

# LYRIC OPERA

## KANSAS CITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ellen McDonald  
(816) 213-4355 (c)  
publicity@kcopera.org

For Tickets: [kcopera.org](http://kcopera.org) or 816.471.7344

## Lyric Opera of Kansas City 2018-2019 Season Concludes with

### ***The Pearl Fishers***

April 27 – May 5 at the Kauffman Center for the  
Performing Arts

*Lyric Opera debuts include **Maeve Höglund**,*

***John Moore and Christian Zaremba** as well as the entire creative team:  
**Conductor Antony Walker, Director Andrew Sinclair, Choreographer John  
Malashock and world-renowned fashion Designer Zandra Rhodes***

***Sean Panikkar** (*Silent Night*, 2015) returns to Lyric Opera*

**Kansas City, MO (April 3, 2019)** – Lyric Opera of Kansas City concludes the 2018-2019 season with Bizet's sensuous and exotic *The Pearl Fishers*, April 27, May 1, 3 and 5 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. The opera will be sung in French with English subtitles. High res photos of artists, past production photos and more can be found [here](#).

The Lyric Opera season concludes with a trip to the ancient island of Ceylon, where a forbidden love threatens both the prosperity of a civilization and a vow of eternal friendship, in *The Pearl Fishers* (*Les pêcheurs de perles*). Georges Bizet composed it 12 years before *Carmen*, but his brilliance was already evident in this early opera. The famous friendship duet "Au fond du temple saint" is the opera's most celebrated touchstone, although *The Pearl Fishers* also features a lush orchestral treatment and thrilling chorus and dance sequences. This wildly colorful production from San Diego Opera was designed by **Zandra Rhodes**, the iconic British designer who dressed Princess Diana and the musical artist Prince, among others.

*The Pearl Fishers* brings multiple Lyric Opera debuts, including **Maeve Höglund** as the priestess Leila, **John Moore** as Zurga, and **Christian Zaremba** in the role of Nourabad as well as the entire creative team including Conductor **Antony Walker**, Director **Andrew Sinclair**, Choreographer **John Malashock** and Set and Costume Designer **Zandra Rhodes**. Andrew Sinclair has directed this production several times; Antony Walker is Music Director of Pittsburgh

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Opera and Artistic Director of Washington Concert Opera. Höglund's roles include Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro* and Musetta in *La bohème*; Moore has sung Zurga in several productions, and Zaremba recently debuted at The Metropolitan Opera as Angelotti in *Tosca*. **Sean Panikkar** (*Silent Night*, 2015), will return to sing Nadir.

General Director and CEO **Deborah Sandler** said "Bizet's other opera, *The Pearl Fishers*, is exotic and atmospheric. Composed by Bizet at age 24, his gift for melody was apparent at an early age. Our audiences will luxuriate in the music, surrounded by the singular vision of Zandra Rhodes, CBE, the brilliant designer of fashion and design. I am thrilled to bring this work to our audiences at Lyric Opera."

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

*The Pearl Fishers* is sponsored in part by the Lyric Opera Circle.



Three things about *The Pearl Fishers*:

1. A mere twelve years after *The Pearl Fishers*, Bizet was to shake the very foundations of the operatic world with the most revolutionary opera ever produced—the violent and passionate *Carmen*—a work so far ahead of its time that only later generations could truly appreciate it.
2. Zandra Rhodes, the “Princess of Punk” was made the Commander of the British Empire in 1997 and has nine honorary doctorates from universities in the UK and the USA. Also, her hair color is famously fuschia.
3. The most famous duet in *The Pearl Fishers*, "[Au fond du temple saint](#)", was the pop culture hit of the time.

### ***The Pearl Fishers (Les pêcheurs de perles) (1863)***

By Georges Bizet

Libretto by Eugène Cormon and Michel Carré

Sung in French with English subtitles

Four performances at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

- Last performed at Lyric Opera of Kansas City in 2007
- Sets and costumes by Zandra Rhodes, from San Diego Opera

### **Performances of *The Pearl Fishers***

- Saturday, April 27, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

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- Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, May 3, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 5, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

### Overview of *The Pearl Fishers*

One unattainable priestess's beauty – and her responsibility to protect the island from evil and storms – once broke up a friendship between a pearl fisher and the island chieftain. When the men pledge that she will not come between them again, it happens anyway – and sets their world on fire in more ways than one. Bizet's pre-*Carmen* work is a blazing beauty, filled with romantic drama, dancing, lush melodies, eye candy, and an unexpected twist.

### Cast and Artistic Team : The Pearl Fishers

(bios available at the <https://kcopera.org/performances/the-pearl-fishers-19/>)

Leila	Maeve Höglund*
Nadir	Sean Panikkar
Zurga	John Moore*
Nourabad	Christian Zarembo*

Conductor	Antony Walker*
Director	Andrew Sinclair *
Choreographer	John Malashock*
Set and Costume Designer	Zandra Rhodes*
Lighting Designer	Ronald Vodicka*

\* Lyric Opera debut

### Related Events

**First Friday, April 5**, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Presented by Lyric Opera of Kansas City at the Beth Ingram Administration Building (1725 Holmes St., KCMO 64108).

Join Lyric Opera for a First Friday “Bizet Bash” in the Crossroads! Enjoy complimentary snacks and beverages (including some from our new neighbors at [City Barrel](#)) while mingling with Lyric Opera's Resident Artists, who will perform selections from *The Pearl Fishers* and *Carmen* at approximately 6:00 and 7:00 pm. RSVP requested at <https://kcopera.org/performances/the-pearl-fishers-19/>

### The Kansas City Lyric Opera Guild presents “At Ease with Opera:”

**Monday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kauffman Foundation** (4801 Rockhill Road, KCMO 64110).

#### South Asia on Stage and Screen: From Donizetti to Bollywood

South Asian cultures captivated the imaginations of European opera creators in the 19th century; this fascination continues even today. Join UMKC musicologist William Everett as he discusses Donizetti's *The Outcast* to *Lakmé* to Bollywood films. This repertory also brings up difficult questions about colonialism and institutional racism on the musical stage. This lecture is free and open to everyone; RSVP requested at (816) 471-7344 or [labrand@kcopera.org](mailto:labrand@kcopera.org).

