



THE

# LIEDER

FALL 2023

# Welcome to the spectacular 2023-2024 Lied Center season!



**Bill Stephan, CVE**  
Executive Director &  
Chief Artistic Officer



We like to say that no dream is too big at the Lied, and that's recently been proven true over and over again. In August, more than 33,000 people came from across Nebraska and beyond (one audience member came from Italy!) to experience Hamilton at the Lied Center, making it the highest-attended performing arts event in Lincoln's history. We were also able to provide unprecedented outreach, with Hamilton artists engaging with the community through events at Lincoln City Libraries, the Malone Center, local schools, and the Lancaster County Juvenile Detention Center. In September, our season opened with a spectacular sold-out show with The Blues Brothers featuring Dan Aykroyd and Jim Belushi, and that same weekend also saw the kickoff of our piano series with the legendary Emanuel Ax debuting the Lied's brand-new 9-foot Steinway Model D Concert Grand Piano. Ax himself traveled to the Steinway & Sons Factory with a Lied Center delegation over the summer to select the world-class instrument, which will be part of unforgettable performances for decades to come.

Now we continue into the groundbreaking new season, which will also feature our first-ever movie/concert experiences with Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse - Live in Concert on Oct. 29 and Coco in Concert on Nov. 11! Each of these events will feature the full movies being played on our giant screen while live musicians perform all the music on stage. They're going to be unique, immersive experiences that are also an amazing opportunity to introduce our youngest audiences to the wonders of live orchestral music. Costumes welcome!

Of course, none of these achievements would be possible without our Friends. Because of the support of so many arts lovers from all across the state of Nebraska, we're breaking new ground, providing ever-more impactful arts experiences, and changing lives through the joy of the arts. YOU are making a difference, and you have my sincerest gratitude.

I'll see you #AtTheLied!



**Linda Dickenson**  
President | Friends of Lied  
Board of Directors

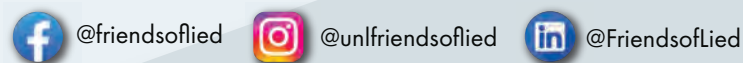
Welcome to autumn in Nebraska and the beginning of an outstanding season at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

As a member of the Friends of Lied, please know your support has helped to enrich the lives of so many people in our community and beyond. In fact, Friends of Lied membership translates into receiving this Lieder magazine, as well as so many more benefits. Depending on the level of your support, you have the opportunity to enjoy advance purchase of season subscriptions, a sneak preview of the season before public announcements, backstage tours, and invitations to "Friends" social events.

Indeed, the Friends of Lied Board of Directors has already been planning exciting events for this season. On Wednesday, Sept. 20, we held a working retreat to support committees as they begin developing new ways to expand the Friends of Lied family in a variety of ways, such as involvement in Arts Across Nebraska and the creation of various social events.

And we ask that you start spreading the news and save the date—Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024—for our annual Lied Gala with this year's theme of New York, New York! Think bright city lights, Broadway, and the glitz and glam of the city that never sleeps. We hope you'll join us to create lasting memories of a dazzling night in the heart of the Big Apple.

We invite you to celebrate the 2023-24 performing arts season with us. See you at The Lied.



ON THE COVER: *Spiderman: Into the Spider-verse, Live in Concert*

## DISTINGUISHED ARTIST EVENT

Friends of Lied members at the Distinguished and Patron Friend levels and Circles of Giving members were treated to a Distinguished Artist Event on Sunday, Aug. 27. More than 80 guests enjoyed a hilarious performance by writer and comedian Pat Hazell, a Nebraska native and an original writer for *Seinfeld*. This special event held in the Lied Center Commons included a cocktail hour featuring hors d'oeuvres and desserts from Venue and a hosted bar.

Shown in this photo; Pat Hazell called Art Zygielbaum up to the stage to demonstrate a magic card trick. Art is the immediate past President of the Statewide Advisory Board. He and his wife, Chris, are long-time Lied supporters.



## FALL RETREAT

In September, the Friends of Lied Board of Directors held its annual Fall Retreat in the Lied Center Commons. With *Aladdin* themed centerpieces decorating the tables, new and existing members came together for the first full board meeting of the 2023-2024 season. Jane Schiermeyer Hansen, Lied education and community engagement director, spoke to the group, giving insight into how Arts Across Nebraska connects Lied Center artists to Nebraska communities throughout the state, bringing public performances, student matinees and education outreach. This season includes UNL Opera's *O Pioneers!*, Mariachi Zapata, and Jazzy Ash.

