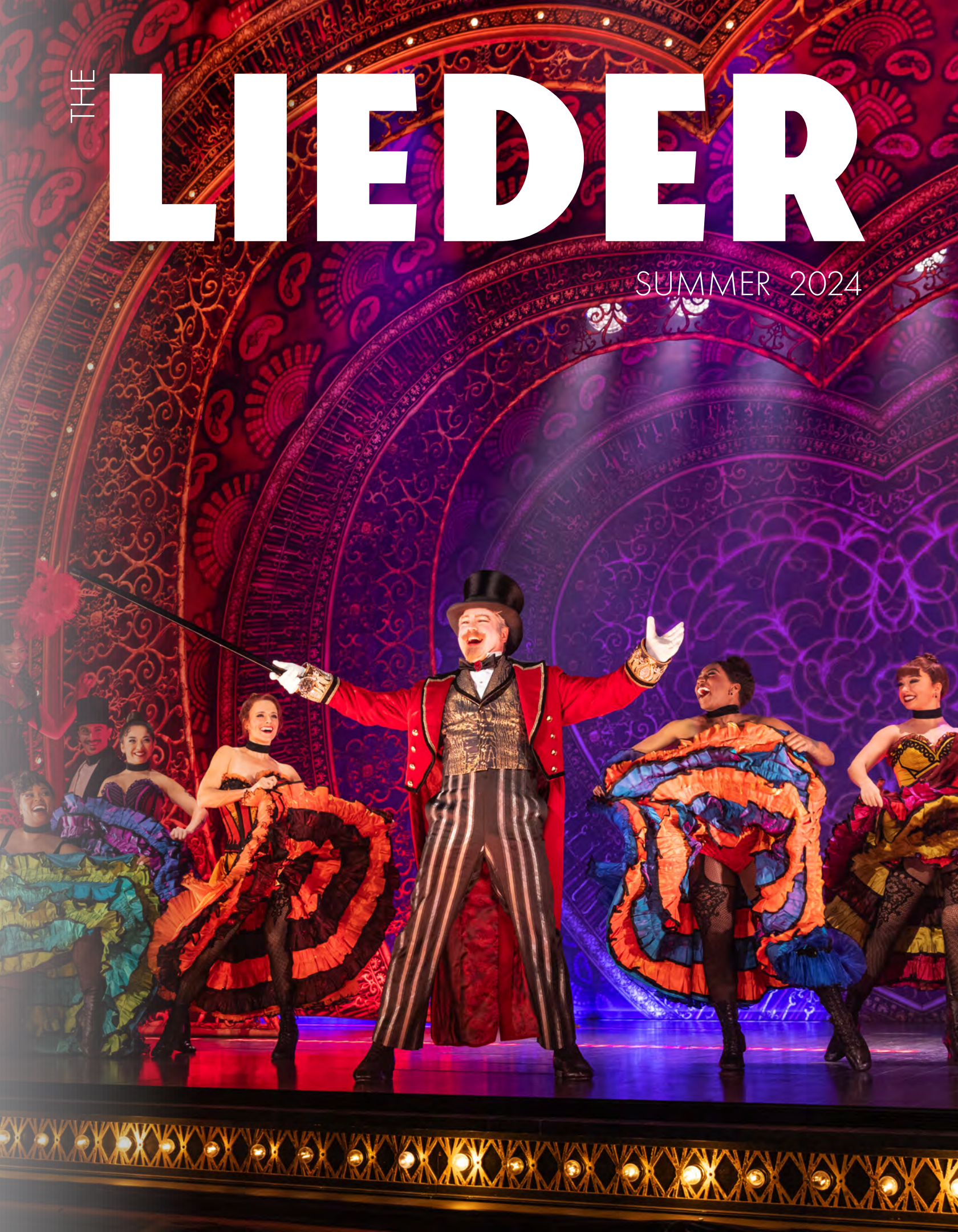


THE

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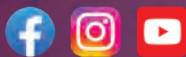
SUMMER 2024



WELCOME



Bill Stephan, CVE
Executive Director &
Chief Artistic Officer



It is a time of celebration at the Lied Center, and I'm so glad you're part of it!

