie
Susan & Robert Morrison
John Nigh
Julia Pernet
Kenneth Porrello & Sherry McFall
Richard O. Ryan
Diane Marie Tkach &
James F. Freundt
Virginia Tobiason
Dr. & Mrs. Peter Willson
Rabbi Larry Winer° &
JoAnne Johnson Winer
Dr. Robert G. Zadylak &
James C. Kemmerer
Drs. Russ & Joan Zajtchuk
Anne Zenzer

SOCIETY MEMBERS

Anonymous (141)
Rich & Jan Aaron
Valerie & Joseph Abel
Louise Abrahams
Richard Abram & Paul Chandler
Ginny Alberts-Johnson &
Lance Johnson
Carl H.° & Cynthia Albright

Judy L. Allen
Gary & Barbara Allie
Louise E. Anderson
Bert Badillo
Richard N. Bailey
David Gerard Baker
Susann Ball
Randolph & Lorraine Barba
Marilyn R. Barmash
Margaret Basch
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Beata
Mrs. Bill Beaton
Mark & Judy Bednar
Steve Beier
Martha Bell
Geraldine C. Bellanca
Daniel J. Bender
Lynn Bennett
Julie Anne Benson
Charles E. & Nancy T. Berg
Joan Israel Berger
Barbara Bermudez
Susan Bernstein
Kyle & Marge Bevers
Patrick J. Bitterman
M. J. Black & Mr. C. Lancy
Richard Blackwell
Dr. Debra Zahay Blatz
Merrill & Judy Blau
D. Jeffrey° & Joan H. Blumenthal
John & Claudia Boatright
Marlene R. Boncosky
Mr. & Mrs. John Jay Borland
Ned & Raynette Boshell
David Boyce
Dr. & Mrs. Boone Brackett
Christine & Paul Branstad
Family Foundation
Robert & Phyllis Brauer
Danolda (Dea) Brennan
Daniel A. & Leona B.° Bronstein
Carol & Alan Brookes
Kathryn Y. Brown
George F.° & Linda L. Brusky
Steven & Helen Buchanan
Dr. Gerald° & Mrs. Linda Budzik
Lisa Bury
John E. & Alice Butler
Robert J. Callahan
Julienne Campbell
Amy & Paul Carbone
James & Penny Carper
Carla Carstens & Theodore Herr
Patrick Vincent Casali
Dinah Jacobs Castle
Esther Charbit

Jeffrey K. Chase, J.D.
Ramona Choos
J. Salvatore L. Cianciolo
Heinke Clark
Robert & Margery Coen
Eugenia Collias
Elaine Collina
Peter & Beverly Conroy
Sharon Conway
Sarah J. Cooney
Dr. W. Gene Corley Family
Joseph E. Corrigan
Paul T. & Elaine D. Cottey
Una Creditor
David Curry
Barbara L. Dean
Phyllis Diamond
Roger & Linelle Dickinson
Ms. Janet E. Diehl
Mr. & Mrs. William S. Dillon
Catherine R. DiNapoli
Dr.° & Mrs. Bernard J. Dobroski
Thomas M. Dolan
Jane M. Drezen
Mary Louise Duhamel
Kathleen Dunn
Roma Krystyna Dybalski
Carol A. Eastman
Judy Eckberg
Boyd Edmonston & Edward Warro
Endowment Fund
Ryan Eikmeier & Timothy Silver
Cherelynn A. Elliott
Peter & Kelli° Emery
Mary Ellen Endow
Dr. James A. Eng
La & Philip Engel
Susanna & Helmut Epp
Erika E. Erich
Mr. & Mrs. James D. Ericson
Dr. & Mrs. James Ertle
Ms. Mary T. Ethier
Christopher & Brigitte Evans
Marilyn D. Ezri, M.D.
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Y. Feng
Nancy R. Fifield
Robert F. Finke
Felicia Finkelman
Jack M. & Marsha S. Firestone
Morris & Natalie Fisher
Eloise C. Foster
Jack B. Franaszek &
Kathleen A. McQueeny
Richard J. Franke
Ms. Susan Frankel
Thomas H. Franks, Ph.D.

Penny & John E. Freund
Marie & Gregory° Fugiel
George & Mary Ann Gardner
Scott P. George
Margaret & Patrick Ghielmetti
Melinda E. Gibson, MD, *in memory of Sylvia M. Morrison*
Norden S. Gilbert
John F. Gilmore
Michael Goldberger
John A. Goldstein
Sherry & Delmon Grapes
Rick Greenman
James R. Grimes
Gregor Gruenthaler
Ann Guhman
Carl J. Halperin
Mr. Edwin Hanlon
Miss Patricia O. Hanlon
Ms. Geraldine Haracz
Mary Kathryn Hartigan
Julian W. Harvey
Andrew Hatchell
William P. Hauworth
Dr. & Mrs. David J. Hayden
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas C. Heagy
Josephine E. Heindel
Allen W. Heinemann &
William Borden
Michael F. Hillbruner
Stephanie & Allen Hochfelder
Mrs. Marion Hoffman
Elizabeth Holding
Stephen D. Holmes
Edith A. Holst
Mary & Jim° Houston
H. Eileen Howard &
Marshall Weinberg°
Sarah & William Hufford
Kenneth N. Hughes
Michael Huskey
Cpt. Bernardo Iorgulescu, USMC
Memorial Fund
Merle Jacob
J. Jeffrey Jaglois
Edgar D. Jannotta
Stanley J. Janowiak
Dr. & Mrs. Todd & Peggy Janus
Barbara Joabson
Diane & Alan Johnson
John Arthur Johnson
Ronald B. Johnson
Roy A. & Sarah C. Johnson
Barbara Mair Jones
Mr. Theodore Kalogeresis
Wayne S. & Lenore M. Kaplan

For more information about becoming an Ardis Krainik Society member and the related levels and benefits associated, contact **Mike Biver**, Senior Director of Gift Planning, at **312.827.5655** or **mbiver@lyricopera.org**.

°Deceased

Susan D. Kay
Kenneth Kelling
Chuck & Kathy Killman
Diana Hunt King
Mary King
R. William Klein, Jr.
Laura & LeRoy Klemt
J. Peter Kline
Helen Kohr
Judith Kolata
Edward & Adrienne Kolb
Susan Kryl
Barbara A. Kummerer, *in memory*
of Thomas H. Kummerer
John C. & Carol Anderson Kunze
Axel Kunzmann & Bruce J. Nelson
Mary S. Kurz
Larry Lapidus
Barbara K. Larsen
Angela Larson &
Bamshad Mobasher
Thomas & Annelise Lawson
Henrietta Leary
Gloria & Donald LeBoyer
Dr. & Mrs. Andrew O. Lewicky
Pamela Forbes Lieberman
Mrs. Paul Lieberman

Carole F. Liebson
Carol L. Linne
Candace Broecker Loftus
Doris C. Lorz
Carolyn Lovering
Carlotta & Ronald Lucchesi
Dorette PS Luke
William & Terry Maher
James C. & Suzette M. Mahneke
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Malatesta
Ann Chassin Mallow
Jennifer J. Malpass
Dr. & Mrs. Karl Lee Manders
Allison R. Manley
Daniel T. Manoogian
Daniel F. Marselle
Judy Marth
Mrs. Elizabeth Upjohn Mason
Dr. Christine Winter Massie &
James Massie
Anna Mattson
Michael P. Mayer
Mr. & Mrs. Richard P. Mayer
Michael M. & Diane Mazurczak
Mrs. David McCandless
James G. & Laura G. McCormick
Gia & Paul McDermott

William F. McHugh
Bill McVey
Martina M. Mead
Mr. & Mrs. Leland V. Meader
Bill Melamed
Dr. & Mrs. Jack L. Melamed
Mr. & Mrs. Peter M. Mesrobian
Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Meyers
Regina Mezydlo
Pauline Michael
Margaret & Craig Milkint
Michael Miller & Sheila Naughten
Susan M. Miller
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Miller
Martha A. Mills
Vlasta A. "Vee" Minarich
David & Justine K. Mintzer
BettyAnn Mocek & Adam R. Walker
Robert & Lois Moeller
Dr. Virginia Saft Mond
Dr. Ann H. Montague
Drs. Bill & Elaine Moor
Allan & Elaine Muchin
Cherilyn G. Murer
Mr. & Mrs. Michael E. Murphy
Eileen N. Murray
Ms. Diana K. Myers

Tom Myles
David J. & Dolores D. Nelson
John H. Nelson
Edward & Gayla Nieminen
Zehava L. Noah
Renate P. Norum
Patricia A. Noska
Linda Moses Novak
Margo & Michael Oberman
Dr. & Mrs. Frederick Olson
Virginia O'Neill
David & Sheila Ormesher
Jonathan Orser
Gerald L. Padbury
Joan L. Pantsios
Robert W. Parsons, M.D.
George R. Paterson &
Allen J. Frantzen
Sunday & Charles Perry
Susanne P. Petersson
Shirley Pfenning
Genevieve M. Phelps
Karen & Dick Pigott
Robert M. Pine
Louis A. Pitschmann &
Lillian A. Clark
John J. W. Plampin

*Deceased

Lyric Wine Auction 2026

A DIVINE DUET

May 8 & 9, 2026

HONORED GUESTS

Pierre Lurton of
Château Cheval Blanc

Erwan Faiveley of
Domaine Joseph Faiveley

Lyric Wine Auction 2026 is a project of the Lyric Women's Board.
President, **Karen Z. Gray-Krehbiel**.

Wine Auction 2026 Co-Chairs, **Jenni Sorenson and John Holmes**.

LYRICOPERA.ORG/WINEAUCTION

ROBERT AND PENELOPE
STEINER FAMILY FOUNDATION
2025/26 Presenting Season Sponsor

NORTHERN
TRUST
Presenting Sponsor



Photos: Kyle Flubacker, Jocelyn Simpson

Drs. Alan° & Carol Pohl
 Ms. Lois Polakoff
 D. Elizabeth Price
 Nathaniel W. Pusey
 Dr. Sondra C. Rabin
 Stanley Ransom
 Roberta Lyn Anderson Rains
 Dorothy V. Ramm
 Linda Raschke
 Christina Rashid
 Mr. & Mrs. Keith A. Reed
 Kenneth Reid
 Michael & Susan "Holly" Reiter
 Jennie M. Righeimer
 Charles & Marilynn Rivkin
 Sylvie Romanowski
 James & Janet° Rosenbaum
 J. Kenneth & Susan T. Rosko
 Anthony & Chatka Ruggiero
 Joseph C. Russo
 Dennis Ryan
 Louise M. Ryssmann
 David Sachs
 Mary Ann Sadilek
 Suzanne & William° Samuels
 Mary Ann & Bob Savard
 Dr. & Mrs. Anthony J. Schaeffer
 Mary T. Schafer
 Mrs. Philip H. Schaff, Jr.
 Margaret Schermerhorn
 Douglas M. Schmidt
 Franklin Schmidt
 Martha P. Schneider
 Ms. Frances A. Schrader
 Dr. Itai Seggev
 Curt Shaffer° & Margaret Orbon
 Sandra Shane-DuBow
 Amy H. Shapiro, Ph.D.
 Sherie Coren Shapiro
 Charles Chris Shaw
 Mr. & Mrs. Gordon M. Shaw
 David Shayne
 Jared Shlaes
 Larry G. Simpson
 Dr. Ira Singer
 Margles Singleton
 Thomas G. Sinkovic
 Craig Sirls
 John A. Smetanka
 Dennis R. & Patricia M. Smith
 Norman & Mirella Smith
 Mr. Reeves E. Smith
 Joan M. Solbeck
 Mary Soleiman
 Philip & Sylvia° Spertus
 Ms. Gay K. Stanek
 James Staples
 Sherie B. Stein
 Michael Steinberg &
 Salme Harju Steinberg

