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Lyric Opera of Kansas City
2016-17 Season Continues with
Kansas City PREMIERE of

Dead Man Walking

March 4, 8, 10 and 12 at
Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Extensive Community Events to Explore this
Journey of Faith

Kansas City, MO (Feb. 6, 2017) – Lyric Opera of Kansas City continues its 59th season with the powerful modern classic, Dead Man Walking, music by Jake Heggie and libretto by Terrence McNally, and based on the novel by Sister Helen Prejean, with performances March 4, 8, 10 and 12 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. The production will be sung in English with English titles. High res production and artists’ photos can be downloaded here.

The Lyric Opera of Kansas City is 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, redemption and forgiveness. Dead Man Walking is an unforgettable experience and promises to leave audiences stunned and breathless. Please note: this opera contains brief nudity, graphic violence and explicit language.

Dead Man Walking has become a must-see modern classic since it opened in 2000 to critical acclaim. 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, Maria Zifchak in the role of Mrs. Patrick de Rocher, and Conductor Steven Osgood.

General Director and CEO Deborah Sandler stated, “Dead Man Walking is a dramatically riveting and relevant story. I am proud that we are presenting this Lyric Opera premiere production and that we are presenting an in-depth series of community events, thanks to our
partners including the Kansas City Public Library, American Public Square and KCPT. I look forward to many thoughtful conversations about the issues that surface in this opera.”

About the 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 arrestingingly on stage, and infuses even the most transitory moments with a sense of dramatic purpose.”

Also making his Lyric Opera of Kansas City debut, David Adam Moore, in the role of Joseph de Rocher, 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 for her voice of extraordinary beauty and her commitment to artistry, soprano Karen Slack performs the role of Sister Rose. She has collaborated with major conductors in opera houses and concert halls worldwide, including The Metropolitan Opera, Scottish Opera, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Washington National Opera, San Francisco Opera, and Carnegie Hall. Recent highlights include Serena in Porgy and Bess with Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, Verdi’s Aida with Austin Lyric Opera, Champion with Opera Parallèle, and her role debut as Alice Ford in Falstaff with Arizona Opera. She was previously seen with Lyric Opera of Kansas City in 2007 as Aida.

Making his Lyric Opera of Kansas City debut, conductor Steven Osgood is General and Artistic Director of Chautauqua Opera. He brings a distinct musical incisiveness and dramatic insight to his work as a result of a unique combination of his experience in the world of theater as well as opera in repertoire ranging from the baroque through the contemporary era. He has worked with many of North America’s premiere opera companies, including Canadian Opera Company, the San Francisco Opera, and The Metropolitan Opera, where he has served as Assistant Conductor for the world premiere of Tan Dun’s The First Emperor, and acclaimed productions of Glass’ Satyagraha, Adams’ Nixon in China, The Death of Klinghoffer, and Muhly’s Two Boys, to name a few.

Notable conducting engagements include productions at New York City Opera (La Boheme, Seance on a Wet Afternoon), Netherlands Opera (Marco Polo), Edmonton Opera (Bluebeard’s
Castle, Erwartung, La Traviata), Chautauqua Opera (Peter Grimes, The Ballad of Baby Doe, and Tosca), Hawai’i Opera (Tosca), Opera Memphis (Die Fledermaus, This Is the Rill Speaking & Bon Appetite, The Rape of Lucretia, Glory Denied), Fort Worth Opera (Glass’ Hydrogen Jukebox), Long Beach Opera (Ainadamar), Sarasota Opera (Little Nemo in Slumberland), Wolf Trap Opera (A Midsummer Night’s Dream), Manhattan School of Music (The Mother of Us All, Griffelkin, Summer and Smoke, A Month in the Country, The Ghosts of Versailles), Beth Morrison Projects (Sumeida’s Song, Song From the Uproar), Juilliard Opera Theater (Transformations), Northwestern University (The Ghosts of Versailles), DiCapo Opera (Floyd’s Susannah, Picker’s Thérèse Raquin) and the Miller Theater at Columbia University (Xenakis’ Oresteia). Last season, he made a debut with The Atlanta Opera conducting Jake Heggie’s Three Decembers and returned to Opera Saratoga to lead the premiere of Jeremy Howard Beck’s The Long Walk. This season includes a return to the Fort Worth Opera for the premiere of David Little’s J.F.K., a revival of Song From the Uproar presented by Los Angeles Opera, and La Traviata, The Mikado, and Songs from the Uproar for Chautauqua Opera. In September, he debuted with Opera Philadelphia conducting the world premiere of Missy Mazzoli’s Breaking the Waves, after which he returned to The Juilliard School to conduct Jonathan Dove’s Flight. Later this season, he will debut with Utah Opera conducting The Long Walk.

