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Lyric Opera of Kansas City Presents

The Flying Dutchman

All New Production Designed by R. Keith Brumley

Original Costumes Designed for Production

Internationally Renowned Baritone Richard Paul Fink as the Cursed Sea Captain

Kansas City, MO (January 17, 2013) – Lyric Opera of Kansas City presents Richard Wagner’s *The Flying Dutchman* March 2, 6, 8, 10, 2013 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts after a 38-year absence from the Company’s repertoire.

“How fitting for Lyric Opera of Kansas City to produce “The Flying Dutchman” as we enter 2013,” said Deborah Sandler, Lyric Opera General Director and CEO. “After all, this is the year the international music community will focus on Richard Wagner, as we mark the 200th anniversary of his birth and the 130th anniversary of his death. This romantic and exquisite work and educational programs will deepen patrons’ knowledge and appreciation of Wagner.”

All New Production Designed by R. Keith Brumley

Director of Design and Technical Production, R. Keith Brumley has wowed audiences with his past work on landmark Lyric Opera productions such as *Turandot* (2011) and *Carmen* (2010). Of the *Turandot* production, Sarah Tyrell of KCMetropolis.org raved, “The sets were simply phenomenal.”

The Muriel Kauffman Theatre lends itself to producing a large Wagnerian piece with its large stage footprint, expansive fly space and upstage scenic storage space. This larger, more contemporary venue allowed Mr. Brumley to dream big when designing the

haunted ship. “We have been saving this production for the Kauffman Center to fully do the piece justice,” notes Mr. Brumley. “The ship will fill the space and provide ample room for the performers to employ the ship’s riggings throughout the opera.”

Creating a new production of *The Flying Dutchman* is the realization of one of the Lyric Opera artistic staff’s dreams. “We’ve been dreaming of doing this production for the past five years, and we’re thrilled to have Bernard Uzan directing,” said Lyric Opera Artistic Director Ward Holmquist. Mr. Uzan most recently directed *Carmen* in 2010 with the Company; this is the first time Uzan has directed *The Flying Dutchman*.

At its core, *The Flying Dutchman* is a love story. This production will have a romantic feel, with plenty of recognizable images. The artistic team found inspiration in the etchings of the 19th century French artist Gustave Doré, specifically in his work for “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner.” The audience will see this inspiration reflected in the projections during the overture, which were created by Venice Communications, Inc. in collaboration with Wide Awake Films.

Original Costumes Designed for Production

Lyric Opera Costume Designer Mary Traylor will design original costumes reflective of Norwegian Villagers in the late 19th century for the production. Ms. Traylor has designed all-new costumes for several Lyric Opera productions including *Così fan Tutte* (2011), *Turandot* (2011) and *John Brown* (2008). The costumes will be constructed by Kansas City Costume, a company which recently designed the costumes for the Broadway production of *Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

Internationally Renowned Baritone Richard Paul Fink as the Cursed Sea Captain
Richard Paul Fink (*Nixon in China* 2012, *Rigoletto* 2010) returns to the Lyric Opera to sing the title role in this Wagner masterpiece. *Opera News* hailed him in the role noting, “Fink was a healthy, big-voiced, commanding Dutchman.” An international opera star, Fink has performed with the Metropolitan Opera, The Berlin State Opera (Berlin Staatsoper), and Sydney Opera among many others.

Of Mr. Fink’s most recent appearance with the Lyric Opera, Paul Horsley at *The Independent* wrote, “Richard Paul Fink’s serious demeanor and always distinctive voice (he’s one of those singers you could identify in the dark) made his Henry Kissinger into a more serious role than usual, more absentminded professor than buffoon.”

Acclaimed Artists Make Their Lyric Opera Debuts

Soprano Melissa Citro makes her Lyric Opera debut as Senta. Ms. Citro has appeared on the stages of San Francisco Opera as Freia in *Das Rheingold* and Virginia Opera as Sieglinde in *Die Walküre*. *The Richmond Times-Dispatch* praised her stating, “Citro is a rising star...her stage presence and obvious talent should be seen and heard more and more.” Most recently she joined the cast of *The Makropoulos Case* at the Metropolitan Opera.

Tenor John Pickle plays Senta’s huntsman suitor, Erik. Mr. Pickle appeared in *Turandot* with Mobile Opera and in *I Pagliacci* with Michigan Opera Theatre. Mr. Pickle performed the role of Erik in 2010 with Mobile Opera, and *The Press-Register* noted, “Pickle is in his element, performing his role with a heart-rending passion. His entreaties have the force of a man ripping at his own insides in frustration.” In February 2013 Mr. Pickle will portray Riccardo in *Un Ballo in Maschera* with Opera Tampa, and the title role in *Candide* with Fresno Grand Opera.

Bass-baritone Philip Cokorinos, will portray the role of Senta’s father, Daland. Mr. Cokorinos has performed more than 80 leading roles in his career, and this season he will play the title role of *Don Pasquale* with Opera Santa Barbara. *Opera News* has described his voice as “first-rate.”

