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Free Pre-Season Concert!!
“Stars of Lyric Opera at Millennium Park”
Performance begins 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 6,
part of the “Blockbuster Week” of spectacular events Sept. 3-11
hosted by the City of Chicago, Millennium Park

The Bucksbaum Family Lyric Opera Broadcasts to air
“Stars of Lyric Opera at Millennium Park” concert live on 98.7WFMT

Program includes excerpts from Bizet’s *Carmen*, Delibes’ *Lakmé*,
Donizetti’s *L’elisir d’amore*, Giordano’s *Andrea Chénier*,
Gounod’s *Faust*, Mascagni’s *Cavalleria rusticana*, Massenet’s *Manon*,
Thomas’s *Mignon*, Verdi’s *La forza del destino*, *Simon Boccanegra*,
Rigoletto, and *La traviata*, and von Flotow’s *Martha*

Featured artists: Natalie Dessay, Nicole Cabell, Jonas Kaufmann,
Gordon Hawkins, Raymond Aceto, Elizabeth De Shong,
Amber Wagner, Dimitri Pittas,
and

**The Lyric Opera Orchestra conducted by
Sir Andrew Davis**

Music Director, Lyric Opera of Chicago

Concert Cosponsors: The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust, AT&T,
the Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation, and the Howard Family Foundation.
Additional funding: Rhonda and Henry Frank and The Music Performance Fund in
cooperation with the Chicago Federation of Musicians, Local 10-208 AFM.

The Bucksbaum Family Lyric Opera Broadcasts are made possible by The Matthew
and John Bucksbaum Families and General Growth Properties, with matching
funds generously provided by The Crown Family, Richard P. and Susan Kiphart,
and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

On Saturday, September 6, at 7:30 p.m., Lyric Opera of Chicago will present a star-
studded free outdoor concert at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park. The

vocal and orchestral spectacular is part of the City of Chicago's annual "**Blockbuster Week**," Sept. 3-11.

Sir Andrew Davis, Lyric Opera of Chicago's music director and principal conductor, will lead the **Lyric Opera Orchestra** and an array of outstanding soloists including **Raymond Aceto, Nicole Cabell, Elizabeth De Shong, Natalie Dessay, Gordon Hawkins, Jonas Kaufmann, Dimitri Pittas, and Amber Wagner**.

The "**Stars of Lyric Opera at Millennium Park**" free concert will be carried live on **98.7WFMT** by **The Bucksbaum Family Lyric Opera Broadcasts**, as it was for the first time in 2007.

The September 6 free concert will feature a superb selection of overtures, arias, and ensembles from Bizet's *Carmen*, Delibes' *Lakmé*, Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*, Giordano's *Andrea Chénier*, Gounod's *Faust*, Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana*, Massenet's *Manon*, Thomas's *Mignon*, Verdi's *La forza del destino*, *Simon Boccanegra*, *Rigoletto*, and *La traviata*, and von Flotow's *Martha*. The free outdoor performance will take place in Millennium Park's **Jay Pritzker Pavilion**, designed by **Frank Gehry**.

The 2008 free outdoor concert is Lyric's eighth. This year's "**Stars of Lyric Opera at Millennium Park**" concert cosponsors are **The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust, AT&T, the Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation, and the Howard Family Foundation**. Additional funding is by **Rhonda and Henry Frank** and **The Music Performance Fund** in cooperation with the **Chicago Federation of Musicians, Local 10-208 AFM**.

Norman Pellegrini and Lisa Flynn will host the "Stars of Lyric Opera at Millennium Park" concert broadcast on 98.7WFMT, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Sat., Sept. 6.

Lyric Opera of Chicago opens its 54th season on September 28. The season continues through March 28, 2009, with 80 performances of eight operas: Massenet's *Manon* (Sept. 27–Oct. 31), Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers* (Oct. 6–Nov. 4), Berg's *Lulu* (Nov. 7–30, new production), Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* (Nov. 18–Dec. 19), Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* (Dec. 13–Jan. 29), Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* (Jan. 27–Feb. 28), Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana* and Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci* (Feb. 14–March 27), and Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio* (March 2–28). Additionally, on Sun., Dec. 14, the Lyric Opera Chorus will give its first-ever Subscriber Appreciation Concert, "**Holly and Ivy**."

All of Lyric's regular-season performances take place at the Civic Opera House, Madison Street and Wacker Drive in Chicago. There are projected English translations for every opera. Subscriptions and single tickets are currently on sale. For information on specific performance dates and ticket availability, please call (312) 332-2244, ext. 5600, or go to www.lyricopera.org.

Photos available on request: call or email Media Relations Coordinator Carrie Napolilli: 312-827-5923 or cnapolilli@lyricopera.org.