Director Kristine McIntyre returns to Kansas City for her seventh Lyric Opera production. She has directed more than 75 operas across the U.S. with a focus on new, contemporary and American works including Dead Man Walking, Soldier Songs, Three Decembers, Flight, Elmer Gantry, Of Mice and Men, Street Scene, The Tender Land, Bon Appétit, and the world premiers of Louis Karchin’s Jane Eyre, Mark Lanz Weiser’s The Place Where You Started and The Canticle of the Black Madonna. Known for her visually stunning and emotionally rich productions, other Lyric Opera credits include last season’s Don Giovanni, as well as the world premier of John Brown, The End of the Affair, Norma, Cosi Fan Tutte and The Turn of the Screw. Upcoming projects include new productions of Billy Budd and Jake Heggie’s Moby Dick as well as Barber’s Vanessa and Daniel Catán’s Florencia en el Amazonas.

Principal Cast

Sister Helen Prejean: Kate Aldrich*
Joseph de Rocher: David Adam Moore*
Mrs. Patrick de Rocher: Maria Zifchak*
Sister Rose: Karen Slack
George Benton: Jeffrey Beruan
Father Grenville: Casey Candebat*
Owen Hart: Daniel Belcher
Kitty Hart: April Martin+@
Howard Boucher: Brian Frutiger
Jade Boucher: Samantha Gossard +@
Motorcycle Cop: John Viscardi +

Artistic Staff

Director: Kristine McIntyre
Conductor: Steven Osgood *
Set Designer: R. Keith Brumley
Costume Designer: Scott Reid
Lighting Designer: Marcus Dilliard
Wig and Make-up Designer: Alison M. Hanks
Chorus Master: Mark Ferrell
Stage Manager: Erin Thompson- Janszen

~ UMKC Apprentice
+ Resident Artist
@ former Lyric Opera Apprentice
* Lyric Opera Debut

Ticket availability varies by performance. To purchase tickets, call Ticketing & Patron Services (816) 471-7344 or 1-800-OPERAKC (673-7252). Patrons can select their own seat and print their tickets at home by visiting www.kcopera.org. Limited student rush tickets are available for $15, cash only, one hour before the performances, with a valid student ID. Parental advisory: this opera will contain brief nudity, graphic violence and explicit language and is best suited for those ages 18 and up.
DEAD MAN WALKING COMMUNITY EVENTS

JAN. 29TH | FYI BOOK CLUB LAUNCH

Read the January 29th edition of The Kansas City Star to learn more about how you can join a discussion about the book that inspired the opera Dead Man Walking. This is a partnership with the Kansas City Public Library and part of the FYI Book Club series, sponsored by The Kansas City Star.

FEB. 6TH | CONSIDERING FORGIVENESS

Join us at Unity Temple on the Plaza from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. for an evening of film and discussion that includes a screening of the documentary Unlikely Friends, with a discussion led by Unity minister Sandra Campbell, and representatives from Parents of Murdered Children and audience members. RSVP for this FREE event at kccopera.org/dmw-events.

FEB. 10TH | FYI BOOK DISCUSSION

In partnership with the Kansas City Public Library and sponsored by The Kansas City Star, the FYI Book Club: Dead Man Walking meets at our Michael and Ginger Frost Production Arts Building at 7:00 p.m. to discuss Sister Helen Prejean’s memoir, a thoughtful and painful journey through the justice system and inspiration for the opera Dead Man Walking. Participants will enjoy a brief talk about the Kansas City production from Linda Ade Brand, Director of Education and Community Engagement for the Lyric Opera, and engage in a conversation about the book with Kate Stoever, Director of Readers’ Services for the Kansas City Public Library. RSVP for the FREE discussion by contacting Kate Stoever at 816.701.3863 or kstoever@kclibrary.org.

FEB. 13TH | DEAD MAN WALKING SCREENING

From book to movie to opera, Dead Man Walking has captivated audiences since its publication in 1994, its Academy Award-winning film adaptation in 1995, and finally the leap to opera in 2000. Attend a screening of the film followed by discussion of both film and memoir at the Kansas City Public Library - Central Library in the Durwood Film Vault beginning at 6:30 p.m. RSVP at www.kclibrary.org for this FREE event.

FEB. 21ST | AN EYE FOR AN EYE: REEVALUATING THE DEATH PENALTY

In partnership with American Public Square and KCPT, we present An Eye for an Eye: Reevaluating the Death Penalty at the Kansas City Public Library - Plaza Branch in the Truman Forum beginning with a reception at 6 p.m. At 6:30 a panel of proponents and opponents of capital punishment will consider this issue, moderated by Ambassador Allan Katz with serving reporter Nick Halina. The panelists, Rev. Adam Hamilton, Senior Pastor Church of the Resurrection, Tricia Bushnell, Director, Midwest Innocence Project, Eric Zabud, longtime Prosecuting Attorney for Platte County, Missouri, and Terry Nelson, Consultant, Republican Strategist and Counseling Partner of FP1 Strategies, will discuss the morality, legality, politics and other arguments both in favor and against the death penalty. RSVP for this FREE event at www.kclibrary.org/signature-events/eye-eye-re-evaluating-death-penalty.

