



**EMBARGOED UNTIL FEBRUARY 25, 2013 @9:00 a.m. CST**

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**Lyric Opera of Kansas City Announces  
2013-2014 Season ‘Building on Greatness’  
at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts**

*Joyce DiDonato and Nicole Cabell Star in  
Company Premiere of Bellini’s The Capulets and the Montagues*

*New Co-production of The Magic Flute features designs by world  
renowned visual artist Jun Kaneko*

*La bohème features return engagement of Katie Van Kooten as Mimi  
and U.S. debut of Italian tenor Giorgio Berrugi straight from his La Scala debut*

Kansas City, MO (February 25, 2013) – Lyric Opera of Kansas City **General Director and CEO Deborah Sandler** today announced the 2013-2014 season in the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

Lyric Opera of Kansas City is “building on greatness” in its 56<sup>th</sup> season by engaging some of the world’s most famous opera stars, the most sought-after directors and innovative production designers.

“I am so delighted to announce our coming season, which brings to Kansas City audiences some of the finest talent working in opera today,” said Deborah Sandler, General Director and CEO. “We present a rich season of varied works which span opera’s rich history. Building on an impressive history, Lyric Opera of Kansas City takes a bold step to build on the heritage of the Company and our community’s great passion for the arts as seen in our fabulous arts resources and aspirations.”



The season opens with superstar **Joyce DiDonato** as Romeo in the Company's premiere of Bellini's *The Capulets and the Montagues*. **Nicole Cabell** sings the role of Giulietta. *Opera News* wrote, "DiDonato's...Act 1 duet with Cabell was sublime." This duo's rich voices will fill the Muriel Kauffman Theatre with Bellini's exquisite *bel canto* (beautiful singing) melodies throughout this evocative production.

New interpretations of classic works fill the season. An ingenious interpretation of *The Magic Flute* features dazzling, 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. The season also features one of the most beloved operas of all time, Puccini's *La bohème* and concludes with the satirical operetta, *Die Fledermaus*.

## 2013-2014 Season

New Production and Company Premiere

### ***The Capulets and the Montagues***

***(I Capuleti e i Montecchi)***

Vincenzo Bellini 1830

Sung in Italian with English and Italian titles

September 21, 2013 7:30 p.m.

September 25, 2013 7:30 p.m.

September 27, 2013 7:30 p.m.

September 29, 2013 2:00 p.m.

The theme of forbidden love is indeed timeless, and Verona's doomed lovers have inspired plays, novels and movies, as well as ballets and operas for centuries.

Based on renaissance legend (rather than Shakespeare's play), a longstanding political feud drives the drama in Bellini's opera, adding a fascinating layer to this *bel canto* masterpiece. The score's vocal fireworks are tempered by elegant and luminously beautiful duets illustrating Bellini's passionate love affair with the human voice.



After nearly a decade of critically acclaimed performances and award-winning recordings since **Joyce DiDonato** last appeared with the Company (*Cinderella* 2004), the Kansas City native and Grammy award-winning superstar returns to sing the role of Romeo. *Opera News* raved of her performance in the role with San Francisco Opera, writing that “DiDonato’s voice is a marvel – tender and expressive in Bellini’s long-breathed melodies, mercurial in the opera’s most intricate passagework – and her ornamentation is focused and flawless.” This will be DiDonato’s debut engagement in the Muriel Kauffman Theatre.

Singing alongside DiDonato is internationally acclaimed soprano **Nicole Cabell** who will be making her Lyric Opera debut as Giulietta. She recently sang the role at the San Francisco Opera where *The Times (London)* wrote of Cabell’s voice, “It’s a voice that wraps itself around you...long, sinuous phrasing, warm tone and a sophistication that touches everything she sings.” Along with performances at the Metropolitan Opera and Royal Opera House, she won the 2005 BBC Singer of the World Competition.

Joining DiDonato and Cabell is tenor **William Burden** whose voice has been described as, “honest, expressive and clear” by *The New York Times*. Burden has sung at acclaimed opera houses including the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera and Lyric Opera of Chicago. *The Capulets and The Montagues* will be conducted by **Leonardo Vordoni** who has conducted at Metropolitan Opera, Santa Fe Opera and Lyric Opera of Chicago. In addition, **Stephen Morscheck** will sing the role of Capellio and **Julien Robbins** will sing the role of Lorenzo.

**Kevin Newbury** will direct this evocative opera. *The New York Times* raved of one of Newbury’s productions writing that it was “...directed with imagination and emotional nuance...” This will be Newbury’s Lyric Opera company debut, as well as his debut with this opera. Newbury has directed at major opera houses including Houston Grand Opera and Santa Fe Opera and will direct upcoming performances at Lyric Opera Chicago and Canadian Opera Company.

Also making her Lyric Opera debut is production designer **Victoria (Vita) Tzykun** who has worked in a variety of arts forms: operas, ballets, film, commercials including Lady Gaga’s television special, “A Very Gaga Thanksgiving.” She has designed for opera companies such as Boston Lyric Opera, Dallas Opera and the Kennedy Center.



## ***The Magic Flute***

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart 1791

Sung in English with English and German titles

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

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

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

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

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.