J. Allyson Stern
 Lisbeth Cherniack Stiffel
 Mr. & Mrs.° James P. Stirling
 Carol A. Stitzer & Marshall Marcus
 Clara Basch Stone
 Dr. & Mrs.° Peter W. Stonebraker
 Mary Stowell
 Daniel & Norene Stucka
 Mr.° & Mrs. Glenn L. Stuffers
 Emily J. Su
 Sherwin A. Swartz
 Mr. Charles A. Tausche
 Mr.° & Mrs. John C. Telander
 Cheryl Lorelle Thaxton
 Carla M. Thorpe
 Karen Hletko Tiersky
 Myron Tiersky
 Jacqueline Tilles
 Mrs. William C. Tippens
 Paula Turner
 Robert & Gloria Turner
 Paul & Judith Tuszyński
 Cynthia Vahlkamp & Robert Kenyon
 Charitable Trust
 Mike & Mary Valeanu
 Marlene A. Van Skike
 Lorraine & Dave Vander Ark
 David J. Varnerin
 Nancy Johnson Vazzano
 Raita Vilnins
 Malcolm V. Vye, M.D.
 Albert Walavich
 Cheryl Walczak, M.D.
 Darcy Lynn Walker
 Gary T. Walther
 Stephen & Karen Walton
 Albert Wang
 Dan Ward
 Louella Krueger Ward
 Diane M. Weber
 Dr. Catherine L. Webb
 Karl Wechter
 Patricia M. Wees
 Eric Weimer
 Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Weinberg
 Joan & Marco° Weiss
 Joanna L. Weiss
 Mrs. Robert G. Weiss
 Mrs. Melville W. Wendell
 Sandra Wenner
 Jane B. White
 Roger D. Wilson
 Claudia Winkler
 Nora Winsberg
 Mr. David Winter
 Florence Winters
 Brien & Cathy Wloch
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Wood II
 Daniel R. Zillmann

ESTATE GIFTS

The following estates have generously provided gifts of bequests and other planned gifts to Lyric. Due to space limitations, listings include only planned gifts received in the past three years and is current as of August 8, 2025. With deepest regards, Lyric commemorates and remembers those departed Lyric patrons who have honored us with these most-profound commitments.

James S. & Mary-Louise Aagaard
 Carol A. Abrioux
 Judith Anderson
 Ross C. Anderson
 Mychal P. Angelos
 Catherine Aranyi
 L. Robert Artoe
 Dorothy Avedisian
 Dr. Michael O. Blackstone
 Dr. Gregory L. Boshart &
 Dr. William R. Lawrence
 Judy Bober
 Joan Brugger
 Dr. Mary Louise Hirsh Burger &
 Mr. William Burger
 John F. Byrd
 Irma M. Caprioli
 David Carpenter
 Henry J. Carson
 Charles Putnam Case
 Ellen Clasen
 James Compton
 Louise H. Curry
 Hope A. Curtis
 Azile Dick
 Roger F. Dickinson
 Thomas Doran
 Richard Eastline
 Barbara Faber
 Roy Fisher
 Rhoda & Henry Frank
 Mary Patricia Gannon
 Sheila Purcell Garcia
 John F. Gilmore
 Howard Gottlieb
 John R. Grimes
 Dorothea Gruenerwald
 Carolyn Hallman
 Marilyn & Thomas Heath
 Mary Elizabeth Mako Helbert
 Rebecca Jarabak
 Judy Jasper
 Janet Jones
 Dr. Anne Juhasz
 Jack Kanuk & Richard Foster

Kerma & John Karoly
 Neil King
 Nancy W. Knowles
 David F. Kunca
 Gerald Lee
 Nancy R. Levi
 Melvin Loeb
 Hugo Lorenz
 David & Bernadette Lowum
 Edward Mack
 Iris Maiter
 Nicholas & Joan Malatesta
 Bella G. Malis
 Mrs. John Jay Markham
 Robert Marks
 Nancy Lauter McDougal &
 Alfred L. McDougal
 Dr. Jack Melamed
 Susan Messinger
 Barbara Terman Michaels
 Gerry M. Miller
 Barbara Mills
 Mario Munoz &
 Julia Garrofe Munoz
 Rosemary Murgas
 Florence C. Norstrom
 John & Dawn Palmer
 Dr. Frances Pietch
 Mary Raffetto-Robins
 Mary Lee Reed
 Evelyn R. Richer
 Carol Roberts
 Jadwiga Roguska-Kyts, M.D.,
in memory of Robert Kyts
 Eugene Rzym, *in memory of*
Adaline Rzym
 Richard P. Schieler
 Caroline Seabright
 Donald Seibert
 Lois B. Siegel
 Joanne Silver
 Jeremiah Stamler
 Suzanne & Karl Stein
 Loretta Thurm
 David Thurn
 Maureen Tokar
 Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Van Gorkom
 Joseph & Elizabeth Walczak
 Barbara Wanke
 Marilee Wehman
 Claude M. Weil
 Mary S. Wenzel
 Caroline Wheeler
 Bonnie Zeitlin

For more information about becoming an Ardis Krainik Society member and the related levels and benefits associated, contact **Mike Biver**, Senior Director of Gift Planning, at **312.827.5655** or **mbiver@lyricopera.org**.

°Deceased

Corporate partnership

Lyric appreciates the generosity of its corporate partners.

\$1,000,000 & above



\$50,000 to \$74,999



\$500,000 to \$999,999



KIRKLAND & ELLIS



\$250,000 to \$499,999



\$100,000 to \$249,999



JENNER & BLOCK LLP



TIFFANY & CO.

\$75,000 to \$99,999



**DISTINGUISHED
PATRON****\$10,000 to \$14,999**

Amsted Industries Foundation
Henry Crown and Company
Mayer Brown LLP
State Street Global Advisors

PATRON**\$5,000 to \$9,999**

Baird Foundation, Inc.
Italian Village Restaurants

PARTNER**\$4,000 to \$4,999**

Howard & Howard Attorneys
PLLC
Sahara Enterprises, Inc.

DEVOTEE**\$3,000 to \$3,999**

American Agricultural
Insurance Company
O. Long Law, LLC

MATCHING GIFTS

Abbvie
Bulley & Andrews
Goldman Sachs
Google
IBM Corporation
ITW Foundation
Invenergy
John D. & Catherine T.
MacArthur Foundation
JPMorgan Chase Foundation
Kirkland & Ellis Foundation
Microsoft
PepsiCo Foundation
The Pledgeling Foundation
PNC Foundation
Polk Bros. Foundation
United Way Metro Chicago
US Bank

IN-KIND GIFTS

J&L Catering
Harolyn Blackwell
Gene & Georgetti's
HMS Media
Rosalie Mizner
Brendan and Suzanne
Mulshine
PRP Wine International
Sailbrite Midwest
Shure Incorporated
Tablescapes
United Airlines
Frances Wehrli

Lyric Opera of Chicago
acknowledges support from
the Illinois Arts Council.

Lyric Opera of Chicago is a
member of OPERA America.

To learn more about corporate partnership opportunities, please contact **Bryan Hulscher**,
Senior Philanthropy Officer, Institutional Partnerships at bhulscher@lyricopera.org or **312.827.5692**.

This list includes donors whose gifts or pledges were received by December 8, 2025.

Capital gifts

Lyric is deeply grateful to the following donors for recent capital pledges and gifts that enhance the patron experience, maintain the beauty of our landmark opera house, and enable the magic on our stage.

Irma Parker Estate

Elevator renovation project through
the Capital Improvement Initiative Fund

An Anonymous Donor

Theatre seat renovation through
the Patron Accessibility Initiative

Jack & Peggy Crowe

Glass curtain project for enhanced
climate control for patron comfort
through the Capital Improvement
Initiative Fund

Aria Society

Lyric recognizes and appreciates gifts made by generous individuals, foundations, and government organizations.

\$1,000,000 and above

**AN ANONYMOUS
DONOR**



The Crown Family
Lester & Renée Crown



Howard L. Gottlieb° &
Barbara G. Greis

**THE NEGAUNEE
FOUNDATION**

**PENNY PRITZKER &
BRYAN TRAUBERT**



Robert and Penelope Steiner
Family Foundation

\$500,000 to \$999,999

**AN ANONYMOUS
DONOR**



The Butler Family Foundation
John & Alice Butler



H. Gael Neeson



Sylvia Neil & Daniel Fischel



Patrick G. & Shirley Welsh Ryan



Lisbeth Stiffel



Mary Stowell



Zell Family Foundation

\$250,000 to \$499,999**ANONYMOUS
DONORS (2)**

Julie & Roger Baskes



Randy L. & Melvin R.° Berlin

David W. Carpenter° and
Orit K. Carpenter,
*in loving memory
of David W. Carpenter*

Julius Frankel Foundation

Erika Gross *in loving
memory of Dietrich Gross*John R. Halligan
Charitable Fund

Josef & Margot Lakonishok



Richard O. Ryan



I've supported Lyric for over 40 years because to me it's important to stand behind any artistic endeavor that's significant in my life. Opera on stage needs to survive. It's not a given that it can or will."

Stephen F.

° Deceased

\$100,000 to \$249,999

**ANONYMOUS
DONORS (4)**

**PAUL M. ANGELL
FAMILY FOUNDATION**



Atkinson Family Foundation
*Dr. Arthur J. Atkinson, Jr.°
& Mary Jo Atkinson*

**THE BEAUBIEN
FAMILY**



Marlys A. Beider



Mr. & Mrs. Allan Bulley, III



Marion A. Cameron-Gray



Amy & Paul Carbone



**GRAMMA FISHER
FOUNDATION OF
MARSHALLTOWN,
IOWA**



Sonia Florian°



Rhoda and Henry Frank
Family Foundation



Ethel Gofen

**THE GRAINGER
FOUNDATION**



James & Brenda Grusecki



Lori Julian for the Julian
Family Foundation



Stephen A. Kaplan

**MIKE & LINDY
KEISER**

**THE RICHARD P.°
& SUSAN KIPHART
FAMILY**



The Knowles Foundation
Nancy W. Knowles°

\$100,000 to \$249,999 Continued



Karen Z. Gray-Krehbiel &
John H. Krehbiel, Jr.



