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## **LYRIC OPERA OF CHICAGO'S 2008-2009 BENEFITS, LECTURES, TOURS, AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

Please include the following events in your upcoming calendar listings and/or public service announcements as appropriate. Photographs are available upon request. Lecturers and artists may be subject to change.

Monday, September 15, 6 – 7 p.m.

### **Discovery Series – *Manon***

Stars **Natalie Dessay** and **Jonas Kaufmann** and conductor **Emmanuel Villaume** discuss Massenet's opera and the Abbé Prévost story that inspired it. **Roger Pines**, Lyric's dramaturg, will moderate. UBS Tower Ballroom, 1 N. Wacker Dr. (directly across from the Civic Opera House), \$16. Call the Education Department for more information: (312) 827-5912.

Tuesday, September 23, at 6:30 p.m.

### **Season Preview Concert and Reception**

New subscribers are invited to attend a musical preview of the upcoming season performed by members of **The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center**, with a season overview by Roger Pines, Lyric's dramaturg, and a reception. Ardis Krainik Theatre, Civic Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Dr., **by invitation only**. For more information, call (312) 827-5657.

Saturday, September 27: Doors open at 5 p.m. for Gala reception; performance at 6 p.m.

### ***Manon* Opening Night Gala Benefit**

Flowers cascade from every corner. Gorgeous gowns are everywhere. The lobby's awash in rose-colored light and electricity is in the air! No event on the entire Chicago social calendar matches the heady excitement of Opening Night at Lyric. Complimentary hors d'oeuvre and sweets before the performance and during intermissions. ***Manon*** performance begins at 6:00 p.m., starring **Natalie Dessay** and **Jonas Kaufmann**.

**Opening Night Gala Benefit**, Civic Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Dr., \$75 to \$600 (does not include Opera Ball). To purchase tickets for the Opening Night Gala Benefit, go to [www.lyricopera.org](http://www.lyricopera.org), or call (312) 827-5600.

The **Opera Ball** immediately follows the performance at Hilton Chicago's Grand Ballroom, 720 S. Michigan Ave., \$400. To purchase tickets for the Opera Ball, please go to [www.lyricopera.org](http://www.lyricopera.org), or call (312) 827-5681.

Wednesday, October 1 through Friday, October 31 at 6:30 p.m.

**Manon Free Pre-Opera Lectures**

Free 30-minute lectures by Chicago-based baritone (and frequent Lyric performer)

**Philip Kraus**, before *Manon* performances Oct. 1, 4\*, 7, 11, 15\*, 18, 21, 24, 27, 31.

Ardis Krainik Theatre, Civic Opera House. **Ticket for that date's opera performance must be shown for lecture admission.** Open seating on main floor. Call the Education Department for more information: (312) 827-5912. \*Pre-matinee lectures start at 1 p.m.

Wednesday, October 1, 6 – 7 p.m.

**Discovery Series – *The Pearl Fishers***

Stars **Nicole Cabell, Nathan Gunn, Eric Cutler**, and conductor **John Mauceri** explore this exotic work penned by Bizet with moderator **Roger Pines**. UBS Tower Ballroom, 1 N.

Wacker Dr. (directly across from the Civic Opera House), \$16. Call the Education Department for more information: (312) 827-5912.

Monday, October 6 through Tuesday, November 4 at 6:30 p.m.

**The Pearl Fishers Free Pre-Opera Lectures**

Free 30-minute lectures by **Jesse Gram**, Lyric's audience education manager, before

*The Pearl Fishers* performances Oct. 6, 10, 13, 16\*, 19\*, 22, 25, Nov. 1, 4.

Ardis Krainik Theatre, Civic Opera House. **Ticket for that date's opera performance must be shown for lecture admission.** Open seating on main floor. Call the Education Department for more information: (312) 827-5912. \*Pre-matinee lectures start at 1 p.m.

Saturday, October 18, 8 a.m. – midnight

**OPERATHON 2008**

Tune in to **98.7WFMT** for Lyric Opera's annual live radio fundraiser for conversations with Lyric stars and artistic staff on-air. Phone in your pledges and make purchases from the stunning selection of exclusive Lyric Opera merchandise, autographed items, and gift certificates that are offered via Lyric's **OPERATHON** catalog and website, available in September. All proceeds support Lyric's education and community-engagement programs for children, adults, and seniors. For more information and to obtain a catalog, visit [www.lyricopera.org](http://www.lyricopera.org) or call (312) 827-5658.

Wednesday, November 5, 6 – 7 p.m.

