

LYRIC OPERA

KANSAS CITY

EMBARGOED UNTIL Fri., March 4 @ 7:30p CST

Contact: Ellen McDonald
(816) 444-0052
Or (816) 213-4355 (c)
publicity@kcopera.org

For Tickets: kcopera.org or 816.471.7344

Lyric Opera of Kansas City Announces Eclectic 2016-2017 Season at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Highlights include Lyric Opera DEBUT of CO-PRODUCTION of *The Marriage of Figaro* with Opera Philadelphia and San Diego Opera
Hansel and Gretel and Lyric Opera of Kansas City PREMIERE of *Dead Man Walking*
Notable Lyric Opera Debuts Including Megan Marino, Rachele Gilmore, Marianne Cornetti, Edward Parks, Adam Lau, Kate Aldrich, David Adam Moore, Maria Zifchak, Anya Matanovic and Jonathan Johnson
Katie Van Kooten returns to Lyric Opera of Kansas City and Kansas City audience favorite, Robert Gibby Brand returns in *The Pirates of Penzance*
Newly Launched Resident Artists Program Begins This Fall

Kansas City, MO (March 7, 2016) – Lyric Opera of Kansas City **General Director and CEO Deborah Sandler** today announced the 2016-2017 season in the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. Four spectacular works, including the charming fairy tale opera *Hansel and Gretel*, Mozart’s poignant comic opera *The Marriage of Figaro*, the powerful modern classic *Dead Man Walking*, and finally Gilbert & Sullivan’s delightful comic operetta *The Pirates of Penzance* will comprise the 58th season.

In addition to the season announcement, Sandler announced the launch of the first-ever Lyric Opera of Kansas City Resident Artists Program (RAP). The artists who were selected after a rigorous national audition will be announced shortly. Led by Vinson Cole, UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance faculty member and one of the leading artists of his generation, RAP is an expansion of the highly successful Apprentice Program which partners with the University of Kansas and UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance to offer college students invaluable experiences in training. The launch of the Resident Artists Program, alongside the Apprentice Program, signals the creation of the first-ever Resident Company for the Lyric Opera of Kansas City.

The resident artists will have a full time 8-month contract for one or two years and receive professional performance experience and artistic training via master classes with guest artists, acting, movement and stage combat and professional career development. The artists will have completed their post-graduate education and may have some professional experience.

“In our coming season, we continue the rich history of Lyric Opera by producing a varied palette of works with contrasting looks and musical languages spanning over 235 years of

LYRIC OPERA

KANSAS CITY

operatic composition,” stated Sandler. “From the lush score of the German composer Humperdinck, through the divine genius of Mozart, followed by the gripping drama of the now contemporary classic, *Dead Man Walking*, to the comical antics of Gilbert and Sullivan, we have created an extraordinary season for you.”

She added, “I am especially pleased to announce that for the first time, Lyric Opera of Kansas City will be the lead producer of a new production. *The Marriage of Figaro*, with sets and costumes built in Kansas City, will premiere here and will later be seen at Opera Philadelphia and San Diego Opera, our co-production partners. All of these offerings will be brought to life by fresh talent, new to Kansas City, along with some returning audience favorites. I am delighted to share this season with you.”

Director **Doug Varone** will direct the classic fairy tale of *Hansel and Gretel* with some new twists and several Lyric Opera debuts. Varone sets the production in an impoverished urban area in the early 20th century where the children are irresistibly drawn to a beautiful and strange carnival world. Singing the title roles, **Megan Marino** as Hansel and **Rachele Gilmore** as Gretel, will make their Lyric Opera of Kansas City debuts. Also making her Lyric Opera of Kansas City debut, **Marianne Cornetti** will portray the Witch/Mother. Returning to Lyric Opera of Kansas City after his highly-acclaimed performances as Count Almaviva in our 2010 production of *The Marriage of Figaro*, **Troy Cook** will perform the role of Peter. Conductor **John Keenan** will return to the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, after conducting *Il Trovatore* in 2012.