Philip G. Lumpkin

**JEANNE RANDALL
MALKIN FAMILY
FOUNDATION**



John D.° & Alexandra
C. Nichols



Patricia A. Kenney &
Gregory J. O'Leary



Margo & Michael Oberman
& Family

**THE C. G. PINNELL
FAMILY**

IRENE D. PRITZKER



Dr. Scholl Foundation
Jack & Catherine Scholl°



Nancy S. Searle

**SEGAL FAMILY
FOUNDATION**



Morris Silverman &
Lori Komisar



Mark Tatro & Margarita
Chavez Tatro

**THIERER FAMILY
FOUNDATION**



Donna Van Eekeren
Foundation



Roberta L. Washlow &
Robert J. Washlow

°Deceased

Annual individual and foundation support

VIRTUOSO CIRCLE BENEFACTOR **\$75,000 to \$99,999**

David Q. & Mary H. Bell
Ross° & Patricia D. Bender
Linda Bruske
The Chicago Community Trust
Eisen Family Foundation
Patricia Frank
The Guild Board
Dr. Katherine Knight
Mazza Foundation
Blythe Jaski McGarvie
Allan & Elaine Muchin
Jerome & Elaine Nerenberg
Foundation
Susan M. Ruder
Bill & Orli Staley Foundation
Gene & Jean Stark
Virginia Tobiason
Anne Zenzer &
Dominick DeLuca

MAESTRO CIRCLE BENEFACTOR **\$50,000 to \$74,999**

Anonymous Donors (2)
The Brinson Foundation
Pamela Crutchfield
Decyk Watts Charitable
Foundation
Hau Chyi
Nancy Dehmlow
James & Deborah Fellowes
Amanda C. Fox
Virginia & Gary Gerst
The Joyce Foundation
Rebecca & Lester Knight
Marie & Arch McKellar
Frank B. Modruson &
Lynne C. Shigley
Brendan & Suzanne Mulshine
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Osborn
Polk Bros. Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Santi
Peter Scheuermann
Barbara & Barre Seid
Foundation
Earl & Brenda Shapiro
Foundation
Ilene & Michael Shaw
Charitable Trust
Rose L. Shure &
Sidney N. Shure

Ms. Gay K. Stanek
Michael Steinberg &
Salme Harju Steinberg
Gregory Tabaczynski
Cynthia Vahlkamp &
Robert Kenyon

COMPOSER CIRCLE **BENEFACTOR**

\$35,000 to \$49,999
Ken & Amy Aldridge
Molly & Roman Boed
Donald & Anne Edwards
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
James° & Mary Houston
Mr. & Mrs. Charles K. Huebner
Annie & Gregory K. Jones
Mr. & Mrs. L. D. Jorndt
Mr. & Mrs. Neil T. Kawashima
Mark & Gale Kozloff
Mr. Craig Lancaster &
Ms. Charlene T. Handler
Julian Oettinger
Dr. Ross Slotten &
Ted A. Grady

ARTIST CIRCLE **BENEFACTOR**

\$25,000 to \$34,999
Anonymous Donors (4)
Paul° & Mary Anderson
Robert & Isabelle Bass
Foundation, Inc.
Ron & Peggy Beata
Diane° & Michael Beemer
Fred & Phoebe Boelter
Heidi Heutel Bohn
Buehler Family Foundation
Pamella Capitanini
Greg & Mamie Case
Cellmer/Neal Foundation Fund
Joyce E. Chelberg
Mr. & Mrs. Michael P. Cole
Arie & Ida Crown Memorial
Michael Cushing
Anne Megan Davis
Ann M. Drake
Mr. Charles Droege &
Ms. Julie A. Wroblewski
Stephen Dunbar
Drs. George Dunea & Sally
Metzler-Dunea

Elaine S. Frank Fund
David & Janet Fox
Dr. Jana L. French &
Mr. Peter Gotsch
Mira Frohnmayer &
Sandra Sweet
Gary & Denise Gardner
John & Sarah Garvey
Mary & Lionel Go
Sue & Melvin Gray
Maria C. Green &
Oswald G. Lewis
Dan & Caroline Grossman
Mary Ellen Hennessy
Greater Cedar Rapids
Community Foundation,
Joseph M. Kacena Endowed
Fund
MaryBeth Kretz &
Robert Baum
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan B. Lewis, Sr.
Jennifer Malpass
Robert & Evelyn McCullen
Susan M. Miller
Music Performance Trust Fund
& Film Funds Trust Fund
Nicholas & Susan Noyes
Martha C. Nussbaum
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Oberlander
Drs. Olufunmilayo &
Christopher Olopade
Sheila & David Ormesher
Karen Pettite
D. Elizabeth Price
Alyssa & Burke Raine
Betsy & Andy Rosenfield
Bonnie R. Ross
George Sargent
Marsha Serlin & Jerry Sloan
Charles & M. R. Shapiro
Foundation, Inc.
Richard W. Shepro &
Lindsay E. Roberts
Jennifer L. Stone
Arthur Susman & Carole Stone
Cherryl T. Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. Richard G. Weinberg
Kim° & Miles D. White
Dr. David H. Whitney &
Dr. Juliana Chyu
Drs. Joan & Russ Zajtchuk

PREMIER PATRON **\$15,000 to \$24,999**

Anonymous Donors (3)
Judith Barnard & Michael Fain
C. Bekerman, M.D.
Mr. & Mrs. Merrill E. Blau
Mr. & Mrs. John Jay Borland
Drs. Walter & Anne-Marie
Bruyninckx
Rosemarie & Dean L. Buntrock
Cabrera Capital
Lawrence & Barbara Cohan
Mr. & Ms. Douglas Cohen
Ann Coleman
Susan E. Cremin & Paul Dykstra
Dan Draper
Fred L. Drucker & Hon. Rhoda
Sweeney Drucker
Richard & Ingrid Dubberke
Erika Erich
Lafayette J. Ford
Ruth Ann M. Gillis &
Michael J. McGuinnis
Phillip & Norma Gordon
Judith & Mark Hibbard
Cynthia° & Ron Holmberg
Dr. Nora Jaskowiak &
Mr. Matthew Hinerfield
The Jentes Family Foundation
George Johnson
Ronald B. Johnson
Robert & Emily King
Stephen Kohl & Mark Tilton
Victoria Mitchell Kohn
Helen & Bernard Kozloff
Family Foundation
Dr. M.S.W. Lee
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Mages
Malott Family Foundation
Mr. David Marshall &
Dr. Maija Freimanis
Gerard & Kathleen Maynard
Jean McLaren & John Nitschke
Terry J. Medhurst
Sheila Medvin
Mary Lou & Jack Miller
Martha A. Mills
Ms. Cheryl G. Murer
Chris & Eileen Murphy
Phyllis Neiman
Mr. & Mrs. Brian &
Tammi O'Dea

Marian Phelps Pawlick
Bonnie Pritchard
Hon. S. Louis Rathje &
Maria Rosa Costanzo
Mr. & Mrs. William Revelle
Candy & Gary Ridgway
The George L. Shields
Foundation, Inc.
Louis & Nellie Sieg Fund
Adele Simmons
Craig Sirles
Dr. & Mrs. R. John Solaro
Dr. Cynthia V. Stauffacher
Mr. & Mrs. James M. Trapp
Aris Urbanes & William Hulsker
Alan & Harriet Weinstein
Hilary & Barry Weinstein
Family Foundation
Michael Welsh &
Linda Brummer
Dr. & Mrs. Peter Willson
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Wood II
Marsha & David Woodhouse

DISTINGUISHED PATRON

\$10,000 to \$14,999

Anonymous Donors (11)
Alexander & Alexander,
Attorneys at Law
Arnold & Helen Andersen
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel P. Arras
Peter & Lucy^o Ascoli
Family Fund
Paul & Robert Barker
Foundation
Queta Rodriguez Bauer &
Ron Bauer
Jonathan Becker
Mark & Judy Bednar
Brunnhilde K. Bell Family
Barbara Bermudez
Mr. & Mrs. Turney P. Berry
Patrick J. Bitterman
Dr. & Mrs. Mark Bowen
Helen Brach Foundation
Dr.^o & Mrs. Thomas A. Broadie
Marie Campbell
Thomas A. Clancy &
Dana I. Green
Mitchell Cobey & Janet Reali
Lawrence Corry
Vinay Couto & Lynn Vincent
Gary Crosby
Elaine K. Cue
Cate & Jim Denny
Shawn M. Donnelley &
Christopher M. Kelly
Nancy & Bernard Dunkel
Mr. Paul Earle &
Ms. Ellen Rudnick
Hon. Frank Easterbrook &
Mrs. B. Englert Easterbrook

Chaz & Roger^o Ebert
Richard Egen
Ambassador Rahm Emanuel &
Ms. Amy Rule
Susanna & Helmut Epp
Dr. James O. Ertle
Mary & Steve Etherington
Marilyn D. Ezri, M.D.
Stephen and Rosamund
Forrest Family Foundation
Mr. Steven L. Fradkin
Dr. & Mrs. James L. Franklin
Cindy & Christopher B. Galvin
Ambassador & Mrs. Ronald J.
Gidwitz
Gay L. Girolami
Bruce Gober, MD
Judy & Bill Goldberg
Helyn D. Goldenberg
Mr. Gerald & Dr. Colette Gordon
Chester A. Gougis &
Shelley Ochab
David & Elizabeth Graham
James R. Grimes
Joan M. Hall
Dr. James^o & Mrs. Susan
Hannigan
John Hart & Carol Prins
Lynn Hauser & Neil Ross
Mrs. O. J. Heestand, Jr.
Hinsdale Chapter
Anne P. Hokin
Michael & Leigh Huston
Capt. Bernardo Iorgulescu,
USMC Memorial Fund
Dr. Carolyn & Dr. Paul Jarvis
Jessen Family in memory
of Howard E. Jessen &
Susanne C. Jessen
Nancy Rita Kaz
Mr. & Mrs. LeRoy C. Klemt
Edward & Adrienne Kolb
Margaret & Eugene^o Kuhajek
Virginia Croskery Lauridsen &
Nix Lauridsen
Lavin Family Foundation
Lemont Fund
Michael A. Leppen
Dr. Zafra Lerman
Mrs. Paul Lieberman
Anne & Craig Linn
Mr. & Mrs. Robert S. &
Sandra E. Marjan
Laura & Craig Martin
Shari Mayes
Mr. & Mrs. James A. McClung
Judith W. McCue &
Howard M. McCue III
Lynne & Paul McDonough
Drs. Bill^o & Elaine Moor
Michael & Kimberly Moran
Linda K. & Dennis M. Myers

Mr. & Mrs. David W. Nelms
Arthur C. Nielsen, Jr. Family
Charitable Trust
John Nigh
Anna Paglia
Cindy Pan & Eric Easterberg
Betsy Pasquinelli
Mr. & Mrs. Bruno Pasquinelli
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Pearlman
Jean Perkins & Leland
Hutchinson
The Family of Seymour H.
Persky
Mr. Jeffry Pickus &
Ms. Mary C. Downie
Harvey & Madeleine Plonsker
Rosy & Jose Luis Prado
Andra & Irwin Press
Mrs. Diana Prince
Jennifer N. Pritzker
Susan Rabe
The Reid-Anderson Family
Dr. Petra & Mr. Randy O.
Rissman



Supporting Lyric is one way I can honor
my father's memory and express my
appreciation for the doors that were
opened for me."

Robert L.

John C. Robak
Carol Roberts
Linda Samuelson &
Joel Howell
George^o & Terry Rose Saunders
Mr. & Mrs. Michael T. Sawyier
Karla Scherer
Alan Schriesheim &
Kay Torshen
Susan H. Schwartz
Richard & Diana Senior
Surendra & Dorothea Shah
Mary Beth Shea
Elizabeth S. Sheppard
Mr. & Mrs. Alejandro Silva
Ilene Simmons
Larry G. Simpson
The Siragusa Family Foundation
Steven R. Smythe
Joan M. Solbeck
The Solti Foundation U.S.
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Struthers
MinSook Suh
Dr. & Mrs. Arnold Tatar
Mark & Andrea Taylor

James & Sara TenBroek
Angela Tenta, M.D.
Mrs. Carla M. Thorpe
Dr. Michael Tobin, MD
Robert L. Turner
Bill & Kathryn Tyree
Mr.^o & Mrs. Peter Van Nice
Scott D. Vandermyde
Frances & Peter^o Vandervoort
David J. Varnerin
Dan & Patty Walsh
Pam & David Waud
Jason Wortendyke &
Ariel Knowles
Debbie K. Wright

PATRON

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Anonymous Donors (11)
Mr. & Mrs. William Adams IV
Mr. & Mrs. Gary R. Allie
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Arons
Margaret Atherton &
Robert Schwarz

Robert Baughman
Jennie Huang Bennett
Mr. & Mrs. D. Theodore
Berghorst
Kathleen Betterman
Mrs. Petra Blix &
Dr. Ben Gruber
Mr. Philip Block IV &
Mrs. Margaret S. Block
Susan Bovey
Michael Boykins &
Charise Studesville
Mr. & Mrs. James Bramsen
Danolda (Dea) Brennan
John M. Byrne
Ray Capitanini^o
Chapters' Executive Board
Mrs. Warren M. Choos
Karen Clausen
Elaine Collina
Jane B. Colman
Dr. Peter & Beverly Ann Conroy
Lynd W. Corley
Francesca Cornelli
Ron Cortina

^oDeceased

Marsha Cruzan &
Tom McGinnis
Gerry & Randee Curciarello
The Dancing Skies Foundation
Dr.° & Mrs. Tapas K. Das Gupta
Frank Davis
Laura Deflice
Charlie & Bobbie Denison
Harry° & Marianne Dennis
Dr. & Mrs. Anthony
DiGianfilippo
Cherelynn A. Elliott
Deane Ellis
Suja Finnerty
Marvin Fletcher
Arthur L. Frank
Don° & Abby Funk
Carl A. & Fern B. Gaensslen
Charitable Giving Fund
James K. Genden° &
Alma Koppedraijer

Michael Goldberger



Each time I am at Lyric, I'm transported to
another time and place. I leave with my
heart and soul filled with joy and awe."

