

*Lyric*

# A Wondrous Sound



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20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 860  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
[lyricopera.org](http://lyricopera.org)

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# A Wondrous Sound

**April 16, 19m, 2025**

ENRIQUE MAZZOLA, *conductor*  
LYRIC OPERA ORCHESTRA & CHORUS  
MICHAEL BLACK, *chorus director*

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Lyric Opera of Chicago thanks its Official Airline, **American Airlines**, and acknowledges support from the **Illinois Arts Council**.

# Gathered Forces

Talking with Lyric's Chorus Director about the pleasures of the greatest hits.



Michael Black with the Lyric Opera Chorus during a recent performance at Wheaton College.

Robert Kusel



Michael Black joined Lyric Opera of Chicago full-time for the 2013/14 Season, after having served as interim chorus director in 2011/12. Over more than a decade, he has led the Chorus to great critical acclaim in a wide variety of repertoire. Additionally named Head of Music in the 2023/24 Season, the Australian native is the first chorus director to work with the choruses of Lyric, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and the Grant Park Music Festival. Here he shares insights on *A Wondrous Sound*, a program designed to showcase the renowned Chorus in some of the greatest choral music of all time, from operatic gems to Broadway classics.

**What can audiences expect from *A Wondrous Sound*? What excites you most about this concert?**

*A Wondrous Sound* is an incredibly family-friendly concert that brings together the Lyric Opera Orchestra and Chorus under the baton of Music Director Enrique Mazzola. The program features some of the most beloved overtures and choral numbers from opera and musical theater. For example, the orchestra will perform the overture to *Carmen*, followed by the chorus singing some of its famous numbers. You'll also hear the overture to *West Side Story*, followed by a choral selection. There will be the Soldiers' Chorus from *Faust*, the Cigarette Chorus from *Carmen*, and the Humming Chorus from *Madama Butterfly*. The evening closes with a selection of musical theater pieces by Rodgers and Hammerstein. It's truly a feel-good concert.


**How did you and Maestro Mazzola select the repertoire?**

Choosing the repertoire was a collaborative process. I presented a list of possible selections to Maestro Mazzola, and he curated it further, ensuring we had the best blend of operatic and orchestral moments. Some pieces from our initial list didn't make the final cut, while a few surprises were added in. The end result is a thrilling and varied program that showcases the depth and power of our orchestra and chorus.

**How has the chorus been preparing for this performance?**

Rehearsals for *A Wondrous Sound* have been happening in between *La Bohème* and *The Listeners* rehearsals, so there has been a fascinating contrast in the music we're working on. One moment, we're deep in the intensity of *The Listeners*, and the next, we're diving into Rodgers and Hammerstein. What's been particularly exciting is that while many of these operatic choruses are familiar to our singers, some pieces — especially from the musical theater repertoire — are new to them. There isn't a single person in the chorus who has performed all of these selections before, so everyone is getting to learn something fresh.

**What makes *A Wondrous Sound* a unique experience in Chicago's arts scene?**

There's no other concert like this in Chicago. You won't find another event that brings together a world-class opera orchestra and chorus to perform opera's greatest hits alongside Broadway classics in one thrilling night. Unlike a traditional opera where the audience spends the entire night looking up at the supertitles in order to follow the plot of a very intrigue-filled opera, *A Wondrous Sound* allows audiences to simply sit back and let the music wash over them. It's a rare opportunity to hear the full force of the Lyric Opera Chorus and Orchestra outside of a staged production. 

