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Three years of preparation for one incredible evening:

Lyric Opera of Chicago's WINE AUCTION 2009 nets \$1.2 million

Honored Guest:

Pierre-Henry Gagey, President, Maison Louis Jadot of Beaune, Burgundy

Wine Auction Cochairs:

Mrs. William A. (Cathy) Osborn and Mrs. D. Gideon (Nancy) Searle

Three years of meticulous organizing, hard work, and unstinting dedication to grand opera – plus a splash of cautious optimism – paid off handsomely on Friday, March 6, when **Lyric Opera of Chicago's Wine Auction 2009** raised an unprecedented **\$1.2 million** in net proceeds.

“The Lyric Family dug deep to come up with these terrific results, but it was not an overnight success,” said Richard P. Kiphart, Lyric’s president and CEO, adding that “good things take time in the worlds of fine wine and fine opera. The planning process was championed by the outstanding leadership of **Wine Auction 2009** co-chairs Cathy Osborn and Nancy Searle, and Women’s Board President Clement Durkes. We are thrilled that their hard work had such an extraordinary financial result, and we’re equally pleased that everyone at the party had such a great time supporting Lyric Opera.”

“**Wine Auction 2009** required a multifaceted and long-term collaboration similar to what it takes to present grand opera,” said William Mason, Lyric’s general director. “The 55 members of the Women’s Board have worked closely and tirelessly with Lyric staff from all departments to produce this incredible fundraiser that directly supports the grand opera we present onstage.”

Lyric Opera’s wine auctions have now netted more than \$5 million since 1988. The proceeds go directly to Lyric’s annual campaign, which supports the world-renowned opera company’s

activities. Lyric's previous wine auction, in 2006, netted \$1,022,000, and was attended by 420 guests.

This was the ninth wine auction organized by the **Women's Board of Lyric Opera of Chicago** since 1988. **Mrs. William A. (Cathy) Osborn** and **Mrs. D. Gideon (Nancy) Searle**, both of Winnetka, served as cochairs of **Wine Auction 2009**. **Mrs. Richard W. (Clement) Durkes** of Chicago is president of the Women's Board.

The evening began with silent-auction bidding in the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Grand Foyer and culminated with spirited live-auction bidding on the mainstage of the Ardis Krainik Theatre in the historic Civic Opera House. Approximately 400 guests attended the elegant fundraiser, a project of the Women's Board of Lyric Opera of Chicago.

Wine Auction 2009 featured an extraordinary array of fine wines (1,067 bottles). Several highly desirable wine-themed travel packages, fine-dining experiences, and luxury items were also auctioned. Some bidding highlights among the 84 live-auction lots:

\$55,000 – the top winning bid of the evening, for Lot 40, “Beaune Voyage,” a trip for four as the personal guest of Pierre-Henry Gagey and Maison Louis Jadot at the Hospices de Beaune wine auction and surrounding festivities; travel included (est. value \$38,000)

\$20,000 – the top wine bid, for Lot 82: five bottles of 1959 first-growth Bordeaux (est. value \$14,500)

\$19,000 – Lot 26: a dozen bottles of Chateau Haut-Brion 1982, in original wooden case, donated by the previous auction's honored guests, Prince and Princess Robert of Luxembourg (est. value \$12,000)

\$13,000 – Lot 8: a dozen bottles of Chateau Mouton-Rothschild 2000, in original wooden case (est. value \$12,000)

\$9,000 – Lot 4: a jeroboam of Bonnes-Mares, Louis Jadot 1971 in original wooden case (est. value \$2,400)

\$11,000 – Lot 44: “Cult Wines and Catered Dinner” for ten (est. value \$6,500)

The Live Auction began at 9:15 p.m., conducted by lead auctioneer **Michael Davis** (Vice-Chairman, Hart Davis Hart Wine Co.), and auctioneer **Leslie Hindman** (President, Leslie Hindman Auctioneers), featuring exceptional wines and superb travel and dining experiences.

Wine Auction 2009 committee chairmen were Paula Hannaway Crown, Mrs. A. Campbell (Alison) de Frise, Ms. Lili Gaubin, Mrs. Ronald J. (Christina) Gidwitz, Mrs. William B. (Catherine) Graham, Mrs. King (Caryn) Harris, Mrs. Julian W. (Catherine) Harvey, Mrs. Edgar D. Jannotta (Debby/Winnetka), Mrs. John W. (Gretchen) Jordan II, Mrs. Andrew McNally V (Alison/Winnetka), Mrs. Todd D. (Mimi) Mitchell, Mrs. Robert S. Morrison (Susan/Lake Forest), Mrs. James J. O'Connor (Ellen), Mrs. Paul W. Oliver, Jr. (Susan/Oswego), Mrs. Jerry K. Pearlman (Barbara/Wilmette), Mrs. James C. Pritchard (Bonnie/Geneva), Mrs. Patrick G. Ryan

(Shirley/Winnetka), Marilyn Thoma, and Mrs. Robert G. (Florette) Weiss. (All Chicago residents except where noted.)

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