

LYRIC OPERA KANSAS CITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lyric Opera of Kansas City Presents Mozart's *The Magic Flute* to Continue 2013-14 Season

*Co-Production with San Francisco Opera featuring dazzling designs of Jun Kaneko
Nov. 9 - 17 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts*

Kansas City, MO (Oct. 9, 2013) – Lyric Opera of Kansas City continues its 56th season with a co-production of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *The Magic Flute* November 9, 13, 15 and 17, 2013 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

The innovative presentations of classic works continue the 2013-14 season. An ingenious interpretation of *The Magic Flute* features whimsical, colorful sets and costumes by renowned visual artist **Jun Kaneko**. This co-production with San Francisco Opera thrilled audiences and critics alike when performed in San Francisco.

General Director and CEO Deborah Sandler stated, "When I first saw Jun Kaneko's designs, I was immediately taken by the way that Kaneko infused the opera with color, vitality, whimsy and warmth. This production brings his artistic genius to life through projections and costumes. While his work is present in Kansas City, on display at Bartle Hall, I am excited to bring his unique vision expressed through a different medium to Kansas City."

All Star Cast and Production Team

Mozart's genius is supremely evident in his last opera, *The Magic Flute*. The deceptively simple fairytale story is matched with some of the most stunningly beautiful music ever written. From the coloratura pyrotechnics of the Queen of the Night's arias, to the lyrical anguish of Pamina's "Ach ich fühls," to the vaudeville-like love duet of Papageno and Papagena, the music illustrates what sets Mozart apart from his many rivals: a unique and profound understanding of humanity.

With a vibrant, sophisticated use of color and kinetic forms, **Jun Kaneko**, renowned ceramicist and visual artist, has created a magical world that, like Mozart's music, is engaging in its simplicity, but illustrates the depth of the story magnificently. Several of his unique pieces are on display in Kansas

City, located on the exterior concrete plaza of the Bartle Hall Convention Center in downtown Kansas City.

The Magic Flute will be directed by **Harry Silverstein** and features tenor **Shawn Mathey** as Tamino, soprano **Lauren Snouffer** as Pamina. Snouffer was recently named a “standout singer” by the *Wall Street Journal*, while Mathey has been described by *The Opera Critic* as bringing “a rich tenor and shapely phrasing” to this role. The cast also features soprano **Kathryn Lewek** as the Queen of the Night, baritone **Daniel Belcher** as Papageno and tenor **Doug Jones** as Monostatos.

The production will be conducted by Gary Thor Wedow, who is making his Lyric Opera debut.

“I am thrilled to welcome Gary Thor Wedow to Kansas City for his debut with the Lyric Opera of Kansas City and the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts,” Ward Holmquist stated. “He brings a particular strength in baroque and classical music and this production will flourish under his baton. Kansas City audiences are truly fortunate to experience his vibrant and lively artistry.”

Conductor Gary Thor Wedow has established an enviable reputation for dramatically exciting and historically informed performances with opera companies, orchestras, festivals, and choral organizations throughout North America. In December of 2012, he debuted with the New York Philharmonic conducting *Messiah*, an occasion noted in the **New York Times** for ‘a fleet, lithe orchestral performance, aptly complemented by the buoyant singing of the chorus’. Some of his most recent successes include Gluck’s *Orphée* and *Die Zauberflöte* for the Seattle Opera, *Le donne curiose* for Wolf Trap Opera and *Agrippina* for Boston Lyric Opera. Maestro Wedow has been closely associated with New York City Opera for many years; most recently he led their *Don Giovanni* in the Christopher Alden production and last May conducted the New York premiere of Telemann’s *Orpheus*. Highlights of his 2012-2013 season include *La finta giardiniera* for the San Francisco Opera’s Merola Program and a return to Seattle Opera for a double bill of *La voix humaine* and *Suor Angelica*.

University Apprentices

The Lyric Opera Apprentice Program is a collaboration with the Conservatory of Music and Dance at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and the School of Music at the University of Kansas. During the two-year program students gain experience and training with the Lyric Opera to become professional opera singers. University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) apprentices **Samantha Gossard** and **Elliot Harrison Brown** will perform singing in the chorus. University of Kansas apprentices **Tara Cooper** will perform *Third Lady* and **Dominic Johnson** and **Clark Weyrauch** will perform in the chorus.

Principal Cast

Tamino: Shawn Mathey
Pamina: Lauren Snouffer*
Queen of the Night: Kathryn Lewek*
Sarastro: Jeffrey Beruan @
Papageno: Daniel Belcher
Papagena: Angela Gribble ~
Monostatos: Doug Jones

Artistic Staff

Conductor: Gary Thor Wedow*

Director: Harry Silverstein*

Production, Costume and Video Designer: Jun Kaneko

Lighting Designer: Chris Maravich

Wig and Make-Up Designer: Alison Hanks

Chorus Master: Mark Ferrell

Stage Manager: Jennifer Rimmer

*Lyric Opera Debut

~UMKC Apprentice

@ Former Lyric Opera Apprentice

Ticket availability varies by performance. To purchase tickets, call Ticketing & Patron Services (816) 471-7344 or 1-800-OPERA KC (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.