Henry M.

Annemarie H. Gramm
Mr. & Mrs. Delmon Grapes
Mr.° & Mrs. Richard Gray
Greene Family Foundation
Richard Greenman
Mrs. Ginger Griffin &
Mr. Hollis Griffin
The Blanny A. Hagenah
Family Fund
Mrs. John M. Hartigan
Mr. & Mrs. Julian W. Harvey
Dr. David J. & Nancy K. Hayden
Dr. Allen W. Heinemann &
Dr. William Borden
Dr. & Mrs. Arthur L. Herbst
Elizabeth & Mark Hurley
Regina Janes
Sarah & Kip Kelley II
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. King
Marian Kinney
Ms. Sheila Kirscher &
Mr. John Kirscher
Thomas A. Kmetko &
Rafael Leon
Dr. & Mrs. Sung-Tao Ko
Tod Kovara
Eldon & Patricia° Kreider
Dr. & Mrs. Ken N. Kuo
Jeanne LaDuke & Carol Stuke

Peter N. Lagges, Jr.
Richard Lim
Carlotta L. & Ronald L. Lucchesi
Jim° & Kay Mabie
John & Regina Mangum
David J. Martin
Donald Maves
Mr. & Mrs. Richard P. Mayer
John & Etta McKenna
Phoebe S. McMillan
Dorri & James McWhorter
Dhun Mehta
Bill Melamed & Jamey Lundblad
Helen Melchior
Dr. Walter S. Melion &
Dr. John M. Clum
Ms. Britt M. Miller
David E. Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Moore
Helen Morrison &
John McNally
Drs. Robert° & Marsha Mrtek
Near North Chapter

Walter & Caroline Sueske
Charitable Trust
Ms. Robin Loewenberg Tebbe
& Mr. Mark Tebbe
William & Debra Terlato
Mrs. Theodore D. Tiesen
Diane Tkach & James Freundt
Phil° & Paula Turner
Mrs. Henry Underwood
Albert R. Walavich
Audrey Weaver
Dr. Catherine L. Webb
Marcia Welcome
Howard S. White
Mr. & Mrs. Brien Wloch
Mark & Randi Woodworth
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Woolever
Nancy Wulfers
Kirk Wyatt
Owen & Linda Youngman

PARTNER

\$4,000 to \$4,999

Ms. Joanne B. Brooks
Mrs. Carol Brusslan
Cathleen Cameron
Lynne & Fairbank° Carpenter
Hon. Barbara Flynn Currie
Shelly Dimeglio
Faith & Frank Dusek
Jared Fritz-McCarty
Dr. Robin Lee Gallardi
Merle Jacob
Dr. & Mrs. Todd & Peggy Janus
Judith L. Kaufman
Ms. Marian Klaus
Thomas Kuczwar
Thomas Kusnetzky
Lake Geneva Chapter
Mrs. Diane L. Macewicz
John H. Nelson
Dr. & Mrs. Alan Pohl
James A. Staples
Mr. O. Thomas Thomas &
Mrs. Sandra Inara Thomas
Todd & Cari Viereg
F. C. Winters

DEVOTEE

\$3,000 to \$3,999

Anonymous Donors (3)
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Aaron
Nicole Aiken-Shaban
Evelyn Alter
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Arensman
Ms. Maribeth Babler
Sandra M. Bass
Robert & Janice Bastian
John & Claudia Boatright
Mr. Thaddeus M. Bond, Sr
Giovanna & Joseph Breu
Ms. Kathryn Y. Brown

Christopher Carlo &
Robert Chaney
Stephen H. Carr &
Virginia McMillan Carr
Heinke K. Clark
Ms. Vindya Dayananda
Ms. Sarah Demet
Bernard J.° & Sally Dobroski
Thomas & Jean Evans
Elizabeth & Jim° Fanuzzi
Gregory A. Ferro
Firestone Family Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Flint
Ms. Irene M. Fox
Patricia H. Gates
Robert Gienko, Jr.
Dr. Paul B. Glickman
Mr. & Mrs. Stanford Goldblatt
Mary E. Hallman
Mr. & Mrs. M. Hill Hammock
Theodore Herr &
Carla Carstens Herr
Stephen D. Holmes
Thomas J. Hudak
John G. & Betty C. Jacobs
Stephen Kraft
Catherine Kranz
Marc & Franziska Lacher
Phillip Lehrman
Pamela Forbes Lieberman
Diana Guarin Londono
Sherry & Mel Lopata
James McClain
Martina M. Mead &
Michael T. Gorey
Claretta Meier
Dr. Frederick K. Merkel
Mr. & Mrs. Craig R. Milkint
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Miller
Thomas E. Mulvihill
Robert Nicholson
Carol M. Nigro
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce L. Ottley
George R. Paterson &
Allen J. Frantzen
Philip Pierce
Edward & Leah Reicin
Eve Reppen Rogers
Alicia Reyes & Rathin Datta°
Victoria Ricks
Jerry & Carole Ringer
Mr.° & Mrs. Ronald A. Rolighed
Kemp Ross
Chatka & Anthony Ruggiero
Dr. Cynthia J. Sanders
Mary T. Schafer
Valentine & Blagovesta Seng
Sherie Shapiro
Tracy Singer
S. & Anda Sokalski
Carol D. Stein &
James S. Sterling

Catherine Stewart &
Geoffrey Smith
Mrs. Ralph[°] W. Stoll
Geraldine L. Szymanski
Anne Taft
Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Tarcov
Oscar Tatosian, Jr.
Kathryn Voland-Mann &
Robert Mann
Joseph & Elizabeth Wallner
Caroline Rothstein Wendt
G. Marc & Tracy S. Whitehead
Claudia Winkler

ADVOCATE**\$2,000 to \$2,999**

Anonymous Donors (3)
Giustino Albanese
Ginny Alberts-Johnson &
Lance Johnson
Dr.[°] & Mrs. Carl H. Albright
Laura Levy & Ulf Anvin
Norma Armon
Mr. Brett & Dr. Carey August
Ms. & Mr. Rana & Albert Baladi
Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Baldwin
Barrington & Northwest
Suburban Chapter
Barbara Barzansky
Patricia Bayerlein &
Michael Hoffman
Mrs. Arthur Billings
Mrs. John R. Blair
Dr. Debra Zahay Blatz
Ann Blickensderfer
Mr. & Mrs. Albert H. Bloom
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel L. Blumen
Dr. H. Constance Bonbrest
Jennifer E. Boyd
Richard Boyum & Louie Chua
Mr. Donald Clark
Jean M. Cocozza
Mrs. Christina Collins
Stevie Conlon & Sue Skau
Cecelia Conrad &
Llewellyn Miller
Jason Dantico
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Diamond
Sara Dix
Kathy Dunn
Dr. Deirdre Dupre &
Dr. Robert Golub
V. Dvonch
Mrs. Emilie E. Egan
Jon Ekdahl & Marcia Opp
George Engeln &
Denise Stewart
Mark Fitzgerald &
Lynne Corbett Fitzgerald[°]
Ms. Karen E. Flanagan
Anita D. Flournoy
Franklin Philanthropic
Foundation

Dr. Lucy Freund
Scott George
Nancy S. Gerrie
Lynn Gilchrist
Cindy Gilmore
Alfred & Hope[°] Goldstein
Jerry Goodman
Dr. Ruth Grant &
Dr. Howard Schwartz
Ilene Grossman &
Bruce Amsterdam[°]
Dévora Grynspan & Sam Stupp
Donald Haider
Ms. Elizabeth Hoffman
Sandra Hoffman
Mr. & Mrs. R. Thomas Howell, Jr.
Ronald & Bett Jacquart
Ms. Cynthia J. Jameson
Norman Jeddeloh
Jerry & Judy Johansen
Charlie Johnson
Mary R. Johnson, M.D.
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Johnston
Drs. Perry & Elena Kamel
Anne Kaplan
Wayne S. & Lenore M. Kaplan
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Kearney
Mary Klyasheff
Vincent & Pauline Ko
Gera-Lind Kolarik
Erica Kuhlmann
Lisa and Victor Nemeroff
Foundation
Frederic Lane
Andrea & Ethan Lathan
Mr. & Mrs. Young I. Lee
Donna & Alan Leff
Jeffrey & Elise Lennard
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas M. Leopold
Robert Levinson & Laura Sage
Knox & Gabrielle Long
Michael LoVallo, Esq.
Ms. Kurtice C. Luther
Gary MacDougall
William Mason & Diana Davis
Marilyn McCoy &
Charles R. Thomas
William Mond
Mr. Steven Morris
Elaine T. Newquist
Gayla & Ed Niemenin
Zehava L. Noah
Janis Wellin Notz &
John K. Notz, Jr.
Abby McCormick O'Neil &
D. Carroll Joynes
Penny J. Obenshain
Stephanie & Michael Oettinger
Marjory M. Olier
OPERA America
Joan L. Pantsios
Dr. Pat & Lara Pappas
Michael Payette

Joseph & Golnar Phillips
John J. W. Plampin
John & Jeaneane Quinn
Dr. & Mrs. Don Randel
John Reppy
Ms. Enid Rieser
Thomas & Barbara Rosenwein
Susan B. Rubnitz
Sharon Salveter &
Stephan Meyer
Anthony & Kathleen Schaeffer
Sara S. & Steven C. Schumann



Lyric Opera of Chicago constantly thrills,
with world-class productions and artists
of the highest caliber, like few other arts
organizations.”

Bill K.