Members enjoyed lunch, then Linda Dickenson raised her gavel to begin her first board meeting as Friends of Lied president.

Board members were able to round out the day working in committees for the *New York, New York* gala fundraiser coming in February.

## MEMBER FEATURE

In this issue of the Lieder, we would like to recognize the Legends! When Friends of Lied board members complete their term, they are invited to join this alumni group. It is a great way to stay connected to the Lied, maintain friendships formed during service on the board, and meet other performing arts enthusiasts. The Legends get together for fun social events several times each year.

This photo was taken at the Friends of Lied May Luncheon and features many Legends members, including chair Bev Austin.

Thanks to the Legends for their individual support and group Best Friend membership.



## LIED CENTER STAFF FEATURE

Matthew Boring has been on the Lied Center for Performing Arts staff since 2011 and was named Deputy Director in 2021. At the Lied Center he leads integrated marketing, development, and ticketing campaigns. During the last decade under Matthew's leadership, the Lied Center has been annually recognized as one of the world's top 100 venues for theatre ticket sales by *Pollstar Magazine*.

Boring is an active professional musician and has performed on trumpet with Mannheim Steamroller, The Temptations, Herbie Hancock, and Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra as well as for national Broadway tours including *The Book of Mormon*, and *WICKED*. Matthew holds a degree in music from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and began his arts administration career at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. He is on the board of directors for Nebraskans for the Arts and the Hixson-Lied College of Fine & Performing Arts Alumni Board.



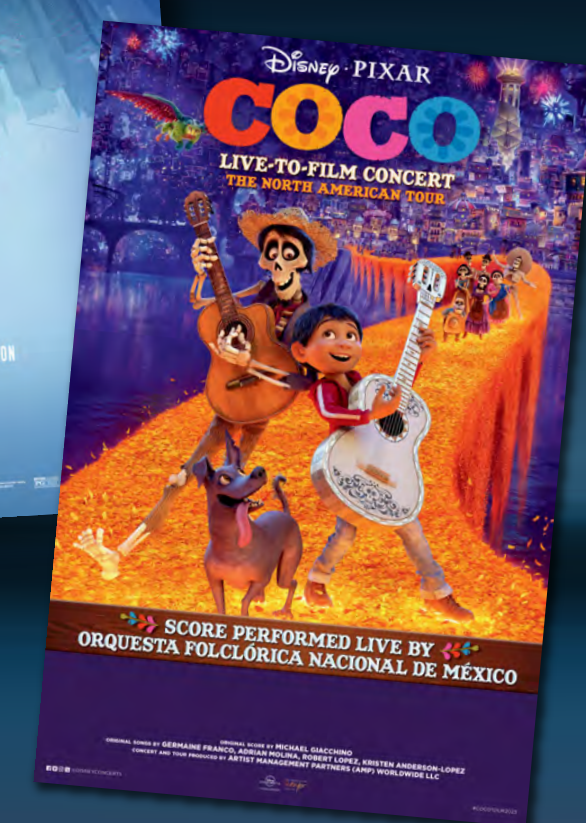
# #AtTheLied

**This season #AtTheLied, you're invited to experience your favorite movies as live concerts!**

The 2023-2024 Lied Center season welcomes an exciting new kind of entertainment to the Lied stage— full-length movies presented as live concerts!

This fall, two of the most beloved family movies of recent years will be presented in this unique new format. Using the Lied Center's huge screen and state-of-the-art projection system, the movies *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* and *Coco* will be presented in their entirety, with musicians performing their full musical scores LIVE on the Lied Center stage!

This immersive experience will be both a totally new way for fans to experience their favorite movies and an exciting opportunity to introduce young audiences to the joy and power of live orchestral music.



**Sunday, October 29**  
**Spider-Man:**  
**Into the Spider-Verse Live in Concert**  
pairs a screening of the Academy Award®-winning animated film with live musicians and turntables featuring a DJ scratcher live on stage. The score will be performed by Broadway Sinfonietta, an all-women and majority women-of-color ensemble renowned for its diverse and innovative creative direction and dedication to musical excellence. Featuring a soundtrack that blends symphonic orchestral music with hip-hop, Emmy® winner Daniel Pemberton has composed a sprawling score of boundary-pushing original music, supporting the movie themes of resilience and universal heroism.

Superhero costumes are welcome and encouraged!

**Wednesday, November 1**  
**Disney Pixar's Coco in Concert on Tour!**

Audiences are invited to spend Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) on a journey into the colorful Land of the Dead with Disney Pixar's *Coco in Concert on Tour!*

This unforgettable event will feature a screening of the complete film with Oscar®- and GRAMMY®-winning composer Michael Giacchino's musical score performed live by the 20-member Orquesta Folclórica Nacional de México.



