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For Immediate Release

Highlights from Lyric Opera's 2013-2014 Season to Kick Off "Opera Up Close" Series at GSU Center for Performing Arts

University Park, August 26, 2013 - For the fourth consecutive year, Governors State University Center for Performing Arts will begin its popular "Opera Up Close" series with a celebrated quartet of singers making their GSU debut. The Lyric Opera Preview returns to the Center for Performing Arts stage for one performance only on Sept. 22 at 4 p.m.

Four singers — sopranos Carla Janzen and Kimberly McCord, tenor Javier Bernardo, and baritone Michael Cavalieri — will perform highlights from the Lyric Opera's 2013-14 season. Selections will include arias and ensembles from "La Traviata" and "Otello" by Giuseppe Verdi, "Madama Butterfly" by Giacomo Puccini, "La Clemenzo di Tito" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, "Die Fledermaus" by Richard Strauss, and "The Barber of Seville" by Gioachino Rossini.

Host and narrator John Concepcion will provide insight into each opera and its highlights, taking the audience on a musical journey across Europe and through the centuries. The "Opera Up Close" series offers a unique experience for audience members. Rather than experiencing the music from the perspective of the auditorium, patrons at "Opera Up Close" shows are seated onstage for an unforgettable vantage point as superb artists perform some of the world's most beautiful and passionate music.

“The Lyric Opera Preview” is the first performance in our “Opera Up Close” series. Future “Opera Up Close” events include “Love and Marriage,” exploring the ups and downs of married life through famous operatic duets just in time for Valentine’s Day on February 9. The final performance in the series will be “An Afternoon of One Acts” on March 30 featuring three complete operettas by Gian Carlo Menotti and Samuel Barber.

The “Opera Up Close” series is sponsored by First Midwest Bank. Refreshments including Viennese-style desserts also are available during the show.

Governors State University is located at 1 University Parkway, University Park, Illinois. The box office is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and two hours prior to performances. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased online at www.centertickets.net or by calling (708) 235-2222.

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Multibuy/Megabuy packages are available at the Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University. Patrons can choose any three shows and receive the Multibuy discount or choose any four or more shows and receive the Megabuy discount.

In addition to savings, package holders receive ticket-exchange privileges with 72-hour notice or more, priority seating and more. Packages are available for purchase through the box office only and are not currently available online.

With the Center for Performing Arts in its 19th season, audiences will experience music, dance, theater, comedy family fare, opera and children’s programming.