The Marriage of Figaro is Mozart’s delightful comic opera, rife with cloaked intentions and misbegotten plans. Acclaimed director **Stephen Lawless** will make his Lyric Opera of Kansas City debut as he brings his talents to the Muriel Kauffman Theatre stage to direct this opera buffa. **Edward Parks** comes to Kansas City for his Lyric Opera debut to play the philandering husband Count Almaviva and **Katie Van Kooten** returns to Kansas City to reprise her acclaimed role as Countess Almaviva. Finally, also making their Lyric Opera of Kansas City debuts, are **Adam Lau**, in the role of Figaro. **Maureen McKay**, as Susanna, returns to Lyric Opera after her critically-acclaimed performance as Pamina in *The Magic Flute* in 2008. Conductor **Ryan McAdams** will be making his Lyric Opera debut.

Dead Man Walking has become a must-see modern classic since it premiered in 2000 to critical acclaim. Based on the novel by Sister Helen Prejean, this opera tells the story of a profound spiritual journey of forgiveness and redemption. It will be directed by **Kristine McIntyre**, in her seventh production for Lyric Opera of Kansas City. **Kate Aldrich** will portray Sister Helen Prejean in her Lyric Opera of Kansas City debut. Also making their Lyric Opera of Kansas City debuts are **David Adam Moore** in the role of Joseph de Rocher, and **Maria Zifchak** in the role of Mrs. Patrick de Rocher. **Karen Slack**, in the role of Sister Rose, will be returning to the Lyric Opera after her performance in *Aida* in 2007. Conductor **Steven Osgood** will make his Lyric Opera debut as well.

Completing the 2016-2017 season is *The Pirates of Penzance*, one of Gilbert & Sullivan’s most popular works. Making their Lyric Opera of Kansas City debuts are **Anya Matanovic**

LYRIC OPERA

KANSAS CITY

in the role of Mabel and **Jonathan Johnson** in the role of Frederic. **Kevin Burdette** returns to Lyric Opera of Kansas City in the role of the Pirate King, after his highly acclaimed performance as Dr. Bartolo in the 2012 production of *The Barber of Seville*. Beloved Kansas City favorite **Robert Gibby Brand** will portray the Major-General Stanley. Director **James Alexander** and conductor **Hal France** will also make their Lyric Opera debuts as well.

2016-2017 Season

Hansel and Gretel

Engelbert Humperdinck 1893

Sung in German with English subtitles

Saturday, September 17, 2016	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, September 21, 2016	7:30 p.m.
Friday, September 23, 2016	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, September 25, 2016	2:00 p.m.

This opera, based on the classic Brothers Grimm fairy tale of a brother and sister, was actually written by a brother and sister. Humperdinck was persuaded to write the music by his sister, Adelheid, who wrote the libretto. This production reimagines the setting as a fantasy carnival world. The circus atmosphere is enhanced by performers from Doug Varone and Dancers with set and costumes by Tony Award nominee David Zinn. Sprinkled with familiar melodies and topped with a happy ending, *Hansel and Gretel* promises to be a sweet start to the season. Sung in German with English subtitles; suitable for children (and adults) who aren't afraid of clowns.

Featured Artists

Making her Lyric Opera of Kansas City debut in the trouser role of Hansel, American mezzo-soprano, **Megan Marino**, is a genre-adventurous musician of "impressive clarity", "warm, plummy tone" and "considerable range and confidence" (*Washington Times*). Her recent appearances include the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Spoleto Festival USA and Caramoor Music Festival.

Also making her Lyric Opera of Kansas City debut, **Rachele Gilmore**, in the role of Gretel, is one of America's most sought after coloratura sopranos, and continues to thrill audiences around the globe. Zachary Woolfe (*The New York Times*) called Ms. Gilmore's soprano "clear yet warm-toned." She's graced the stages of many prestigious opera houses and symphonies including Teatro alla Scala, The Metropolitan Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Bayerische Staatsoper, Boston Lyric Opera, The Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

LYRIC OPERA

KANSAS CITY

Making her Lyric Opera of Kansas City debut, **Marianne Cornetti**, as the Witch/Mother, is recognized internationally as one of the leading Verdi mezzo-sopranos in the world. She has appeared in leading roles at theatres including the Teatro alla Scala, Royal Opera, Covent Garden, Metropolitan Opera, Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, Deutsche Oper Berlin, and many others. "...the range of colors and accents within a given range, including her magnificent chest tones, was marvelous to experience." (*TribLive*)

