

LYRIC OPERA

KANSAS CITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lyric Opera of Kansas City
2018-2019 Season Continues with
Così fan tutte
NEW-TO-KANSAS CITY PRODUCTION
March 16 - 24 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

***Lyric Opera debuts include Daniela Mack, Vanessa Vasquez, Alasdair Kent and Noted Conductor Jane Glover CBE
John Viscardi, Maureen McKay, Patrick Carfizzi and Director James Alexander return to Lyric Opera***

Kansas City, MO (Feb. 18, 2019) – Lyric Opera of Kansas City continues its 2018-2019 season with Mozart’s sophisticated comedy *Così fan tutte* March 16, 20, 22 and 24 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. The production will be sung in Italian with English subtitles.

This extravagant production from San Francisco Opera places Mozart’s classic opera in the glittering Belle Époque era at a lavish Monte Carlo resort. Early music specialist **Jane Glover, CBE** will conduct in her Kansas City debut; she has held posts at such prestigious organizations as the Royal Academy of Music, Oxford University, and the London Philharmonic. She is also the author of two important musical biographies, *Mozart’s Women* and *Handel in London*. She was created a Commander of the British Empire in 2003.

Directed by **James Alexander**, who debuted with Lyric Opera with *The Pirates of Penzance* (2017), the cast features **Daniela Mack** in the role of Dorabella and **Vanessa Vasquez** as Fiordiligi. Mack recently made her Metropolitan Opera debut, and both Mack and Vasquez will make their Lyric Opera debuts. **Alasdair Kent** will also make his Lyric Opera debut in the role of Ferrando; his repertoire includes multiple Mozart roles. Former Resident Artist **John Viscardi** returns as Guglielmo; he appeared with Lyric Opera in *The Juliet Letters* and *Dead Man Walking* in 2017. **Maureen McKay** (Susanna in Lyric Opera’s *The Marriage of Figaro*, 2016) returns in the role of Despina. **Patrick Carfizzi**, who portrayed Dulcamara in Lyric Opera’s *The Elixir of Love* in 2016, returns as the scheming Don Alfonso.

General Director and CEO **Deborah Sandler** said, “For me, Mozart is certainly one of and possibly the desert island composer. Among his works, *Così* with its profound beauty and pairing of text and music, holds a vaulted place. How fortunate, then, to bring to this production such a

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stellar team of artists, led in the pit by the remarkable Maestro Jane Glover. World-renowned for her expertise in early music, she is in demand around the globe. We are extremely lucky that she joins us, not only in conducting but in a rare community event. Her creative partner is the effervescent director James Alexander who brings this colorful production to the stage. You last enjoyed his work in *The Pirates of Penzance*. A perfect antidote to the winter blues.”

Tickets to *Così fan tutte* start at just \$29 and availability varies by performance. To purchase tickets, call Ticketing & Patron Services (816) 471-7344. Patrons can select their own seats and print their tickets at home by visiting www.kcopera.org. Limited student rush tickets are available for \$15 starting 90 minutes before the performances, with a valid student ID.

Così fan tutte is sponsored in part by the Master Craftsmen Foundation, Sherrill Mulhern.



Three things about *Così fan tutte* :

1. Jane Glover, conductor, in her 2006 book *Mozart's Women*, wrote of *Così fan tutte*'s controversial theme: "Not unlike his contemporary Jane Austen, he {Lorenzo Da Ponte} focused on a fragment of contemporary society, and from it made sweeping observations on the human condition, with all its vulnerabilities, eccentricities and foibles. His text is rich in detail, but it is the alchemy of Mozart's music that transforms this script into something altogether more subtle, more profound and more magnificent."
2. The opera's full title is *Così fan tutte, ossia La scuola degli amanti (Così fan tutte, or The School for Lovers)*. It is more commonly shortened to *Così fan tutte*, which can be loosely translated as "they're (women) all like that."
3. Mozart disliked prima donna Adriana Ferrese del Bene, librettist Da Ponte's arrogant mistress, for whom the role of Fiordiligi had been created. Knowing her idiosyncratic tendency to drop her chin on low notes and throw back her head on high ones, Mozart filled Ferrese's showpiece aria "Come scoglio" with constant vocal leaps, in order to make her head "bob like a chicken" onstage.