# A Wondrous Sound

## PROGRAM

**Georges Bizet**  
(1838 - 1875)

***Carmen***  
Overture  
"La cloche a sonné" (Cigarette Chorus)  
Chanson (Orchestral version)

**Gaetano Donizetti**  
(1797 - 1848)

***Lucia di Lammermoor***  
"D'immenso giubilo"

**Gioachino Rossini**  
(1792 - 1868)

***William Tell***  
"Gloria al poter supremo!" March and Chorus, Act 3  
Overture

**Charles Gounod**  
(1818 - 1893)

***Faust***  
Soldiers' Chorus

**Giuseppe Verdi**  
(1813 - 1901)

***Nabucco***  
"Va pensiero"

**Richard Wagner**  
(1813 - 1883)

***Tannhäuser***  
"Freudig begrüßen wir edle Halle" (Entrance of the Guests)

**Giacomo Puccini**  
(1858 - 1924)

***Madama Butterfly***  
Humming Chorus

**Leonard Bernstein**  
(1918 - 1990)  
**and**  
**Stephen Sondheim**  
(1930 - 2021)

***West Side Story***  
Overture  
"America"

**Richard Rodgers**  
(1902 - 1979)  
**and**  
**Oscar Hammerstein**  
(1895 - 1960)

***The Sound of Music***  
"Climb Ev'ry Mountain"  
  
***Carousel***  
"You'll Never Walk Alone"

**APPROXIMATE TIMING**  
This production will be performed  
with no intermission.

**TOTAL** 1 hours, 5 minutes

# Artist profiles



## ENRIQUE MAZZOLA CONDUCTOR

Lyric's music director — only the third in the company's history — is renowned as an expert interpreter and champion of *bel canto* opera and Verdi repertoire, and as a specialist in French repertoire. The Italian conductor made his Lyric debut with Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* in 2016/17. Mazzola is Principal Guest Conductor at the Deutsche Oper Berlin and, from 2022 to 2024, served as the first ever Conductor-in-Residence at the Bregenz Festival. He served as Artistic and Music Director of the Orchestre national d'Île de France from 2012 to 2019. Symphonic guest work has included the London Philharmonic, Philharmonia Orchestra, Vienna Symphony, Orchestre National de France, and Oslo Philharmonic. He has conducted at the Metropolitan Opera, La Scala, and the major houses of Florence, Berlin, Zurich, Moscow, and Tokyo, in addition to a historic Meyerbeer cycle for Deutsche Oper Berlin. Past major European festivals have included Glyndebourne (including DVD releases of *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *Poliuto*, and *Don Pasquale*), new productions in 2019 for Bregenz (*Rigoletto* and *Madama Butterfly*) and Salzburg (*Orphée aux Enfers*), Pesaro (Rossini Opera Festival), Venice, and Aix-en-Provence. Mazzola was born in Barcelona, Spain, into a musical family, and grew up in Milan, where he studied violin and piano, earning diplomas in composition and orchestral conducting at the Conservatorio Giuseppe Verdi in Milan. *Enrique Mazzola is supported by the John D. and Alexandra C. Nichols Endowed Chair.*



## MICHAEL BLACK CHORUS DIRECTOR

The Australian chorus director joined Lyric full time in the 2012/13 Season, after having served as interim director the season before. He was named Head of Music at Lyric, a new position, in the 2023/24 Season. Black was Chorus Director at Opera Australia in Sydney from 2001 to 2013, and has worked in this capacity for such distinguished organizations as the Edinburgh International Festival and Opera Holland Park (London), and, in Australia, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, the Philharmonia Choir, Motet Choir, the Cantillation chamber choir, and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. In Chicago, Black became the first chorus director to work with the choruses of Lyric, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and the Grant Park Music Festival, where he served for six seasons, including preparation of *The Damnation of Faust* chorus and Haydn's *Creation*. He has lectured or given masterclasses at the University of Chicago and Northwestern University, and in 2025 will work with the Young Artists at Opera Australia and the apprentice singers at the Santa Fe Opera. Black has served as chorus director for close to 140 different operas on four continents, and his work has been recorded and/or aired on ABC, BBC, PBS, for many HD productions in movie theaters, and on television. *Michael Black is supported by the Howard A. Stotler Chorus Director Endowed Chair.* [L](#)

# Orchestra & Chorus

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Kedrick Armstrong  
Elizabeth Askren  
Michael Banwarth  
William C. Billingham  
Kyrian Friedenberg<sup>^</sup>  
Susan Miller Hult  
Tess Jackson  
Keun-A Lee  
Chi-Yuan Lin<sup>^^</sup>  
Noah Lindquist  
Francesco Milioto  
Jerad Mosbey  
Laura Poe  
Blair Salter  
Stefano Sarzani  
Madeline Slettedahl

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### Violin I

Robert Hanford, *Concertmaster*,  
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*Endowed Chair*  
Emily Nebel,  
*Assistant Concertmaster*  
Eleanor Bartsch  
Alexander Belavsky  
Kathleen Brauer  
Renée-Paule Gauthier<sup>\*\*</sup>  
Laura Miller  
Liba Shacht  
Heather Wittels  
Bing Jing Yu

