



FROM:
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Weds., Oct. 1, 2008

**Lyric Opera of Chicago's
Opening Night Gala Benefit and Opera Ball
raises more than \$500,000 (net proceeds)
Saturday, September 27, 2008**

A Project of the Women's Board of Lyric Opera of Chicago

**Capacity audience of 3,500+
attends Opening Night Gala Benefit performance of
Massenet's *Manon***

at Civic Opera House, 20 North Wacker Drive, 6:00 – 9:40 p.m.

**700+ guests attend Opera Ball at the Hilton Chicago
for Grand March, elegant dining, and dancing, 720 S. Michigan Ave., 10 p.m. – 1 a.m.**

Opening Night Chairman: **Mrs. Andrew McNally V** (Alison) of Winnetka
Opera Ball Chairman: **Mrs. Allan E. Bulley III** (Suzette) of Chicago
Women's Board President: **Mrs. Richard W. Durkes** (Clementina) of Chicago

The Opening Night Gala Benefit was generously sponsored by **Aon Corporation**.
The Opera Ball was generously cosponsored by **Illinois Tool Works Inc.** and **Northern Trust**.
The Opera Ball Reception was generously sponsored by **Stefan Edlis and Gael Neeson**.

Lyric Opera presentation of *Manon* made possible by **Abbott Fund**,
an **Anonymous Donor**, **Judson and Joyce Green**, and **Liz Stiffel**.

Décor for Opening Night Gala Benefit and Opera Ball by **Heffernan Morgan**.
Opening Night Gala Benefit catering by **Jewell Events Catering**.
Opera Ball music by **Stu Hirsh Orchestra**.

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