"I first saw Jun Kaneko's designs more than two years ago," said **Artistic Director Ward Holmquist**, "I was taken by the way that Kaneko infused the opera with color, vitality, wit and warmth. This production is his art come to life through projections and costumes. I am very excited to present this original style to our Kansas City audience."

*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.

## ***La bohème***

Giacomo Puccini 1896

Sung in Italian with English and Italian titles



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

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

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

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

Perhaps the most beloved opera of all time, *La bohème* follows the adventures of a quartet of irrepressible and impoverished young Parisians. When the seamstress Mimì and the poet Rodolfo fall in love, the fragile nature of life and love follow the course of the changing seasons.

Puccini's tenderly beautiful music plays in counterpoint to the comic antics of the bohemians, creating an unforgettable and enduring masterpiece.

Rising star **Katie Van Kooten** returns to the Lyric Opera after her acclaimed performance as Countess Almaviva to sing the role of Mimì. She performed the role of Mimì at Houston Grand Opera and Royal Opera House to much acclaim. *Opera News* wrote of her performance with Houston Grand Opera, "Katie Van Kooten sang with a soprano of richness and warmth, which was a delight to the ears..."

Performing the role of Rodolfo marks the United States debut and Lyric Opera debut of tenor **Giorgio Berrugi**. Berrugi has performed in *La bohème* at the Festival Puccini and has sung several roles at the Semperoper Dresden.

Directed by **Linda Brovsky** and conducted by **Craig Kier**, the cast of bohemians also includes **Lucas Meachem** as Marcello, **Ellie Dehn** as Musetta, **Ben Wagner** as Colline, **Marcus DeLoach** as Schaunard and **Rod Nelman** as Alcindoro/Benoit.

"We have brought together a highly memorable cast," said Artistic Director Ward Holmquist. "This is a group of artists that any company would be proud to have on its stage to bring to life one of the greatest and most loved operas of all time."

## ***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.

Johann Strauss' effervescent operetta satirizes the decadent society of his time. Before serving a short jail sentence for offending the tax collector, Gabriel von Eisenstein stops by Prince Orlofsky's ball as a last-minute diversion. Eisenstein and his friends are confounded by masked identities while spouses push the limits of fidelity. After hilarious twists and turns, the evening's indiscretions are ascribed to the effects of too much bubbly champagne.

This will be a new production is designed by **R. Keith Brumley** and conducted by Artistic Director **Ward Holmquist**. *Die Fledermaus* will be directed by **Tomer Zvulun**, who has directed at the Metropolitan Opera, Seattle Opera and Wolf Trap Opera. The cast includes tenor **Gordon Gietz** as Alfred, **Kelly Kaduce** as Rosalinde and tenor **Liam Bonner** as Eisenstein, whose voice has been described as a "big baritone" by *The Wall Street Journal*.

"Our season spans significant periods of opera history and performance," said General Director and CEO **Deborah Sandler**. "From the classicism of Mozart through the bel canto music of Bellini, followed by Puccini's Italiante and theatrical romanticism, we close the season with music by the son of the famous Waltz King. Johann Strauss, the Younger, was a consummate master of operetta. We are pleased to bring to you a work of great panache and comic timing which will round out our season's offerings and give our audience a truly entertaining conclusion to this season."

### **Ticket Information**

All performances will be held in the Muriel Kauffman Theatre at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. All performances will be accompanied by members of the Kansas City Symphony. Season ticket holders for the 2012-2013 season receive a substantial discount - four operas for the price of three. Subscribers to the 2013-2014 season will receive subscription renewal information beginning the week of February 25, 2013, and will have until April 29 to renew or improve their current subscription and seat locations. Reservations for new subscriptions will go on sale to the general public on February 25,



2013. Renewing subscribers receive priority seating. Single tickets will go on sale to the general public on Monday, August 12, 2013.

Season ticket prices range from \$165 to \$465. For ticket information, contact Lyric Opera Patron Services at (816) 471-7344, toll free at 1-877-OPERA KC (673-7252), or visit Lyric Opera Patron Services at 1725 Holmes Street in downtown Kansas City.

### **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.

### **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 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 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 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 2013-2014 season and [www.kauffmancenter.org](http://www.kauffmancenter.org) for a downloadable media kit about the Kauffman Center.



## 2013-2014 Season at a Glance:

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Director: Kevin Newbury

Conductor: Leonardo Vordoni

Production Designer Victoria (Vita) Tzykun

Romeo: Joyce DiDonato

Giulietta: Nicole Cabell

Tebaldo: William Burden

Capellio: Stephen Morscheck

Lorenzo: Julien Robbins

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Production Designer: Jun Kaneko

Tamino: Shawn Mathey

Pamina: Lauren Snouffer

Queen of the Night: Kathryn Lewek

Papageno: Daniel Belcher

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Rodolfo: Giorgio Berrugi

Mimi: Katie Van Kooten

Marcello: Lucas Meachem

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Conductor: Ward Holmquist

Production Designer: R. Keith Brumley

Eisenstein: Liam Bonner

Rosalinde: Kelly Kaduce

Alfred: Gordon Gietz

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

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