MAR. 1ST | THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

An Evening with Sister Helen Prejean

Don’t miss Sister Helen Prejean in Kansas City at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts at 6:30 p.m. for a discussion about Dead Man Walking followed by a book signing. RSVP at kccopera.org/dmw-events for this FREE event.

MAR. 3RD | AFTERNOON WITH JAKE HEGGIE

Dead Man Walking composer Jake Heggie will lead a masterclass coaching his own compositions sung by the LOKC Resident Artists from 10:00 - 3:00 at the Frost Production Arts Building, 712 E. 18th Street, KCMA. Afterward, LOKC General Director and CEO Deborah Sander brings together longtime collaborators Jake Heggie and libertarian Gene Scheer for a discussion about contemporary opera at the Plaza Library Truman Forum, 4:15 - 5:15. RSVP at kccopera.org/dmw-events for these FREE events.

MAR. 10TH | LENTEN FRIDAY EVENT:

CATHOLIC THINKING ON THE DEATH PENALTY

Interested in considering the issues raised in Dead Man Walking from a Catholic perspective? Join us at our Michael and Ginger Frost Production Arts Building beginning at 5:00 p.m. for a traditional fish fry followed by a talk and discussion led by the Rev. Thomas B. Carroll, S.J., President of Rockhurst University. Complete the evening by attending the thought-provoking opera on the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for this special event — including the fish fry, discussion and the opera Dead Man Walking — are available for $75 at kccopera.org.

MAR. 12TH | POST-SHOW TALKBACK

WITH SUELLEN FRIED

Join us at the Kauffman Center around 9:00 p.m. following the Sunday Matinee performance of Dead Man Walking for a talkback around led by SueEllen Fried, founder of Reaching Out From Within. ROFW supports prison rehabilitation programs for inmates who want to make lasting changes in their behavior so they can become a role model for non-violence. FREE event, no RSVP needed.

OPERA GOES TO THE MOVIES

This course offered by UMKC begins on Mar. 11th at Tivoli Theatre in Westport discussing and viewing films related to Dead Man Walking. The next day you can visit our Michael and Ginger Frost Production Arts Building for a discussion about the opera before attending the Mar. 12th performance. Contact Linda Ade Brand at labrand@kccopera.org for more information about the course.

AT EASE WITH OPERA

Join the Lyric Opera Guild at the Kauffman Foundation this February as they enter into Dead Man Walking. All presentations begin at 7:00 p.m., and are FREE to attend.

Feb. 13th - American Opera by John Stephens and Mark Kaminer
Feb. 20th - Opera and Social Issues by William Everett
Feb. 27th - Dead Man Walking Preview by Dr. Rebecca Johnson


total length: 1590 characters
Young Friends of the Lyric
Young Friends of the Lyric provides an exciting outlet for young arts supporters (ages 21-40) in Kansas City to get involved in the community, meet other young adults and support the Lyric Opera of Kansas City. Membership benefits include exclusive ticket offers, networking opportunities, restaurant discounts invitations to special events and more.

Young Friends of the Lyric membership is $30 for an individual, $50 for a couple, or $75 for a dual patron membership. To join, contact Ticketing & Patron Services at 816-471-7344. Become a fan on Facebook to keep up with current events.

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 opened 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.

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 simultaneously 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.


Upcoming 2016-2017 Season Productions:

*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.
- **Saturday, April 29, 2017** 2:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 30, 2017 2:00 p.m.
Director: James Alexander
Conductor: Hal France
Mabel: Anja Matanović
Frederic: Jonathan Johnson
The Pirate King: Kevin Burdette
Major-General Stanley: Robert Gibby Brand
Ruth: Margaret Gawrysiak
Sergeant of Police: Ben Wager
Edith: April Martin
Kate: Samantha Gossard
Samuel: Rhys Lloyd Talbot
Isabel: Laurel Weir

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. 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 and serves more than 18,000 students and educators each year.

Opera lovers can be fans of the Lyric Opera of Kansas City on Facebook or follow us on Twitter at @kcopera.

The Lyric Opera of Kansas City is a member of OPERA America and this season is made possible with funding from Richard J. Stern Foundation for the Arts, and the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation.

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Please direct all media inquiries to Ellen McDonald, 816.444.0052 or 816.213.4355.

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