Tickets for both of these spectacular movie/concert events are available now at [liedcenter.org](http://liedcenter.org).

## Lied Center Unveils New 9-Foot Steinway Concert Grand Piano

When legendary eight-time GRAMMY Award-winning pianist Emanuel Ax performed on the Lied Center stage on Sunday, Sept. 24, his spectacular concert also marked the debut of the Lied Center's new Steinway piano. This "once-in-a-generation purchase" was personally selected by Ax specifically for the Lied Center.

The Lied Center has built a reputation of presenting the world's top pianists, and attracting internationally renowned artists requires providing world-class instruments for their performances. Thanks to generous support from the D.F. Dillon Foundation and Rhonda Seacrest, Emanuel Ax traveled to the Steinway & Sons Factory in Queens, N.Y., to select a new 9-foot Steinway Model D Concert Grand piano for the Lied. He was joined at the factory by Lied Center Executive Director Bill Stephan, Glenn Korff School of Music Professor Paul Barnes, UNL Chancellor Emeritus Ronnie Green, and Lied Center Piano Circle Member Keith Heckman.

Stephan said, "From Emanuel Ax to Yuja Wang, Van Cliburn himself to Van Cliburn International Piano Competition Gold Medalists, the Lied Center has established itself as one of the world's top presenters of classical piano concerts and recitals. We could not be more excited to add this spectacular Steinway instrument to Lied Center concert experiences and are so grateful to the wonderful donors

who made it possible. Because of their generosity, Nebraskans will continue to experience the world's greatest classical musicians for many years to come!"

Ax's performance kicked off the 2023-2024 Lied Center Piano Series, which will also include a return performance by Lied Center audience favorite Behzod Abduraimov on Dec. 5 and a concert featuring Jon Nakamatsu, the only American to win a gold medal at the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in more than four decades, on April 7.

The Lied's concert grand Steinway piano that has been used in performances since the building opened in 1990 will continue to be available for concerts and other events throughout the year.



**VIDEO:** Click this QR code to travel behind the scenes at the Steinway & Sons Factory with Emanuel Ax as he selects the Lied Center's new piano!





# LIEDUCATION

## SUMMER 2023

### Students are the Superstars at Lied Summer Camps

Tony Award®-winning music director Jason Michael Webb and acting coach Q Smith headlined our staff of teaching artists for the weeklong Lied Center Triple Threat Broadway Intensive musical theater camp for high school students held June 25-29. Webb was recently nominated for his second Tony Award® for his work on the new Broadway hit *MJ: The Musical*. Q Smith is a Native Nebraskan and was in the original Broadway cast of the Tony Award®-winning musical *Come From Away*. Nebraska native Katie Pohlman returned to the Intensive as our dance instructor. Katie served as swing and dance captain on the national tour of the Broadway musical *Bandstand*.

We were thrilled to welcome 42 students at the Intensive this summer! We once again reached students across state lines, with participants hailing from Colorado and South Dakota. We had 17 students from Lincoln area schools and Nebraska students from communities such as Fremont, Norfolk, and Hastings. The impact of the Intensive has never been greater with participants who graduated high school in May moving on to prestigious theater programs across the country including The Hartt School at the University of Hartford and Northwestern University. After their week of learning, students entertained audiences on the Lied mainstage in their final showcase with a 35-minute Jason Michael Webb original musical *SuperStar*, along with solo performances of songs and monologues from the acting workshops.

The Lied Center Piano Academy took place July 17-21. Our featured guest artist was Dr. Solungga Liu, who holds a doctoral degree in Piano Performance from the Eastman School of Music. Liu is a Professor of Piano and Piano Area Coordinator in the College of Musical Arts at Bowling Green State University. Liu enjoys an active career across five continents and has collaborated with the likes of the National Theater Symphony Orchestra of Brazil and the National Institute of Health's Philharmonia in Washington D.C. The 2023 Academy was led by artistic director Dr. Paul

Barnes. Alongside Dr. Barnes, fellow Glenn Korff School of Music faculty David von Kampen and Tom Larsen taught workshops in music composition. UNL DMA graduate student Rebekah Stiles led a workshop and master classes, and another Nebraska piano performance graduate, Kaleb Wilkening, led workshops in music theory.

