



You are invited to...

At Ease With Opera

What do you do if you want to know more about the Lyric Opera's upcoming productions of *Rigoletto* and *Don Giovanni*, but you don't want to pay anything and you don't want to dress up? You attend the Lyric Opera Guild's At Ease With Opera programs, of course! We have presentations coming up before each of the Lyric Opera's two spring productions

We are hosting the following programs focusing on Verdi's *Rigoletto*, which opens on March 20:

♪ Monday, **March 1**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Plaza Branch of the Kansas City Public Library at 4801 Main St., Kansas City, Missouri. **Don Dagenais** will take a look at the career

of the early Verdi, which led directly to his three great mid-career operas, *Rigoletto*, *Il Trovatore* and *La Traviata*. The program is called "The Galley Years: Verdi's Path to *Rigoletto*" and will feature audio and video excerpts.

♪ Monday, **March 8**, 7:00 p.m. at the Kauffman Foundation, 4801 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, Missouri. Opera maven **Bob Dean** will discuss the literary background and sources for the story of Verdi's *Rigoletto* in a program entitled "From Victor Hugo to Giuseppe Verdi, *Le Roi s'amuse* to *Rigoletto*." Video and audio recordings will be included.

♪ Monday, **March 15**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Plaza Branch of the Kansas City Public Library. **Don Dagenais** will take a close look at *Rigoletto* including video and audio excerpts, and examine this classic opera's performance history. The program is entitled "Of Hunchbacks and Hit Men: A Preview of *Rigoletto*."

Opening on April 24 is *Don Giovanni* by Mozart. The Guild has these programs:

♪ Monday, **April 5**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Plaza Branch of the Kansas City Public Library. Guild speaker **Morton Creditor** will discuss the literary and other treatments of the Don Juan story throughout history. His discussion is called "Don Juan in Music and Literature: Centuries of Seduction."

♪ Monday, **April 12**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Kauffman Foundation, 4801 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, Missouri. **Morton Creditor** will be back at the podium discussing the fascinating life of Mozart's librettist in "Lorenzo Da Ponte: Ghetto Jew, Venetian Priest, Poet, Librettist, Merchant and Columbia University Professor." Da Ponte's life itself could make an opera...come find out why!

♪ Monday, **April 19**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Plaza Branch of the Kansas City Public Library. **Eugene Butler**, a local composer and Guild preview speaker, will lecture on *Don Giovanni* in a presentation called "Don Giovanni: Super Man or Super Villain?"

Bring your friends and enjoy these free informative programs!