American baritone **Troy Cook** returns to Lyric Opera of Kansas City in the role of Peter, the Father, after his acclaimed performance as Count Almaviva in the 2010 production of *The Marriage of Figaro*. His voice has been praised as "a beautiful, robust, woolen baritone, the sort that flows effortlessly in its middle range, and gathers energy as it climbs higher, never showing the faintest hint of a blemish." (*The New Criterion*) His experience includes significant roles at Royal Opera, Covent Garden, Opera Philadelphia, Boston Lyric Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, and Washington National Opera.

Award-winning stage director and choreographer **Doug Varone** makes his Lyric Opera of Kansas City debut with this production. Varone, who also works in dance, theater, opera, film, television and fashion, is the artistic director of Doug Varone and Dancers. In opera, Varone is in demand as a director and choreographer. Among his four productions at The Metropolitan Opera are *Salome* with its sensational Dance of the Seven Veils for Karita Mattila, and the world premiere of Tobias Picker's *An American Tragedy*. His Met Opera production of Hector Berlioz's *Les Troyens* was recently broadcast worldwide in HD. He has staged multiple premiers and new productions for Minnesota Opera, Opera Colorado, Boston Lyric Opera, Washington Opera and New York City Opera, among others. His numerous theater credits include choreography for Broadway, Off-Broadway and regional theaters across the country. His choreography for Manhattan Theater Club's musical hit *Murder Ballad* earned him a Lucille Lortel nomination for choreography. Film credits include choreography for the Patrick Swayze film, *One Last Dance*.

Conductor **John Keenan** is returning to the Lyric Opera of Kansas City after *conducting Il Trovatore* in 2012. Since conducting major works at the Metropolitan Opera, Kirov Opera, and with L'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Keenan is in demand by many prestigious orchestras and opera companies. Known for a varied and extensive repertoire, he has emerged as one of the most important conductors of the works of Wagner, Mozart, Verdi, and Strauss. Most recently, he conducted an acclaimed *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* at the Metropolitan Opera, and he is the only American to conduct Wagner at the famed Kirov Opera. He has conducted the Orchestra of St. Luke's, and the New Zealand Symphony, as well as the orchestras of Louisville, Edmonton, Spoleto Festival, and the Vancouver CBC Symphony.

The Marriage of Figaro

Wolfgang A. Mozart 1784

Sung in Italian with English subtitles

LYRIC OPERA

KANSAS CITY

The Marriage of Figaro is a co-production with Opera Philadelphia and San Diego Opera. The production will premiere at Lyric Opera of Kansas City.

Saturday, November 5, 2016	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, November 9, 2016	7:30 p.m.
Friday, November 11, 2016	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 13, 2016	2:00 p.m.

Few operas are as delightful as Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, considered by many to be the most perfect opera ever written. Picking up where *The Barber of Seville* left off, it's now several years later and the bloom is off the rose. Count Almaviva has developed a wandering eye and has set his sights on Figaro's bride-to-be, Susanna, neglecting his own wife. What follows is a rousing comedy of misplaced identities, misbegotten plans and general misbehaving. All ends well as love is restored, families are reunited and Figaro finally gets his bride. Sung in Italian with English subtitles. Suitable for children who have had their first crush.

Featured Artists

Making his Lyric Opera of Kansas City debut in the role of Count Almaviva, baritone **Edward Parks** has been hailed by *Opera News* for his "warm, velvety baritone" and *The New York Times* for providing "precision, sensitivity and nuance in abundance" and a "robust, earthy voice". A graduate of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artists Development Program, Parks' recent engagements include roles with the Metropolitan Opera, Chicago Opera Theater, Prague Proms International Music Festival and the Czech National Symphony Orchestra.

