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Area youths beat the heat at the Lyric Opera's Summer Opera Camp

KANSAS CITY, MO. (June 30, 2009) – This summer, 80 youths will share in the drama and passion of opera at the Lyric Opera of Kansas City summer opera camp. Students aged 10-18 will meet for two weeks of music and theatre workshops and opera learning activities at the Lyric Theatre from **Monday, July 27th through Friday, August 7th.**

During the camp, participants will study vocal technique and learn how to sing in German and Italian. In addition to vocal coaching, they also will participate in theater workshops that teach the basics of creating realistic characters with believable emotions. Campers will delve into the history and music of the Lyric Opera's upcoming production of Giacomo Puccini's *Tosca*. A select group of campers will be chosen to sing onstage in the September production of *Tosca*. Additionally, campers will rehearse music for both a choral recital and an original production of the 40-minute family opera, *Cinderella*.

The opera *Cinderella* is an adaptation of the Perrault fairy tale by Paula Winans, Lyric Opera Director of Education, and her son, Joe Winans. The opera uses musical themes from great operas, including Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, Verdi's *A Masked Ball*, and Rossini's *La Cenerentola (Cinderella)*. The story addresses the concepts of self-reliance, returning acts of unkindness with kindness, and the wisdom in turning to adults in times of trouble.

"Opera camp is an opportunity for young people of all ages to experience the music and drama of opera in a stimulating and fun setting," Paula Winans, director of education, said. "Our campers will learn to sing music from *Tosca* in Italian, as well as work with professional opera singers, designers and directors to perform in *Cinderella*. Best of all, they'll leave camp with a love for a wonderful new art form and with a lot of new friendships."

Cinderella will be presented on **Friday, Aug. 7, 2009** at 2:30 p.m. at the Lyric Theatre. Tickets are \$4 per person and can be purchased prior to August 7th by contacting the Lyric ticket office at 816-471-7344. *Cinderella* will also be available to tour to schools, libraries, community centers, and Head Start facilities during the 2009-2010 school year. Those interested in taking advantage of this program may contact Paula Winans at 816-471-4933. For details about Lyric Opera education programs, visit www.kcopera.org.

In addition to educational performances of *Cinderella* during its 52nd *Art Out Loud* season, the Lyric Opera will present *Tosca* September 11-19, *H.M.S. Pinafore* November 6-14, *Rigoletto* March 20-28, and *Don Giovanni* April 24-30 and May 2.

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