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LYRIC OPERA ANNOUNCES FINAL SEASON IN LYRIC THEATRE:

***The Lyric Opera 53rd Season will Salute the Company's Historic Theatre
A Season Filled with World-Class Singers and Two New Productions***

KANSAS CITY, MO. (March 8, 2010) –With the much anticipated move by the Lyric Opera of Kansas City to the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in the fall of 2011, the 53rd Lyric Opera season will be the final one produced by the Company in the Lyric Theatre on 11th and Central streets in Kansas City, Missouri. With attendance and artistic quality at all-time highs, the Lyric Opera is already prepared for the move to the Kauffman Center in the fall of 2011.

The Lyric Opera 53rd Season will Salute the Company's Historic Theatre

The upcoming season will salute the rich heritage of the Lyric Opera, and its performances in the Lyric Theatre. ***The Daughter of the Regiment*** will be performed in English instead of in its original language, French, to recognize the Company's original policy of performing all operas in English.

The final production of the season will pay homage to the Lyric Theatre itself by featuring the building as the backdrop for an all-new production of ***The Marriage of Figaro***. Director **Mark Streshinsky**'s vision will showcase the theatre by staging a *Figaro* inspired by the operetta *Kiss Me, Kate*, where the production onstage will seem to take place backstage. This staging will allow Lyric Opera Resident Scenic Designer **R. Keith Brumley** to utilize the Lyric Theatre in ways that have never before been attempted.

Evan Luskin, Lyric Opera General Director reminisces, "It is hard to imagine that nearly 41 years after moving our productions to the Lyric Theatre we are planning our final



incredible season here. We invite members of the community to join us in our monumental journey as we bid farewell to the Lyric Theatre and anxiously anticipate the opportunities that await us in the new Kauffman Center.”

A Season Filled with World-Class Singers and Two New Productions

Artistic Director **Ward Holmquist** notes, “I am pleased to have the opportunity to conduct three of our four main stage productions during the last season in the Lyric Theatre. We should have a phenomenal season, as we have assembled some of the industry’s most seasoned veterans to sing their signature roles alongside extraordinary directors. We also continue our commitment to developing up-and-coming singers by casting the opera world’s brightest emerging artists.”

Performance Details

Carmen – New Production

By **Georges Bizet**

Sung in French with English subtitles

Sept. 25, 29, Oct. 1, 3, 2010

It is hard to imagine the opera world without its smokin’-hot gypsy. Carmen’s cruel seduction, which brings a powerful man to his knees and pushes him over the edge of sanity, has been bewitching audiences since its premiere with the fiery flamenco inspired melodies in Bizet’s brilliant “Carmen Overture,” “Habenera,” and “Toreador.”

Director Bernard Uzan (*Tosca*, 2009) teams with Resident Scenic Designer **R. Keith Brumley** to create an all new production of this smoldering Bizet classic. This smoking hot production promises to seeth with seduction and gritty realism.

Emerging mezzo soprano **Sandra Piques Eddy** embodies opera’s beloved bad girl. *On Chicago Theatre* said she “makes you believe that a man would destroy his life for her.” **Alyson Cambridge** (soprano), who received acclaim for her Lyric Opera debut as Mimì in *La bohème* (2008), will return to sing Micèla; **David Michael** (bass) will make his Company debut as the love-struck policeman Zuniga; and Kansas City native **Doug Jones** (tenor) returns to sing Remendado.



***Norma* – Lyric Opera Debut**

By Vincenzo Bellini

Sung in Italian with English subtitles

Nov. 6, 10, 12, and 14, 2010

The Lyric Opera returns to the *bel canto* repertoire at long last with the Lyric Opera debut of *Norma*! Bellini's gorgeous score marries brilliantly with a story about a powerful woman forced to betray her sacred vows for love – only to be betrayed by her lover's infidelity.

