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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Tuesday, February 10, 2009

**Lyric Opera of Chicago's Fantasy of the Opera Gala
\$ 511,000 net raised! Attendance 575!
Guild Board of Directors' 25th annual Fantasy fundraiser,
"Be Dazzled," rocked the Civic Opera House on Fri., Feb. 6, 2009**

Luxuriant silk canopies, table linens, curtains, and giant cylindrical lampshades plus delicate chandeliers, cut crystal centerpieces, elaborate lighting, and ornately painted signage all set the scene for **"Be Dazzled,"** the 25th annual **Fantasy of the Opera Gala** benefit hosted by Lyric Opera of Chicago's Guild Board of Directors at the Civic Opera House on Friday, February 6.

Early in the evening, an array of tasty morsels prepared by some of Chicago's top chefs enticed the crowd of 575 ticket-holders for the festive fundraiser. Restaurant stations could be found throughout the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Grand Foyer and American Airlines Mezzanine. Many enjoyed vibrant turquoise "Be Dazzled" sparkling cocktails (champagne, curaçao, and grapefruit juice) and other refreshments while they placed silent-auction bids beneath silver and ice-blue silk canopies in the Nancy W. Knowles Lobby, or purchased raffle tickets.

The Fantasy Cabaret showcased the diverse musical talents of Lyric artists Deborah Voigt and Clifton Forbis (*Tristan und Isolde*), Erin Wall and Matthew Polenzani (*The Abduction from the Seraglio*), David Cangelosi (*Manon, Madama Butterfly*), Philip Kraus, and Joseph Kaiser, as well as Ryan Opera Center members Angela Mannino, Kathryn Leemhuis, Edward Mout, David Portillo, Paul Corona, and Craig Irvin; and Lyric Opera Chorus members Lynn Lundgren, Rose Stuart, and Cathleen Dunn, a.k.a. the "Cangelinas." Selections by Lerner & Lowe, Cole Porter, Stephen Sondheim, Kurt Weill, Sammy Cahn, and others were performed. Lyric's music director Sir Andrew Davis was master of ceremonies, and pianist Craig Terry accompanied the singers.

Following a seated dinner prepared by Calihan Catering, many guests danced to the Ken Arlen Orchestra in the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Grand Foyer until midnight. Others enjoyed artisanal cheeses by Pastoral, elegant sweets by ethel's chocolate, and assorted dessert wines by The House of Glunz.

Fantasy Chairman **Christina M. Rashid** (Chicago)
Fantasy Co-Chairman **Oscar Tatosian** (Chicago)
Fantasy Raffle Chairman **Craig R. Milkint** (Hinsdale)
Fantasy Silent Auction Chairman **Courtney Rosen** (Chicago)
Guild Board President **Elaine Cottey** (Chicago)

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James G. and Laura G. McCormick; Allan and Elaine Muchin; Peer Pedersen;
and Spencer Stuart & Associates**

Benefactors
BBJ Linens and Quarles & Brady LLP

Fantasy Raffle Sponsor
American Airlines, the Official Airline of Lyric Opera

Caterer
Calihan Catering

Reception Restaurants
**Aigre Doux, Carnivale, Coco Pazzo, Devon Seafood Grill, Lloyd's Chicago, Nine Steakhouse,
One North Kitchen & Bar, Piccolo Sogno, Phil Stefani 437 Rush, Prosecco,
Rivers Restaurant, Roy's, Shikago, Townhouse**

Diamond Lounge Sponsors
Pastoral, The House of Glunz, Ethel's Chocolate

Music
Ken Arlen Orchestra

Décor
Heffernan Morgan, Inc. and Oscar Isberian Rugs

Linens
BBJ Linen

For event photos, please contact press coordinator Carrie Napolilli: 312-827-5823 or cnapolilli@lyricopera.org

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