Opera Previews

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 Don Dagenais 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.

The Magic Flute “At Ease with Opera” Presentations:

Tuesday, October 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kauffman Foundation (4801 Rockhill Road, KCMO) **R. Keith Brumley**, Lyric Opera of Kansas City’s director of design and technical production, will give a presentation about the interesting physical production for *The Magic Flute*.

Monday, October 28 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kauffman Foundation (4801 Rockhill Road, KCMO) by Lyric Opera preview speakers **Richard Byrum** and **Don Dagenais** will give a presentation featuring funny stories and anecdotes about opera singers, composers, stagings, performances, opera “bloopers,” etc. in an evening devoted solely to humor.

First Friday, November 1 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Beth Ingram Administration Building (1725 Holmes, KCMO) Apprentices will be performing on the hour. *The Magic Flute* set designs from concept to creation will be on display, and attendees can take pictures of themselves “wearing” select performance costumes. Complimentary drinks and snacks.

Monday, November 4 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kauffman Foundation (4801 Rockhill Road, KCMO) Rebecca Johnson, president of the Lyric Opera Guild, will give a detailed preview of *The Magic Flute*.

Young Friends of the Lyric Opera

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. The group hosts “Cocktails with Friends” social hours prior to every opening night performance. You do not have to be a member to attend these happy hours. Membership benefits include admission into a private room with complimentary drinks and food during intermissions, networking opportunities, restaurant discounts, invitations to special events and all the benefits of being a Lyric Opera Guild member.

Young Friends of the Lyric membership is \$25 for an individual, \$40 for a couple, or \$75 for a dual patron membership. To join, contact youngfriends@kcopera.org. 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.

Visit www.kcopera.org for more information about Lyric Opera of Kansas City 2013-2014 season and www.kauffmancenter.org for a downloadable media kit about the Kauffman Center.

2013-2014 Season at a Glance

The Capulets and the Montagues

(I Capuleti e i Montecchi)

Vincenzo Bellini 1830

Sung in Italian with English and Italian titles

September 21, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

September 25, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

September 27, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

September 29, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

Director: Kevin Newbury

Conductor: Ward Holmquist

Production Designer: Victoria (Vita) Tzykun

Romeo: Joyce DiDonato

Giulietta: Nicole Cabell

Tebaldo: William Burden

Capellio: Stephen Morscheck

Lorenzo: Julien Robbins

The Magic Flute

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart 1791

Sung in English with English and German titles

November 9, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

November 13, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

November 15, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

November 17, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

Director: Harry Silverstein

Conductor: Gary Thor Wedow

Production Designer: Jun Kaneko

Tamino: Shawn Mathey

Pamina: Lauren Snouffer

Queen of the Night: Kathryn Lewek

Papageno: Daniel Belcher

Monostatos: Doug Jones

La bohème

Giacomo Puccini 1896

Sung in Italian with English and Italian titles

March 15, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

March 17, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

March 19, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

March 21, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

March 23, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

Director: Linda Brovsky

Conductor: Craig Kier

Rodolfo: Giorgio Berrugi

Mimi: Katie Van Kooten

Marcello: Lucas Meachem

Musetta: Ellie Dehn

Colline: Ben Wager

Schaunard: Marcus DeLoach

Alcindoro/Benoit: Rod Nelman

Die Fledermaus

Johann Strauss II 1874

Sung in English with English and German titles

Saturday, April 26, 2014 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 30, 2014 7:30 p.m.

Friday, May 2, 2014 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 4, 2014 2:00 p.m.

Director: Tomer Zvulun
Conductor: Ward Holmquist
Production Designer: R. Keith Brumley
Eisenstein: Liam Bonner
Rosalinde: Kelly Kaduce
Alfred: Gordon Gietz

Building for the Future

On November 4, 2010 the Lyric Opera of Kansas City announced a Capital Campaign for the renovation of property on 18th and Charlotte in the Kansas City Crossroads Arts District for the new Richard J. Stern Opera Center. The Company moved from its temporary home to the new Opera Center campus located at 1725 Holmes on July 5, 2012.

The new Opera Center complex consists of two buildings: the Michael and Ginger Frost Production Arts Building and the Beth Ingram Administration building with set rental inventory storage. The Production Arts Building includes a rehearsal space that matches the footprint of the stage in the Muriel Kauffman Theatre at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. The Production Arts Building houses a full wig, costume and set construction shop and facilities for educational and community outreach programs. Such an integrated and dedicated production facility does not exist in Kansas City; the Company envisions the Production Arts Building becoming a resource for other local performing arts companies.

The second building on the property is adjacent to the Production Arts building. It provides the Company with set rental inventory storage, parking lots and outside green spaces for the Opera Center, and houses the administrative staff.

About Lyric Opera of Kansas City

The Lyric Opera of Kansas City was founded in 1958; it is one of the nations' 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.

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