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**LYRIC OPERA ANNOUNCES 2009-2010 SEASON:
Opera Classics Encompass the Upcoming Season
*World Renowned Opera Stars to appear on the Lyric Opera stage***

KANSAS CITY, MO. (February 27, 2009) –The Lyric Opera of Kansas City will present its 52nd season of opera that will showcase productions drawn from the works of the great operatic composers. The season opens in September with Puccini’s tragic masterpiece *Tosca*, followed by Gilbert and Sullivan’s sidesplitting satire *H.M.S. Pinafore* in November. March will bring Verdi’s ever-popular *Rigoletto*, and the season concludes with Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* in May 2010.

“With this season we are showcasing some of the greatest operas ever written, operas which have stood the test of time,” stated general director Evan Luskin. In an effort to economize during these trying financial times, the Company will present four performances of each of its 2009-10 season productions, instead of the usual five.

“The Lyric Opera of Kansas City will continue to produce operas of the highest quality” said artistic director Ward Holmquist. “There is much to be excited about in the 2009-10 season, including the debut of Richard Paul Fink to our stage and the return of many other acclaimed singers.”

All four full-length operas will be presented in their original language with English subtitles projected above the stage.



**Opera Classics Encompass the Upcoming Season
Performance Details**

***Tosca* – New Production**

by Giacomo Puccini

sung in Italian with English subtitles

September 11, 13, 16, 19, 2009

Unbridled emotions explode throughout this powerful drama. Puccini's dramatic music set in Rome during the time of the Napoleonic Wars is the backdrop for a political game of cat-and-mouse. A beautiful new production by director of design and technical production R. Keith Brumley. Cast and director to be announced at a later date.

H.M.S. Pinafore

by Gilbert and Sullivan

sung in English with English subtitles

November 6, 8, 11, 14, 2009

Gilbert and Sullivan are back again by popular demand. The pair's hilarious tale of love, rank and birthright will delight fans with the duo's wit and musical genius. This sidesplitting opera features loveable characters and a memorable score that includes iconic tunes such as "I'm called little buttercup," "When I was a lad" and "Nevermind the why and wherefore." It is the perfect introduction for a first timer. Cast and director to be announced at a later date.

Rigoletto

by Giuseppe Verdi

sung in Italian with English subtitles

March 20, 24, 26, 28, 2010

The tragic story of a cursed, hunchback jester and the deadly fate of his innocent daughter is the setting for some of opera's most memorable melodies. This Verdi classic is jam-packed with passionate, invigorating music including the arias "La donna è mobile" and "Caro nome."



Dramatic leading baritone Richard Paul Fink, a regular at major opera houses worldwide – including the Metropolitan Opera, Opera National de Paris and the Sidney Opera – will perform the role of Rigoletto. In 2007 the *Calgary Herald* hailed, “Fink showed the full heft of a classic Verdi baritone... Dramatically he was completely convincing.”

Garnett Bruce, director of the acclaimed *La Cenerentola* in 2004 and the 2008 audience favorite *The Magic Flute*, will return to the Lyric Opera to direct this production.

Don Giovanni

by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

sung in Italian with English subtitles

April 24, 28, 30 and May 2, 2010

Don Giovanni’s 2,065 conquests give him more than his little black book can handle. Opera’s greatest lover and ultimate bad boy will use Mozart’s unforgettable music to seduce even the purest of hearts.

Mezzo-soprano Christine Abraham will return to the Lyric Opera stage to perform the role of scorned lover Donna Elvira. Ms. Abraham previously was seen in the Company’s first Baroque opera *Julius Caesar* in 2008. Bass Andrew Gangestad, whose voice was deemed “glorious” by *The Kansas City Star* during the 2007 production of *The Barber of Seville*, will sing the role of Giovanni’s comedic and loyal servant, Leporello.

Ticket Information

Season ticket prices range from \$60 to \$252. For ticket information, contact the Lyric Opera Ticket Office at (816) 471-7344 or toll free at (877) OPERAKC (673-7252), visit www.kcopera.org or visit the Lyric Opera ticket office at the Lyric Theatre, 11th and Central Streets in downtown Kansas City.

Season ticket holders receive a substantial discount - four shows for the price of three. Subscriptions will go on sale to the general public on Monday, March 9, 2009. Subscribers to the 2008-09 season will receive subscription renewal information beginning the week of March 2. Single tickets will go on sale to the general public on August 17, 2009.



The Lyric Theatre is fully accessible and provides assistive listening devices plus Braille and large print programs. Service animals are welcome. For more information on the Lyric Opera, visit www.kcopera.org. All dates, operas and artists are subject to change.

The Lyric Opera of Kansas City is a member of OPERA America, and this season is made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Missouri Arts Council.

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