Frederic & Arleen Schwartz
Jane Shapiro
Mrs. Charles Shea
JS Charitable Trust
Allen & Caroline Shoenberger
Margles Singleton
Eric Smith & Kim Taylor-Smith
Dr. & Mrs. Eric M. Spratford
Dave Sproat
Dr. & Mrs. Lawrence A. Sterkin
James Talano
Myron & Karen Hletko Tiersky
Gayle & Glenn R. Tilles
Manuel S. Valderrama
Peter M. Vale
A & T Vavasis Philanthropic
Fund
Dr. Annabelle Volgman
Mr.[°] & Mrs. James Wees
Tamra & Jack Weiss
Manfred Wendt &
Eliana Gianfelice
Mr. Richard Wren
Michael & Jessica Young
Miroslaw Zienkiewicz

AFICIONADO**\$1,000 to \$1,999**

Anonymous Donors (21)
Andrew Abbott &
Susan Schlough
AbbVie
Ann Acker
David R. Adler
Robert Albert
Mr. Charles Alcaraz &
Dr. Liana Tremmel

Carnot & Luceile Allen
Foundation
Robert Altenbach
Ms. Jill Althage
John Amboian
David Anderson
Robert C. Anderson
Doris W. Angell
Drs. Vijayalakshmi &
Bapu Arekapudi
Kathleen Arthur &
Stephen Wood

Susan Bailey
Michael Baldi & Lauren Edson
Dorothy Barmann
Dr. Shirley & Richard[°] Baron
Robert S. Bartolone
Mr. & Mrs. Robert G. Baum
Priscilla & Anthony Beadell
Daniel J. Bender
Mrs. Joan Berger
Dr. Leonard & Phyllis Berlin
Dr. Louise Bernard
Jane Berry
Kyle & Marge Bevers
Leigh & Henry Bienen
Mr. & Mrs. John Bienko
Donald Bishop & Phyllis
Hollander
Richard Blackwell &
Linda Christianson
Georgia Blalock
D. Jeffrey[°] & Joan H.
Blumenthal
Norman & Virginia Bobins/
The Robert Thomas Bobins
Foundation
Philip Bohlman &
Christine Wilkie-Bohlman
Leah J. Bolek
Joshua Bone
Donald F. Bouseman
Michael Bradie
Marlene Breslow-Blitstein &
Berle Blitstein
Daniel A. & Leona B.[°]
Bronstein
Robert Brown
Daniel & Debra Brownstone

[°]Deceased

Mr. Anthony Bruck
 Bonnie Bush & John Peart
 Ms. Pamela A. Cabeen
 Mary Ellen Cagney
 Jacquelyn Campagnolo
 Timothy & Mary Carew
 Walter & Nancy Carlson
 James W. Chamberlain
 Mr. Rowland W. Chang
 Marsha Clinard &
 Charles Boast
 Margery & Robert Coen
 Dr. Thomas Conner
 John Connolly Jr
 William Copper
 Joseph Corrigan
 Jeff Counts & Hillary Hahn
 Judith Crampton
 Donald & Janis Crego
 John & Karen Crotty
 Robert Curley
 David Curry
 Czarkowski Family

R. Michael Flores, MD &
 Alan Grigg, MD
 Dr. Nona Flores Ph.D.
 Mr. Lance Fortnow
 Eloise C. Foster
 James & Leslie Foster
 Penny & John Freund
 Ms. Phyllis Funkenbusch
 Karl-Heinz Gabbey
 John Anthony Gable &
 Zoe Quan
 Mr. & Mrs. Dale J. Garber
 John & Dorothy Gardner
 Stephen & Elizabeth Geer
 John & Florence Gepson
 Gregory Geuther
 Anna & Alexis° Giannoulas
 Gaylord & William Gieseke
 Mrs. Patricia Gill
 Jerome & Jamie° Gilson
 Mr. & Mrs. John Ginascol
 Gerald & Michal Ginsburg
 David L. Gitomer

Robert Heitsch
 Kimberlee S. Herold
 Edward C. Hirschland
 Geoffrey & Linda Hirt
 Emily Ho
 George R. Honig, M.D. &
 Olga Weiss
 Larry & Ann Hossack
 Carrie & Gary Huff
 Mr.° & Mrs. Peter Huizenga
 Scott Ipsen
 Hiromi Ishikawa
 Mitchell Jackson
 Kirk, Cheryl & Hannah Jaglinski
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul A. James
 Judy Hughes Janowiak
 Paul Jaskot &
 Robert Buerglener
 Ansuk Jeong
 Walker & Carolyn Johnson
 Barbara Jones
 Michael Kalata
 Mrs. Carlen L. & Dr. Robert S.
 Katz
 Mr. Peter Keehn
 Larry M. Keer, M.D.
 Elizabeth Wendt Kellar
 Mr. Jeffrey Kerr
 Mr. Basil Kezios &
 Mrs. Carole L. Heiman-Kezios
 Jane E. Kirtley
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas L. Kittle-
 Kamp
 Michael Kivi
 Diane F. Klotnia
 Jim Kochalka
 Roger & Diane Koenker
 Judith Kolata
 Peter Koletsos
 Ms. Constance Kozikowski
 Michael Krco
 Nancy Krippel
 Richard Kron &
 Deborah Bekken
 Mr. & Mrs.° Jordan Krugel
 John C & Carol Anderson Kunze
 Markian J. Kuzycz, MD
 Laimonis & Kristina Laimins
 Dr. Melissa Lamar
 Elisabeth M. Landes
 Donald & Gloria LeBoyer
 Eugene & Maureen Lee
 Eileen Leiderman &
 Ben L. Brener
 Laurence Leive
 Dr. & Mrs. Peter Letarte
 David Levinson & Kathy Kirn
 Catherine Lewis
 Ms. Elisabeth Lewis &
 Mr. John J. Lewis
 Eva Lichtenberg &
 Arnold Tobin
 Al & Patricia Linnerud

Bonnie & Jay° Lipe
 Lawrence Lipking
 Peter Litton
 Lloyd R. Loback
 Tina Lubrano
 John Lucas
 Wayne R. Lueders
 Dorette P S Luke
 B. Tracy & Fred° Madison
 B. Tracy Madison
 Jeffrey & Paula Malak
 Stephen Mannasmith
 Zachary Mark
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Martin
 Jeordano Martinez
 Suzanne Maso
 Anna Mattson
 Samir Mayekar
 Dr. & Mrs. John E. Mazuski
 Bernadette McCarthy
 William° & Jeanine McCole
 James McCormack
 Peter McCullagh
 Sherry McFall & Kenneth
 Porrello
 Penny McGuire &
 Richard Smith
 Carol McManus
 Leoni Zverow McVey &
 William McVey
 Mr. & Mrs. Leland V. Meader
 Robert Meister
 Ms. Nancy Meyerson
 William Miceli &
 Cindy Nowinski
 Michuda Construction, Inc.
 Vee Minarich
 David & Justine Mintzer
 Robert & Lois Moeller
 Phillip Moll
 Mark Moore
 Lloyd Morgan
 Robert J. Moriarty
 John S. Mrowiec &
 Dr. Karen L. Granda
 J. Thomas Mullen
 Dr. John S. & Nan D. Munn
 Mr. George Murphy
 Jeanette Murphy
 Sheryl Mylan Ph.D.
 Thomas Myles
 Donald Nathan, Esq.
 Harvey Nathan & Lisa Kohn
 Gilberto S. Neri Jr., M.D.
 Lenz & Eva Neuhauser
 Mrs. Anthony A. Nichols
 Nancy A. Nichols
 Andrew Noha
 Northfield Chapter
 Patricia Noska
 Jim & Gladys Nutt
 Dr. Dragic M. Obradovic
 Serdar Ogut



We love opera, and we mostly love Lyric,
 which we want to thrive.”

Rick W.

Silvija & John Danielson
 Marietta Dean-Weston
 Jon & Eleanor DeMoss
 Charles & Lisa Dent
 Rosanne Diamond
 Lyn Dickey
 Mariclaire & Lowell Dixon
 Ruth & Joseph Doninger
 Mr. & Mrs. Ramsey B. Donnell
 Maureen Dooley
 Ms. Jill Dougherty
 Tom Draski
 Paul E. Drennan
 Mr. & Mrs. Elliott E. Dudnik
 Ms. Roma Dybalski
 Dr. Sherry Rosalyn Eagle
 Adrienne Eckerling
 John Edelman &
 Suzanne Krohn
 Hugh & Jackie Edfors
 Robert Edger &
 Gunnbjorg Lavoll
 Peter Emery
 Paul Epner & Janet Gans Epner
 Evanston Chapter
 Henry & Elizabeth Feldman
 Mr. William R. Fenner
 J. Mark & Laura Fisher
 Marilyn E. Fites
 Thomas & Lois Flanders

Pier Cristoforo Giulianotti
 Patricia Gladden
 Gregory & Kris Gleason
 Fred & Gloria Gleave
 Lynne Glovka
 Barbara & Norman° Gold
 Amy & Michael Gordon
 Motoko Goto
 Dr. Steven A. Gould
 Frank & Catherine Greer
 George Gross
 Robert Grover
 Gary Haase & Robin Campbell
 Christopher & Suzanne Hagen
 Carl Halperin
 Mr. Stephen Ham
 Jessica Hamill
 Thomas & Susan Hammerman
 Mr. Larry Hanes
 Michael Kenneth Hansen
 Sue Hanson
 Marilyn Harder
 Scott Harder
 Mr. & Mrs. Edward Hartigan
 Ms. Amy Harwood &
 Mr. Evan Harwood
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Z. Hayward
 Sheila Ann Hegy
 Benjamin Heidlage
 Angeline Heisler

Mr. Michael K. Oman
 Ms. Alexandra Oprescu
 Richard Osgood &
 Wendy Wasson
 Gerald L. Padbury
 Robert & Jill Paddock
 Luis A. Pagan-Carlo Fund of
 The Minneapolis Foundation
 Carl Palmer
 Robert Parris & Bradley Renner
 Robert Parsons
 Amy Patel
 Dorothy Patton
 Jerry & Barbara Pearlman
 S. & Jolanta Peckus
 Olga S. Peirce
 Geoffrey Pelz
 Matthias Grosse Perdekamp
 Adam Peterson
 Rita Petretti
 Lorna & Ellard Pfaelzer
 Lyneta Grap Piela
 Mrs. Carol Glass Pollock
 Chris & Michael Pope
 Mrs. Charlene Posner
 Shelley T. Powell
 Travis Powell
 Barry & Eunice Preston
 Chris & Elizabeth Quigg
 Roberta Lyn Anderson Rains
 Dorothy V. Ramm
 Dr. & Mrs. Pradeep Rattan
 Missy Ravid
 Ross & Mary Read
 Roseanne Zank Rega
 James T. & Karen C. Reid
 Alicia & Myron Resnick
 Alexa Rice
 Mary Jo Rice
 Dr. & Mrs. Jared Robins
 Gabriel & Beth Rodriguez
 Anita Rogers
 Kathy Rojina
 Matthew Roob
 Babette Rosenthal
 Ron & Linda Rosenthal

Anna Rosenzweig
 Dr. Marsha & Dr. Robert Rosner
 Bryan Ross
 Mrs. & Mr. Kay C. Rossiter
 Barbara Ruben
 Anthony & Charlotte Rusnak
 Louise Ryssmann
 Laura Sachs
 Mrs. Cari Sacks &
 Mr. Michael Sacks
 Carol Sonnenschein Sadow
 Judith Sandstrom & Peter Kohn
 JF Sarwark MD & Ann Herring
 Robert & Mary Ann Savard
 Mrs. Rosita M. Schloss
 Nancy Schmitt
 Dean & Mary Schraufgel
 Edward & Irma Schwartz,
 Michael Schwartz, Lisa
 Schwartz, David Schwart
 Arvin Scott
 Mr. & Mrs. John E. Scully
 Dr. Itai Seggev &
 Dr. Dara Goldman^o
 Laurence & Deborah Segil
 Mrs. Betty Seid &
 Mr. Richard Seid
 Leslie Settle
 David Shapiro
 Myron & Beverly Shapiro
 Christine Sheremeta
 David Sherman
 Eun Shim
 Deborah Shores
 Carolyn M. Short
 Bill & Harlan Shropshire
 Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Siegel
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas A. Silberman
 Michael Singleton
 Donald Skoglund
 Lydia Skurski
 Arthur B. Smith, Jr. &
 Tracey L. Truesdale
 Barbara Smith &
 Timothy Burroughs
 Mr. Reeves E. Smith

David & Susan Snyder
 Michael & Donna Socol
 Mr. & Mrs. Bob D. Sofil
 Dr. Keyoumars Solanti
 Dr.° & Mrs. Hugo Sonnenschein
 Seth Sonstein
 O. J. & Angeline Sopranos
 Robert & Carole Sorensen
 Mark Stearns
 Robert & Sandra Stein
 Scott G. & Beth F. J. Stephenson
 James Stirling
 Christopher Straus
 Barbara Sturges
 Susan C. Taylor



I appreciate the excellence of Lyric performances and want to ensure that audiences in the future will be able to enjoy them and be enriched by them."

Beverly C.

