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Lyric Opera of Kansas City Announces New Key Board and Staff Appointments

Kansas City, MO (July 25, 2013) – Lyric Opera of Kansas City today announced key appointments to the Company’s Board of Trustees and senior staff, according to Deborah Sandler, General Director and CEO.

The Board of Trustees has elected Kenneth V. Hager as President of the Board and Phyllis Leach as Vice President. The Board President is elected for a two year term which runs from July 2013 through June 2015. Mr. Hager is currently Vice President, CFO and Treasurer at DST Systems. Ms. Leach is Assistant General Counsel at Hallmark Cards, Inc.

For a complete listing of the Lyric Opera of Kansas City Board of Trustees, please refer to our website: www.kcopera.org.

The Lyric Opera also announced the following additions and promotions to the senior staff:

Liz Benditt has joined the Lyric Opera as the new Director of Marketing and Communications. Ms. Benditt joins the Lyric Opera with over 15 years marketing experience. She led integrated marketing initiatives at well-known brands including Disney, Hallmark, Bluetooth, and most recently Westlake Ace Hardware. Prior to joining Westlake Ace, she served as Vice President, Marketing at Multi Service where she led the revitalization of the legacy Multi Service brand. She earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Broadcast & Film Communications from Boston University and her MBA from the University of Southern California.

Ken McClain has been promoted to Director of Ticketing and Patron Services. He has been with the Lyric Opera since 2010.

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, Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation and Lyric Opera of Kansas City Circle.

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Please direct all media inquiries to Ellen McDonald, 816.444.0052.

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