Students attended classes, workshops, and master classes throughout the week in Westbrook Music Building and at the Lied Center. Students also had the opportunity to attend two evening recitals performed by Rebekah Stiles and Solungga Liu. At the end of the week, Academy students shared their talents and progress in a recital for an invited audience of friends and family. We reached our maximum number of participants at 16 this year! We were thrilled to reach students across state lines, with participants hailing from Ohio and Georgia. One Academy alum returned as a counselor, another moved into full-time piano studies as a freshman at UNL studying piano performance, and several of this year's participants have since expressed strong interest in joining UNL's collegiate program.



### Hamilton Outreach Takes Center Stage in August

While *Hamilton* was Lincoln's most-attended arts event in history, the show's impact extended well beyond the stage. During their 16-show run in Lincoln Aug. 3-13, the company participated in seven outreach opportunities in the community, offering insight into all areas of the production from backstage to center stage to the orchestra pit. In total, Hamilton outreach events served over **300 members** of the Lincoln community.

**Malone Center** | Ensemble member Anthony Santos conducted a beginner movement workshop and Q&A session at the Malone Center with 42 students grades 2-8 from their summer program. Participating students were able to see the production free of charge as part of the Lied's Performance Fund Program.

**Bennett Martin Library** | Lencia Kebede, who plays Angelica Schuyler, and stage manager Rolando Linares engaged in conversation with Bennett Martin Library Assistant Director Traci Glass in the inaugural Page to Stage program partnership with the Lincoln City Libraries. The 75 event attendees were also invited to ask Kebede and Linares questions.

**Lied Center Vocal Master Class** | Jared Howelton, who plays the principal roles of Marquis de Lafayette/Thomas Jefferson in the production, led a vocal master class at the Lied Center for six UNL and three high school musical theater students.

**Lancaster County Youth Services Center** | Ensemble member Nicole DeRoux, who plays "The Bullet," visited the Lancaster County Youth Services Center to engage 18 incarcerated youth aged 13-18 in a beginning movement workshop and Q&A session.

**Lied Center Tech Q & A** | Wardrobe Supervisor David B. Thompson and Production Stage Manager Jimmie Lee Smith held a costume and stage management Q&A session with 90 high school and 10 UNL students on the Lied main stage, sharing insights about working in technical theater and shining a light on the unseen talent that keeps a show like *Hamilton* running.

**Carson Center Dance Master Class** | Company dance captain Devin Tyler Hatch led a dance master class at the Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts. The class had 22 participants and focused on "My Shot," exploring not just choreography, but also characterization and storytelling through dance.

**Pit Sit** | Lastly, two UNL students and aspiring music directors were welcomed into the orchestra pit for the final two performances of the run to observe the conductor, orchestra, and pit activities during the show and make connections with professional touring musicians.



# ARTS

## across Nebraska

### Mariachi Zapata to visit Eastern, Central Nebraska in November



Omaha-based Mariachi Zapata will visit Fremont, Nebraska City, Grand Island, and Kearney on their upcoming Arts Across Nebraska tour November 14-17, 2023. Delighting audiences since 1989, the group features a wide range of traditional instrumentation and focuses on presenting high quality performances of this 500-year-old music tradition, while keeping Mexican and Chicano culture alive. In addition to their entertaining performances, the group is committed to educational outreach work and connecting with students using their original curriculum on instrumental instruction, music appreciation, and history. Mariachi Zapata has been nominated for four Omaha Entertainment and Arts Awards, winning Best World Music in 2018.

#### Performances include:

**Fremont Opera House, Fremont**  
Tuesday, November 14 at 7 PM

**Nebraska City High School, Nebraska City**  
Wednesday, November 15 at 7 PM

**Grand Island Senior High School, Grand Island**  
Thursday, November 16 at 7:30 PM

**Merryman Performing Arts Center, Kearney**  
Friday, November 17, Two Invited Student Matinees

Please visit [www.liedcenter.org/education/arts-across-nebraska](http://www.liedcenter.org/education/arts-across-nebraska) for more information and venue-specific ticketing links.





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## Join us for the Friends of Lied Gala New York, New York Saturday, February 10, 2024

The Lied Center will be transformed by the bright city lights and sounds of Broadway on Saturday, February 10, 2024. Dress in your finest attire from fifth avenue and join us for upscale cocktails, gourmet dining, and dazzling entertainment. Experience the excitement of the city that never sleeps without leaving Lincoln!

This year, Friends of Lied members will receive exclusive early access to buy gala tickets before they go on sale to the public. Main stage seating will be available on a first come, first served basis. Take advantage of this exclusive early access to secure your seat. Keep an eye out for an email with more details on November 1.



Single Ticket: \$175  
Private Table for Ten: \$1,750

Trust us, you won't want to miss this event!

