

LYRIC OPERA

KANSAS CITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lyric Opera of Kansas City
Continues 2019-2020 Season with
NEW-TO-KANSAS CITY PRODUCTION
LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR

**Tenor Evan LeRoy Johnson, Conductor Carlo Montanaro and
Director Shawna Lucey make Lyric Opera debuts**

Kansas City, Mo. (Feb. 14, 2020) – Lyric Opera of Kansas City showcases the vocal fireworks of **Lucia di Lammermoor**, the bravura bel canto work based on *The Bride of Lammermoor* by Sir Walter Scott. The tragic love affair between young Lucia and her brother’s sworn political enemy, Edgardo, comes to life in a dark and arresting production that is new to Kansas City.

Performances March 7, 11, 13 and 15 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, sung in Italian with English subtitles, transport the imagination to an old Scottish castle where violence, ominous premonitions and love, tinged with family betrayal, collide and explode.

“The tragic tale of ‘the bride of Lammermoor’ long has been a favorite of opera-goers everywhere and long absent from our stage. We are, therefore, delighted to bring a new production to Kansas City,” says General Director and CEO Deb Sandler. “With the riveting Sarah Coburn in the title role, Lucia’s emotional turmoil promises to take on a suspenseful, heartbreaking dimension. When her brother forbids her marriage to the ardent Edgardo, portrayed by Evan LeRoy Johnson, it all proves too much for Lucia to bear, and she defends herself in a shocking way. Lucia’s descent into madness will stay with audiences long after the performance is over.”



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As the curtain rises, the once-wealthy family of the title character is near bankruptcy, and her ambitious brother pushes her into marriage with a man she doesn't love — but Lucia already has made a secret marriage vow with Edgardo, her true love from an enemy family. Convinced by her brother that Edgardo has been unfaithful, she signs the loveless marriage contract. But the day that begins with a wedding ends with murder.

The production marks the Lyric Opera debuts of tenor Evan LeRoy Johnson as well as Conductor Carlo Montanaro and Director Shawna Lucey. Returning in principal roles are soprano Sarah Coburn (Adina in *The Elixir of Love*, 2003), baritone Troy Cook (most recently seen as Father in *Hansel and Gretel*, 2016), bass Adam Lau (most recently seen as Figaro in *The Marriage of Figaro*, 2016), mezzo-soprano Kelly Birch (Resident Artist, 2018-2019 season) and tenor Joseph Leppek (Resident Artist, 2019-2020 season).

Find high-resolution production and artist photos at [//kcopera.org/media/press-materials/](http://kcopera.org/media/press-materials/).

Three things about Lucia di Lammermoor

1. When Donizetti wrote *Lucia di Lammermoor* in 1835, Europeans of the time were fascinated by Scotland's history and culture, and the perceived romance of its violent wars and feuds. Sir Walter Scott dramatized those elements in his novel, which, in turn, inspired Donizetti. While "Game of Thrones" exists in a fantasy world, its wild depiction of aristocratic family feuds has again ignited interest in stories such as Lucia's.
2. The opera is celebrated for the sextet "Chi mi frena" and especially for Lucia's dramatic "mad scene," a technically demanding tour de force.
3. It has been a huge success from the beginning. During its first performance in 1835 at the Teatro di San Carlo in Naples, Italy, every number received a tremendous ovation, and Donizetti and the cast took numerous curtain calls.

Lucia di Lammermoor (1835)

By Gaetano Donizetti

Libretto by Salvatore Cammarano

Sung in Italian with English subtitles

- New-to-KC production
Sets and costumes from Jacobs School of Music, University of Indiana
- Production originally designed for and created by The Indiana University Jacobs School of Music Opera and Ballet Theater
- An earlier production of Lucia di Lammermoor was last performed at Lyric Opera of Kansas City in 2006

Performances of Lucia di Lammermoor

- Saturday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 11 at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m.

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- Sunday, March 15 at 2 p.m.

