

# LYRIC OPERA

KANSAS CITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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  
2017-18 Season Continues with  
Kansas City Premiere of  
***Everest***

**First Staged Performance since World Premiere  
Nov. 11, 15, 17 and 19, 2017 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts**

**Lyric Opera Debuts  
Tenor Andrew Bidlack, Baritone Craig Verm, Mezzo-Soprano Sarah Larsen,  
Baritone Michael Mayes, Director Leonard Foglia and Conductor Nicole Paiement**

**Everest Survivor Beck Weathers to join Artist Panel for Talkback  
Opening Night Sat., Nov. 11**

**Kansas City, MO (October 16, 2017)** – Lyric Opera of Kansas City continues its 60<sup>th</sup> season with the Kansas City premiere of *Everest* November 11, 15, 17 and 19 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](#).

This contemporary tragedy brings to life the white-knuckle rush and devastating true stories of three climbers caught in a blizzard on Mt. Everest in 1996. As the first staged performance since the world premiere in Dallas, *Everest* conveys the enormity of the disaster with a percussion section so large that it overflows the orchestra pit, forcing the voice of the mountain itself to “spill out” into the audience and surround it with sound. Together, Gene Scheer’s unrelenting libretto and composer Joby Talbot’s luminous and inventive score surrounds the audience with the insurmountable beauty of the Himalayas, the demons and dreams driving each climber upwards, and the undeniable danger that infuses every exhausted step with fear.

**General Director and CEO Deborah Sandler** said, “Lyric Opera of Kansas City commits to producing works which give our audience an opportunity to experience the vitality of opera. *Everest*, the remarkable first opera by British composer Joby Talbot, and veteran librettist Gene Scheer, is just such an opportunity. This work tells the tale of a modern odyssey through a production that reflects state-of-the-art technological and artistic advancements. The result is a theatrically thrilling adventure. I have a great belief in this work and cannot wait for our audiences to experience this stunning production.”

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### About the Artists

With a “powerful” voice and an “arresting stage presence,” baritone **Michael Mayes** will be making his Lyric Opera debut in the role of Beck Weathers. He is known for his consummate portrayals of iconic characters in the operatic repertoire. Originally from Cut and Shoot, Texas (just north of Houston), Mr. Mayes has performed with opera companies across the United States including Cincinnati Opera, Palm Beach Opera, Kentucky Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Arizona Opera, Central City Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre and Fort Worth Opera. During the 2016-2017 season, Mr. Mayes made his debut with Washington National Opera in what has become a signature role for him, as Joseph De Rocher in *Dead Man Walking*. He also returned to Dallas Opera in the role of Doug Hansen in *Everest*. The 2015-2016 season included his debuts with Dallas Opera and San Diego Opera in the world premiere of Jake Heggie’s *Great Scott*, Jack Rance in Opera Omaha’s *La fanciulla del West*, and Joseph De Rocher in *Dead Man Walking* with New Orleans Opera.

**Andrew Bidlack** will be making his Lyric Opera debut in the role of Rob Hall. He is a celebrated tenor, named one of *Opera News*’ “top 25 brilliant young artists” in 2015. Known for his work in contemporary opera, Mr. Bidlack originated the role of Rob Hall in Dallas Opera’s premiere of *Everest*. *Opera Magazine* noted in its review that Bidlack “made a very strong impression... agile of technique, absolutely secure and sweet-toned.”

Praised for his “arrestingly vibrant” and “robust” baritone, **Craig Verm** will be making his Lyric Opera debut in the role of Doug Hansen. He has brought his riveting portrayals to stages around the world. This summer he sang the title role in *Billy Budd* at Des Moines Metro Opera. Most recently he made his company debut at Santa Fe Opera as Sonora in *La fanciulla del West*, also performing The Count in Santa Fe’s *Capriccio*, for which he was praised for his “deep, velvet baritone (whose) featured moments leapt out from the crowd.” Mr. Verm has also made debuts on the stages of Lyric Opera of Chicago, Teatro Municipal de Santiago, Théâtre du Capitole de Toulouse and the Nationale Reisopera in the Netherlands. Frequently sought after for new works, Mr. Verm originated the role of Doug Hansen in Dallas Opera’s *Everest*.