Principal Cast

Senta: Melissa Citro*

The Dutchman: Richard Paul Fink

Erik: John Pickle*

Daland: Philip Cokorinos*

Steersman: Casey Finnigan~

Mary: Suzanne Hendrix

Artistic Staff:

Director: Bernard Uzan

Conductor: Ward Holmquist

Set: R. Keith Brumley

Costumes: Kansas City Costume Company

Costume Designer: Mary Traylor

Lighting Designer: Michael Baumgarten

Wig and Make-Up Designer: Joanne Middleton Weaver

Chorus Master: Mark Ferrell

Props Master: Deborah Morgan

Stage Manager: Jennifer Rimmer

Animation/Projection Design: Venice Communications, Inc.

in collaboration with Wide Awake Films
*Lyric Opera Debut
~UMKC Apprentice

About *The Flying Dutchman*

Richard Wagner's tremendous music, set to this haunting tale of a damned sea captain who can only be saved by true love, will encompass the entire theatre, overtaking the audience's senses with its enormous sets, voices and orchestra score.

The Flying Dutchman will be sung in German with English and German titles visible on personal monitors mounted on each audience member's seatback in the Muriel Kauffman Theatre. This production will be performed in the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, located at 1601 Broadway, Kansas City, MO 64108.

Performance dates are as follows:

Saturday, March 2, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 6, 2013 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 8, 2013 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 10, 2013 2:00 p.m.

Ticket availability varies by performance. To purchase tickets, call 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. A limited number of student rush tickets are available for \$15 one hour prior the performances. Students must present a valid student ID and pay in cash at the Kauffman Center ticket office. Students may purchase one ticket per 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 Flying Dutchman "At Ease with Opera" Presentations:

"At Ease with Opera" is presented free of charge by the Lyric Opera Guild at the Kauffman Foundation (4801 Rockhill Road, KCMO).

Monday, February 4, 7:00 p.m. "Do Dutchmen Really Fly?" by Don Dagenais. This will be an in-depth preview of *The Flying Dutchman* with video

and audio excerpts, exploring the background myth, the position of this opera in Wagner's musical development and its seminal role in the birth of many of his compositional techniques.

Monday, February 11, 7:00 p.m. "Myth and Wagner" by Dr. Ernest Neighbor, local opera buff. This program will focus on ancient German myths and how Wagner used them as the subject matter for most of his operas.

Monday, February 25, 7:00 p.m. "Wagner's Music is Better than it Sounds," by Dr. Richard Childs, local Wagner buff. This program will be an introduction to Wagnerian opera for those who are relative newcomers to Wagnerian opera, but there will also be many interesting tidbits of information that will be enjoyable for those who know their Wagnerian operas well.

The Bohemians: Young Friends of the Lyric Opera

The Bohemians is the Lyric Opera organization for young professionals (age 21-40). The Bohemians offer great opportunities to get involved in the community, meet other young adults, and learn a little something about opera too! Bohemians enjoy discounted single tickets, monthly Third Friday Happy Hour gatherings at local hot spots, and special invitations to exclusive events. The Bohemians gather for dinner prior to Saturday night performances at one of the many Lyric Opera restaurant partners, where ticket holders receive discounted meals when they show their performance ticket. To learn more, email bohemians@kcoera.org.

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 patrons of Kansas City 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 20,000 students and educators each year.

New Leadership at the Lyric Opera

On July 1st, 2012, Deborah Sandler began her tenure as new Executive Director and CEO at the Lyric Opera. Previously, Ms. Sandler served as General Director of Opera Festival of New Jersey, in Princeton, NJ for ten years and then as General Director of Kentucky

Opera. During her tenure in each of these companies, Ms. Sandler developed institutional resources and capacities resulting in the growth and acclaim of each company. Ms. Sandler has a commitment to deepening community connections through the creation of programs which involve and engage audiences of diverse ages. Originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Ms. Sandler received her Bachelor's of Arts in Music from Temple University and a Master's degree in Musicology from New York University. Ms. Sandler also has studied at the Mandel Center for Nonprofits at Case Western Reserve and at the Fundraising School at Indiana University.

Building for Success

On July 5, 2012, the Lyric Opera moved from its temporary home to the new Opera Center located at 1725 Holmes.

The Richard J. Stern Opera Center complex consists of two buildings: a Production Arts building and an Administrative building with set rental inventory storage. The Michael & Ginger Frost Production Arts building includes a rehearsal space that matches the footprint of the stage of 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 did not exist until now 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. The Beth Ingram Administration Building provides the Company with set rental inventory storage, parking lots and outside green spaces for the Opera Center, and houses the administrative staff.

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, a new multi-venue center for music, opera, theater, and dance designed by Moshe Safdie, opened in Kansas City September 16, 2011. The Kauffman Center seeks to enrich the lives of all Greater Kansas City residents by presenting vibrant performances, educational programming, and creating a tradition 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's two performance venues. The 1,600-seat Helzberg Hall and the 1,800-seat Muriel Kauffman Theatre 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 dramatic 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 www.kauffmancenter.org.

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 production is made possible with funding from Richard J. Stern Foundation for the Arts, Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation, Hall Family Foundation, Lyric Opera of Kansas City Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts, ArtsKC and Missouri Art Council.

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