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Lyric Opera of Chicago announces cast change for first three performances of Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*:

American baritone Philip Kraus to portray Bartolo Feb. 16, 19, and 22, replacing English baritone Andrew Shore, who will sing title role of Verdi's *Falstaff* at Lyric Jan. 28 through Feb. 23. Shore will then portray Bartolo for remaining nine performances of *Barber* Feb. 26, 29, Mar. 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 19, 22.

American baritone **Philip Kraus** will portray Dr. Bartolo in the first three performances of Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* at Lyric Opera of Chicago in February, general director William Mason has announced.

Kraus replaces English baritone **Andrew Shore** for three performances of *Barber*, as Shore has been engaged on short notice to replace Italian baritone **Ambrogio Maestri** as the lead for all performances of Lyric's production of *Falstaff* due to a death in Maestri's family. A slight overlap in performance dates for *Falstaff* and *Barber* necessitated the additional cast change, Mason noted. Shore will sing the remaining nine performances of *Barber* Feb. 26 through Mar. 22.

American baritone **Philip Kraus** has sung 21 roles previously at Lyric since 1990-91, most recently Baron Douphol/*La traviata* (Sept.-Oct. 2007 and Jan. 2008); Notary/*Der Rosenkavalier* (2005-06); Harašta/*The Cunning Little Vixen* (2004-05). Kraus also portrayed Douphol in Lyric's previous *Traviata* (2002-03) and sang the role last season at Los Angeles Opera, opposite Elizabeth Futral and Renée Fleming (the latter is now on DVD). He debuted at Lyric as José Castro/*La fanciulla del West*; other roles at Lyric have included Alcindoro/*La bohème*, Sacristan/*Tosca*, Meyer Wolfshiem/*Great Gatsby*; Lt. Ratcliffe/*Billy Budd*, and Mayor/*Jenůfa*.

Kraus has sung Bartolo/*The Barber of Seville* and the title role/*Gianni Schicchi* with Chicago Opera Theater; Taddeo/*L'italiana in Algeri* with Hawaii Opera Theater; and Sir Joseph/*H.M.S. Pinafore*, Montararat/*Iolanthe*, and the Vicar/*Albert Herring* – all with Cleveland Opera. Kraus has portrayed Salieri in Rimsky-Korsakov's *Mozart and Salieri* four times, most recently last season with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. Kraus's wide concert repertoire includes recent

performances of the Brahms *Requiem*, Haydn's *Creation*, Handel's *Samson*, Verdi's *Requiem*, and Vaughan Williams's *Dona Nobis Pacem* and *Mystical Songs*. Kraus has also previously performed in concert with the major orchestras of Cleveland, Chicago, Dallas, Milwaukee, and Denver.

IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA (The Barber of Seville) / Gioachino Rossini – 12 performances – Feb. 16, 19, 22, 26, 29, Mar. 3, 6 (ma), 9 (ma), 12 (ma), 15, 19, 22. Sung in Italian with projected English titles.

Gioachino Rossini's comic masterpiece, which had its Lyric Opera premiere in 1954, has been heard in 11 subsequent seasons, most recently in 2000-01. Baritone **Nathan Gunn** assumes the title role of the wily Figaro. The opera centers on his machinations in uniting the lovely Rosina (mezzo-soprano **Joyce DiDonato**, debut) with her beloved "Lindoro" (tenor **Juan Diego Flórez**), who turns out to be the aristocratic Count Almaviva. Adding to the intrigue are Dr. Bartolo (baritones **Philip Kraus** Feb. 16, 19, 22 and **Andrew Shore**), Rosina's guardian, who would like to marry her himself; and Don Basilio (bass-baritone **Wayne Tigges**), Rosina's music teacher.

Donato Renzetti will conduct this beloved Magritte-inspired production by stage director **John Copley**, set and costume designer **John Conklin**, and lighting designer **Duane Schuler**. **Donald Nally** is chorus master. *Il barbiere di Siviglia* is **The Mr. and Mrs. Ben W. Heineman Production**. The revival is generously made possible by **Mr. & Mrs. Dietrich M. Gross**.

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