We just announced a truly thrilling new season of music, theater, and dance, including the biggest Broadway lineup in our history—and the historic two-week run of *Moulin Rouge!* From the Nebraska premiere of *Back to the Future the Musical* to the return of legendary violinist Itzhak Perlman, from the *Carson Tonight* celebration of Johnny Carson's 99th birthday to the thrilling Czech National Symphony Orchestra, this season promises unforgettable moments with top artists and events from around the world... all right here at Nebraska's Performing Arts Center.

Our goal is always to provide something for everyone, and this season accomplishes that with a spectacular lineup of world-class entertainment and inspiration for all the members of your family. I hope you'll take advantage of our "Create Your Own" season subscription option to make sure you get the best seats to your favorite events!

We're also celebrating a record-breaking Give to Lincoln Day! Thanks to Friends like you, more than \$91,000 was raised to support our programs and outreach. We're so grateful to be surrounded by a community that truly believes in the importance of the arts, and that belief is demonstrated so clearly by your continued support. I'd also like to extend my sincere gratitude to outgoing Friends of Lied President Linda Dickenson for her wonderful year of service, and welcome new President Dee Cummins.

So here's to a wonderful new season of making memories together! As a Friend, you prove time and again that there's no dream too big for what we can accomplish together at the Lied Center. I look forward to seeing you soon, #AtTheLied!



Linda Dickenson
President | Friends of Lied
Board of Directors

As the curtain falls on this exhilarating season at the Lied Center for Performing Arts, we are so thankful for the extraordinary journey we have shared. Each show has not only captivated our hearts, but also showcased the incredible talent and dedication of the performers, directors, musicians, production teams, and of course the amazing staff at the Lied Center.

In addition to all the stellar shows, the Friends of Lied Board of Directors also had a busy season planning events and fundraisers. The February 10 Gala, themed New York, New York, raised more than \$140,000, thanks to many of you who attended. These annual fundraisers, along with your Friends of Lied membership and donations, allow us to give an annual gift to the Lied Center. In fact, in April it was my honor to present a record-setting annual gift to Bill Stephan, Executive Director of the Lied Center, of \$650,000.

We are grateful for the vision, passion, and commitment of Bill Stephan, who crafted the past season of extraordinary and diverse performances. And we also thank Amy Ossian, the Lied's Membership Manager, who keeps the Board of Directors on track with her incredible organization and attention to detail.

Our Friends of Lied Board of Directors is composed of intelligent, talented, creative and passionate people. The successes achieved this year are due to these committed board members and the leadership of many. It has been my honor to serve as President for the 2023–2024 year. I now pass the gavel to Dee Cummins, who has already been proactive in planning exciting events for 2024–2025.

See you at the Lied!



@friendsoflied



@unfriendsoflied



@FriendsofLied

ON THE COVER

Moulin Rouge! will be at the Lied Center, February 4-16, 2025. Order tickets online at <https://www.liedcenter.org/event/moulin-rouge>

Spring Luncheon

The Friends of Lied Board of Directors held their annual spring luncheon on May 3 at the Country Club of Lincoln. Outgoing board members were recognized for their service, and 14 new members were welcomed to the board. President Linda Dickeson ceremoniously passed the gavel to Dee Cummins, 2024-25 President. Director Bill Stephan welcomed the new members and shared details on exciting events coming to the Lied Center. It was a wonderful chance to look back on the successes of the year and look ahead to great things to come.



Mean Girls PPD

The final Pre-Performance Dinner of the season, held before *Mean Girls* on April 13, was "so fetch!" Hosted by the Friends of Lied right in the Lied Commons, these fun, themed dinners give attendees an easy way to catch dinner and a show. Guests enjoyed a special performance by Boots and Cats, University of Nebraska-Lincoln's premier treble a cappella group, and lots of pink, including a fun photo backdrop.

