

# THE LIEDER

SUMMER 2020



 Daniel Martinez



 Andrea Von Kampen



 Jackie Allen & Hans Sturm



 Kerfuffle Puppet Jam



 Jason Michael Webb



 Nebraska Brass



 Paul Barns



 The Bottle Tops



 Josh Hoyer



 Michael Londra



 Hannah Huston



 Juli Burney



 April Verch



 Host



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



**W**hen times are hard, it's so good to know that you can count on your Friends! Now more than ever, thank you for supporting the Lied Center as a valued member of Friends of Lied.

It won't come as a surprise to any of you that this is a challenging time at the Lied Center. Having to cancel the last third of our 30th Anniversary Season was a hard pill to swallow, and since then we've been hard at work trying to figure out when and under what conditions we can safely resume programming in our beautiful theater.

But life is not canceled! The Lied Center is committed to bringing the arts to you and the state of Nebraska even in a pandemic. Just two weeks after our first postponed event, we debuted the Lied Live Online concert series. Every weekend since that first concert on March 27th we've produced a new live event featuring local and national artists in genres ranging from jazz to soul, Celtic to classical piano, comedy to Broadway. Our Triple Threat Broadway Intensive and Piano Academy summer camps have moved online, and we just announced a brand new online arts education series produced by Lied Center staff. Our new Music on the Move series is bringing mini concerts on a bicycle-powered stage into a different Lincoln neighborhood every weekend.

I hope you'll join me in setting our sights on that wonderful day when we'll all gather again at the Lied to witness soul-stirring performances from the greatest artists in the world. We have a wide variety of exceptional performances planned for the upcoming year including opening the season in September. We will be announcing the season later this summer.

Yes, things will look different at the Lied this fall, but rest assured that all your Friends of Lied membership benefits still apply. The arts provide us inspiration and joy which are essential for all of us. I hope you are joining us for "Lied Live" performances this summer and look forward to seeing you this fall. The Lied Center is committed to providing you smiles and heartwarming moments. We're so grateful that you're standing by our side through the uncertainty.

So here's to moving forward, hopefully and creatively! I also want to thank the 2019-2020 Friends President Tracy Sanford who, with the support of the Friends Board, members and staff, did an outstanding job in advocating for the Lied Center and the arts in Nebraska. I look forward to working with 2020-2021 Friends President June Pederson in the upcoming year. Thank you, again, for supporting the Lied Center. Because of you, we will weather this storm and keep the Lied Center's momentum moving forward.



**Tracy Sanford**  
President, Friends of Lied  
Board of Directors

**D**espite an early ending to the Lied season this spring, our Friends of Lied members supported us in achieving a record-breaking year! The Friends of Lied membership levels reached a record, which aided us in giving the Lied Center a record-breaking donation in honor of its 30th Anniversary. This year's Gala, Wonderland at the Lied - A Mad Hatter's Ball, was another record, raising over \$92,000. This huge success is in thanks to our sponsors, our donors and the tireless efforts of the Friends Board and Lied staff. Three pre-performance dinners were attended by record numbers of Lied ticket holders and went a long way to introduce new people to our organization and its mission. We added benefits for members, from backstage tours to early access for new Broadway packages, to rolling membership. It is a great time to be a Friend!

It was a great pleasure for me to serve as the 2019-2020 president and a true privilege to work with our amazing Friends of Lied Board of Directors, the hard-working Lied Center staff, and the Lied Statewide Advisory Board. Our Board of over 60 energetic women and men from across Nebraska give generously of their time, talents and treasure to help move the mission of the Lied Center forward. We hope you are enjoying Lied Live Online, bringing entertainment to your living room! And as always, hope to see you at the Lied next fall!

Today and always, we stand with our black artists, staff, colleagues,  
friends, and all those who continue to be affected by racism.

We are committed to peace, justice, and equity.

Art has the power to open eyes, hearts, and minds.