Mr. & Mrs. Terrence Taylor
 John & Catherine Terdich
 Cheryl L. Thaxton
 Judith B. Thomas
 Thomas B. Thuerer
 Eleanor & William° Tippens
 Joanne Tremulis
 Rheal & Denise Turcotte
 Eric Vaang
 Sharon Van Dyck
 Elizabeth Van Ness
 Marlene A. Van Skike
 David & Lorraine Vander Ark
 Dr. & Mrs. Eladio A. Vargas
 Henrietta Vepstas
 Raita Vilnins
 John N. Vinci
 Ms. Lidia B. Vitello

Mrs. Barbara Vlack
 Robert & Camille Von Dreele
 Stephen & Aida Wahmann
 Ms. Lucinda Wakeman
 Douglas & Priscilla Walter
 Gary & Mary Walther
 Louella Ward
 Patricia Webb
 Louis Weber
 Sevena & Erwin Weil
 Richard & Karen Weiland
 Susan & Arvin Weindruch
 Dr. & Mrs. Dennis K. Wentz
 Dr. & Mrs. Robert D. Wertz
 Ms. Suzanne K. Westerhold

Patricia H. & William H. Wheeler
 Denise Wild
 Harold & Benna Wilde
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Williams
 James L. Wilson & Pamela D.
 Toler
 Roger Wilson
 Chuck & Sallie Wolf
 Christopher & Julie Wood
 Susan & Larry Yellen
 Dr. Robert G. Zadylak &
 James C. Kemmerer
 Michael & Judy Zeddies
 William Ziemann
 Jack & Charlene Zimmerman
 John Zinnie &
 Linda Lewis Zinnie

Due to space limitations, we are unable to list all of the generous donors who support Lyric Opera of Chicago. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one who enables us to fulfill our mission.

This list includes donors whose gifts or pledges were received by December 8, 2025.

^oDeceased

Commemorative gifts

Gifts of \$1,000 and above contributed in the name of a friend, loved one, or colleague are a unique expression of thoughtfulness.

IN MEMORY OF

Carl H. Albright
From Cynthia Albright

Lieselotte N. Betterman
From Kathleen Betterman

John R. Blair
From Barbara Blair

Willard J. Blix and Ursula S. Blix
From Petra Blix & Ben Gruber

Kay Bucksbaum
From Sylvia Neil & Daniel Fischel

Mary C. Campagnolo
From Jacquelyn & Peter Campagnolo

David Carpenter
From Orit Carpenter

John Crowe, IV (Jack)
From Lisbeth Stiffel

Peggy Crowe
From Sylvia Neil & Daniel Fischel, Melvin & Sue Gray, Lisbeth Stiffel

Sir Andrew Davis
From Erika Gross, Hiromi Ishikawa, John Nelson, Sara S. Schumann & Steven C. Schumann, Gordon & Carole Segal, Mary & Larry Selander, Jack & Tamra Weiss

Allan Drebin
From Howard & Judith McCue

Lois Dunn
From Kathleen Dunn

Lyn Corbett Fitzgerald
From Kieran, Desmond, & Mark Fitzgerald

Maureen Glassberg
From Evelyn Alter

Chris Goodman
From Matthew Roob

Howard Gottlieb
From Sylvia Neil & Daniel Fischel

Barbara Gould
From Evelyn Alter

Dietrich Gross
From Erika Gross, Lisbeth Stiffel

Daniel Groteke
From Patricia Taplick

Jean W. Haider
From Donald Haider

Edwin E. Hicks
From Gregory Tabaczynski

Howard E. Jessen & Susanne C. Jessen
From the Jessen Family

William Laird Kleine-Ahlbrandt
From Sheila Hegy

Dr. Santos Ko
From Carl Palmer

George N. Kohler
From David Curry

Patricia Sawczak Kreider
From her loving husband Eldon Kreider

George Lerret
From Kirk Wyatt

Florence D. McMillan
From Phoebe McMillan

Armida Melone
From Bernadette McCarthy

David J. Nelson
From Dolores Nelson

Keith Olson
From Irmgard Olson

Peer & Sarah Pedersen
James & Elizabeth Bramsen

Lisandro & Soledad Peña
From Jeordano Martinez

Dr. William J. Pieper
From Katherine Knight

Ken Pigott
From Mariclaire & Lowell Dixon

Dr. Phyllis W. Shafron
From Andrea & Ethan Lathan

Deborah Sobol
From Rowland Chang

Tom Yu-Chern Su
From Sylvia Neil & Daniel Fischel

Helen D. Wallner
From Joseph & Elizabeth Wallner

Dr. Alan J. Ward, PHD ABPP
From Louella Ward

Richard H. Wehman
From Lisbeth Stiffel

Richard Welcome
From Marcia Welcome

Timothy M. Wendt
From Elizabeth Wendt Kellar

Edward T. Zasadil
From Larry Simpson

IN HONOR OF

Michael Black
From Irene Pritzker

John Coleman
From an anonymous donor

A.J. Coia
From Barbara Currie

Lester Crown — on his 100th birthday!
From John Byrne

Stephen Dunbar
From Tom Cleary

Audrey Fitzgerald
From Michael & Kimberly Moran

Sonia Florian
From an anonymous donor

Mary Galvin
From the GGE Foundation

Karen Gray-Krehbiel
From Ronald & Christina Gidwitz, Charles & Joan Moore, Penelope Steiner

Caroline & Charles Huebner
From Jonathan & Ela Lewis, Abby Funk

Elizabeth Hurley
From Harold & Benna Wilde

Lori Julian
From Ansuk Jeong and an anonymous donor

Neil Kawashima
From Bill & Kathryn Tyree

Meggie Keiser
From Ansuk Jeong

Theodore K.W. Luke
From Dorette Luke

Phil Lumpkin
From Helen Melchior

Armida Malone
From Bernadette McCarthy

Bill Mason
From Marilyn Fites

Bill Miller
From Gerald Padbury

Suzanne Mulshine
From Nancy Searle

Sylvia Neil
From Patrick & Shirley Ryan

Sue Niemi
From Olga Pierce

Susan Oliver
From Patrick & Shirley Ryan

Sondra Radvanovsky
From Karen Clausen

Raymond & Harriet Resnick
From Bonnie Ross

Patrick & Shirley Ryan
From Leigh & Henry Bienen

Shirley Welsh Ryan
From Ronald & Christina Gidwitz and Nancy Searle

Joseph O. Rubinelli, Jr.
From the Harold M. & Adeline S. Morrison Family Foundation

Mary Selander
From Abby Funk

Lena Reynolds Sneed
From Barbara Currie

Paul Sprecher
From Cathleen Cameron and Barbara Currie

Penelope Steiner
From Ginger Griffin, Robert W. Parris & Bradley Renner, Robert Levinson & Laura Sage, Helen Zell

Lisbeth Stiffel
From Abby Funk, R. & Karen Howell, Charles & Caroline Huebner

The Woman's Board
From Karen Gray-Krehbiel & John Krehbiel

This list includes donors whose gifts or pledges were received by December 8, 2025.

°Deceased

A photograph of a stage performance from the Lyric Opera of Chicago. In the foreground, several performers in elaborate 17th-century period costumes are seated at a long table. The table is set with ornate silverware, glassware, and a centerpiece of fruit and lit candles. One performer, a man in a red and gold patterned suit with a green cape, stands on the right, holding a small red flower and looking upwards with an expressive face. Behind him, another man in a silver and blue costume looks on. To the left, a woman in a peach-colored dress and a man in a grey and red costume are also looking up. The background is a massive, classical-style mural depicting a dramatic scene with a central female figure and other figures in dynamic poses. The overall lighting is warm and theatrical.

Lyric

OPERA OF
CHICAGO

Spark inspiration.
Fuel creativity.
Light up the stage.

DONATE



Support *Lyric Opera of Chicago*

lyricopera.org/donatenow

312.827.3500

Photo: Todd Rosenberg/Lyric Opera of Chicago

Lyric Staff

LYRIC OPERA OF CHICAGO

John Mangum,

General Director, President
& CEO, The Women's Board
Endowed Chair

Enrique Mazzola,

Music Director, The John D. and
Alexandra C. Nichols Endowed
Chair

Vincente F. Milianti,

Chief Financial and
Operating Officer

Matthew Ozawa,

Chief Artistic Officer

Jennifer E. Boyd, Vice President,

People & Culture

Bradley Dunn, Vice President,

Marketing and Communications

Stephanie Karr, Vice President,

Artistic Operations &
Administration

Anna Mattson, Vice President,

Development

Andreas Melinat,

Vice President, Artistic Planning

Dan Novak, Vice President and

Director, Ryan Opera Center,

The Ryan Opera Center Board

Endowed Chair

Will Raj, Vice President,

Information Technology

Michael Smallwood,

Vice President, Production and

Technical Director, Allan and

Elaine Muchin Endowed Chair

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL

DIRECTOR

John Mangum,

General Director, President
& CEO, The Women's Board
Endowed Chair

Erika Senase, Executive Assistant,

Offices of the General and Music

Directors

ARTISTIC

Matthew Ozawa,

Chief Artistic Officer

Michael Black, Chorus Director and

Head of Music, The Howard A.

Stotler Chorus Director Endowed

Chair

Artistic Planning

Andreas Melinat, Vice President,

Artistic Planning

Jeremy Johnson, Manager,

Artistic Planning

Evamaria Wieser,

Casting Consultant

Artistic Operations &

Administration

Stephanie Karr,

Vice President, Artistic Operations &

Administration

Katharine Gunnink,

Director of Company Management

Brittany Nelson, Director, Music

Administration

Sarah Cohn,

Manager, Music Administration

Annika Donnen,

Managing Librarian

Markie Gray,

Artistic Finance Manager

Christine Janicki,

Orchestra Personnel Manager

Kevin Krasinski, Manager, Artistic

Operations and Systems

Leo Barnard

Jovon Eborn

Nicholas Kemp

Meg Plunkett,

Company Management Assistants

RYAN OPERA CENTER

Matthew Ozawa,

Chief Artistic Officer

Dan Novak, Vice President and

Director, Ryan Opera Center,

The Ryan Opera Center Board

Endowed Chair

Craig Terry, Music Director, The

Jannotta Family Endowed Chair

Julia Faulkner, Director of Vocal

Studies

Logan Skirm, Manager

LYRIC UNLIMITED - LEARNING

& CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Matthew Ozawa,

Chief Artistic Officer

Jill LeCesne Potter, Senior Director,

Learning Programs

Sheran Goodspeed Keyton,

Director of Civic Engagement

Elise LaBarge, Learning Programs

Manager

ADVANCEMENT

Development

Anna Mattson, Vice President,

Development

Lawrence DelPilar, Senior Director,

Development

Scott Podraza, Senior Director,

Development

Bryan Hulscher, Senior Philanthropy

Officer, Institutional Partnerships

Claire Ryan, CFRE, Director,

Development Operations

Patrick Rybarczyk,

Senior Philanthropy Officer

Paul D. Sprecher,

Senior Philanthropy Officer

Sarah Sullivan, Senior Philanthropy

Officer

Bridget Brazeau, Philanthropy

Officer

Kassandra Hernandez, Development

Operations Manager

Meggie Keiser, Associate Director,

Donor Engagement

Tara Lenardi, Grants Manager

Leta Mumgaard,

Manager, Board of Directors

Gracie Denton Echales,

Development Associate

Will Ellis, Associate, Boards

(Women's Board and Ryan Opera

Center Board)

Jonah Levi-Paeskys, Associate,

Volunteer Boards and Engagement

(Guild Board, Chapters, and Lyric

Young Professionals)

Griffin Scott, Coordinator, Donor

Engagement

Margaret Smith, Coordinator,

Donor Services

Kenni Ther, Coordinator, Donor

Services

Mike Biver, Senior Director of

Gift Planning

Jonathan P. Siner, Senior Director of

the Ardis Krainik Society

Megan Morton, Associate Director,

Gift Planning

Zakia Frontz, Director, Special

Events

Allison VerSteegh,

Manager, Events

Ryan Morgan, Special Events

Associate

Raina Chaber-Tully, Coordinator,

Boards & Events

Stefan Peters, Maitre d'