**Discovery Series – *Lulu***

Title-role star **Marlis Petersen** and conductor **Sir Andrew Davis** discuss this intricate and emotion-layered crime story/opera with moderator **Roger Pines**. UBS Tower Ballroom, 1 N. Wacker Dr. (directly across from the Civic Opera House), \$16. Call the Education Department for more information: (312) 827-5912.

Friday, November 7 through Sunday, November 30 at 6 p.m.

***Lulu* Free Pre-Opera Lectures**

Free 30-minute lectures by **Roger Pines**, Lyric's dramaturg, before *Lulu* performances Nov. 7, 10, 15, 19, 22, 25, 30\*. Ardis Krainik Theatre, Civic Opera House. **Ticket for that date's opera performance must be shown for lecture admission.** Open seating on main floor. Call the Education Department for more information: (312) 827-5912. \*Pre-matinee lecture starts at 1 p.m.

Sunday, November 16, 2 – 4 p.m.

***Porgy and Bess* Symposium**

Don't miss this wide-ranging discussion of *Porgy and Bess* and the varying reactions it has inspired over the decades. Symposium panelists include University of Michigan musicologist **Naomi André**, Gershwin authority **Wayne Shirley**, baritone **Gordon Hawkins** (Porgy), soprano **Morenike Fadayomi** (Bess), and conductor **John DeMain**. This presentation is moderated by renowned music critic **Wynne Delacoma**. Thorne Auditorium, 375 E. Chicago Ave. (Chicago Avenue at Lake Shore Drive – Northwestern University's downtown campus), \$25. Call the Education Department for more information: (312) 827-5912.

Tuesday, November 18 through Friday, December 19 at 6:30 p.m.

***Porgy and Bess* Free Pre-Opera Lectures**

Free 30-minute lectures by **Professor Travis A. Jackson**, ethnomusicologist and University of Chicago associate professor of music & the humanities, before *Porgy and Bess* performances Nov. 18, 21, 23\*, 26, 29, Dec. 3, 5, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18\*, 19.

Ardis Krainik Theatre, Civic Opera House. **Ticket for that date's opera performance must be shown for lecture admission.** Open seating on main floor. Call the Education Department for more information: (312) 827-5912. \*Pre-matinee lectures start at 1 p.m.

Saturday, December 13 through Thursday, January 29 at 6:30 p.m.

***Madama Butterfly* Free Pre-Opera Lectures**

Free 30-minute lectures by 98.7WFMT Radio Host **Carl Grapentine** before *Madama Butterfly* performances Dec. 13, 17, 20, Jan. 6, 9, 12, 15, 18\*, 21\*, 24, 29\*.

Ardis Krainik Theatre, Civic Opera House. **Ticket for that date's opera performance must be shown for lecture admission.** Open seating on main floor. Call the Education Department for more information: (312) 827-5912. \*Pre-matinee lectures start at 1 p.m.

Sunday, December 14, at 3 p.m.

**Holly and Ivy – Lyric Subscriber Appreciation Concert**

A joyous celebration of sacred music, carols, spirituals, seasonal favorites and more.

Starring **The Lyric Opera Chorus**, conducted by Chorus Master **Donald Nally**, with **Sir Andrew Davis** on organ and **Craig Terry** on piano. Ardis Krainik Theatre, Civic Opera House, \$30-70.

Tuesday, December 16, 6 – 7 p.m.

**Discovery Series – *Madama Butterfly***

Stars **Patricia Racette** and **Frank Lopardo** discuss Puccini, his most popular opera, and its characters with moderator **Roger Pines**. UBS Tower Ballroom, 1 N. Wacker Dr. (directly

across from the Civic Opera House), \$16. Call the Education Department for more information: (312) 827-5912.

Wednesday, January 21, 6 – 7 p.m.

**Discovery Series – *Tristan und Isolde***

Title-role stars **Deborah Voigt** and **Clifton Forbis** discuss this titanic vocal feast that influenced Mahler, Strauss, and a host of 20th-century composers. **Roger Pines** moderates. UBS Tower Ballroom, 1 N. Wacker Dr. (directly across from the Civic Opera House), \$16. Call the Education Department for more information: (312) 827-5912.

Tuesday, January 27 through Saturday, February 28 at 5 p.m.

***Tristan und Isolde* Free Pre-Opera Lectures**

Free 30-minute lectures by **Roger Pines**, Lyric's dramaturg, before *Tristan und Isolde* performances Jan. 27, 31, Feb. 4, 8\*, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28. Ardis Krainik Theatre, Civic Opera House. **Ticket for that date's opera performance must be shown for lecture admission.** Open seating on main floor. Call the Education Department for more information: (312) 827-5912. \*Pre-matinee lecture starts at 12 p.m.

