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***Rigoletto* Marks Artistic Highlight of Season**

*World-renowned Baritone makes Lyric Opera Debut*

*Metropolitan Opera Stars Mary Dunleavy & David Pomeroy return to Lyric Opera*

*Director lauded for creative reinventions returns to the Lyric Opera*

*The Story*

KANSAS CITY, MO. (February 16, 2010) – The Lyric Opera of Kansas City will present Verdi's *Rigoletto* March 20, 24, 26, and 28, 2010. With this production the Lyric Opera will reach new artistic heights having hired highly acclaimed singers, each of which have performed principal roles with the Metropolitan Opera.

**World-renowned Baritone makes Lyric Opera Debut**

Dramatic baritone **Richard Paul Fink** will make his Lyric Opera debut as Rigoletto, the hunchbacked cursed jester. Mr. Fink has immense performing experience in the United States at the Metropolitan Opera, Chicago Lyric Opera, Seattle Opera, San Diego Opera and Houston Grand Opera. He performs regularly at the great opera houses around the globe including the Sydney Opera, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Opera National de Paris, Scottish Opera and Canadian Opera Company.

“Richard and I were in the Houston Grand Opera Studio program together in the 1980s and became esteemed colleagues and lifelong friends,” notes Artistic Director Ward Holmquist. “I have been looking, since the beginning of my tenure with the Lyric Opera, for the perfect project to bring this A-list singer to Kansas City. His vast, rich baritone will blow people away in the relatively intimate Lyric Theatre. I look forward to collaborating with Richard again.”

Kenneth DeLong of the *Calgary Herald* hailed Mr. Fink's performance of *Rigoletto* at Calgary Opera, “Fink showed the full heft of a classic Verdi baritone...his voice rich and full from top to bottom, and with a commanding ring in the high notes. Dramatically he was completely convincing.”



**Metropolitan Opera stars Mary Dunleavy & David Pomeroy return to Lyric Opera**

***Mary Dunleavy stars in a Lyric Opera production for the second year running***

Soprano **Mary Dunleavy** returns to the Lyric Opera as Gilda, Rigoletto's sheltered daughter, after receiving rave reviews for her Company debut last season as Violetta in *La Traviata*. "...her voice was stunning – expressive and quite lovely," noted Timothy McDonald of *The Kansas City Star*.

Miss Dunleavy will portray Gilda, a role she has sung at many of the leading opera houses including the Metropolitan Opera, LA Opera, and San Francisco Opera. *The Opera Critic* noted, "Mary Dunleavy's Gilda was pure magic. She captured the essence of her character from the moment she set foot on the stage. Her portrayal was glorious and she was totally convincing as the naïve, protected young girl both in voice and movement."

***David Pomeroy returns after making Metropolitan Opera Debut***

Since first being seen at the Lyric Opera as Lennie Small in *Of Mice and Men* in 2004, Canadian tenor **David Pomeroy** has returned to sing the leading tenor roles in *Carmen* and *Madama Butterfly* with the Lyric Opera in recent seasons. In addition to Mr. Pomeroy's credits with the Company, he made his Metropolitan Opera debut in the title role of *The Tales of Hoffman* in December 2009, and has recently performed with Calgary Opera, Opéra de Montreal, Scottish Opera, Canadian Opera Company, Michigan Opera Theatre, and Opera Theatre of St. Louis.

Mr. Pomeroy will sing the role of the Duke of Mantua in this production, a role for which he has received acclaim from the *Calgary Herald*. "David Pomeroy is a youthful, swaggering Duke, with the kind of vocal ease that is essential to be the character of the part."

**Director lauded for creative reinventions returns to the Lyric Opera**

Director Garnett Bruce will return to the Lyric Opera following his acclaimed productions with the Company of *La bohème* in 2002, *The Magic Flute* in 2008 and the creative reinvention of *Cinderella* in 2004.

Mr. Bruce began his directing career with internships at the Metropolitan Opera where he worked with Harold Price on *Faust* and with Leonard Bernstein during his legendary performances and final recording of *Candide*. Mr. Bruce is the Artistic Advisor and Principal Stage Director for Opera Omaha and directs regularly with Lyric Opera of



Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, Utah Symphony and Opera, Austin Opera, San Diego Opera and Peabody Opera.

### **The Story**

While the lustful Duke of Mantua seduces the wives and daughters of the town, his hunchbacked jester, Rigoletto, adds insult to injury by ridiculing their husbands and fathers. When the joke goes too far, a furious father places a curse on Rigoletto. Little does Rigoletto know, his own daughter, whom he has protectively hidden from the courtiers, has caught the eye of the Duke. Through a whirlwind of lust, betrayal, revenge and concealed identities, Rigoletto's domineering love for his daughter ultimately fulfills the curse.

### *Rigoletto* Performance Information

**Music by Giuseppe Verdi**

**Performed in Italian with English subtitles projected above the stage**

**Lyric Theatre, 11<sup>th</sup> and Central, Downtown Kansas City**

**4 performances:**

**Saturday, March 20 at 8 p.m.**

**Wednesday, March 24 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Friday, March 26 at 8 p.m.**

**Sunday, March 28 at 2 p.m.**

Ticket availability varies by performance. Limited cash only student rush tickets are \$10 one hour before curtain, with valid ID. To purchase tickets, visit [www.kcopera.org](http://www.kcopera.org), or call the ticket office at (816) 471-7344 or 1-800-OPERA KC (673-7252).

The Lyric Opera of Kansas City is a member of OPERA America, and this season is made possible with funding from the Missouri Arts Council, Midwest Airlines, Lathrop & Gage LLC, the Arts KC Fund & the Neighborhood Tourism and Development Fund.



## Cast List

Rigoletto: Richard Paul Fink\*  
Gilda: Mary Dunleavy  
Duke of Mantua: David Pomeroy  
Sparafucile: Kevin Short  
Maddelena: Catherine Ratliff~  
Count Monterone: Harold Wilson  
Giovanna: Jennifer Forte~  
Count Ceprano: Stephen Fish~  
Borsa: Benjamin Gulley~  
Marullo: Robert McNichols, Jr.~  
Countess Ceprano: Amy Cahill~

\* Lyric Opera Debut  
~ Lyric Opera Apprentice

## Artistic Staff

Conductor: Ward Holmquist  
Director: Garnett Bruce  
Scenic Designer: Lawrence Schafer  
Costumes Coordinator: Mary Traylor  
Lighting Designer: Jim Sale  
Chorusmaster/Accompanist Coach: Mark Ferrell  
Wig and Makeup Designer: Jan Delovage  
Production Stage Manager: Erin Thompson

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