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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Thursday, June 5, 2008

Save the Date!
Lyric Opera of Chicago's Wine Auction 2009
will be held in the Civic Opera House
Friday, March 6, 2009
\$500/person, Formal Attire
(Black or White Tie)

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

Bidding to open online 7 weeks prior to Wine Auction 2009 –
Full auction catalog available online:
<http://www.lyricopera.org/events/wine.asp>

Honored Guest for Wine Auction 2009:
Pierre-Henry Gagey, President, Maison Louis Jadot
Auctioneers: Michael Davis, Leslie Hindman
Presenting Sponsor: Northern Trust
Platinum Grand Benefactors: Richard P. and Susan Kiphart, Bill and Cathy Osborn
Golden Grand Benefactors: Bain and Company, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar D. Jannotta,
Jenner and Block, Mr. and Mrs. Fred A. Krehbiel

Lyric Opera of Chicago is pleased to announce that **WINE AUCTION 2009** will take place on **Friday, March 6, 2009**, at the historic Civic Opera House in Chicago. This exceptional fundraiser is a project of the **Women's Board of Lyric Opera**, and occurs every three years.

Wine Auction proceeds go directly to Lyric's annual campaign, which support the world-renowned opera company's activities.

Lyric's Wine Auction went online for the first time in 2006, and was an overwhelming success, with hundreds of bidders from six countries. Website visitors will be able to view and bid on the entire **Wine Auction 2009** catalogue starting Mon., Jan. 12, and ending at noon on March 6, 2009. **Wine Auction 2009** will feature an extraordinary array of fine wines, as well as dozens of unique dining opportunities, luxury gifts, travel, and exceptional once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

Bids may be submitted for silent and live-auction items to be exercised the evening of the auction.

The honored guest for **Wine Auction 2009** is **Pierre-Henry Gagey, president of Maison Louis Jadot** from the Burgundy region of France. A native of Beaune, the capitol of Burgundy, as a youth Gagey was exposed to the traditions and culture associated with winemaking. He joined Louis Jadot in 1985, where he served as assistant managing director under his father, André Gagey (one of the most respected figures in the Burgundian wine trade) and with, Jacques Lardière, technical director and winemaker for Maison Louis Jadot. In 1991, Pierre-Henry Gagey assumed the role of president of the company. He is also president of the Burgundy Wine Syndicate and a member of the *Confrérie des Chevaliers du Tastevin*. He holds a degree in computer science engineering and an MBA from the Institute des Hautes Etudes Commerciales in Paris. Gagey, 53, is married with four children. He enjoys hunting, golf, and tennis.

Founded in 1859, Maison Louis Jadot is known for the exceptional quality of its wines and is one of the most famous wineries in the Burgundy region. With extensive vineyard holdings throughout the region, Maison Louis Jadot ranks among the premier producers and *negociants*. Louis Jadot's list of some 100 labels presents a unique collection of *premier cru* and *grand cru* appellations. The majority of its vineyards are located in the Côte d'Or area. After three generations, the Jadot family placed the operations under the management of André Gagey in 1962. He became a world-renowned master oenologist, credited with a gift for selecting grapes and nurturing young wines. André Gagey led the company for more than 30 years.

In 1985, the Jadot family sold the operations – excluding the vineyards, which remain the property of the Jadot and Gagey families – to three American sisters from the Kopf family, owners of Kobrand Corporation, Jadot's United States importer. Since becoming president in 1991, Pierre-Henry Gagey has directed the construction of new vinification cellars in Beaune and Beaujolais, the purchase of Château des Jacques, and has overseen the creation of the CADUS cooperage.

Michael Davis of Hart Davis Hart Wine Co., a Chicago company formed in 2004 by John Hart, Michael Davis, and Paul Hart, to buy and sell rare and fine wines, will once again be on the podium for the live auction portion of **Wine Auction 2009**. Davis has provided leadership both on and off the podium for each of the eight previous Lyric Wine Auctions. He formerly headed Christie's Wine Department, and subsequently formed Davis & Company in 1993, which was acquired by Sotheby's in 1998. At that time he was appointed senior vice president and co-director of Sotheby's North American Wine Department.