Bass **Mark McCrory** will be performing the role of Mike Groom, which he originated in Dallas. He has attracted considerable attention for an imposing voice and galvanizing stage presence, with notable appearances that include the title role in *Le Nozze di Figaro* for Hawaii Opera Theatre, Minnesota Opera, Opera Festival of New Jersey, the role of the Count in the same opera for New Orleans Opera, the title role in *Don Giovanni* for Opera Pacific, Capellio in Bellini’s *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* for Opera Philadelphia, Claudius in Thomas’ *Hamlet* with the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Raimondo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* for the Portland Opera, Olin Blich in *Susannah* for Hawaii Opera Theatre, The Pirate King in *The Pirates of Penzance* and Friar Lawrence in *Roméo et Juliette* for Lyric Opera of Kansas City. He has appeared at the Rome Opera as Marco in William Bolcom’s *A View from the Bridge* and is a regular guest of The Dallas Opera, where he has performed in 18 productions. As an alumnus of the Lyric Opera Center for American Artists, he sang numerous roles with the Lyric Opera of Chicago.

Praised as “sizzling,” “riveting” and possessing a “plummy, ripe mezzo,” mezzo-soprano **Sarah Larsen** makes her company debut as Jan Arnold at Lyric Opera of Kansas City. She made her

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Metropolitan Opera debut in the 2016 – 2017 season as Kätchen in Sir Richard Eyre's production of *Werther*. In the 2017 – 2018 season, she continues at The Met with productions of *The Merry Widow*, *Cendrillon*, and *Parsifal* with Music Director Designate Yannick Nézet-Séguin. She begins the season as Ma Moss in *The Tender Land* with Intermountain Opera Bozeman. In the summer of 2017, she made her Italian debut in a staging of Vivaldi's *La Gloria e Imeneo* with the famed I Solisti Veneti at the Teatro Olimpico, and presented a recital under the auspices of the Seattle Art Song Society, featuring Suffragette songs of the ragtime era. An alumna of the Seattle Opera Young Artist Program, she enjoys a long relationship with Seattle Opera. She has been featured as Komponist in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Hänsel in *Hänsel und Gretel*, The Secretary in *The Consul*, Suzuki in *Madama Butterfly*, and Maddalena in *Rigoletto*, among others. Ms. Larsen is from Roseville, MN and attended Simpson College and Rice University.

**Leonard Foglia**, who makes his Lyric Opera debut with this production, is a theater and opera director as well as a librettist. His work has been seen on Broadway, across the country, and internationally. A frequent collaborator with Terrence McNally, he directed *Master Class* on Broadway. This past December, he directed the world premiere of Jake Heggie's *It's a Wonderful Life* at Houston Grand Opera. In 2015, he directed two world premieres: Joby Talbot's *Everest* at the Dallas Opera and Jennifer Higdon's *Cold Mountain* at Santa Fe Opera. Of his production of *Everest*, *Opera News* wrote: "Director Leonard Foglia set his performers scrambling through its crevices; the staging was kinetic but never busy or overelaborate; instead it focused our attention on just how formidable a task the climbers faced." As a director, his opera credits include the premieres of four operas by Jake Heggie. His production of Heggie's *Dead Man Walking* has been seen across the country.