Member Highlight - Kevin & Diane Klein

After attending a Lied performance by a deaf theater company with her mom, Diane realized there is something for everyone at the Lied. Kevin remembers being blown away by the enthusiasm and participation of the audience at the musical *RENT*. When Diane attended *STOMP*, pregnant with their son, and he started kicking every time the drumming stopped, she knew he was destined to be a drummer! Their daughter is also involved in the performing arts as a dancer. Choosing the shows they want to see each season is a family affair. Diane got further involved at the Lied Center through her work as an Advisor/Principal at Pittenger & Anderson, a long-time Lied Center show sponsor. She joined the Friends of Lied board in 2015 serving in a variety of roles, including treasurer. When the board found themselves in need of a designer for the newsletter, she recruited Kevin to join the board as well. Kevin and Diane continue to support the Lied Center as Friends of Lied members and this season they are Contributing Sponsors of *Rent in Concert*. They recently set up an endowment to support the Lied Center, so they can enjoy it during their lifetime and leave behind a legacy for future generations. They are excited about the future of the Lied Center and "can't wait to see where it goes from here."



Lied Center Staff Feature

Kelly Buresh is the Lied Center's new Group Sales Manager. You can typically find her in the box office leading group ticket sales, managing program book advertising operations, or welcoming groups to the Lied on show days. Kelly comes to us with 20+ years of experience in the wedding and events retail space. She achieved awards in top sales, operational excellence and Manager of the Year several years in a row, eventually overseeing her own region and growing a successful district. She is excited to bring this spark and growth to group sales at the Lied! When she is not hard at work, you can find her enjoying time with her teenage son and husband. Having fallen in love with the arts at a young age, Kelly is thrilled to return to this artistic environment, celebrating creativity and impacting the arts in Nebraska.

2024-2025 SEASON

Welcome to another spectacular season of music, theater, dance, and more at the Lied Center!

When the Lied Center was founded 35 years ago, the vision was to bring the very best in performing arts to the people of Nebraska. Each new season, we honor that vision by bringing a lineup of top artists and events from all over the world to **Nebraska's Performing Arts Center!**

Broadway continues to be the most popular genre at the Lied, and this year's Glenn Korff Broadway Series is the biggest in our history, including a full week of the Nebraska premiere of **Back to the Future: The Musical**, a full week of the hilarious **Beetlejuice: The Musical**, a full week of a gorgeous new production of **Disney's The Little Mermaid**, Tony Award-winning Best Musical **Dear Evan Hansen...** and the historic, just-announced two-week run of the spectacular **Moulin Rouge!** In case that wasn't enough Broadway, the Lied will also welcome the highly anticipated new **RENT in Concert**, the return of the classic **Annie**, and a pre-Broadway engagement of the brand-new **Mystic Pizza**.

It's going to be a signature year for classical music at the Lied, with the return of the legendary **Itzhak Perlman**, the Lied premiere of the **Czech National Symphony Orchestra** with guest violinist **Sandy Cameron** (who last appeared on the Lied stage alongside Danny Elfman), the first performance of **Academy of St Martin in the Fields** at the Lied in nearly 20 years, and international sensation **Van Cliburn Gold Medalist Yunchan Lim**.

In an exciting and eclectic season of dance, the thrilling **Step Afrika!** returns to bring its newest production to the Lied stage and more exceptional outreach to the Lincoln community. The season continues with the iconic **Parsons Dance**, and then the electrifying **Syncopated Ladies** (who recently returned from touring with Beyoncé!).

This year the holidays at the Lied will be bigger than ever with three major holiday shows: the Christmas musical stylings of **The Midtown Men** (the original stars of *Jersey Boys!*), the holiday-themed spectacle that is **The Illusionists: The Magic of the Holidays**, and the beloved family classic **A Charlie Brown Christmas: Live on Stage!**

All that is just scratching the surface of the electrifying 2024-2025 Lied Center season! We'll also welcome the return of Lied Center favorites including **Mnozil Brass**, the **Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain**, **Capitol Fools**, **Alton Brown**, the world-premiere play **A House Divided**, and much more.