Reprising her "impeccable, soulful performance" (*The Kansas City Star*) in the role of Countess Almaviva, **Katie Van Kooten** returns to Lyric Opera of Kansas City for her third production with the company (*La Bohème* 2013, *The Marriage of Figaro* 2011). Her experience spans a variety of prestigious opera houses including the Metropolitan Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Covent Garden, and Oper Frankfurt. "Her singing has something of the same glow radiated by Te Kanawa or Freni, and her endearing charm and bright smile make her a winning stage personality." (*The Daily Telegraph*)

Making his Lyric Opera of Kansas City debut, in the role of Figaro, American bass, **Adam Lau** has been praised as a "bass of real quality, with sonorous low notes" (*Palm Beach ArtsPaper*). A graduate of the Florida Grand Opera young artist residency, recent credits include Seattle Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Dallas Opera, Opera Naples, North Carolina Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, and Seattle Opera. He has been recognized in several voice competitions, and most recently was a Top Prize winner of the 2015 George London Foundation Vocal Competition.

Finally, returning to the Lyric Opera of Kansas City after her critically acclaimed performance as Pamina in *The Magic Flute* in 2008, **Maureen McKay** will perform the role of

LYRIC OPERA

KANSAS CITY

Susanna McKay has been hailed by the *Washington Post* as the “undisputed star of the show,” following performances at Washington National Opera. *The Washington Post* further exclaimed, “Armed with a silvery, precisely aimed voice, natural stage presence and the kind of beautifully detailed acting you don't see often enough on the operatic stage.” She has also sung with Portland Opera, The Atlanta Opera, The Metropolitan Opera, Komische Oper Berlin, and Opera Colorado.

Making his Lyric Opera of Kansas City debut, director **Stephen Lawless** was Director of Production for the Glyndebourne Touring Opera from 1986 to 1991, where his work culminated in an immensely successful production of *Death in Venice*, which was subsequently recorded by the BBC for television and video release. He made his debut with the Kirov Opera in Leningrad producing *Boris Godunov* which was broadcast live on British television, the first ever live telecast of an opera from the Soviet Union to the UK. He has directed throughout the world including The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Glyndebourne Festival, the Vienna State Opera, La Fenice, the Berlin Staatsoper, The Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, the Hong Kong and New Zealand Festivals and the complete ‘Der Ring des Nibelungen’ for the Nürnberg Opera.

Conductor **Ryan McAdams** will be making his Lyric Opera debut. Quickly establishing himself as one of the most exciting and versatile conductors of his generation, this Missouri native made a highly successful European debut in February, 2010 with the orchestra of the Maggio Musicale in Florence. His appearances in 2015-16 include a concert performance of Bizet's *Les pêcheurs de perles* with the Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della RAI, Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia* with Opera Theatre of St. Louis, *Carmen* with Teatro Regio Torino in the Piazza San Carlo, *Don Giovanni* with New York's Venture Opera, and a collaboration with Lincoln Center Jazz and the Phoenix Symphony. Recent highlights include appearances with the Israel Philharmonic, Vancouver Symphony, Santa Fe Symphony, Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Juilliard Opera Center, New York City Opera, Talea Ensemble, New York City Ballet, Tanglewood Music Festival, Aspen Music Festival, Glimmerglass Opera, and the Juilliard FOCUS! Festival. A Fulbright scholar, he previously served as Apprentice Conductor of the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, assisting then-Chief Conductor Alan Gilbert. Mr. McAdams is the first-ever recipient of the Sir Georg Solti Emerging Conductor Award.

LYRIC OPERA OF KANSAS CITY PREMIERE

Dead Man Walking

Music by Jake Heggie

Libretto by Terence McNally 2000

Based on the novel by Sister Helen Prejean

This opera was commissioned by the San Francisco Opera

Sung in English with English subtitles

Saturday, March 4, 2017

7:30 p.m.

LYRIC OPERA

KANSAS CITY

Wednesday, March 8, 2017 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 10, 2017 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 12, 2017 2:00 p.m.

