

LYRIC OPERA

KANSAS CITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ellen McDonald
(816) 213-4355

publicity@kcopera.org

For Tickets: kcopera.org or 816-471-7344

Lyric Opera of Kansas City Announces *Amahl and the Night Visitors*

WORLD PREMIERE

Live Performances Cancelled

*Digital Filmed Performance Available for Viewing
Starting Dec. 15*

KANSAS CITY, MO (Nov. 20, 2020) — Lyric Opera of Kansas City General Director and CEO **Deborah Sandler** today announced the cancellation of live performances of the ALL NEW PRODUCTION, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. A digital filmed performance is available for purchase now and can be viewed starting Dec. 15. Please visit [Lyric Opera of Kansas City Amahl and the Night Visitors](#) for more information.

Sandler stated, “In light of Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas' recent announcement of new COVID-19 restrictions, we regretfully announce that the live, in-person performances of our all new production of *Amahl and the Night Visitors* have been cancelled.”

She continued, “*Amahl and the Night Visitors* first entered the world in 1951 as the film production of Kansas City's very own Hallmark Hall of Fame. We now continue this tradition and are pleased to announce the reentry of this beautiful story of generosity and hope to the screen with a new, high-quality film available for digital purchase for \$40. While we are sorry we cannot welcome you to the Michael and Ginger Frost Production Arts Building, we believe this beloved holiday classic film will enchant you with Paul Mesner-designed puppets, stunning sets, and glorious music, bringing the magic of the holidays into your home. We encourage all of you to remain diligent in taking care of yourself and your loved ones. We cannot wait to see you all when it is safe to gather again.”

Full of delight, humor, and tenderness, *Amahl and the Night Visitors* is a true Christmas story for the whole family. Three traveling kings, following a star to Bethlehem, stop for the night at a humble home of a boy, Amahl, and his mother. As Amahl entertains the guests, he offers his own simple gift to the Christ child and learns the meaning of true generosity.

This all-new Lyric Opera production of Menotti's classic Christmas opera utilizes newly-created puppets, designed by Kansas City's legendary puppet master, **Paul Mesner**, brought to life by a team of

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puppeteers and live voices in a magical new setting as well as a new orchestral version, created especially for Lyric Opera.

Parents and educators will be pleased to learn that study guides and educational material are being developed and will be posted shortly. Please visit www.kcopera.org for more information.

High-res photos, artwork, bios and more can be found at [LOKC New Visions press kit](#).



ALL - NEW PRODUCTION and WORLD PREMIERE ***Amahl and the Night Visitors***

Music/Libretto by Gian Carlo Menotti

One act, approx. 50 - minute performance, sung in English
First performed live on national television on Dec. 24, 1951 as
the debut production of the Hallmark Hall of Fame series
Last performed at Lyric Opera of Kansas City in 1993
Appropriate for ages 7+.

Cast and Artistic Team

Amahl: Holly Ladage*

The Mother: Kelly Morel

King Kaspar: Michael Wu

King Melchior: Daniel Belcher

King Balthazar: Scott Conner

A Page: Keith Klein*

Conductor: Piotr Wisniewski

Director : Shawna Lucey

Puppet Designer: Paul Mesner

Set Designer: Steven Kemp

Lighting Designer: Michael Clark

Costume Designer: Nancy Robinson

* Lyric Opera of Kansas City debut

Tickets

Digital streaming performance will be available for purchase now and available for viewing starting Dec. 15. For more details, please call Ticketing and Patron Services at (816) 471-7344.

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 programs to further music and arts education in schools and in the community. Opera lovers can be fans of Lyric Opera of Kansas City on Facebook or follow the company on Twitter or Instagram at @kcopera and at www.kcopera.org.

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