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Lyric Opera School Performance of "The Abduction From the Seraglio" Free to GSUers

A rare opportunity to hear a performance by a nationally recognized opera company will occur when Lyric Opera of Chicago's Center for American Artists comes to GSU on Saturday, April 17.

A concert performance of Mozart's "Die Entführung aus dem Serail," or "The Abduction from the Seraglio" is scheduled for 8 p.m. in the Music Recital Hall. The concert has been underwritten and GSU faculty, staff, students and friends are invited to attend the event admission free.

The story, set in the 16th century, tells of the efforts of a young Spanish nobleman to free his loved one from bondage. She, her maid and her male servant were kidnapped by pirates, who sold them into slavery. He is successful, of course, but not until a great deal of intrigue, adventure and romance have transpired.

Maestro Lee Schaenen has been director of the Lyric Opera Center for American Artists for the past five years. He began his musical career as principal coach and conductor with the New York City Opera and later served for two years as personal assistant to world renowned opera and symphony conductor, Herbert von Karajan. He was permanent conductor of the Vienna Volksoper from 1965 to 1974 and regularly conducted for the Italian Radio Network and with the symphony orchestras of Milan, Rome and Turin.

He made his debut as conductor for Lyric Opera of Chicago in 1968 and has been on the podium for the Florentine Opera production of "The Marriage of Figaro" in Milwaukee. Last summer he made his seventh annual appearance at the Ossiach Festival in Austria.

Richard Boldrey will accompany the evening's performance. He is an assistant conductor of the Lyric Opera and of the Chicago Symphony Chorus. He has been soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and accompanist for The Robert Shaw Chorale and several leading instrumental and vocal artists.

The cast for the performance includes sopranos Michelle Gulick and Kathryn Magestro; tenors Robert Allan Cole and Gaultiero Negrini; bass Terry Cook; and Rush Tully, bass-baritone.

The opera performance at GSU is the first program in the "Alfonso Sherman Memorial: A Celebration of the Performing Arts," a series of major cultural events in April. They will commemorate the many contributions made to the arts by the late founding dean of the College of Cultural Studies, which was merged into the College of Arts and Sciences in the collegial reorganization of 1979. For further information, contact Christine Cochrane, extension 2121. There are a limited number of tickets available.