Leslie Hindman founded Leslie Hindman Auctioneers in Chicago in 1982, which quickly grew to be the largest auction house in the Midwest and the fifth largest nationally. The firm was sold to Sotheby's in 1997, and reopened in 2003. It is internationally recognized for achieving record prices in its approximately 30 sales each year of Western and Asian fine and decorative art, fine jewelry, vintage couture, antique furniture, rugs, carpets, books, and manuscripts. Renowned estate auctions have included Arthur Rubloff, Leona Helmsley, Mrs. Robert R. McCormick, the Potter Palmer families, and the Schwinn family.

Wine Auction 2006 raised an unprecedented \$1,022,000 (net) in a single evening of silent-auction bidding in the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Grand Foyer, spirited live-auction bidding on the mainstage of the Ardis Krainik Theatre, and online bidding. **Wine Auction 2006** included more than 1,300 bottles, plus several highly desirable wine-themed travel packages, fine-dining

experiences, and luxury items. Mrs. Christopher C. Milliken (Nancy) of Lake Forest served as chairman of Wine Auction 2006, and was assisted by Mrs. Paul W. Oliver, Jr. (Susan) of Oswego, vice chairman.

Over the coming months Lyric will solicit donations for **Wine Auction 2009**. Auction lots of special note and operatic appeal that have already been obtained for the auction include

- > One jeroboam each of 1971 Bonnes Mares Grand Cru, 1961 Beaune Premiere Cru Clos des Ursule, and 1999 Montrachet Grand Cru burgundies from Maison Louis Jadot President Pierre-Henry Gagey, Honored Guest of Wine Auction 2009
- >A case of 1982 Chateau Haut-Brion from Prince Robert of Luxembourg, Honored Guest of Wine Auction 2006
- >A case of 2000 Chateau Mouton Rothschild
- >A mixed case of six Maison Louis Jadot Grand Cru magnums, vintage 2005: Corton-Charlemagne, Batard-Montrachet, Chevalier Montrachet, Corton-Pougets, Clos Vougeot, and Clos de la Roche
- >A fighter-pilot adventure flight experience donated by the Warbird Heritage Foundation, which features a flight in a modern high-performance military jet
- >VIP tour and tasting for eight at Harlan Estate in Napa Valley; plus exceptional wines from the estate
- >Trip for four to Bandon Dunes Golf Resort in Oregon: two nights, three days of unlimited rounds of golf, private air transportation
- >Dinner for 20 in the private dining room of Art Smith's Table Fifty-Two
- >Private eight-night safari in South Africa, organized by Cox & Kings
- >Dinners for eight to ten with wine pairings at Les Nomades, Everest, and Courtrights
- >15-day luxury private rail voyage through India

Mrs. William A. Osborn (Cathy) and Mrs. D. Gideon Searle (Nancy), both of Winnetka, are cochairmen for **Wine Auction 2009**. Marilyn Thoma of Kenilworth and Mrs. Edgar D. Jannotta (Debby) of Winnetka are wine auction solicitation cochairmen. Anne Reyes of Lake Forest and Caryn Harris of Chicago are luxury items and experiences co-chairmen. Bonnie Pritchard of Geneva is travel chairman. Paula Crown of Chicago is fine dining chairman. Mrs. Susan B. Noyes of Wilmette and Mrs. Ronald J. Gidwitz (Christina) of Chicago are public relations cochairmen. Mrs. Julian W. Harvey (Katherine) and Mrs. Lisbeth Stiffel, both of Chicago, are menu cochairmen. Mrs. John W. Jordan II (Gretchen) and Mrs. James J. O'Connor (Ellen), both of Chicago, are stage décor cochairmen. Mrs. Jerry K. Pearlman (Barbara) of Wilmette is lobby décor chairman. Mrs. Richard W. Durkes (Clementina) of Chicago is president of the Women's Board.

For more information about Lyric's Wine Auction 2009, including sponsorship opportunities or reservations, please go to www.lyricopera.org/wineauction, call 312-827-5681, or email wineauction2009@lyricopera.org

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