Così fan tutte, or The School for Lovers (1789)

By Wolfgang A. Mozart

Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte

Sung in Italian with English subtitles

Four performances at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

- Last performed at Lyric Opera of Kansas City in 2011

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- This production of *Così fan tutte* is a joint production of Opéra de Monte-Carlo and San Francisco Opera.

Performances of *Così fan tutte*

- Saturday, March 16, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, March 22, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, March 24, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Overview of *Così fan tutte*

It is hard to know who is the most cynical character in Mozart's late-career masterpiece; perhaps he would have wanted it that way. With his famous collaborator Lorenzo Da Ponte, he concocted a heady mix of fiancée-swapping, silly disguises, broken promises, possibly some ancient mythology, and pure musical magic that makes it all work together. Is it true that all women are unfaithful? What we know for sure is that when devoted couples attend "The School for Lovers" in Monte Carlo, all bets are off.

Cast and Artistic Team: *Così fan tutte*

(bios available at <https://kcopera.org/performances/Così-fan-tutte-19/>)

Fiordiligi	Vanessa Vasquez *
Dorabella	Daniela Mack *
Ferrando	Alasdair Kent *
Guglielmo	John Viscardi ^
Despina	Maureen McKay
Don Alfonso	Patrick Carfizzi

Conductor	Jane Glover *
Stage Director	James Alexander
Lighting Designer	Paul Hackenmueller *
Wig and Makeup Designer	David Zimmerman
Chorus Master	Kirk Severtson *
Stage Manager	Karl Anderson

* Lyric Opera Debut

^ Former Lyric Opera Resident Artist

+ Resident Artist

Related Events

Love and War: *Così fan tutte*

Sun., Feb. 17, 2:00 p.m.

The Great War is the setting for Lyric Opera of Kansas City's thoughtfully updated production of Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. Can lovers separated during war keep their love alive? This event intertwines the reading of love letters from the National WWI Museum's archives with musical excerpts sung by LOKC Resident Artists.

The National WWI Museum and Memorial (2 Memorial Drive, Kansas City, MO 64108)

FREE Event, RSVP required at <https://my.theworldwar.org/2638/2642>

The Kansas City Lyric Opera Guild presents "At Ease with Opera:"

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Monday, Feb. 25 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kauffman Foundation (4801 Rockhill Road, KCMO 64110).

Singing Elegance: Great Interpreters of Mozart

Join renowned tenor Vinson Cole, director of LOKC's Resident Artist Program, for an introduction to some of the greatest Mozart interpreters of the past. Learn what makes these singers and their performances iconic and unforgettable. Free and open to everyone; RSVP requested at (816) 471-7344 or labrand@kcopera.org.

Monday, March 4 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kauffman Foundation (4801 Rockhill Road, KCMO 64110).

Divine Child, Hated Rival: Untangling the Mozart Myths

Mozart holds a special place in the collective imagination for his music and for tales about his character and life. UMKC Assistant Teaching Professor of Musicology Matteo Magarotto discusses portrayals of Mozart from Pushkin to *Amadeus*. Free and open to everyone; RSVP requested at (816) 471-7344 or labrand@kcopera.org.

Monday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kauffman Foundation (4801 Rockhill Road, KCMO 64110).

Morals and Irony in Mozart's Così fan tutte

Join University of Kansas musicologist Martin Nedbal to discuss the delightful mixture of moralizing and irony in *Così fan tutte*, through the context of theatrical traditions in Vienna at the time, as well as other Italian operas and German plays that might have inspired Mozart and Da Ponte. Free and open to everyone; RSVP requested at (816) 471-7344 or labrand@kcopera.org.

Explore the Score

Tues., Feb. 26, 7 p.m.

Gain first-hand insights from Jane Glover, CBE and conductor of Lyric Opera's *Così fan tutte*. Maestro Glover is also the author of *Mozart's Women* and the new book *Handel in London*. Attendees will be inspired by Glover's love for *Così fan tutte*: "Of the great trilogy of operas written by Mozart with Lorenzo Da Ponte, *Così fan tutte* is often considered the weakest. It was only in the last century, after the vast expansions of theatrical range and orchestral sound in the 19th century, that the opera's formal perfections—and, most importantly, its immense passion—came to be appreciated."