After receiving critical acclaim for singing the title role at Opéra de Québec, Michigan Opera Theatre, and Minnesota Opera, **Brenda Harris** (soprano) sings the notoriously demanding role. *Opera News* raved “[she] had it all: unstinting intensity, brilliant high C's...and total dramatic commitment.” Brazilian **Luiz-Ottavio Faria** (bass) returns to the Lyric Opera to sing Oroveso, after receiving critical praise for his portrayal of Ramfis in *Aida* (2007). **Laura Vlasak Nolen** (mezzo soprano), a Metropolitan Opera regular, will make her Lyric Opera Debut as Adalgisa. Director **Christine McIntyre** will return to the Lyric Opera after directing the critically acclaim for *The End of the Affair* (2007) and the world premiere of *John Brown* (2008).

The Daughter of the Regiment

By Gaetano Donizetti

Sung in English with English subtitles

Feb. 19, 23, 25, and 27, 2011

Marie is a pretty little girl with a pretty big heart. When the orphaned Marie is adopted by a regiment of the French soldiers, laughter erupts. The heartwarming story is filled with catchy tuneful music, two handfuls of tenor high C's and one energetic singing tomboy.

Director **Dorothy Danner**, who delighted audiences with *The Pirates of Penzance* (2009), returns to put her signature comedic spin on this Donizetti gem. Ms. Danner envisions so much humor erupting from song and verse that the entire production will be performed in English. Soprano **Nili Riemer** (who made audiences swoon as Mabel in *Pirates*) plays Marie. The *Ithaca Journal* gushed Ms. Riemer “...appears to have been born to sing the title role...” The *Guardian* says that **Victor Ryan Robertson** (tenor), who will sing Tonio, “offers an appealing, well-defined tenor with plenty of energy.” Local favorites **John**



Stephens (bass) and **Joyce Castle** (mezzo soprano); both of whom have received national acclaim, will portray Sulpice and the Marquise of Berkenfield, respectively.

The Marriage of Figaro – New Production

By **W.A. Mozart**

Sung in Italian with English Subtitles

Apr. 9, 13, 15, and 17, 2011

Mozart's masterful comedy is a fitting end to the Lyric Opera 2010-2011 season – the final opera in the Lyric Theatre. *The Marriage of Figaro* was performed by the Company during its first season in the Lyric Theatre (in that day known as the Capri Theatre) in 1970.

This hilarious opera features some of the best emerging singers working today – *Opera News* describes **Sari Gruber** (Susanna) as “a blazing voiced firecracker” and **Andrew Gangestad** (Figaro) has been hailed as “funny and puppy-dog charming” by the *Arizona Daily Star*.

Baritone Troy Cook (Count Almaviva) returns to the Lyric Opera having performed in *The Pearl Fishers* (2007) when *The Kansas City Star* noted, “the opera belonged to Cook.” **Katie Van Kooten** (soprano) will make her role and company debuts as Countess Almaviva, **Thomas Hammons** (bass) will sing Bartolo, and **Korby Myrick** (mezzo soprano) will sing Marcellina.

Director **Mark Streshinsky** will return to the Lyric Opera after directing *Julius Caesar* (2008) to stage this all-new production. Mr. Streshinsky's creative concept will turn the Lyric Theatre building itself into the backdrop of the production, a fitting final tribute to 41 years of opera in the venue.

Ticket Information

Season ticket prices range from \$75 to \$270. For ticket information, visit www.kcopera.org or contact the Lyric Opera Ticket Office at (816) 471-7344 or toll free at 1(877) OPERAKC (673-7252), or visit the Lyric Opera ticket office at the Lyric Theatre, 11th and Central Streets in downtown Kansas City.



Season ticket holders for the 2010-2011 season receive a substantial discount - four shows for the price of three and will also **receive priority seating** when the Lyric Opera moves to the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in the fall of 2011. Subscriptions will go on sale to the general public on Monday, March 15, 2010. Subscribers to the 2009-10 season will receive subscription renewal information beginning the week of March 8. Single tickets will go on sale to the general public on August 23, 2010.

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.

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