Marketing and

Communications

Bradley Dunn, Vice President,

Marketing and Communications

Tracy Galligher Young, Senior

Director, Marketing and

Audience Development

Brittany Gonzalez Camuy,

Director of Group Sales and

Partnerships

Elisabeth Madeja, Director of Sales

& Advertising

Michael Musick,

Director of Digital Marketing

Tasha James, Marketing Manager,

Discover Lyric Programs

Jessica Pedroza, Marketing Project

Manager

Samantha Roetter,

Manager of Website Content and

Digital Experience

Kitty Schwartz, Digital Marketing

Manager, Fundraising

Gavyn Stich, Marketing Manager,

Data & Analysis

Jake Friend, Manager, Art Direction

& Visual Identity

Kendall Hicks, Group Sales &

Partnership Associate

Victoria Pizzuto, Marketing

Associate, Advertising &

Promotions

Deb Song, Senior Director, PR,

Communications, and Content

Michael Solomon,

Director of Media Relations

David Zivan, Lead Writer & Editor

Alana Guggenheim,

Public Relations Manager

Amanda Reitenbach, Manager

of Social Media and Content

Andrew Cioffi,

Digital Content Producer

Shannan Moore,

Digital Marketing Associate

Janie Ragsdale, Marketing and

Public Relations Coordinator

Gregg Brody, Box Office Director

Alexandros Chatziapostolou

Richard Diver

David Fitzgerald

Destiny Mack

Matthew Maggiore

Jessica Reinhart

Allan Waite

Laura Waters,

Box Office Treasurers

Ticketing Department/ Audience Services

Susan Harrison Niemi, Senior

Director of Audience Services

Regina Ceragioli, Sales Manager,

Customer Service & Call Center

River Donnelly, Manager, Tessitura

& Ticketing

Celia Williams, Manager,

VIP Ticketing and Inventory

Stephen Clark, VIP Ticketing

Associate

Zachary Adams

Marnie Baylouny

Kathy Butera

Colin Commager

Hannah Cremin

Madeline Curtin

Toby Everhart

Sophia Formella

Wesley Jones

Maria Kluber

Laura Osterlund

Eric Perrine

Joseph Ryan

Ryan Saladin

Avery Sujkowski

Danielle Vallandigham,

Ticket Staff

ADMINISTRATION

Vincente F. Milianti,

Chief Financial and Operating

Officer

Finance

Whitney Bercek, Controller

LaToya Bowen, Senior Treasury

Analyst

Erin Johnson,

Director of Financial Planning &

Analysis

Justin Mascarenas, Assistant

Controller

Nayeli Herrera, Senior Accountant

Idalia Andrade,

Accounts Payable Manager

Faye Eisenberg, Staff Accountant

Zachary Kurzenberger, Senior

Financial Analyst

Angela Coleman,

Accounts Payable Associate

Eddy Hadzimuratovic,

Accounts Payable Associate

Celia Hernandez, Financial Analyst

People & Culture

Jennifer E. Boyd, Vice President,

People & Culture

Joshua Carroll, Director,

Environmental Health, Safety,

and Compliance

Crystal Riley, Payroll Director

Charity Franco, Manager, People &

Culture Operations

John Dorn, Union and Payroll

Benefits Associate

Camilla Fernandez, Talent

Management Associate

Kristy Le, Employee Engagement

Coordinator

Megan St. John, Director, Venue &

Guest Services

Lena Sneed,

House Manager

Richard Berry,
Coat Check Attendant

Paulette Alonzi
David Barcena
Thomas Brami
Chenise Brown
Nila Cabrejos Lau
Daro Cook
Chaurita Davis
Nathalea Espinosa
Matthew Furjanic
Sharon Gaston
Ramona Hawkins
Gina Jacobs
Morgan Jones
Samuel Lee
Marlyn Love
Jacob Malkinson
Esmeralda Mendez
Lonnie Mitchell
Steven Pace
Ana Luisa Décaro Pinto
Eduard Pulst
Jazmin Reynoso
Sylvie Rood
John Rosenthal
Edwina Schorn
Mary Thomas
Adam Wang,
Ushers

TJ Gordon, *Concessions Manager*
David Jaworski, *Assistant Concessions Manager*

John Ambrose
Alyssa Bisanz
Katherine Ciesla
Joshua Galan
Sylvia Hernandez
David Jaworski
Anne Kuntz
Ashley Manley
Ramon Alex Perez
Julia Pestrikova
Stephen Skleba
Juliet Smith
Anthony Sullivan
Benjamin Tengowski
Felipe Valadez
Lindsey Wolfeld,
Bartenders/Barbacks

Ramon Alex Perez
Felipe Valadez,
Porters

Patrick Dowling,
Head of Security

Ellen Pomes
Cesar Galan,
Security Services

Esteban Alegria
Joe Doner
Cesar Galan
Collin Harvey
David Jaworski
Jessica Plummer
Ellen Pomes
Emmanuel Stewart
Cameran Truelove,
Stage Door Staff

Information Technology
Will Raj, *Vice President, Information Technology*
Eric Hayes, *Senior Director, IT Operations*
Rita Parida, *Senior Director, Data Services*
Bill Anderson, *Senior Systems Administrator*
Bob Helmuth, *Systems Administrator*
Jessica Keener, *Systems Analyst*
Michael Pierce, *Technology Support Specialist*
James Webb, *Junior Technology Support Associate*

Facilities
Michael Smallwood,
Vice President, Production and Technical Director, The Allan and Elaine Muchin Endowed Chair
John Yelen, *Senior Director of Facilities*

Joe Minogue,
Chief Engineer
Michael LaPorte,
Lead Engineer

Phillip Casica
Anthony Fasano
Brian Laurence McMahon
Bernard McNeela
Kevin O'Keefe
Thomas Setina
Eric Zawaski,
Engineers

TECHNICAL & PRODUCTION
Vincente F. Milianti, *Chief Financial and Operating Officer*

Technical
Michael Smallwood,
Vice President, Production and Technical Director, The Allan and Elaine Muchin Endowed Chair
April Busch, *Technical Operations Director*
Maria DeFabo Akin,
Production Design Director
Scott Wolfson, *Associate Technical Director*
Brendan Henry, *Technical Finance Manager*
Kathryn Johnson, *Associate Properties Director*
Chris Maravich, *Lighting Director, Mary-Louise and James S. Aagaard Lighting Director Endowed Chair*
Benjamin McCormack,
Assistant Technical Director
Sarah Riffle
Bridget Williams,
Assistant Lighting Designers

Joe Dockweiler,
Master Carpenter
Mike Reilly, *Head Flyman/Automation*
Chris Barker
Robert Hull, Jr.
Connor Ingersoll
Chase Torringa, *Rigging/Automation Assistants*

Phil Marcotte, *Head Shop Carpenter*
Brian Grenda, *Layout Carpenter*
Drew Trusk, *Head Shop Welder*
Luigi Trupiano, *Layout Welder*
Dan DiBennardi,
Warehouse Coordinator
Dan Donahue
Ryan McGovern
Jeffrey Streichhirsch,
Assistant Carpenters
Anthony Bernardy
John Ingersoll
Aiden McGovern
Rory McQuillan
Dylan O'Shea
Tyler Gil Ramos
Jacob Sullivan
Brian Walsh
Isaiah Williams,
Carpenters

Anthony Coia,
Master Electrician
Soren Ersbak,
Board Operator
Jose Villalpando,
Titles Operator
John Clarke, Jr.
Thomas Hull
Dan Kuh
Robert Reynolds,
Assistant Electricians
Martin Childress
Jason Combs
Thomas Fernandez
Nicholas Gutierrez
Daniel Hull
Jose Villalpando
Daniel Vuillaume,
Electricians

Nick Charlan,
Head Audio Technician
Matt Eble, *FOH Engineer*
Asiel Simpson
Matt Swiatkowski
Monitor Engineers

Bob Ladd,
Property Master
Bob Hartge, *Properties Crew Head*
Gordon Granger,
Prop Carpenter
Frank McPartlin, *Armorer*
Rachel Boultinghouse,
Upholsterer

Kevin McPartlin
Ian Scarlato
Taylor Torringa
Assistant Properties

Joshua Dobbins
John Kopecky
Ryan Lin-Peistrup
Michael O'Donnell, Jr.
Johnny Rivers
Drew Scafidi
James Ullrich
Properties

Michael Besancon,
Charge Artist
Michael Murtaugh
Scenic Artist
Alyssa Mohn, *Scenic Artist Apprentice*

Kim Buetzow, *Costume Director, The Richard P. and Susan Kiphart Endowed Chair*
Lucy Lindquist,
Wardrobe Mistress

Lauren Crotty
Ellouise Davis
Nina Escobedo
Molly Herman
M. Kate Keefe Marcheschi
Cecylia Kinder
Bryan McDonald
Kathy Rubel
Herbie Ruiz
Marguerite Scott
Ewa Szylak
Michelle Tan
Maggie Zabierowski,
Costumers

Katelynn Barker
Louie Barrios
Samantha Holmes
Krystina Lowe
Joanna Rzepka
Sarah Santiago
Kate Shattock
Isaac B. Turner,
Production Administrators

Samantha Holmes,
Wardrobe Crew Head

Brigid Brown
Lauren Crotty
Nina Escobedo
Eric Guy
Dawn-Marie Hamilton
Mary Luchsinger
Wendy McCay
Moira O'Neil
Christopher Provyn
Sarah Santiago
Dulce Santillán
Roger Weir
Dressers

John Metzner, *Wig & Makeup Designer, The Marlys A. Beider Endowed Chair*
Necole Bluhm,
Department Coordinator
Lynn Koroulis, *Shop Manager*

Brittany Powers, *Wig & Makeup Crew Foreman*

Victoria Ashmore
Martha Contreras
Krista D'Agostino
Eric Daniels
Nini Jenkins
Chantelle Johnson
Lauren Mateling
Melissa Musseau
Liv Roach
Becky Scott
Franni Valus,
Wig & Makeup Run Crew

Davis Campbell
Colin Grice
Chantelle Johnson
Katie Kurz
James Ogle,
Wig Shop Staff

Production
Rachel A. Tobias, *Production Stage Manager*

Katrina Bachus
Jordan Lee Braun
Adam Da Ros,
Assistant Stage Directors

Alaina Bartkowiak
Sandra Moore,
Stage Managers

Adrienne Bader
Alaina Bartkowiak
Alycia Martin
Sandra Moore
Tommy Novak
Daniel Sokalski
Peggy Stenger
Amy C. Thompson,
Assistant Stage Managers



Local 2: Stagehands

Local 476: Studio Mechanics

Local 769: Theatrical Wardrobe



Local USA 829 of the IATSE is the union representing scenic, costume, lighting, sound and projection designers in Live Performance

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.



