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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Mozart and Massenet, Gershwin and Bizet, Wagner and Puccini,  
Verismo and Expressionism – Lyric’s got it all!!**

## **Single tickets now on sale**

**for Lyric Opera of Chicago’s 2008 - 2009 season!**

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**98% sold out last season – reserve now!**

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Whether you’re a seasoned operagoer or a curious newcomer, whatever your tastes in theater and music, Lyric Opera of Chicago has something exciting for you to experience this season! Subscriptions are still available, and now individual tickets are on sale for all eight operas in Lyric’s 54<sup>th</sup> season, which starts Sept. 27 and runs through Mar. 28.

Visually magnificent productions and a broad range of orchestral-vocal music performed at the highest level – without amplification – tell the tales of the young and the restless, the impulsive and impetuous, the doomed and the drugged, the mismatched and the murderously jealous, the heroic and the heinous, the unrequited and the unrepentant...and more! English translations are projected above the stage for every opera.

Massenet’s romantic tragedy *Manon* stars **Natalie Dessay** and **Jonas Kaufmann** in the breathtaking **David McVicar** production; **Emmanuel Villaume**, conductor (Sept. 27-Oct. 31 – 11 performances).

Bizet’s exotic love triangle, *The Pearl Fishers*, stars **Nicole Cabell**, **Eric Cutler**, and **Nathan Gunn**; **John Mauceri**, conductor (Oct. 6-Nov. 4 – 9 performances).

Alban Berg’s harrowing drama *Lulu* stars **Marlis Petersen** and **Wolfgang Schöne** in a new production by **Paul Curran**; **Sir Andrew Davis**, conductor (Nov. 7-30 – 7 performances).

Gershwin’s brilliant *Porgy and Bess*, full of songs made famous by pop singers over the decades, receives its long-awaited Lyric premiere in a riveting **Francesca Zambello** production with two exceptional casts; **John DeMain**, conductor (Nov. 18-Dec. 19 – 13 performances).

Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* – perhaps *the* most popular opera in the repertory – stars **Patricia Racette** and **Frank Lopardo** in the beautiful **Harold Prince** production; **Sir Andrew Davis**, conductor (Dec. 13-Jan. 29 – 11 performances).

Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* stars **Deborah Voigt** and **Clifton Forbis** as the doomed lovers in the vivid **David Hockney** production; **Sir Andrew Davis**, conductor (Jan. 27-Feb. 28 – 9 performances).

The often-paired one-act potboilers, Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana* and Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci* (the original “tears of a clown”) bring all the passions and tensions of Italian village life to the fore, with double-cast stars including **Mark Delavan**, **Vladimir Galouzine**, **Ana María Martínez**, **Vincenzo La Scola**, **Carlo Ventre**, **Guang Yang**, and **Dolora Zajick**; **Renato Palumbo**, conductor (Feb. 14-Mar. 27 – 10 performances).

And Mozart's bittersweet comedy, *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, stars **Erin Wall**, **Matthew Polenzani**, **Andrea Silvestrelli**, **Aleksandra Kurzak**, and **Steve Davislim** in a new production by **Chas Rader-Shieber**; **Sir Andrew Davis**, conductor (Mar. 2-28 – 9 performances).

**Donald Nally** is chorus master for all production except *Lulu*, which does not have a chorus. Nally will conduct the first-ever concert by the Lyric Opera Chorus, “**Holly and Ivy**,” at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 14, in the Ardis Krainik Theatre of the Civic Opera House. Lyric's music director, **Sir Andrew Davis**, will accompany some works on organ and will play some solo organ pieces. **Craig Terry** will accompany other works on piano.

**Lyric Opera of Chicago's** 54<sup>th</sup> season runs Sept. 27 through March 28 at the Civic Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Dr. Brochures may be requested and single tickets may now be purchased by going to [www.lyricopera.org](http://www.lyricopera.org) (24 hours a day), or by calling **312-332-2244, ext. 5600** (M-F, 9-5; Sa. 10-5). Individual tickets cost between \$32 and \$197. Subscription packages are still available, as well.

*Photos available on request: [cnapolilli@lyricopera.org](mailto:cnapolilli@lyricopera.org) or call Press Relations Coordinator Carrie Napolilli: 312-827-5923.*