We are proud to present the Kansas City debut of the modern classic, *Dead Man Walking*, the searing story of truth and redemption on Death Row. *Dead Man Walking* is the story of a profound spiritual journey taken by a nun and a convicted killer about to face the ultimate sentence. Based on the book by Sister Helen Prejean, the opera delves into the conflict between the act of murder, society's demand for retribution and the Christian foundation of redemption and forgiveness. *Dead Man Walking* is an unforgettable experience and promises to leave audiences stunned and breathless. *Parental advisory: this opera will contain brief nudity, graphic violence and explicit language and is best suited for those age 18 and up.*

Featured Artists

Making her Lyric Opera of Kansas City debut as Sister Helen Prejean, mezzo-soprano **Kate Aldrich** has performed with the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, Los Angeles Opera, L'Opéra de Montréal, and National Theatre in Prague among many others. *The San Francisco Chronicle* describes Ms. Aldrich as "...a singer with both the lustrous lower range and forceful high notes... She moves easily and arrestingly on stage, and infuses even the most transitory moments with a sense of dramatic purpose."

Also making his Lyric Opera of Kansas City debut in the role of Joseph de Rocher, **David Adam Moore** is a highly sought-after leading baritone by major opera houses and orchestras worldwide, including the Metropolitan Opera, Teatro alla Scala, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Salzburg Festival, and Carnegie Hall. "What ultimately distinguished Moore's performance was his consistent delivery of beauty within the bluster, including some exquisitely floated tones above the staff... This was one of the most shattering evenings I have ever spent in a theater." (*Opera News*).

Making her Lyric Opera of Kansas City debut in the role of Mrs. Patrick de Rocher, **Maria Zifchak** is a highly accomplished mezzo-soprano. Of her recent performance in Central City Opera's *Dead Man Walking*, *Daily Camera* claimed, "Mezzo-soprano Maria Zifchak, as De Rocher's mother, moves the audience to open weeping on several occasions." She performs regularly with The Metropolitan Opera, and has also performed with Opera Theater of St. Louis, Central City Opera, Arizona Opera, Dallas Opera, Cincinnati Opera and Atlanta Opera.

Hailed by critics for possessing a lustrous voice of extraordinary beauty and artistry of great dramatic depth, American soprano **Karen Slack** will perform the role of Sister Rose. She has performed with major conductors in opera houses and concert halls around the world, including Washington National Opera, San Francisco Opera, Arizona Opera, and Des Moines Metro Opera. She also performed the Operatic Diva in Tyler Perry's movie "For Colored Girls." She previously performed with Lyric Opera of Kansas City in the 2007 production of *Aida*.

LYRIC OPERA

KANSAS CITY

Making his Lyric Opera of Kansas City debut, conductor **Steven Osgood**, had been an Assistant Conductor with the Metropolitan Opera since 2006, working on many productions, including *La Cenerentola*, Phillip Glass' *Satyagraha*, Tan's *The First Emperor*, and John Adams' *Nixon in China*. As the newly appointed artistic director of Chautauqua Opera, he has proven his expertise in repertoire ranging from the Baroque through this century's most challenging scores. He completed the 2014-15 season by conducting the world premiere of Jeremy Howard Beck's *The Long Walk* at Opera Saratoga. He made his Los Angeles Opera debut in October with Missy Mazzoli's *Song From the Uproar*. He recently launched the 2015-16 season of Composers and the Voice at American Opera Projects, his 8th season as Artistic Director of the fellowship program. Osgood returns to the Metropolitan Opera in October as cover conductor for *Turandot* and *Il Trovatore*.

In recent seasons he has conducted the world premieres of *The Scarlet Ibis*, *Thumbprint*, and *Sumeida's Song* for the PROTOTYPE Festival. Other notable productions include the critically acclaimed world premiere of Xenakis's *Oresteia* at the Miller Theater, Tan Dun's *Marco Polo* with De Nederlandse Opera, *La Traviata* and *La bohème* with Edmonton Opera; *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, *Peter Grimes* and *Tosca* at Chautauqua Opera; *Glory Denied*, *The Rape of Lucretia*, *Bon Appetit!* and *This Is the Rill Speaking* with Opera Memphis; *Three Decembers* at Atlanta Opera; Stephen Schwartz's *Séance on a Wet Afternoon* with New York City Opera, Philip Glass' *Hydrogen Jukebox* at Fort Worth Opera Festival, Conrad Susa's *Transformations* at Juilliard Opera, Lee Hoiby's *Summer and Smoke* and Virgil Thomson's *The Mother of Us All* at Manhattan School of Music.