### Violin II

Yin Shen, *Principal*  
John Macfarlane,  
*Assistant Principal*  
Diane Duraffourg-Robinson  
Ann Palen  
Irene Radetzky  
John D. Robinson  
David Volfe

### Viola

Carol Cook, *Principal*  
Terri Van Valkinburgh,  
*Assistant Principal*  
Patrick Brennan  
Amy Hess  
Melissa Trier Kirk

### Cello

Calum Cook, *Principal*  
Ana Kim, *Assistant Principal*  
Mark Brandfonbrener  
William H. Cernota  
Walter Preucil

### String Bass

Samuel Shuhan,  
*Acting Principal*  
Andrew L. W. Anderson,  
*Acting Assistant Principal*  
Gregory Sarchet  
Collins R. Trier

### Flute

Marie Tachouet, *Principal*  
Dionne Jackson,  
*Assistant Principal*  
Alyce Johnson

### Piccolo

Alyce Johnson

### Oboe

Paul Lueders, *Principal*  
Judith Zunamon Lewis,  
*Assistant Principal*

### English Horn

Judith Zunamon Lewis

### Clarinet

Heesoo Kim, *Principal*  
Susan Warner,  
*Assistant Principal*

### Bass Clarinet

Susan Warner,  
*Acting*

### Bassoon

Preman Tilson, *Principal*  
Lewis Kirk, *Assistant Principal*

### Contrabassoon

Lewis Kirk

### Horn

Jonathan Boen, *Principal*  
Fritz Foss, *Assistant*  
*Principal/Utility*  
Robert E. Johnson, *Third Horn*  
Samuel Hamzem  
Neil Kimel

### Trumpet

William Denton, *Principal*  
Rebecca Oliverio,  
*Acting Assistant Principal*

### Trombone

Jeremy Moeller, *Principal*  
Mark Fisher, *Assistant Principal*  
Will Baker

### Bass Trombone

Will Baker

### Tuba

Andrew Smith, *Principal*

### Timpani

Edward Harrison, *Principal*

### Percussion

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Jennifer Cappelli, *violin*  
Kate Carter, *violin*  
Injoo Choi, *violin*  
Lisa Fako, *violin*  
Sheila Hanford, *violin*  
Nick Borghoff, *viola*  
Kunjing Dai, *viola*  
Josef Fischer, *viola*  
Rebecca Swan, *viola*  
Benjamin Fryxell, *cello*  
Paula Kosower, *cello*  
Jeremy Attanaseo, *bass*  
Wagner Campos, *bass clarinet*  
David Gauger, *trumpet*  
Rich Janicki, *percussion*  
Josh Jones, *drum set*  
Noah Lindquist, *piano/celeste*

\* On leave, 2024/25 Season

\*\* Season Substitute

<sup>^</sup> Solti Foundation U.S. Opera Residency

<sup>^^</sup> Ryan Opera Center Conductor

The Lyric Opera Orchestra string sections utilize revolving seating. Players behind the front desk change seats systematically and are listed alphabetically in the roster above.

## CHORUS DIRECTOR AND HEAD OF MUSIC

Michael Black

*The Howard A. Stotler  
Endowed Chair*

## REGULAR CHORUS

### Soprano

Cathleen Dunn  
Desirée Hassler  
Rachael Holzhausen  
Laureen Janeczek-Wysocki  
Kimberly McCord  
Heidi Spoor  
Stephani Springer  
Sherry Watkins  
Tara Wheeler

### Mezzo-Soprano

Emma Dickens  
Marianna Kulikova  
Yvette Smith  
Marie Sokolova  
Maia Surace  
Corinne Wallace-Crane  
Pamela Williams  
Michelle K. Wrighte

### Tenor

Geoffrey Agpalo  
Timothy Bradley  
Hoss Brock  
William M. Combs  
John J. Concepcion  
Kenneth Donovan  
Jared V. Esguerra  
Joseph A. Fosselman  
Cullen Gandy  
Cameo T. Humes  
Tyler Samuel Lee  
Joseph Shadday

### Bass

David DuBois  
Christopher Filipowicz  
Robert Morrissey  
Rafael W. Porto  
Craig Springer  
Nicholas Ward  
Ronald Watkins  
Nikolas Wenzel  
Max Wier  
Jonathan Wilson

