

# LYRIC OPERA

KANSAS CITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Lyric Opera of Kansas City  
Awarded Art Works Award from  
National Endowment for the Arts  
**\$25,000 to support 2017 production of Kansas City Premiere of *Dead Man Walking*  
and education and community engagement programs**

**Kansas City, MO (May 10, 2016)** – Lyric Opera of Kansas City General Director Deborah Sandler today announced that the organization has been awarded an Art Works award of \$25,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts in support of the Lyric Opera’s 2017 production of ***Dead Man Walking*** and related educational and community engagement activities. The Art Works category supports the creation of work and presentation of both new and existing work, lifelong learning in the arts, and public engagement with the arts through 13 arts disciplines or fields.

“The arts are all around us, enhancing our lives in ways subtle and obvious, expected and unexpected,” said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. “Supporting projects like the one from Lyric Opera of Kansas City offers more opportunities to engage in the arts every day.”

“This is a tremendous vote of support from the NEA for the direction and artistic vision of the Lyric Opera to capture the hearts and minds of our communities and this award affirms that mission,” stated Sandler. “This will enable us to present very special guests Sr. Helen Prejean and composer, Jake Heggie in exciting and engaging programs. We look forward to sharing more with the community soon.”

***Dead Man Walking*** has become a must-see modern classic since it opened in 2000 to critical acclaim. One of the most frequently performed contemporary operas in recent years, ***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. The opera is based on the novel by Sister Helen Prejean with music by **Jake Heggie** and libretto by **Terrence McNally**. It will be directed by **Kristine McIntyre**, in her fifth 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 **Karen Slack** in the role of Sister Rose. Conductor **Steven Osgood** will make his Lyric Opera debut as well. Performances will be March 4 through March 12, 2017 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

**Lyric Opera of Kansas City Announces National Endowment for the Arts Award for *Dead Man Walking***

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## **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.

## **2016-2017 Season at a Glance:**

### ***Hansel and Gretel***

**Engelbert Humperdinck 1893**

**Sung in German with English subtitles**

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

Director: Doug Varone

Conductor: John Keenan

Hansel: Megan Marino

Gretel: Rachele Gilmore

Witch: Victoria Livengood

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**

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

Director: Stephen Lawless

Conductor: Ryan McAdams

Count Almaviva: Edward Parks

Countess Almaviva: Katie Van Kooten

Figaro: Adam Lau

Susanna: Maureen McKay

Dr. Bartolo: Arthur Woodley

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Marcellina: Catherine Cook  
Don Basilio: Steven Cole

***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**

<b>Saturday, March 4, 2017</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 8, 2017</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Friday, March 10, 2017</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday, March 12, 2017</b>	<b>2:00 p.m.</b>

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

Owen Hart: Daniel Belcher

***The Pirates of Penzance***

**Gilbert & Sullivan 1879**

**Sung in English with English subtitles**

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

Director: James Alexander

Conductor: Hal France

Mabel: Anya Matanovic

Frederic: Jonathan Johnson

The Pirate King: Kevin Burdette

Major-General Stanley: Robert Gibby Brand

Ruth: Margaret Gawryslak

Sergeant of Police: Ben Wager

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

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