

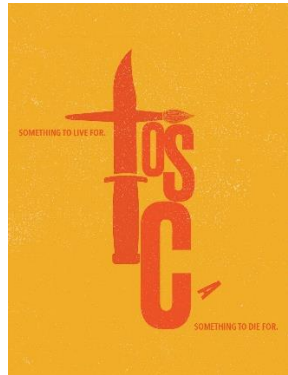


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Contact: Ellen McDonald
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For Tickets: kcopera.org or (816)-471-7344

Lyric Opera of Kansas City Announces *Tosca*



Puccini's timeless masterpiece of jealousy, love, and revenge

April 30 – May 8, 2022 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

KANSAS CITY, MO (March 28, 2022) —**Lyric Opera of Kansas City General Director and CEO Deborah Sandler** today announced the last production of the 2021-2022 season, *Tosca*. This Italian tragedy full of lies, lust and corruption by composer Giacomo Puccini will run April 30 through May 8, 2022 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts (1601 Broadway, KCMO 64108). High-res photos can be found [here](#).

Sandler stated, "Unfortunately, we still find ourselves in a time when ruthless political ambition results in violence. *Tosca* is timeless in that way. While there are other motivations at play as well, the story takes place in Rome in the year 1800 during the Napoleonic wars. *Tosca* is one of Puccini's most ardent and beautiful operas. We are thrilled to welcome the legendary soprano, Carol Vaness, to direct this production. Ms.

Vaness is considered one of the preeminent interpreters of the title role having performed it countless times. It is an opera well-served by a woman director and she brings her expertise and vision of the opera to our audiences.”

Tosca



All is fair in love and war. But for Rome's celebrated opera singer, Tosca, all is not well. Fueled by jealousy, the Chief of Police pursues her artist lover for alleged treasonous acts, pausing only to pursue Tosca with a decidedly different set of acts in mind. From the start, Puccini's penchant for verismo is as present as ever, and to further tighten the tension, each act plays out in real-time - packing twists and terrors by

the truckload into one 24-hour period. Also, present is Puccini's unrivaled ear for melodies that swirl like smoke trails, forming soft stacks of billowing clouds. But we know that eventually, all that heavy, haunting beauty will begin to block out the sun. Facing ruthless tyranny and torture, Tosca's revenge is bathed in verismo violence and sealed with a kiss. But her willingness to trust a dead man spawns a startling, tragic twist. She lived for art and love. But Puccini saves what she'd die for until the bitter, shocking end.

Photo credit by Cory Weaver for LOKC

Tosca (1900)

By Giacomo Puccini
Libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa
Sung in Italian with English subtitles
Sets owned by Lyric Opera of Kansas City

Cast and Artistic Team

Conductor: Ryan McAdams
Director: Carol Vaness *
Set Designer: R. Keith Brumley
Lighting Designer: James Sale

Tosca: Marina Costa-Jackson *
Cavaradossi: Dimitri Pittas *
Scarpia: Michael Mayes

Sacristan: Stephen West *
Angelotti: Peter Morgan ^
Spoletta: Wayd Odle ^
Sciarrone: Evan Boyer *
A Jailer: Nathan Whitson
Shepherd Boy: Anna Tiedt

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* Lyric Opera of Kansas City debut
^ Lyric Opera of Kansas City Resident Artist

Tosca

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts (1601 Broadway, KCMO 64108)

- Saturday, April 30, 2022, at 7:30 pm
- Friday, May 6, 2022, at 7:30 pm
- Sunday, May 8, 2022, at 2:00 pm

Health and Safety COVID-19 Protocols

Please visit [Lyric Opera Health and Safety](#) for the latest information.

Lyric Opera continues to monitor information shared by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and [City of Kansas City, MO](#) and partners. For more information, visit [CDC](#) and the [World Health Organization](#). In addition, the Kauffman Center has a health and safety plan in place. For further details, please visit [Kauffman Center Health and Safety](#) for current information.

For questions, please patronservices@kcoopera.org or call Ticketing and Patron Services at (816) 471-7344, Monday - Friday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

At Ease with Opera

Tosca

Presented by Lyric Opera Guild

Admission to At Ease events is free and open to everyone.