## CORE SUPPLEMENTARY CHORUS

### Soprano

Carla Janzen  
Emily Mwila  
Kelsea Webb

### Mezzo-Soprano

Christina G. Adams  
Cara Collins  
Ola Rafalo

### Tenor

Joshua Benevento  
Ace Gangoso

### Bass

Michael Cavalieri  
David Govertsen  
Nicolai Janitzky  
Atticus Yonnan-Rego

## SUPPLEMENTARY CHORUS

### Soprano

Nicole Besa  
Anna Donnelly  
Megan Fleischmann  
Elise Hurwitz  
Emily Louise Robinson  
Diana Stoic

### Mezzo-Soprano

Sadie Cheslak  
Leah Dexter  
Miya Higashiyama  
Christine Ebeling Mando  
Emily Price  
Marissa Simmons

### Tenor

Esteban Cordero  
Klaus Georg  
Ernest C. Jackson Jr  
Steven Michael Patrick  
Christopher Sierra  
Brian Skoog

### Bass

Samuel James Dewese  
Joseph Lodato  
Douglas Peters  
Ian R. Prichard  
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Bill Daukus  
Joshua Galan  
Sylvia Hernandez  
David Jaworski  
Anne Kuntz  
Ashley Manley  
Kathleen Parry  
Ramon Alex Perez  
Julia Pestrikova  
Juliet Smith  
Anthony Sullivan  
Benjamin Tengowski  
Felipe Valadez  
Lindsey Wolfeld  
Bartenders/Barbacks

Richard Berry  
Caley Corbin  
Ana Luisa Decaro Pinto  
Coat Check Attendants

Stefan Peters, Maître d'

Patrick Dowling,  
Patron Services Manager

Timothy Fox  
Taylor Zorn  
Patron Services  
Coordinators

Joe Doner  
Cesar Galan  
Collin Harvey  
David Jaworski  
Ellen Pomes  
Emmanuel Stewart  
Cameron Truelove  
Stage Door Staff

Paulette Alonzi  
David Barcena  
Paul-Martin Bender  
Dominic Bialecki  
Chenise Brown  
Nila Cabrejos Lau  
Daro Cook  
Chaurita Davis  
Marlene Delemore  
Nathalea Espinosa  
Matthew Furjanic  
Sharon Gaston  
Ramona Hawkins  
Yesenia Hernandez  
Gina Jacobs  
Marlyn Love  
Jacob Malkinson  
Lonnie Mitchell  
Isaac Monroe  
Steven Pace  
Daniel Phillips  
Eduard Pulst  
Andres Ramos  
Joey Reyes  
Jazmin Reynoso  
John Rosenthal  
Edwina Schorn  
Mary Thomas  
Adam Wang  
Ushers

Gregg Brody,  
Box Office Director

Richard Diver  
Joseph Dunn  
David Fitzgerald  
Destiny Mack  
Jessica Reinhart  
Laura Waters  
Box Office Assistant  
Treasurers

Joe Minogue,  
Chief Engineer

Michael LaPorte,  
Lead Engineer

Philip Casica  
Anthony Fasano  
Brian Laurence McMahon  
Bernard McNeela  
Kevin O'Keefe  
Thomas Setina  
Engineers

### TECHNICAL & PRODUCTION

**Vincente F. Milianti**, Chief  
Financial and Operating  
Officer

### Technical Michael Smallwood

Vice President,  
Production and Technical  
Director, The Allan and  
Elaine Muchin Endowed  
Chair

April Busch, Technical  
Operations Director

Maria DeFabo Akin,  
Production Design  
Director

Scott Wolfson, Associate  
Technical Director

Brendan Henry, Technical  
Finance Manager

Kathryn Johnson, Associate  
Properties Director

Chris Maravich, Lighting  
Director, The Mary-Louise  
and James S. Aagaard  
Lighting Director  
Endowed Chair  
Benjamin McCormack,  
Assistant Technical  
Director  
Sarah Riffle  
Bridget Williams  
Assistant Lighting  
Designers

Joe Dockweiler,  
Master Carpenter  
Mike Reilly, Head Flyman/  
Automation

Chris Barker  
Robert Hull, Jr.  
Chase Topping  
Rigging/Automation  
Assistants

Phil Marcotte,  
Head Shop Carpenter

Brian Grenda,  
Layout Carpenter  
Drew Trusk,  
Head Shop Welder

Luigi Trupiano,  
Layout Welder  
Dan DiBennardi,  
Warehouse Coordinator

Dan Donahue  
Ryan McGovern  
Jeffrey Streichhirsch,  
Assistant Carpenters

Anthony Bernardy  
Connor Ingersoll  
John Ingersoll  
Rory McQuillan  
Dylan O'Shea