Cast and Artistic Team (find bios at www.kcopera.org)

Lucia	Sarah Coburn
Edgardo	Evan LeRoy Johnson*
Enrico	Troy Cook
Raimondo	Adam Lau
Alisa	Kelly Birch^
Auturo	Joseph Leppek+
Normanno	Kevin Thomas Smith
Conductor	Carlo Montanaro*
Director	Shawna Lucey*
Scenic and Costume Designer	Phillip Whitcomb*
Lighting Designer	Michael Clark*
Wig and Makeup Designer	David Zimmerman
Chorus Master	Piotr Wisniewski

* Lyric Opera of Kansas City debut

^ Former LOKC resident artist

+ LOKC Resident Artist

Tickets start at just \$36 (including fees) for Wednesday and Friday performances. To purchase tickets, call Ticketing & Patron Services, (816) 471-7344. Patrons can select their own seats and print tickets at home by visiting www.kcopera.org. Limited student rush tickets are available for \$15 starting 90 minutes before the performances with valid student ID.

RELATED EVENTS

Orpheus KC

Friday, March 13, 10:00 p.m., after the performance

Affäre, 1911 Main St., KCMO 64108

Orpheus KC invites members and prospective members to enjoy libations post performance.

Sunday, March 15, 11:30 a.m.

The Jacobson, 2050 Central St., KCMO 64108

Join fellow opera lovers for a brunch at The Jacobson on Sunday, March 15th ahead of the matinee performance of *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Enjoy a pre-fixe brunch menu with several options for only \$20 per person.

To join Orpheus KC and purchase tickets, visit [the event page at kcopera.org](http://the.event.page.at.kcopera.org).

At Ease with Opera

February 17, 24; March 2

At Ease with Opera is a series of free lectures about each Lyric Opera mainstage production, led by scholarly speakers. The series is sponsored by the Lyric Opera of Kansas City Guild. Admission is free and open to everyone.

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February 17, 7:00 p.m.

Marriage and Madness: Performing Lucia di Lammermoor in Flaubert's France, with Dr. Janet Johnson, at MRIGlobal Mag Auditorium, 4920 Cherry Street, KCMO 64112

February 24, 7:00 p.m.

When Kansas City Went Wild Over "Our Emma," with Dr. Katherine K. Preston, at Kauffman Foundation, 4801 Rockhill Road, KCMO, 64110

March 2, 7:00 p.m.

You are invited to the Ashton-Bucklaw Wedding. Bring your own knife. Speaker: Don Dagenais. Held at Kauffman Foundation, 4801 Rockhill Road, KCMO, 64110

For more information on At Ease events, visit kcopera.org/community.

Free Pre-Opera Talks

One hour before curtain of each performance

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Arrive early to enjoy pre-opera talks by local expert Don Dagenais. Each starts one hour before curtain and lasts about 30 minutes.

Friday Fanfare

Friday, March 13

Make Friday evening at Lucia di Lammermoor special with a Friday Fanfare "date-night" ticket package. Choose the \$159 Classic package that includes good seats or the \$259 Deluxe package that includes better seats. Both packages include:

- Pre-opera three-course meal for two at one of the Lyric Opera restaurant partners — Grünauer, Lidia's Kansas City or The Dining Experience at The Kauffman Center.
- Parking for one vehicle in the Kauffman Center garage.
- Ticketing fees.

It's a great value so quantities are limited and may sell quickly; 10-day advance purchase is recommended. Packages for Lucia di Lammermoor are available now. Find details at <https://kcopera.org/tickets/friday-fanfare/>.

Remaining 2019-2020 Season at a Glance

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.

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Friday, May 1, 2020
Sunday, May 3, 2020

7:30 p.m.
2:00 p.m.

Conductor: Gerard Schwarz *
Director: Eric Simonson
Jack Torrance: Edward Parks
Wendy Torrance: Kelly Kaduce
Dick Hallorann: Aubrey Allcock *
Mark Torrance: Malcolm MacKenzie *
Lloyd the Bartender: Roger Honeywell *

* Lyric Opera of Kansas City debut

About Lyric Opera of Kansas City

Founded in 1958 and now one of the nation's premiere regional opera companies, Lyric Opera of Kansas City brings high-quality, live operatic performances to the people of the 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's productions enrich the community it serves while reflecting the highest artistic standards of the profession. Lyric Opera offers innovative, award-winning programs to further music and arts education 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 the company on Twitter at @kcopera or on Instagram @kcopera.

Lyric Opera of Kansas City is a member of OPERA America. 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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Direct media inquiries to Ellen McDonald, (816) 213-4355
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