Monday, April 4, 7 pm, at Kauffman Foundation, 4801 Rockhill Road, KCMO, 64110

A Lover's Leap of a Different Kind: A Preview of *Tosca*

The opera *Tosca*, one of the most popular dramas in the repertory, is based upon a famous melodramatic play by Victorien Sardou. It was composed by Puccini after his publisher tricked another composer out of writing an opera on the subject. Speaker Don Dagenais will look at *Tosca* from many different viewpoints, including its historical roots, its performance history, and some of the great divas who have taken the title role. Forming a part of the opera's history of performances in opera houses across the world are a great many stories and interesting bits of information. Even though you think you already know *Tosca*, you may learn something new in this presentation.

Monday, April 11, 7 pm, at Kauffman Foundation, 4801 Rockhill Road, KCMO, 64110

A Quick Virtual Walking Tour of Floria's *Tosca*'s Rome

The three acts of *Tosca* take place in actual locations still to be found in Rome: the church Sant'Andrea della Valle, the Palazzo Farnese, and the Castel Sant'Angelo. In this presentation Rob Seaver, a native of Lawrence who has

spent much of his life living in Italy, and who is an expert on Italian art and architecture, will give us a “tour” of these three major buildings. He will discuss their history, offer extensive photographs of the exteriors and interiors, and explain why these particular locations are so important for the three acts of *Tosca*.

Monday, April 18, 7 pm, at Kauffman Foundation, 4801 Rockhill Road, KCMO, 64110
Melodrama On Stage and Off: the Sardou/Bernhardt *Tosca*

Before *Tosca* was an opera, it was a play by Victorien Sardou, the commercially popular author of dozens of historical, patriotic, and political melodramas. He wrote the 1887 *La Tosca* for his friend, the great actress Sarah Bernhardt, who kept it in her repertoire for the rest of her career even as other star actresses got career mileage from it. In this presentation, Dr. Felicia Londré, Curators’ Distinguished Professor Emerita of Theatre of the University of Missouri-Kansas City, will discuss the play *La Tosca*, its melodramatic elements, and the backstage “melodrama” associated with it. Dr. Londré is an internationally renowned specialist in 19th-century French, Russian and American theatre history.



Community Conversations
Why does opera matter today?
How is it relevant to the Kansas City community?

Community Conversations, a new series by Lyric Opera of Kansas City, answers the question: “Why does opera matter today in Kansas City?” In collaboration with community partners and taking shape in a variety of formats, these experiences will explore the “here and now”

implications of our productions and provide a path to further unlock the potential of opera. RSVP at [Community Conversations](#).

Tosca

Community Conversations:

“I Live(d) For Art: Carol Vaness and Deborah Sandler Kemper in Conversation April 14, 2022, 7 - 8:30 pm, The Nelle, 1818 McGee Street, KCMO 64108

Globally recognized for her iconic portrayal of Floria Tosca, soprano Carol Vaness comes to Kansas City and dons a new role in *Tosca* as director. Lyric Opera General Director and CEO, Deborah Sandler Kemper, joins Carol in conversation to discuss their artistic careers, the role of *Tosca*, and the challenges women face both onstage and offstage in the performing arts industry.

Drinks are included in this free event. Masking during the event is recommended. RSVP encouraged. [RSVP here](#). This event is sponsored in part by Orpheus KC.

2022-2023 Season Subscriber and Single Ticket Information

Subscriptions for the 22-23 season are 4-show packages containing *Carmen*, *La traviata*, *The Shining*, and *Sondheim on Sondheim* with one optional add-on experience: *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Subscribers can add *Listen, Wilhelmina!* to their subscription to introduce opera to the young people in their lives.

Subscribers save 20% off single ticket prices and access seats before the general public. Subscribers received early renewal information on March 14 by email, and subscription renewal packets will be mailed in early April, 2022.

Season ticket packages range from \$80 to \$527. For ticket information, visit <https://kcopera.org/> or contact Lyric Opera Ticketing & Patron Services at (816) 471-7344.

Underwriting and Sponsorship

The 2021-2022 season is sponsored by the Richard J. Stern Foundation for the Arts and the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Family Foundation.

Lyric Opera of Kansas City's *Tosca* is dedicated to the memory of C. Humbert Tinsman, Jr. This production of *Tosca* has been underwritten, in part, by a generous gift from Ann Dickinson.

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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Direct media inquiries to Ellen McDonald, (816) 213-4355
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