



Lyric Opera of Kansas City

Lyric Opera of Kansas City is the resident opera company of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts' Muriel Kauffman Theatre.

A cornerstone of the Kansas City cultural community and the city's oldest professional performing arts organization, the Lyric Opera presents four operas each season – all sung in their original languages. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Ward Holmquist, the Company has gained national and international recognition, presenting a broad range of repertoire including several works by major American composers and three world premieres. The Company often welcomes nationally acclaimed artists to its stage, recently hosting Joyce DiDonato, Denyce Graves, Richard Paul Fink, Mary Dunleavy, David Pomeroy, and Greer Grimsley. The Company can be heard on five recordings, including performances of *The Devil and Daniel Webster* on the Newport label and *Captain Jinks of the Horse Marines* on the RCA label.

Led by General Director and CEO Deborah Sandler, the Lyric Opera reaches over 20,000 community members annually through its innovative, nationally-recognized education and outreach programming which is designed to further music and arts education in public schools and in the broader community. Lyric Opera staff, working directly with teachers, parents, and young people, have created award-winning programs such as "Opera Heroines" and "Opera Heroes" – programs for adolescents which examine the lives of notable opera characters, using their situations and choices as a platform for discussion and dramatization. Community outreach efforts include free, in-depth talks offered at various locations in Kansas City prior to the staging of each production. The Company also presents "Opera to Go!" – a program administered in collaboration with Country Club Bank, which brings performances by members of the Lyric Opera apprentice program into local retirement communities, providing opportunities for senior audiences to learn about less familiar works, as well as enjoy classics.

The Lyric Opera apprentice program, administered in partnership with the University of Kansas Voice and Opera program and the University of Missouri at Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance, offers invaluable training for young singers as they embark on careers as professional opera performers. Apprentices have gone on to appear with the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, and English National Opera, among others.

The Lyric Opera has published two books about its history – *A View from the Pit: 30 Years of Opera Theater in Mid-America* by Lyric Opera co-founder Russell Patterson, and *Fifty Years of the Lyric Opera: A Great First Act* by Don Dagenais and Morton Creditor.

More information on the Lyric Opera of Kansas City is available at www.kcopera.org.