See the full lineup and become a Create Your Own Season subscriber at [liedcenter.org/season!](https://liedcenter.org/season)





OnStage Event

On Tuesday, May 7, supporters and friends of the Lied Center gathered for the annual OnStage season announcement party! Not only was it the official reveal of the spectacular 2024-2025 season, it was also a chance for donors to choose the events they'd like to sponsor. Attendees were treated to performances from violinist Lindsay Deutsch of Take3 and Jonah Gavi Schwartz from *Dear Evan Hansen*.

The Lied Center was also proud to have OnStage be part of The Broadway League's 'Study ABroadway' professional development program! Nicki Collett, Senior Director of Advancement for The Tennessee Theater, flew to Lincoln to be a member of the Lied Center team for the day and a guest at this unique event.

Jazzy Ash makes connections in Pender and Kearney

Jazz musician Ashli St. Armant and pianist Doug Carter visited Pender and Kearney on April 17-18, 2024, engaging the communities with a combined two student matinees, one public performance, and two outreach events in the two communities over two days.

St. Armant led Pender 4-6 graders in a playground hand game workshop, explaining the cultural and musical significance of the games and giving students an opportunity to share their own. The student matinee was presented to all K-8 grade students at Pender Public Schools and got students and teachers alike on their feet dancing. The evening public performance featured classic jazz tunes and storytelling. A special thank you to Kat Ousey for tabling at this performance and spreading the word about the Lied Center and the work we do to reach all Nebraskans!

In Kearney, Jazzy Ash performed for all Kearney Public School fifth graders, with a select group joining her on stage to collaborate on the number *When the Saints Go Marching In*. She was also able to lead a community ukulele workshop for all ages, with some in attendance picking up a ukulele for the first time! In total, this tour served nearly 1,200 Nebraskans and was an inspiration to many.

In total, the 23-24 Arts Across Nebraska Season served **4,717 Nebraskans**, performing 9 student matinees, 7 public performances, and providing 9 outreach services in communities across Nebraska, traveling 1,773 miles. Thank you to the Friends of Lied for their support of this special program – we could not do it without you!



Inaugural Page to Stage partnership with Lincoln City Libraries a success

During the 2023-24 season, the Lied Center and Lincoln City Libraries teamed up to connect literary-themed Lied Center performances with library patrons. The five-performance program took place at the Bennett Martin Library and featured special events engaging artists from touring productions. Activities included conversations with performers and backstage personnel, special storytime guests, curated reading lists, ticket giveaways and more.

Highlights included moderated conversations with Lencia Kebede, who plays Angelica Schuyler in *Hamilton*; Matt Crowle and Victoria Huston-Elem, Thenardier and Madame Thenardier, respectively, in *Les Misérables*; as well as *To Kill A Mockingbird* national tour cast members Yaegel T. Welch, who plays Tom Robinson, Maeve Moynihan, who plays Scout Finch, and Justin Mark, who plays Jem.

For our younger patrons, puppeteers from Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia visited storytime with special puppet guest Rainbow Fish, sharing the books *Rainbow Fish* and *Rainbow Fish Discovers the Deep Sea*, featured in the performance. And, despite the cancellation of the show, cast member Theresa Cunningham was able to read Newbury Honor Recipient *Show Way* to families, while Lindy Clausen from the International Quilt Museum led children in a post-story art activity centered on quilting. This season, the partnership served nearly 200 Lincolnitites.