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**Monday, April 15 at 7:00p.m. at the Kauffman Foundation** (4801 Rockhill Road, KCMO 64110).

### **French Opera: Grand, Comic, and Everything in Between**

France was the home of GRAND Opera, where everything was serious, and every note was sung; it was also home to COMIC Opera, where everything was cheerful and there was dialogue between arias. Then Bizet writes *Carmen*, and changes everything. Hear how Bizet bucked tradition, led by Linda Ade Brand, LOKC Director of Education/Engagement and her husband, opera super-fan Robert Gibby Brand. This lecture is free and open to everyone; RSVP requested at (816) 471-7344 or [labrand@kcopera.org](mailto:labrand@kcopera.org).

**Monday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kauffman Foundation** (4801 Rockhill Road, KCMO 64110).

### **“Pearls are always appropriate.” – Jacqueline Kennedy**

...and as a Chinese proverb has it, “Pearls lie not on the seashore. If you wish for one you must dive for it.” *The Pearl Fishers* is not as well-known as *Carmen*, but like the latter, it brims with great arias, a duet for the ages, wonderful melodies, stirring drama, and an exotic setting. Join Lyric Opera Guild preview speaker Don Dagenais to delve into the plot and musical highlights of this unique and beautiful work. This lecture is free and open to everyone; RSVP requested at (816) 471-7344 or [labrand@kcopera.org](mailto:labrand@kcopera.org).

### **Explore the Score**

Thursday, April 11, 7:00 p.m.

Join Conductor Antony Walker for a deep dive into the sumptuous score of Bizet’s *The Pearl Fishers* at the Beth Ingram Administration Building, 1725 Holmes 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.

### **Reverse Happy Hour with Young Friends of the Lyric**

Fri., May 3, 10:30 p.m.

The Savoy at 21c, 219 W 9th St., KCMO 64105

After the Friday performance of *The Pearl Fishers*, all are welcome to join Young Friends of the Lyric to celebrate! Enjoy drink specials and perhaps meet some of the cast.

### **Sunday Pre-Opera Brunch with Young Friends of the Lyric**

Sun., May 5, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Webster House, 1644 Wyandotte St., KCMO 64108

All are welcome to join Young Friends of the Lyric before the Sunday, May 5 performance of *The Pearl Fishers* at Webster House for brunch fare before the show.

### **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 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](http://kcopera.org/support) or contact Ticketing & Patron Services at (816) 471-7344.

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## 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](http://www.kcopera.org/yfl) or contact Ticketing & Patron Services at (816) 471-7344.

## 2019-2020 Season at a Glance:

### *NEW-TO-KANSAS CITY PRODUCTION*

#### *The Abduction from the Seraglio*

Wolfgang Mozart, 1782

Sung in German with English subtitles

**Saturday, September 21, 2019** 7:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday September 25, 2019** 7:30 p.m.  
**Friday, September 27, 2019** 7:30 p.m.  
**Sunday, September 29, 2019** 2:00 p.m.

Conductor: Michael Christie \*

Director: Alison Moritz

Belmonte: Ben Bliss \*

Konstanze: Kathryn Lewek

Blonde: Rachele Gilmore

Osmin: Matthew Boehler\*

Pedrillo: Joseph Leppek +

#### *La bohème*

Giacomo Puccini, 1896

Sung in Italian with English subtitles

**Saturday, November 9, 2019** 7:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday, November 13, 2019** 7:30 p.m.  
**Friday, November 15, 2018** 7:30 p.m.  
**Sunday, November 17, 2018** 2:00 p.m.

Conductor: David Charles Abell

Director: Kathleen Smith Belcher

Mimi: Raquel González

Rodolfo : Georgy Vasiliev

Musetta: Sylvia D'Eramo \*

Marcello: Timothy Renner \*

Colline: Christian Zarembo

Benoit/Alcindoro: Jake Gardner \*

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## ***NEW-TO-KANSAS CITY PRODUCTION***

### ***Lucia di Lammermoor***

Gaetano Donizetti, 1835

Sung in Italian with English subtitles

**Saturday, March 7, 2020** 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 11, 2020** 7:30 p.m.

**Friday, March 13, 2020** 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday, March 15, 20120** 2:00 p.m.

Conductor: Carlo Montanaro \*

Director: Shawna Lucey \*

Lucia: Sarah Coburn

Edgardo: Evan LeRoy Johnson \*

Enrico: Troy Cook

Raimondo: Adam Lau

Arturo: Joseph Leppek +

Alisa: Kelly Birch @

## ***KANSAS CITY PREMIERE***

### ***The Shining***

Music by Paul Moravec

Libretto by Mark Campbell

Based on the novel by Stephen King

Sung in English with English subtitles

**Saturday, April 25, 2020** 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 29, 2020** 7:30 p.m.

**Friday, May 1, 2020** 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday, May 3, 2020** 2:00 p.m.

Conductor: Gerard Schwarz \*

Director: Eric Simonson

Jack Torrance: Edward Parks

Wendy Torrance : Kelly Kaduce

\* Lyric Opera of Kansas City debut

+ Lyric Opera of Kansas City Resident Artist

@ Former Lyric Opera of Kansas City Resident Artist

## **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

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productions that enrich the community it serves, as well as reflect the highest artistic standards of the profession.

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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