Conductor **Nicole Paiement** makes her Lyric Opera debut with these performances of *Everest*, having led the world premiere at Dallas Opera, where she is currently Principal Guest Conductor. In April 2016 she was awarded the American Composer's Forum "Champion of New Music Award" for her outstanding contributions to contemporary music. Founding Artistic Director of Opera Parallèle in San Francisco, she has gained an international reputation as a conductor of contemporary music and opera. During the 2016-2017 season she conducted *Silent Night* at Atlanta Opera (November 2016), Mohammed Fairouz' *The Dictator's Wife* at Washington National Opera (January 2017), Jonathan Dove's *Flight*, Philip Glass' *Les Enfants Terribles* and Rachel Portman's *The Little Prince* for Opera Parallèle (February, May and December 2017), Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* and Douglas Cuomo's *Arjuna's Dilemma* for Dallas Opera (Spring 2017), Handel's *Xerxes* for Glimmerglass Festival (Summer 2017). Paiement earned rave reviews in her 2012 Dallas Opera debut, conducting Peter Maxwell Davies' *The Lighthouse*. "She combined old-fashioned precision and discipline with up-to-the-minute insight into the complex modernity of the score," wrote *D Magazine*. In February 2014 she conducted Tod Machover's *Death and the Powers* and later that year she appeared as guest conductor with the Washington National Opera. With Opera Parallèle, Paiement has conducted works by Lou Harrison, John Harbison, Philip Glass, Virgil Thomson Osvaldo Golijov, and Kurt Weill, and world premieres of Luciano Chessa's *A Heavenly Act* and Dante De Silva's *Gesualdo, Prince of Madness*. Paiement is also the Artistic Director of the BluePrint Project, a new music series sponsored by the San Francisco Conservatory that commissions works by living American composers.

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Born in London, **Joby Talbot** has a versatile yet distinct musical aesthetic that is equally at home in the concert hall, on stage or screen. Highlights include ballet scores for acclaimed choreographers Christopher Wheeldon (*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, 2011; *The Winter's Tale*, 2014) and Wayne McGregor (*Chroma*, 2007; *Genus*, 2007) with companies such as The Royal Ballet and Paris Opera Ballet; interactive collaborations with Esa-Pekka Salonen and the Philharmonia Orchestra (*Worlds, Stars Systems, Infinity*, 2012); works for renowned vocal groups (*Path of Miracles*, 2005; *The Wishing Tree*, 2002); concerti commissioned by international soloists (*Desolation Wilderness* for Alison Balsom, 2006; guitar concerto for Miloš Karadaglić, 2018); major feature film scores (*Sing*, 2016) and a debut opera with one of America's premier companies, The Dallas Opera (*Everest*, 2015). Forthcoming projects include a silent film score for the LA Opera (2018) and a second opera for The Dallas Opera (2020).

**Gene Scheer's** work is noted for its scope and versatility. With the composer Jake Heggie, he has collaborated on many projects, including the critically acclaimed 2010 Dallas Opera world premiere, *Moby-Dick*, starring Ben Heppner as Captain Ahab; *Three Decembers* (Houston Grand Opera), which starred Frederica von Stade; and the lyric drama *To Hell and Back* (Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra), which featured Patti LuPone. Other works by Scheer and Heggie include *Camille Claudel: Into the fire*, a song cycle premiered by Joyce di Donato and the Alexander String Quartet. Mr. Scheer worked as librettist with Tobias Picker on *An American Tragedy*, which premiered at the Metropolitan Opera in 2005. Other collaborations include the lyrics for Wynton Marsalis's *It Never Goes Away*, featured in Mr. Marsalis's work *Congo Square*. With the composer Steven Stucky, Mr. Scheer wrote the oratorio *August 4, 1964*, for the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. The work was nominated for a Grammy in 2012 for best classical composition. In 2015, Mr. Scheer collaborated with Joby Talbot on the opera *Everest*, based on the doomed 1996 Everest expedition. With Jennifer Higdon, Mr. Scheer wrote an operatic adaptation of *Cold Mountain*, which premiered in the summer of 2015 at the Santa Fe Opera. This work won the International Opera award, presented in London, for the best World premiere in 2015. In 2016, along with Ms. Higdon, Mr. Scheer was nominated for a Grammy for his work on *Cold Mountain* for best classical composition. In December of 2016 Mr. Scheer and Jake Heggie premiered an operatic adaptation of *It's a Wonderful Life* for the Houston Grand Opera. Also a composer in his own right, Mr. Scheer has written a number of songs for singers such as Renée Fleming, Sylvia McNair, Stephanie Blythe, Jennifer Larmore, Denyce Graves, and Nathan Gunn. The distinguished documentary filmmaker, Ken Burns, prominently featured Mr. Scheer's song "American Anthem" (as sung by Norah Jones) in his Emmy Award-winning World War II documentary for PBS entitled *The War*.

