



FROM: Susan Mathieson Mayer,
Magda Krance (mkrance@lyricopera.org)
Jack Zimmerman (jzimmerman@lyricopera.org)
LYRIC OPERA OF CHICAGO
20 North Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606
312-332-2244

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Friday, Sept 19, 2008

**Lyric Opera of Chicago's
first DISCOVERY SERIES session of the 2008-09 season
now ready for download!**

**Discussion of Massenet's *Manon* with stars Natalie Dessay
and Jonas Kaufmann, conductor Emmanuel Villaume,
and Lyric Opera dramaturg Roger Pines
now available at www.lyricopera.org/podcast
as part of the BACKSTAGE AT LYRIC podcast series
(more than 60,000 downloads last season!)**

**Lyric's DISCOVERY SERIES – informative and thought-
provoking sessions with singers, directors, and conductors
continues with *The Pearl Fishers*.**

**Session begins at 6 p.m., Wednesday, October 1, at UBS Tower and features
soprano Nicole Cabell, baritone Nathan Gunn, tenor Eric Cutler, and
conductor John Mauceri with moderator Roger Pines**

**Nov. 16 *Porgy and Bess* Symposium to feature baritone Gordon Hawkins,
soprano Morenike Fadayomi, conductor John DeMain,
Gershwin authority Wayne Shirley, and musicologist Naomi André**

Lyric Opera of Chicago's **Discovery Series** is a great way to learn more about each opera of the 2008-09 season – direct from the source! The series offers insightful discussions and perceptive commentary by a lineup of superstar singers, conductors, directors, and opera experts. The **Discovery Series** is organized and produced by Lyric's Education Department.

Discovery Series sessions take place at 6 p.m. in the **UBS Tower Ballroom, 1 N. Wacker Dr.** (across the street from the opera house). **The *Porgy and Bess* Symposium** takes place 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 16 in **Thorne Auditorium, 375 E. Chicago Ave., Chicago.**

All 2008-09 season **Discovery Series** sessions will be available as part of the **Backstage at Lyric** podcast at www.lyricopera.org/podcast within a week of each session.

In addition to the **Discovery Series** episodes, the **Backstage at Lyric** podcast features in-depth interviews with the singers, conductors, and creative talents involved in Lyric's current season. **Backstage at Lyric** had more than 60,000 downloads last season, when it was launched.

Admission to individual **Discovery Series** sessions is **\$16**. An individual ticket to the November 16 ***Porgy and Bess* Symposium** is **\$25**. For more information on the **Discovery Series**, please go to <http://www.lyricopera.org/education/lecture.asp> or call **(312) 827-5912**.

Discovery Series sessions are moderated by Lyric Opera dramaturg **Roger Pines**. The ***Porgy and Bess* Symposium** will be moderated by former Sun-Times music critic **Wynne Delacoma**.

Dates, times, and participants for remaining Discovery Series sessions:

The Pearl Fishers

Wednesday, October 1, 6-7 p.m., UBS Tower. Before *Carmen*, Bizet penned this atmospheric jewel of forbidden love and broken promises set in ancient Ceylon. **Nicole Cabell** (Leïla), **Nathan Gunn** (Zurga) and **Eric Cutler** (Nadir) are joined by conductor **John Mauceri** for an exploration of this exotic work.

Lulu

Wednesday, November 5, 6-7 p.m., UBS Tower. **Marlis Petersen** (*Lulu*) has triumphed internationally as the sexually smoldering *femme fatale* in Alban Berg's crime story/opera. She joins **Sir Andrew Davis**, who will conduct the complex and emotion-laden masterpiece.

***Porgy and Bess* Symposium**

Sunday, November 16, 2-4 p.m., Thorne Auditorium. "Summertime," "It Ain't Necessarily So," "Bess You is my Woman" – this opera's melodies are part of the fabric of American life. To illuminate the company premiere of Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, Lyric has assembled a dynamic panel of singers, Gershwin scholars, and the production's conductor. Symposium panelists include University of Michigan ethnomusicologist **Naomi André**, Gershwin authority **Wayne Shirley**, **Gordon Hawkins** (*Porgy*), **Morenike Fadayomi** (*Bess*), and conductor **John DeMain**. Renowned music critic **Wynne Delacoma** moderates.

Madama Butterfly

Tuesday, December 16, 6-7 p.m., UBS Tower. Two Lyric favorites star as Butterfly and Pinkerton in this heart-rending East-meets-West tragedy. **Patricia Racette** and **Frank Lopardo** will offer brilliant and compelling insights into Puccini, his opera, and its characters.

Tristan und Isolde

Wednesday, January 21, 6-7 p.m., UBS Tower. Wagner's 1865 masterpiece changed opera forever – in fact, it changed *music* forever – and has been the subject of countless articles, books, and intellectual musings ever since its premiere. Title-role stars **Deborah Voigt** and **Clifton Forbis** discuss this titanic vocal feast, which influenced Mahler, Strauss, and a host of 20th-century composers.

Cavalleria rusticana and *Pagliacci*

Wednesday, February 11, 6-7 p.m., UBS Tower. These two powerful stage works are the best example of Italian verismo ever penned. **Ana María Martínez** (Nedda/*Pagliacci*), **Guang Yang** (Santuzza/*Cavalleria*), and **Mark Delavan** (Alfio/*Cavalleria* and Tonio/*Pagliacci*), principal artists from the double bill, get to the heart of these late-19th-century tales of love, jealousy, and murder among the common folk.

The Abduction from the Seraglio

Wednesday, February 25, 6-7 p.m., UBS Tower. **Matthew Polenzani** (Belmonte), conductor **Sir Andrew Davis**, and director **Chas Rader-Shieber** probe the world of pashas and harems in the tragic-comedic *singspiel* that contains some of Mozart's most formidable vocal writing.

The Discovery Series is sponsored by the **Bernard and Marjorie Mitchell Family Foundation** and is dedicated to the memory of Alfred Glasser.

The Porgy and Bess Symposium is made possible in part by a grant from the **Katherine A. Abelson Educational Endowment Fund**. Additional funding is provided by the **Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation**.

#