Director **Kristine McIntyre** returns to Kansas City for her seventh Lyric Opera production. She has directed more than 60 operas across the U.S. with a focus on new and contemporary works. Productions include Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking* (Des Moines Metro Opera, Madison Opera), Jonathan Dove's *Flight* (Pittsburgh Opera, Austin Lyric Opera) Jake Heggie's *The End of the Affair* (Lyric Opera of Kansas City) and the world premiere of *The Canticle of the Black Madonna* (Newmark Theater, Portland). Kristine McIntyre "not only honed dramatic moments of unerring accuracy, but also mined every ounce of humor in the work..." (*Opera Today*). Known for her visually stunning and emotionally rich productions, her other Lyric Opera credits include last season's *Don Giovanni*, as well as *John Brown*, *Turn of the Screw*, *Norma* and *Così Fan Tutte*.

The Pirates of Penzance

Gilbert & Sullivan 1879

Sung in English with English subtitles

Saturday, April 22, 2017	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 26, 2017	7:30 p.m.
Friday, April 28, 2017	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 30, 2017	2:00 p.m.

LYRIC OPERA

KANSAS CITY

We end the 2016-2017 season with the fun and frivolity of *The Pirates of Penzance*. The rousing songs and colorful sets will have audiences shopping for parrots and broadswords. Gilbert and Sullivan's cheeky and charming operetta abounds with pirates, maidens and a Major General with the true gift of gab. Hyperkinetic lyrics, madly colorful sets and a bevy of bungling bobbies, this production promises to be an evening of pure fun. Young Frederic, instantly smitten by the lovely Mabel but beholden to a Pirate King, and beleaguered by the Major General, must fulfill his sense of duty while staying true to his love. This production is suitable for children who still pretend they're pirates.

Featured Artists

Making her debut at the Lyric Opera of Kansas City in the role of Mabel, American soprano **Anya Matanovic** has been praised for her "thrilling vocal color" and "sweetly winning" presence. She made her international opera debut with the New Israeli Opera as Musetta. Her recent performances have been praised as "dark-hued and dazzling" (*The New York Times*) "Luminous" (*The Hub Review*) and "Outstanding" (*Opera News*). Her current and upcoming seasons also include performances with New Orleans Opera, The Cleveland Orchestra, Tucson Symphony, Seattle Opera, and Boston Lyric Opera.

Tenor **Jonathan Johnson** will be making his Lyric Opera of Kansas City debut in the role of Frederic. He recently completed a fellowship at the A.J. Fletcher Institute at the University of North Carolina School of Arts. Currently a Resident Artist with the Patrick G. & Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, he has appeared in the company's mainstage productions of *Capriccio*, *The Magic Victrola*, *The Passenger*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *The Merry Widow*, and *Der Rosenkavalier*. Recent roles include Arturo in *Lucia in Lammermoor*, Iopas in *Les Troyens*, and Rodriguez in *Don Quichotte*, le Fils in *Les mamelles de Tirésias* with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, a performance of Schumann's *Dichterliebe* as part of a Liederabend in Chicago, and appearances in the Harris Theater's *Beyond the Aria* series, the 125th Anniversary Gala for the Auditorium Theater, and on WFMT radio as part of the Ryan Opera Center Recital Series.

American bass **Kevin Burdette**, as the Pirate King, has impressed audiences with his mellifluous voice and strongly dramatic characterizations. *The San Francisco Chronicle* called his Leporello "a tour de force of vocal splendor and comic timing," and *The New York Times* dubbed him "the Robin Williams of opera". He has performed at The Metropolitan Opera, San Diego Opera, Portland Opera, Santa Fe Opera, and Opera Philadelphia. He previously performed with Lyric Opera of Kansas City as Dr. Bartolo in the 2012 production of *The Barber of Seville*.

Kansas City audience favorite, baritone **Robert Gibby Brand** will return to the Lyric Opera of Kansas City as Major-General Stanley. Brand has performed with the Quality Hill Playhouse, Actors' Theatre of Kansas City, the New Theatre, the Unicorn Theater, and the Heart of America Shakespeare Festival. This will be Brand's tenth production with Lyric Opera of Kansas City. Previous recent productions include *Die Fledermaus*, *The Mikado*, *Daughter of the Regiment*, and *Silent Night*.