### Principal Cast

Rob Hall: Andrew Bidlack\*  
Doug Hansen: Craig Verm\*  
Jan Arnold: Sarah Larsen\*  
Beck Weathers: Michael Mayes\*  
Guy Cotter: Tim Murray+  
Mike Groom: Mark McCrory  
Meg Weathers: Claire Emerson Rupp

### Artistic Staff

Director: Leonard Foglia\*  
Assistant Director: Kristen Barrett

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Conductor: Nicole Paiement\*  
Set Designer: Robert Brill\*  
Costume Designer: David C. Woolard\*  
Lighting Designer: Russell Champa\*  
Projection Designer: Elaine McCarthy\*  
Wig and Make-up Designer: Alison Hanks  
Chorus Master: Mark Ferrell  
Stage Manager: Vinnie Feraudo \*

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

Tickets start at just \$29 and availability varies by performance. To purchase tickets, call Ticketing & Patron Services (816) 471-7344. Patrons can select their own seat and print their tickets at home by visiting [www.kcopera.org](http://www.kcopera.org). Student rush tickets are available 90 minutes before the performances, with a valid student ID, for \$15.

### **Join Us for Our Expedition to Everest**

Enhance your opera experience by participating in these events:

#### **Meet Anthropologist, Author and Explorer, Wade Davis**

Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:30, KC Public Library, Central Branch

Discover the connection between the operas *Silent Night* and *Everest* by reading the book, *Into the Silence: The Great War, Mallory, and the Conquest of Everest* by Wade Davis. *Into the Silence* is the definitive story of the British adventurers who survived the trenches of World War I and went on to risk their lives climbing Mount Everest. Davis, an Explorer-in-Residence at the National Geographic Society, was awarded the 2012 Samuel Johnson Prize, the most prestigious award for literary nonfiction in the English language, for this book. FREE event, RSVP required. See [www.kcopera.org](http://www.kcopera.org) for more details.

#### **Explore the Score**

Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.

Nicole Paiement, conductor, and Gene Scheer, librettist, will take us on a guided tour of the fascinating score of *Everest* at the Michael & Ginger Frost Production Arts Building, 712 E 18<sup>th</sup> St., Kansas City, MO 64108. FREE Event, RSVP required.

**First Friday, Nov. 3, from 5 to 8 p.m. Presented by Lyric Opera of Kansas City at the Beth Ingram Administration Building** (17125 Holmes, KCMO) – November 3<sup>th</sup>: More information available [here](#).

#### **Lyric Opera Book Club**

Interested in reading literature that covers the stories, history, theme or other related things about the operas we produce? Join the Lyric Opera of Kansas City Book Club! To join, simply contact Linda Ade Brand, Director of Education and Community Engagement, at [lbrand@kcopera.org](mailto:lbrand@kcopera.org) 816.471.4933 or via our [online contact form](#).



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***Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster*** (1997) by Jon Krakauer.  
The harrowing true account of an epic disaster that inspired memoirs, movies, and an opera.

Book Club will be meeting on Sunday, November 5 at 2:00 p.m. at Lyric Opera of Kansas City's Michael and Ginger Frost Production Arts Building (712 E. 18<sup>th</sup> St., KCMO). Members need to provide their own books. Please RSVP to [kaitestover@kclibrary.org](mailto:kaitestover@kclibrary.org).

### **RoKC Climbing with baritone Craig Verm**

Join baritone and climbing enthusiast Craig Verm (Doug Hansen in *Everest*) on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the RoKC Climbing Gym (1501 Howell Street, North Kansas City, MO 64116). <http://www.climbkc.com/>. Climbing or watching begins at 5:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m. Gather in the event room to meet Craig Verm and hear about *Everest* and his real life climbing experiences. Snacks and sodas/water provided for a \$5 cover charge. Snacks and beer (max of 2) for \$10. Event ends at 8:30 p.m.