Tyler Gil Ramos  
Jacob Sullivan  
Brian Walsh  
Isaiah Williams  
Carpenters

Anthony Coia,  
Master Electrician  
Soren Ersbak,  
Board Operator  
Jose Villalpando,  
Titles Operator  
John Clarke, Jr.  
Thomas Hull  
Dan Kuh  
Robert Reynolds  
Assistant Electricians

Martin Childress  
Jason Combs  
Thomas Fernandez  
Nicholas Gutierrez  
Daniel Hull  
Jose Villalpando  
Daniel Vuillaume  
Electricians

Nick Charlan,  
Head Audio Technician  
Matt Eble, FOH Engineer  
Asiel Simpson  
Matt Swiatkowski  
Monitor Engineers

Bob Ladd,  
Property Master  
Bob Hartge  
Michael McPartlin,  
Properties Crew Head  
Gordon Granger,  
Prop Carpenter

Frank McPartlin, Armorer  
Rachel Boultinghouse,  
Upholsterer  
Michael Buerger  
Kevin McPartlin  
Taylor Topping  
Assistant Properties  
John Kopecky  
Ryan Lin-Peistrup  
Michael O'Donnell, Jr.  
Johnny Rivers  
Drew Scafidi  
James Ullrich  
Properties

Brian Traynor,  
Charge Artist  
Michael Besancon  
Michael Murtaugh  
Scenic Artists

Kim Buetzow, Costume  
Director, The Richard  
P. and Susan Kiphart  
Endowed Chair  
Lucy Lindquist,  
Wardrobe Mistress

Ellouise Davis  
Mary Kate Keefe  
Cecylia Kinder  
Bryan McDonald  
Kathy Rubel  
Herbie Ruiz  
Marguerite Scott  
Ewa Szyrak  
Michelle Tan  
Maggie Zabierowski  
Costumers

Katelynn Barker  
Louie Barrios  
Samantha Holmes  
Tatjana Jessee  
Krystina Lowe  
Joanna Rzepka  
Sarah Santiago  
Kate Shattock  
Isaac B. Turner  
Production Administrators

Samantha Holmes,  
Wardrobe Crew Head

Scott Barker  
Brigid Brown  
Tony Bryan  
Lauren Crotty  
Nina Escobedo  
Eric Guy  
Dawn-Marie Hamilton  
Molly Herman  
Claire Kroeger  
Mary Luchsinger  
Paul Ludick

Wendy McCay  
Moira O'Neil  
Christopher Provyn  
Crystal Sansing-Vylonis  
Sarah Santiago  
Dulce Santillán  
Roger Weir  
Dressers

John Metzner, Wig Master  
and Makeup Designer,  
The Marlys A. Beider  
Endowed Chair  
Necole Bluhm,  
Department Coordinator  
Lynn Koroulis, Shop Manager

James Ogle, Wig and Makeup  
Crew Foreman

Katrina Brown  
Davis Campbell  
Martha Contreras  
Krista D'Agostino  
Eric Daniels  
June Gearon  
Ansley Hughes  
Nesrin Ismail  
Brittany Powers  
Liv Roach  
Alice Salazar  
Emily Santiago  
Franziska Valus  
Lauren Zidek  
Wig & Makeup Run Crew

Davis Campbell  
Colin Grice  
Ansley Hughes  
Chantelle Johnson  
Lynn Koroulis  
James Ogle  
Emily Santiago  
Wig Shop Staff

### Production

Rachel A. Tobias, Production  
Stage Manager

Katrina Bachus  
Jordan Lee Braun  
Assistant Stage Directors

Alaina Bartkowiak  
Sandra Moore  
Stage Managers

Adrienne Bader  
Alaina Bartkowiak  
Alycia Martin  
Sandra Moore  
Daniel Sokalski  
Peggy Stenger  
Amy C. Thompson  
Bill Walters  
Assistant Stage Managers



**Local 2:** Stagehands

**Local 476:** Studio Mechanics

**Local 769:** Theatrical Wardrobe



**Local USA 829** of the IATSE is the union representing scenic, costume, lighting, sound and projection designers in Live Performance

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