LYRIC OPERA

KANSAS CITY

Director **James Alexander** will be making his Lyric Opera of Kansas City debut. He has staged operas on three continents with a large number of prestigious companies, orchestras and conductors.

In Europe he's staged productions with The Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Scottish Opera, Opera North, The Gabrieli Consort & Players, (Venice & London), and served as the Associate Director of the Olivier Award-winning *Carmen Jones* at London's Old Vic Theatre. He was a long-time collaborator with Maestro Seiji Ozawa at The Boston Symphony, collaborating on a number of operatic stagings, *Salome*, *Pique Dame*, *Idomeneo* and the 50th Anniversary production of *Peter Grimes* at Tanglewood. With the Cincinnati Opera he collaborated with conductor Sir Roger Norrington on a highly acclaimed production of Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, which was hailed by Opera News as, "a perfect combination of tastefulness and humor".

Combining his stage directing skills with a Georgia-based technical company called *Symphony V*, which he formed in 2012, he has been in demand with major institutions including, the Philadelphia Orchestra (*Stokowski Festival*, Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*, *The Academy of Music Anniversary Concert & Ball*), the Atlanta Symphony (*Bernstein on Broadway*, Puccini's *La Bohème* and *Madama Butterfly*, John Adams' *Doctor Atomic* and *A Flowering Tree*, Stravinsky's *Nightingale* and the World Premiere of Christopher Theofanidis' *Creation/Creator*), as well as the Aspen Music Festival (Mozart's *The Magic Flute*).

Conductor **Hal France** will be making his Lyric Opera of Kansas City debut. During a 35-year professional career as an opera conductor, Hal France has led organizations and performed with opera companies and symphony orchestras around the United States. His positions include Executive Director of KANEKO (2008–2012), Artistic Director of Opera Omaha (1995–2005), and Music Director of the Orlando Philharmonic (2000-2006). He has conducted performances for the New York City Opera, Seattle Opera, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Santa Fe Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, Opera Company of Philadelphia, Calgary Opera, Chautauqua Opera, Minnesota Opera, Wolf Trap Opera, and Orlando Opera.

Ticket Information

All performances will be held in the Muriel Kauffman Theatre at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. All performances will be accompanied by members of the Kansas City Symphony. Subscribers have access to the best seats at the best prices, with savings of up to 63% over single ticket prices. They also receive the first opportunity to either keep their original seats or secure new seats before the general public. Subscribers to the 2016-2017 season will receive subscription renewal information beginning the week of March 7, 2016, and will have until May 15, 2016 to renew or improve their current subscription and seat locations. Reservations for new subscriptions will go on sale to the general public at the same time. Renewing subscribers receive priority seating. Single tickets will go on sale to the general public on Monday, August 8, 2016.

LYRIC OPERA

KANSAS CITY

Season ticket prices range from \$79 to \$499. For ticket information, visit KCOpera.org, contact Lyric Opera Ticketing & Patron Services at (816) 471-7344, toll free at 1-877-OPERA-KC (673-7252), or visit Lyric Opera Ticketing & Patron Services at 1725 Holmes Street in downtown Kansas City.

Introducing First Act

Lyric Opera is making it easier to introduce young audiences to the wonderful world of opera. Children as young as eight years old can enjoy child-friendly performances, sometimes even younger if they are strong readers and can follow subtitles.

The Lyric Opera of Kansas City is now offering special ticket prices for those under 18 years of age to two productions sure to entice, intrigue and create young opera lovers: ***Hansel and Gretel*** and ***The Pirates of Penzance***. Season subscribers will have the opportunity to purchase these tickets before they go on sale to the general public.

Hansel and Gretel: Subscribers may add youth seats to this production for \$30 per seat

The Pirates of Penzance: Subscribers may add youth seats to this production for \$50 per seat

Terms and conditions: Both \$30 and \$50 prices include \$6.50 ticketing / facility fees. Children's seats may only be used for patrons 18 and under. Tickets will be sold as unseated orders and processed after subscribers are seated. Subscribers and children must attend the same performance. Children will be seated as close as possible to associated subscription seats pending availability. Subscribers may request to be resealed so they may sit together with attending children. We recommend children under 13 be seated with a supervising adult.