Sign up for the One Day Pass for \$15. Rent gear there – Harness: \$3.00, Shoes: \$5.00 and Chalk/Chalk Bag: \$2.00. Following orientation, the gym is yours to explore. Or just come watch! More information at [www.kcopera.org](http://www.kcopera.org)

### **Pre-Opera Talks**

Audience members are invited and encouraged to attend a FREE opera preview, presented by the Lyric Opera Guild, in the Muriel Kauffman Theatre within the Kauffman Center one hour before curtain. Lyric Opera Guild presenter Martin Nedbal will lead the 25-minute talks.

The Lyric Opera Guild also presents a series of FREE “At Ease with Opera” presentations prior to the performance dates.

### ***Everest* “At Ease with Opera” Presentations:**

**Monday, October 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kauffman Foundation** (4801 Rockhill Road, KCMO 64110). **Free to the public. Remounting *Everest*: The Vital Importance of a Second Performance.**

The life of any new opera is not unlike that of a person climbing a mountain. Once a piece has achieved the mountaintop experience of a premiere, it can fall into the crevasse of lack of attention and never be heard of again. A remount of the premiere production or a second production (with a different design) is the imperative next step if a new piece is to continue its ascent into the operatic repertoire. Join librettist **Gene Scheer** and set designer **R. Keith Brumley** as they discuss the Lyric's history of support of new works including Lee Hoiby's *The Tempest*, Jake Heggie's *End of the Affair* and now Joby Talbot and Gene Scheer's *Everest*.

**Monday, October 30 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kauffman Foundation** (4801 Rockhill Road, KCMO 64110). **Free to the public. *Everest*: Where the Earth Goes No Further.**

Kansas City native **Jim Martin** will be our guest speaker to discuss the challenges of high altitude mountaineering. His views are based upon 45 years of climbing experience in the Himalaya of Nepal, the Andes of Peru, the Cascades and Rocky Mountains,

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Yosemite, and many foreign countries. Jim is still an active climber and a member of the American Alpine Club, the Kansas City Climbing Community, and the RoKC climbing gym. He will discuss what it is like to participate in high-altitude mountaineering expeditions, climbing on alpine ice, snow climbing, and rock climbing. In particular, he will discuss the state of mind of mountain climbers, and what happens to a climber's mindset in high altitudes where the oxygen is low. Come discover what is involved in mountain climbing as part of your preparation for the Lyric Opera presentation of *Everest*.

**Monday, November 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kauffman Foundation** (4801 Rockhill Road, KCMO 64110). **Free to the public. Scaling the Mountain: Opera and Contemporary American Society.** Mark Twain expressed a common lament of the American operagoer when he opined, "I have attended operas, whenever I could not help it, for fourteen years now; I am sure I know of no agony comparable to the listening to an unfamiliar opera." To assuage this feeling, American opera houses have long leaned toward presenting classic European opera, but there has been a groundswell of support for new American opera over the past two decades. Join UMKC musicology professor **Andrew Granade** for an exploration of trends in recent operatic composition and production, from "CNN operas" like *Everest*, to operas in and from the movies, to mobile operas staged in cars and abandoned buildings across Los Angeles.

### ***Everest* Artistic Panel Post Show Talkback**

#### **The Making of the Opera**

*Everest* survivor Dr. Beck Weathers, Librettist Gene Scheer, and Composer Joby Talbot  
Saturday, Nov. 11

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts  
1601 Broadway, Kansas City, MO  
Immediately following the performance

Join us at the Kauffman Center following the Opening Night performance of *Everest* for this FREE talkback led by Deborah Sandler, General Director and CEO of Lyric Opera of Kansas City, featuring an in-depth and rare conversation about how this opera came into being.