Friday, February 6, at 6:30 p.m.

**Fantasy of the Opera Gala**

Celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Fantasy of the Opera benefit at the Civic Opera House, organized by the Guild Board of Directors, with exceptional restaurant tasting stations, a seated dinner, silent auction, raffle, cabaret, and dancing! Fantasy is a perfect mid-winter revel and Lyric fundraiser, and one of Chicago's liveliest black-tie events. Civic Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Dr., \$400, reservations required. For more information, call Lyric Opera's Guild Board office at (312) 827-5673.

Wednesday, February 11, 6 – 7 p.m.

**Discovery Series – *Cavalleria rusticana & Pagliacci***

Principal artists **Guang Yang**, **Mark Delavan**, and **Ana María Martínez** from this verismo double bill take you inside these late 19<sup>th</sup>-century operas – stories of love, jealousy, and murder among the common folk. **Roger Pines** moderates. UBS Tower Ballroom, 1 N. Wacker Dr. (directly across from the Civic Opera House), \$16. Call the Education Department for more information: (312) 827-5912.

Saturday, February 14 through Friday, March 27 at 6:30 p.m.

***Cavalleria rusticana/Pagliacci* Free Pre-Opera Lectures**

Free 30-minute lectures by 98.7WFMT Radio Host **Carl Carpentine**, before *Cavalleria rusticana/Pagliacci* performances Feb. 14, 18, 22\*, 25, Mar. 4\*, 9, 14, 17, 20, 23, 27. Ardis Krainik Theatre, Civic Opera House. **Ticket for that date's opera performance must be shown for lecture admission.** Open seating on main floor. Call the Education Department for more information: (312) 827-5912. \*Pre-matinee lectures start at 1 p.m.

Wednesday, February 25, 6 – 7 p.m.

**Discovery Series – *The Abduction from the Seraglio***

Tenor star **Matthew Polenzani** joins director **Chas Rader-Shieber** and conductor **Sir Andrew Davis** to explore the *singspiel* that contains some of Mozart's most formidable vocal

writing. **Roger Pines** moderates. UBS Tower Ballroom, 1 N. Wacker Dr. (directly across from the Civic Opera House), \$16. Call the Education Department for more information: (312) 827-5912.

Monday, March 2 through Saturday, March 28 at 6:30 p.m.

***Abduction from the Seraglio* Free Pre-Opera Lectures**

Free 30-minute lectures by Lyric General Director **William Mason** alternating with Lyric Director of Operations **Nicholas Ivor Martin**, before *Abduction from the Seraglio* performances Mar. 2, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19\*, 22\*, 25, 28. Ardis Krainik Theatre, Civic Opera House. **Ticket for that date's opera performance must be shown for lecture admission.** Open seating on main floor. Call the Education Department for more information: (312) 827-5912. \*Pre-matinee lectures start at 1 p.m.

Friday, March 6, at 5 p.m.

**Wine Auction 2009 – *Joie de vivre!***

This triennial event – a project of Lyric's Women's Board – takes place in the Civic Opera House, beginning with a champagne reception and silent auction, followed by dinner and live auction onstage. The elegant evening inspires spirited bidding in support of Lyric and its world-class productions. The catalog for Lyric's Wine Auction 2009 goes live online Monday, January 12 – to the delight of opera-loving wine collectors around the world! Civic Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Dr., Black Tie, \$500, reservations required. For more information, call (312) 827-5681, or visit [www.lyricopera.org/wineauction](http://www.lyricopera.org/wineauction).

Sunday, February 15; Sunday, March 1 and 15, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Guild Board Backstage Tours**

Tours depart every seven minutes, lasting approximately two hours. **Backstage Tour**, \$35, box lunch available for \$12, cash bar. **Premium Tour**, \$150 (departs at 11:00 a.m. and includes seated lunch with a Lyric Opera insider). **Group Tours** of 15 or more available at a discounted price. Civic Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Dr., reservations required. For more information call the Guild Board office: (312) 827-5626.

Saturday, April 4, 7:30 p.m.

**Rising Stars in Concert**

Ensemble members of **The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago** will conclude a spectacular year of study and performance with an end-of-season concert with orchestra for Lyric Opera donors. Civic Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Dr., **by invitation only**. For more information call Lyric Opera Donor Records: (312) 827-3500.

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