The Michael & Ginger Frost Production Arts Building, 712 E 18th St., Kansas City, MO 64108.

FREE Event, RSVP required at <https://kcopera.org/programs/community/explore-the-score/> or by phone at (816) 471-7344.

Mozart and Handel: The Makings of Genius

Thurs., Feb. 28, 6:30 p.m.

Setting the stage for Lyric Opera's upcoming *Così fan tutte*, Jane Glover, CBE, talks with Lyric Opera's own acclaimed tenor Vinson Cole, who has collaborated with Maestro Glover many times in their respective careers. Cole will interview Glover about her work with prestigious organizations such as the Royal Academy of Music, London Philharmonic, Glyndebourne

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Festival, and Music of the Baroque, and as the author of two important musical biographies, *Mozart's Women* and *Handel in London*. *Così fan tutte* principal singers Vanessa Vasquez, Daniela Mack and Patrick Carfizzi will also perform the famous trio "Soave sia il vento" from Act I of the opera.

Kansas City Public Library – Plaza Branch in the Truman Forum (4801 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64112)

FREE Event, RSVP required at <https://www.kclibrary.org/signature-events/mozart-and-handel-makings-genius?delta=0>

First Friday, March 1, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Presented by Lyric Opera of Kansas City at the Beth Ingram Administration Building (1725 Holmes, KCMO).

Join Lyric Opera for another First Friday Celebration in the Crossroads! Enjoy complimentary snacks and beverages while mingling with Lyric Opera's Resident Artists, who will perform selections from *Così fan tutte*.

Reverse Happy Hour with Young Friends of the Lyric

Fri., March 22, 10:30 p.m.

Tannin Wine Bar & Kitchen, 1526 Walnut St., KCMO 64108

After the Friday performance of *Così fan tutte*, all are welcome to join Young Friends of the Lyric to celebrate! Enjoy drink and food specials and perhaps meet some of the cast of *Così fan tutte*.

RSVP requested at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/yfl-così-fan-tutte-reverse-happy-hour-tickets-56360557946>

Sunday Pre-Opera Brunch with Young Friends of the Lyric

Sun., March 24, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Blvd Tavern, 320 Southwest Blvd., KCMO 64108

All are welcome to join Young Friends of the Lyric before the Sunday, March 24 performance of *Così fan tutte* at Blvd Tavern for brunch fare before the show. RSVP required at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/yfl-brunch-before-così-fan-tutte-tickets-56359602087>

About Young Friends of The Lyric

Young Friends of The Lyric provides an exciting outlet for young arts supporters (ages 21 and up) in Kansas City to get involved in the community, meet other young professionals and support Lyric Opera of Kansas City. Membership benefits include complimentary beverages at Lyric Opera performances, networking opportunities, restaurant discounts, invitations to special events and more.

Young Friends of the Lyric membership is \$40 and includes benefits for two for a full 12 months.

To join, visit www.kcopera.org/yfl or contact Ticketing & Patron Services at (816) 471-7344.

About The Kansas City Lyric Opera Guild

The Lyric Opera Guild is a social and networking group who attend the Lyric Opera of Kansas City and enjoy the camaraderie of others who share their interest in opera. Guild Members

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participate in social and educational activities designed to expand friendships and appreciation of opera, and welcome members to the Guild Lounge at the Kauffman Center during Lyric Opera performances.

Guild memberships start at \$60 for individuals and \$85 for family memberships; benefits vary by membership level. To join, visit kcopera.org/support or contact Ticketing & Patron Services at (816) 471-7344.

Remaining 2018-2019 Season at a Glance:

The Pearl Fishers

George Bizet, 1863

Sung in French with English subtitles

Saturday, April 27, 2019	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 1, 2019	7:30 p.m.
Friday, May 3, 2019	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 5, 2019	2:00 p.m.

Conductor: Antony Walker*

Director: Andrew Sinclair*

Leila: Maeve Höglund*

Nadir: Sean Panikkar

Zurga: John Moore*

Nourabad: Christian Zaremba*

* Lyric Opera of Kansas City debut

About Lyric Opera of Kansas City

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. 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 Lyric Opera of Kansas City on Facebook or follow us on Twitter at @kcopera or on Instagram @kcopera.

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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