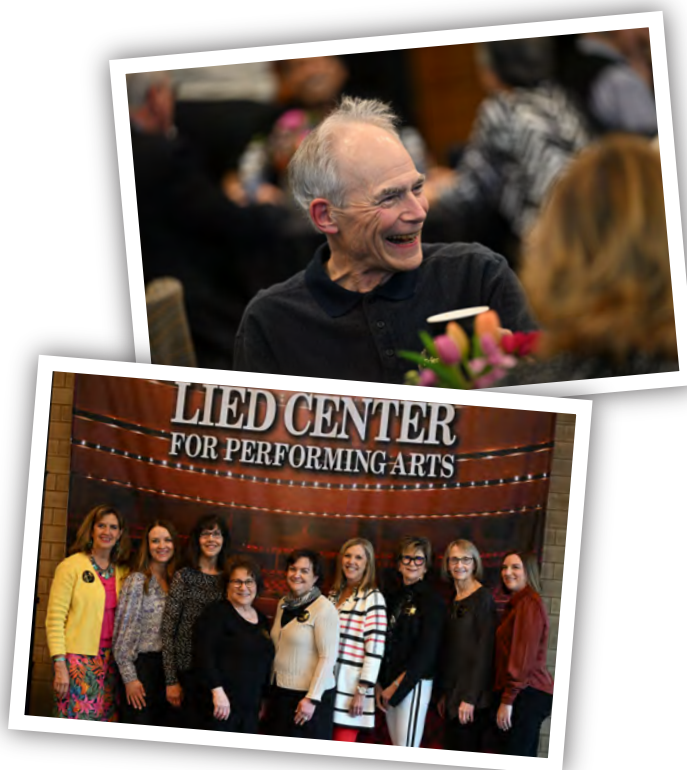
Friends of Lied Check Presentation

Thanks so much to all of our members who made it possible for the Friends of Lied to make a record donation of \$650,000 to the Lied Center this spring. The presentation was made by 2023-24 Friends of Lied President Linda Dickeson and Vice President of Membership Janet Hayes to the Lied's Executive Director & Chief Artistic Officer Bill Stephan at the April 23 performance of *The Simon & Garfunkel Story*.



Member Appreciation Event

The Friends of Lied Board organized a new event this spring to thank Friends members, holding a pre-performance reception for those at the Special Friend level and higher. Prior to the April 23 performance of *The Simon & Garfunkel Story*, attendees were treated to desserts from Venue in the Lied Center Commons and "I'm a Friend" stickers.



Greater Nebraska Meeting

The April Friends of Lied Board meeting is historically held outside the walls of the Lied Center. Wood River was the destination this year, when the Friends traveled to the Crane Trust Nature and Visitor Center on April 10. Bill Stephan updated members on upcoming Lied events, and a delicious lunch was served. Afterward, attendees had the option to tour the Crane Trust's rare, protected lands. It was a special opportunity to explore our beautiful state and share new experiences together.



give
TO LINCOLN DAY
MAY 30, 2024

A big thank you to everyone who donated to Friends of Lied through Give to Lincoln Day in May! We received a record \$91,197.65 from 174 current and new members to support the performing arts in Nebraska.



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SAVE THE DATE

JUL 16-17

Early access to *Dear Evan Hansen*,
Back to the Future, *Little Mermaid*

Great Friend level members and above
Starting at 11:00AM

Online, In-Person at Box Office, or by Phone

JUL 9

Annual Membership Meeting

Friends of Lied members at all levels
invited to participate

Tuesday, July 9, 2024 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Held virtually on Zoom

AUG 8-11

Early Access to Single Tickets

Great Friend level members and above
Starting at 11:00 AM

Online, In-Person at Box Office, or by Phone

SEPT 8

Distinguished Artist Event

Distinguished Friend level members and above
Sunday, September 8, 2024 | 4:00 - 6:00 PM
Lied Commons

OCT 12

Back to the Future Pre-Performance Dinner

Open to the public. Tickets available soon!
Lied Commons

JAN 9

Open House & Tour of the Lied

Fabulous Friend level members and above
Thursday, January 9, 2025 | 4:30-6:30PM
Lied Commons & Tour

FEB 1

Friends of Lied Gala

Open to the public
Saturday, February 1, 2025
More details coming soon!