### **The Young Friends of Lyric**

Young Friends of Lyric provides an exciting outlet for young arts supporters (ages 21 and up) in Kansas City to get involved in the community, meet other young professionals and support Lyric Opera of Kansas City. Membership benefits include complimentary beverages at Lyric Opera performances, networking opportunities, restaurant discounts, invitations to special events and more.

Young Friends of the Lyric membership is \$40, and includes benefits for 2 for a full 12 months. To join, visit [www.kcopera.org/yfl](http://www.kcopera.org/yfl) or contact Ticketing & Patron Services at 816-471-7344. Become a fan on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/YoungFriendsLyric) @YoungFriendsLyric to keep up with current events.

**Climb Every Mountain.** Join Young Friends of the Lyric for an informative and entertaining evening all about what opera is known for: those insane high notes! Come learn about this brand new opera, which premiered in 2015 and is being mounted for only the second time right here in Kansas City, and also about the history and tradition of operatic highs and lows. There will be live demonstrations, audience participation, drinks, snacks, and a few surprises.

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Join us in the beautiful and intimate Pilgrim Chapel (3801 Gillham Rd, Kansas City, MO 64111) on Friday, October 20th at 7 pm for all the fun and frivolity.

### **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](http://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](http://www.kcopera.org) for more information about Lyric Opera of Kansas City 2017-2018 season and [www.kauffmancenter.org](http://www.kauffmancenter.org) for a downloadable media kit about the Kauffman Center.

### **2017-2018 Season at a Glance:**

\* Lyric Opera debut

#### ***KANSAS CITY PREMIERE***

##### ***Everest***

Composer: Joby Talbot, 2015

Librettist: Gene Scheer

Sung in English with English subtitles

**Saturday, November 11, 2017** 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, November 15, 2017** 7:30 p.m.

**Friday, November 17, 2017** 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday, November 19, 2017** 2:00 p.m.

Director: Leonard Foglia \*

Conductor: Nicole Paiement \*

Beck Weathers: Michael Mayes \*

Jan Arnold: Sarah Larsen \*

Rob Hall: Andrew Bidlack \*

Doug Hansen: Craig Verm \*

Mike Groom: Mark McCrory

Guy Cotter: Tim Murray



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## ***Rigoletto***

Giuseppe Verdi, 1851

Sung in Italian with English subtitles

**Saturday, March 3, 2018**                      7:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday, March 7, 2018**                7:30 p.m.  
**Friday, March 9, 2018**                      7:30 p.m.  
**Sunday, March 11, 2018**                    2:00 p.m.

Director: David Gately

Conductor: David Charles Abell

Rigoletto: Leo An \*

Gilda: Nicole Haslett \*

Count Monterone: Andrew Gangestad

Duke: Scott Quinn

Maddalena: Zanda Švēde

Sparafucile: Peixin Chen \*

Marullo: Tim Murray

Giovanna: Alice Chung

Countess Ceprano: Lauren Auge\*

Page: Marlen Nahhas\*

Usher: Armando Contreras

Borsa: Martin Luther Clark

## ***REIMAGINED PRODUCTION***

### ***The Barber of Seville***

Gioachino Rossini, 1816

Sung in Italian with English subtitles

**Saturday, April 28, 2018**                    7:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday, May 2, 2018**                 7:30 p.m.  
**Friday, May 4, 2018**                        7:30 p.m.  
**Sunday, May 6, 2018**                        2:00 p.m.

Director: Michael Shell \*

Conductor: Leonardo Vordoni

Lighting Designer: Kendall Smith

Almaviva: Jack Swanson \*

Rosina: Cassandra Zoe Velasco \*

Figaro: Jarett Ott \*

Don Basilio: Brian Banion

Don Bartolo: Matthew Burns \*

Berta: Marlen Nahhas

Fiorello: Armando Contreras

Officer: Tim Murray

## **About Lyric Opera of Kansas City**

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. 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 Lyric Opera of Kansas City on Facebook or follow us on Twitter at @kcopera or on Instagram @kcopera.

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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.**

**For Tickets: [kcopera.org](http://kcopera.org) or 816.471.7344**