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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Tuesday, January 8, 2008**

Lyric Opera of Chicago names Mark Riggleman new Director of Education

William Mason, general director of Lyric Opera of Chicago, is pleased to announce that **Mark Riggleman** has accepted the position of education director for the company. On February 11 he replaces Jean Kellogg, who has been named director of the Hylton Performing Arts Center and Community Arts Partnerships at George Mason University in Manassas, Fairfax, Loudon, and Arlington, Virginia.

In his new position at Lyric, Riggleman, 44, continues a distinguished career as an educator and arts administrator. Since 2005 he has served as executive director of the Suburban Community Music Center in New Providence, New Jersey, providing overall leadership for more than 900 students and 60 faculty members, developing programming and outreach programs. From 1996 to 2004 Riggleman was director of The School of Music at the famed 92nd Street Y (Young Men's-Young Women's Hebrew Association) in New York City, where he supervised faculty, staff, and visiting artists, developed programming for adults and children, developed collaborations with other music organizations, created an endowment fund to support the orchestra, created a residency for The Young People's Chorus of New York City, created the first music technology program in a community music school in New York City, established accreditation for that program through SUNY Empire State College, and presented numerous distinguished guest artists in master classes, among other achievements.

Prior to his work at the 92nd Street Y, Riggleman served as associate director of educational outreach for The Juilliard School (1995-6), directing and producing 300 outreach concerts annually as part of the Community Service Fellowship Program. He also oversaw Juilliard's Music Advancement Program (a music education program for public-school minority students), and managed the Performing Arts Programs for Schools. From 1992 to 1995 Riggleman was assistant director of educational outreach at Juilliard; from 1992 to 1997 he was a faculty member of the school's Music Advancement program, in which he created and taught music history classes for children.

Riggleman holds a bachelor of music degree in piano pedagogy from the Shenandoah Conservatory of Music in Winchester, Virginia, and received that school's 2003 Alumnus of Excellence award. He is married to Irish soprano Máire O'Brien. A native of Ellerslie, Maryland, Riggleman began piano lessons at age four. He started accompanying school choirs as a pianist at age eight, and church choirs as an organist at age 12.

"I'm thrilled to be joining one of the world's most distinguished opera companies, and look forward to furthering Lyric's education mission," Riggleman says.

"We are delighted to welcome Mark to the Lyric Opera family," says Mason. "Wide-reaching educational programs are vital to our mission. We are very pleased to have found such a highly qualified professional as Mark to take on the challenges of overseeing and expanding existing programs and developing new ones."

Lyric Opera of Chicago's education department serves more than 80,000 adults and children each year throughout Chicago and surrounding communities. Programs include the **Discovery Series** featuring interviews with artists of the season; lectures in the community provided by the award-winning Lyric Opera Lecture Corps; symposia; **Student Backstage Tours** and **Opera in the Classroom** workshops in grade schools, both led by highly trained Lecture Corps docents; **Student Matinee Performances** in the Ardis Krainik Theatre; **Opera in the Neighborhood** performances in school auditoriums for elementary students; **OperaKids** residency programs in elementary schools where students learn and perform an opera written expressly for young voices; **Teen Opera Circle** and **College Opera Circle**, which provide student passes to select dress rehearsals of the season; **Professional Development Workshops** for teachers; free **Pre-Performance Lectures** in the Ardis Krainik Theatre; and more. Lyric's education department also creates a comprehensive **Season Companion** publication about each season's operas, generates age-appropriate study guides and arts-integrated cross-curricular material for students and educators, and disseminates opera libretti. Additionally, Lyric's education department houses one of the largest, most comprehensive media libraries on opera in the nation.

Mark Riggleman assumes the title of Director of Education, Chapters' Endowed Chair for Education in memory of Alfred Glasser.

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