The 2025/26 Ryan Opera Center Ensemble

Sopranos

Adia Evans
Emily Richter

Mezzo-sopranos

Alexis Pearl
Camille Robles

Tenors

Daniel Luis Espinal
Travon D. Walker

Baritones

Sankara Harouna
Sihao Hu
Finn Sagal

Bass-baritones

Christopher Humbert, Jr.
Benjamin R. Sokol

Conductor

Chi-Yuan Lin

Pianist

Michael Banwarth

Stage Director

Marinette Gomez

Stage Manager

Gemma DeCetra

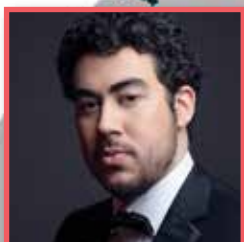
Front row, l to r: Emily Richter, Chi-Yuan Lin, Marinette Gomez, Gemma DeCetra, Adia Evans, Michael Banwarth, Finn Sagal, Alexis Pearl
Back row, l to r: Camille Robles, Travon D. Walker, Benjamin R. Sokol, Christopher Humbert, Jr., Sihao Hu, Daniel Luis Espinal, Sankara Harouna

Lyric

Ryan Opera Center

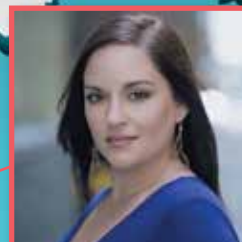
Ryan Opera Center alumni around the world

THIS SEASON



Ricardo José Rivera (2018-21)

Opera San José
Guglielmo/Così fan tutte



Ann Toomey (2016-19)

Lyric Opera of Kansas City
Cio-Cio-San/Madama Butterfly



Josh Lovell (2017-19)

Santa Fe Opera
Tamino/Die Zauberflöte

PROGRAM STAFF

Administration

Dan Novak

*Director, The Ryan Opera Center
Board Endowed Chair*

Craig Terry

*Music Director,
The Jannotta Family
Endowed Chair*

Julia Faulkner

Director of Vocal Studies

Logan Skirm

Manager

Annika Donnen

Managing Librarian

Faculty

Julia Faulkner

*Vocal Instruction,
Robert and Ellen Marks Ryan
Opera Center Vocal Studies
Program Endowment*

Deborah Birnbaum

Renée Fleming

Dame Jane Glover

Enrique Mazzola

Gerald Martin Moore

Matthew Polenzani

Russell Thomas

Guest Master Artists

William C. Billingham

Alan Darling

Laurann Gilley

Susan Miller Hult

Noah Lindquist

Celeste Rue

Hugh Russell

Eric Weimer

Coaching Staff

Isabelle Druc

Julia Savoie Klein

Derek Matson

Morgan Stinson

Alessandra Visconti

Foreign Language Instruction

Paul Curran

Peter McClintock

*Acting and Movement
Instruction*

Orit Carpenter

Beth Clayton

Performance Psychology

Katrina Bachus

Louisa Muller

Rachel A. Tobias

Production Mentors

Artistic/Production Personnel

Enrique Mazzola

Donald Paulmbo

Conductors

Keturah Stickann

Director

Peggy Stenger

Stage Manager

Artistic roster

SOPRANOS

Amanda Batista
 Laura Benanti
 Ellie Dehn
 Adia Evans
 Renée Fleming
 Karen Chia-Ling Ho
 Jennifer Holloway
 Alexandra Loutsion
 Ana María Martínez
 Sondra Radvanovsky
 Alexandra Razskazoff
 Gabriella Reyes
 Emily Richter
 Karah Son
 Jacquelyn Stucker
 Kara Shay Thomson
 Elena Villalón

MEZZO-SOPRANOS

Tanja Arian Baumgartner
 Nozomi Kato
 Sabina Kim
 Daniela Mack
 Catherine Martin
 Yulia Matochkina
 Cecilia Molinari
 Alexis Peart
 Zoie Reams
 Camille Robles
 Stephanie Sánchez

CONTRALTO

Lauren Decker

COUNTERTENOR

Ryan Belongie
 Key'mon W. Murrah

TENORS

SeokJong Baek
 Zhengyi Bai
 Brad Bickhardt
 Bille Bruley
 Ryan Capozzo
 Daniel Luis Espinal
 Evan LeRoy Johnson
 Brandon Jovanovich
 Anthony León
 Matthew Polenzani
 Rodell Rosel
 Cameron Schutza
 Victor Starsky
 Eric Taylor
 Russell Thomas
 Travon D. Walker

BARITONES

Aleksey Bogdanov
 Alfredo Daza
 Rod Gilfry
 Sankara Harouna
 Sihao Hu
 Quinn Kelsey
 Brian Stokes Mitchell
 Zachary Nelson
 Ian Rucker
 Hugh Russell
 Finn Sagal
 Daniel Scofield
 Luke Sutliff

BASS-BARITONES

Nicholas Brownlee
 Federico De Michelis
 Jongwon Han
 Christopher Humbert, Jr.
 Benjamin R. Sokol
 Alfred Walker

BASS

Scott Conner

CONDUCTORS

Rob Fisher
 Domingo Hindoyan
 Roberto Kalb
 Enrique Mazzola
 Tomáš Netopil

DIRECTORS

Julia Burbach
 Michael Cavanagh
 Lorena Maza
 Peter McClintock
 David McVicar
 Elijah Moshinsky
 Matthew Ozawa
 Roy Rallo

CHORUS DIRECTOR

Michael Black

CHOREOGRAPHERS & MOVEMENT DIRECTORS

Andrew George
 Jo Meredith
 Emily Piercy
 August Tye

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Melanie Bacaling
 Jordan Lee Braun
 Jonathon Loy

FIGHT DIRECTORS

Chuck Coyl
 Samantha Kaufman
 Andrew Rathgeber
 Denise Serna
 Sheryl Williams



The American Guild of Musical Artists, AFL-CIO (AGMA), is the union that represents the singers, dancers, actors, and staging personnel at Lyric Opera of Chicago.

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 artist and scholar residencies, Lyric, with your support, encourages students, educators, families, audiences, and Chicagoans from neighborhoods across the city to share their voices and embrace the power of opera as a catalyst for growth and change.



The first cohort of students in Lyric Unlimited's *Opera Pathfinders* program is learning about the many careers available in the field.

Lyric

Lyric Unlimited: Learning and Civic Engagement

Finding Their Path

Lyric Unlimited's new *Opera Pathfinders* program introduces high school and college students to (sometimes unexpected) careers in opera

By Janie Ragsdale

"Most people, when thinking about opera and its related careers, think first of singers and members of the orchestra," says Sheran Goodspeed Keyton, Director of Civic Engagement for Lyric Unlimited. While audiences may only see and hear the work on stage and in the pit, it of course takes a host of other professionals working around the stage and behind the scenes to bring an operatic production to life. *Opera Pathfinders* — the latest program from Lyric Unlimited — brings this less visible (and audible) work into the spotlight. "This program allows young people to gain a greater understanding of what it takes to build an opera from conception to completion," explains Keyton.

Launched in the 2025/26 Season, *Opera Pathfinders* presents high school and college students in the Chicago area with the variety of accessible entry points into the world of opera. Recognizing that the art form has often been dominated by an older, less diverse demographic, *Opera Pathfinders* presents opportunities for students

to connect, grow their interests, and develop the skills and confidence needed to see themselves as future professionals with a stake in the future of the opera and the performing arts.

"Many young people go through high school, college, and well into their adulthood uncertain of what they want to do as a career. Everything feels very permanent," says Keyton. "*Opera Pathfinders* gives them a chance to explore different facets of the industry in a safe and judgment-free space."

Over the course of the program, participants gain an understanding of the wide variety of careers and expertise that are crucial to the success of arts institutions like Lyric, and develop the tools needed to craft their own career path in the arts. *Opera Pathfinders* participants choose from three offered tracks, allowing them to curate their experience in the program based on their interests, with each path featuring a mix of student-led activities, group discussions, workshops, and professional-led career talks.



Sheran Goodspeed Keyton, Director of Civic Engagement for Lyric Unlimited, shares insights on the program.



Students in the program engage with and learn from company leadership — like Jennifer E. Boyd, Vice President, People & Culture (at left) and Vincente Milianti, Chief Financial & Operating Officer (at right) — on the wide variety of careers available in the arts.




The **Opera Pathfinders Council** focuses on opera and performance arts from the perspective of an arts administrator. Participants are introduced to the basics of arts administration by staff members from Lyric in addition to professionals from other cultural institutions in Chicago. After learning from members of Lyric’s artistic, finance, development, marketing, and human resources departments, the *Opera Pathfinders Council* tasks participants with creating and presenting on their own mock opera company, complete with a name, opera season, operating budget, and marketing plan.

The **Opera Pathfinders Producers** delve into the behind-the-scenes world of tech and production. Through discussions with members of Lyric’s technical, lighting, and audio departments, this path teaches participants what it takes to bring a massive production to life on the Lyric stage. Members of the *Opera Pathfinders Producers* put these skills into practice, forming design teams to create production models with lighting and special effects as part of a final design display and presentation.

The **Opera Pathfinders Collective** provides participants with a route to learn more about opera, the

performing arts, and cultural institutions in Chicago. This track is focused on engagement, looking at opera from the perspective of an audience member. Participants attend and volunteer at Lyric programs including *Student Dress Rehearsals*, *Opera Insights* panel discussions, and *Opera in the Neighborhoods* performances. *Opera Pathfinders Collective* participants draw upon these experiences to create a final multi media presentation focused on the ways in which Lyric can grow in exemplifying high levels of accessibility for young audiences.

Through these endeavors, *Opera Pathfinders* strives to create lasting change in both the lives of participants and the broader artistic community. Regardless of which of the three tracks the students choose, *Opera Pathfinders* highlights the importance of career readiness and equips participants with the skills and resources to push the boundaries of their creativity, take their artistic practices seriously, and share their stories as they step into their roles as the next generation of opera professionals.

“Ultimately,” Keyton says, “we hope students will walk away with a greater understanding of what their career path should be — and of who they are.” 

People of Lyric

A behind-the-scenes conversation



Kyle Flückiger

Katharine Gunnink

Director of Company Management

Hometown

Cloverdale, California, up in Northern California wine country.

When did you start at Lyric?

Summer 2023, before *The Flying Dutchman*.

Favorite opera?

Wozzeck. I love Berg.

Favorite opera character?

I love Salome. I loved playing Tosca — living in that character. I loved breaking my own heart.

Favorite performer?

I grew up listening to Mirella Freni. And Teresa Stratas. She is amazing.

Other interests of note?

I started playing hockey when I moved here. I had never played before. I can't skate. I'm the goalie.

Can you describe your typical work day?

It depends a lot on where we are in the season. But the typical day is coming in and facilitating all the rehearsal needs for the day: making sure the artists are arriving, that everyone's making their calls, or noting if they are calling out. I'm focused on making sure that the rehearsal day continues without interruption. If someone is sick, instead of losing that whole day of rehearsal, perhaps they will want to bring the cover in and continue staging, or instead pivot a little bit and do other scenes. We have to make sure we're getting things done. And then we get the next rehearsal day schedule out so that everyone knows the plan.

So you interact with many different people — does your work require musical training?

Knowing these operas, knowing these roles, knowing what is being asked of the artists — it really helps my work. For the majority of my working life, I was an operatic soprano. My first role in college was Mimì. I studied voice performance at the San Francisco Conservatory, and I was a resident artist in San Jose for a long time. I've sung *Fiordiligi* like a million times.

What is something about your job that would surprise people?

My friends in other companies are always really surprised to find out I give a curtain speech at the dress rehearsals. They're like, *What do you mean you go out in front of the curtain?*

A favorite moment at Lyric?

I loved *Jenůfa*. Lise Davidson was amazing, and seeing Nina Stemme throw that wig around was amazing. The production was just stunning. But my favorite moments are really the dress rehearsals. There's always a feeling of, "We made it." In the back of house, we're working so hard toward that: We've made it to the stage. It's not really the opening for me. It's the dress.

What is the most challenging aspect of your job?

It's challenging to meet everybody's needs and still find a middle ground that makes everybody happy. All the back-of-house rooms are under our purview, and a lot goes on. Because even if it looks like it's available, it doesn't actually always mean that it's available. There might be a setup happening, or there might be stuff being stored in there. And everything is so public. Every document, even the daily schedule that I put out — if there's a mistake on it, it's not just a few people who saw it, it's the entire company.

What do you like about working in the arts?

It's stressful and challenging, but I went to school for it, and to be able to continue to make a livelihood doing it is amazing. I love opera, and I want other people to love opera. So I love being a part of that sharing, and seeing that it's still alive and magical. **L**