

Lyric

OPERA OF
CHICAGO

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Lyric Opera of Chicago Donor Impact Report

April 2026

*Evan LeRoy Johnson, Nozomi Kato
& Karah Son in [Madama Butterfly](#)*

Your Impact This Season at Lyric Opera of Chicago

Because of you, this season at Lyric Opera of Chicago was filled with discovery, inspiration, and extraordinary artistry. Your generosity didn't simply support performances — it opened doors for new audiences, launched unforgettable artistic moments, and ensured that opera continues to thrive in Chicago.

Here are just a few of the ways **your support made an impact this season.**



Yulia Matochkina & SeokJong Baek in [Cavalleria rusticana](#)

Introducing Extraordinary Artists to Chicago

This season, Lyric audiences welcomed an exciting group of more than 20 **Lyric debuts** — from directors to conductors to singers — bringing fresh voices and new artistic energy to our stage.

SeokJong Baek and **Yulia Matochkina** in *Cavalleria rusticana*
Jennifer Holloway and **Nicholas Brownlee** in *Salome*
Jacquelyn Stucker, **Cecelia Molinari**, and **Anthony León** in *Così fan tutte*
Karah Son, **Evan LeRoy Johnson**, and **Nozomi Kato** in *Madama Butterfly*

Debuts are where the future of Lyric Opera of Chicago begins — and because of your support, the next generation of extraordinary artists will take the stage here, shaping not only Lyric's future, but the future of opera in Chicago and beyond.



*Nicholas Brownlee & Jennifer Holloway
in [Salome](#)*

Opening the Doors to the Next Generation

This season, **more than 2,400 students** experienced the magic of opera through Lyric's student dress rehearsal program — about 600 more than last season!

Students attended rehearsals for *Cavalleria rusticana* & *Pagliacci*, *Così fan tutte*, *Madama Butterfly*, and *El último sueño de Frida y Diego* — many visiting an opera house for the very first time.

Because of you, thousands of young people heard the power of a full orchestra, witnessed the drama of world-class singers, and experienced the electricity of live performance. For many, it was the moment opera became real.

Welcoming New Audiences to the Opera House

Your support also helped introduce thousands of new people to the Lyric Opera House.

Our collaboration with **Smashing Pumpkins** founder **Billy Corgan**, *A Night of Mellon Collie and Infinite Sadness*, brought **more than 22,000 people** into the theater — many experiencing Lyric for the very first time.

At the same time, families filled the opera house through our **Film in Concert** presentations of Disney's *Coco* and *Mary Poppins*, bringing nearly **10,000 parents, children, and families** together for unforgettable musical experiences.

These moments create joyful entry points into the world of live performance — and often begin lifelong relationships with the arts.



Billy Corgan in *A Night of Mellon Collie and Infinite Sadness*



Coco in concert



The Company of Così fan tutte

Supporting the Next Generation of Opera Stars

Through your support, emerging artists have the opportunities and encouragement to nurture their talents and launch their careers right here in Chicago.

This season featured performances by **five Ryan Opera Center alumni**, including bass-baritone **Ian Rucker** in *Carmina Burana* and *Così fan tutte*. We are thrilled that Ian will return next season in Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*.

Watching artists grow from emerging talent to celebrated performers on the Lyric stage is one of the most powerful outcomes of your support.

Thank You

Every student who discovered opera for the first time, every artist who made a memorable debut, and every audience member who experienced the excitement of live performance this season did so because of you.

You make Lyric sing!

Thank you for being such an essential part of this community and for ensuring that opera continues to inspire audiences in Chicago today and for generations to come.

LYRIC OPERA OF CHICAGO
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