About Lyric Opera of Kansas City

The Lyric Opera of Kansas City was founded in 1958; it is one of the nation's premier regional opera companies and brings high-quality live operatic performances to the people of the Kansas City area and a five-state region. Repertoire choices encompass original language performances of standard repertory as well as contemporary and American operas. Under the leadership of General Director and CEO Deborah Sandler, the company mounts productions that enrich the community it serves, as well as reflect the highest artistic standards of the profession. The Lyric Opera offers innovative and award-winning programs designed to further music and arts education both in schools and in the community, serving more than 8,000 students and educators each year.

About the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts is a major center for music, opera, theater, and dance, designed by Moshe Safdie and opened in September 2011. The Kauffman Center presents vibrant performances and advances the role of the performing arts as a catalyst for Kansas City's civic, economic, and educational vitality.

LYRIC OPERA

KANSAS CITY

Three of the region's leading performing arts organizations—Kansas City Ballet, Kansas City Symphony, and Lyric Opera of Kansas City—are in residence at the Kauffman Center. The Kauffman Center's two performance venues, the 1,800-seat Muriel Kauffman Theatre and the 1,600-seat Helzberg Hall, offer audiences engaging and intimate experiences, while at the same time providing resident companies with dramatically enhanced performance capabilities.

Serving as a cultural cornerstone for Kansas City's dynamic downtown, the Kauffman Center brings a new spotlight to the region's performing arts community while attracting some of the world's most talented performers and entertainers, further establishing Kansas City as a major cultural destination.

More information on the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts is available at kauffmancenter.org.

The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts is fully accessible and provides assistive listening devices plus Braille and large print programs. Service animals are welcome with advance notice. All dates, operas and artists are subject to change.

Visit www.kcopera.org for more information about the Lyric Opera of Kansas City 2016-2017 season and www.kauffmancenter.org for a downloadable media kit about the Kauffman Center.

LYRIC OPERA

KANSAS CITY

2016-2017 Season at a Glance:

Hansel and Gretel

Engelbert Humperdinck 1893

Sung in German with English subtitles

Saturday, September 17, 2016 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 21, 2016 7:30 p.m.

Friday, September 23, 2016 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 25, 2016 2:00 p.m.

Director: Doug Varone

Conductor: John Keenan

Hansel: Megan Marino

Gretel: Rachele Gilmore

Witch/Mother: Marianne Cornetti

Peter: Troy Cook

CO-PRODUCTION with Opera

Philadelphia and San Diego Opera

Debut at Lyric Opera of Kansas City

The Marriage of Figaro

Wolfgang A. Mozart 1784

Sung in Italian with English subtitles

Saturday, November 5, 2016 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 9, 2016 7:30 p.m.

Friday, November 11, 2016 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 13, 2016 2:00 p.m.

Director: Stephen Lawless

Conductor: Ryan McAdams

Count Almaviva: Edward Parks

Countess Almaviva: Katie Van Kooten

Figaro: Adam Lau

Susanna: Maureen McKay

Lyric Opera of Kansas City PREMIERE

Dead Man Walking

Music by Jake Heggie

Libretto by Terence McNally 2000

Based on the novel by Sister Helen

Prejean

Sung in English with English subtitles

Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 8, 2017 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 10, 2017 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 12, 2017 2:00 p.m.

Director: Kristine McIntyre

Conductor: Steven Osgood

Sister Helen Prejean: Kate Aldrich

Joseph de Rocher: David Adam Moore

Mrs. Patrick de Rocher: Maria Zifchak

Sister Rose: Karen Slack

The Pirates of Penzance

Gilbert & Sullivan 1879

Sung in English with English subtitles

Saturday, April 22, 2017 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 28, 2017 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 30, 2017 2:00 p.m.

Director: James Alexander

Conductor: Hal France

Mabel: Anya Matanovic

Frederic: Jonathan Johnson

The Pirate King: Kevin Burdette

Major-General Stanley: Robert Gibby Brand

Please direct all media inquiries to Ellen McDonald, 816.444.0052 or Tickets: kcopera.org or 816.471.7344