The Lied Center for Performing Arts is committed to lifting up  
and presenting the work and artistry of people from diverse and  
historically underrepresented backgrounds. It is through art that we are  
allowed a glimpse into the hearts of others, to see for a moment through  
their eyes, feel the world as they feel it. We are committed to providing  
inspiration and hope, and working to bring the community together to  
understand challenges that lead to positive change.

The Lied Center has a long history of celebrating and showcasing  
artists of color, and we are continually striving to do more. Last year the  
Lied launched our new MOSAIC series with the goal of presenting work  
that is "idea-driven, curiosity-filled, and radically inclusive," and with  
a pledge to strengthen partnerships with our cultural and community  
centers on and off campus, inviting curatorial and cultural partnership.

We are committed to inspiring social responsibility.

**We can all do better, and we must.**

**We see you, we hear you, and we are listening.**



# THE LIED MOVES ONLINE

**O**n March 13<sup>th</sup>, the Lied Center for Performing Arts was supposed to be hosting a full house to enjoy the Neil Diamond tribute band Super Diamond. Instead, that show became the first of nearly two dozen concerts, events, and performances to be postponed or canceled at the Lied as the COVID-19-related shutdowns began in Lincoln and beyond. As it became clear that things were not going to be business as usual for quite some time, Lied Center Executive Director Bill Stephan and his staff found themselves needing to think swiftly and creatively to keep providing arts, entertainment, and inspiration to the people of Nebraska.

The focus quickly turned online. The debut of the Lied Live Online concert series came exactly two weeks after that first postponed event, and kicked off with Lincoln blues/soul singer-songwriter Emily Bass. That first concert drew an average audience of over 200 viewers on the Lied Center’s Facebook page. Within days, the concert had been viewed over 10,000 times.

In the weeks following Bass’s performance, Lied Live Online became a full-fledged concert series, presenting a new artist every weekend. It’s been an eclectic mix of genres, mixing some

national acts into a roster of mostly local artists. Audiences continue to tune in from Lincoln and far beyond, connecting with artists and enjoying the high quality entertainment they’ve come to associate with the Lied.

The Lied’s education department has also been innovative in offering online content. Both the Triple Threat Broadway Intensive and the Piano Academy summer camps for high school students are being offered in an all-online format to students across the country, and the Lied education staff also recently kicked off a new series of weekly online educational and engagement programming. Lied Learning Online will add early childhood opportunities, “lunch and learn” events, Master Classes, glimpses behind the scenes at the Lied, student/alumni spotlights, and more to the Lied’s online offerings, continuing to provide high quality arts education to patrons of all ages.

Of course, everyone at the Lied is eagerly anticipating the return of in-person performances and physical gatherings. In the meantime, the Lied will continue to find large and small ways to connect with the community, working to provide the joy, hope, and comfort that comes from great art.

# ARTS ACROSS NEBRASKA: The Lied's Night of Broadway

The communities of McCook and Nebraska City were transported to the lights of the Great White Way for the first tour of the Lied's 2019-2020 Arts Across Nebraska (AAN) season, The Lied's Night of Broadway. The cabaret-style show, directed by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's (UNL) Glenn Korff School of Music faculty Alisa Bellflower, featured select emerging UNL students performing numbers from shows featured in the Lied's 30th anniversary Broadway series.

**"It was wonderful to be able to bring live music to our rural communities in Nebraska. The audiences were incredibly receptive and so grateful to us. I hope this is something the Lied Center continues to do in years to come!"**

- performer Hayley Shoemaker.

Citizens of McCook and Nebraska City were served across four performances, including school matinees and evening community performances. In addition to school matinees, high school students in both communities were able to participate in question and answer sessions about the next steps in a theater career with the UNL performers. This tour was also a continuation of our partnership with the Kimmel Charitable Foundation and we look forward to presenting another tour with them during our 2020-2021 AAN season. In total, The Lied's Night of Broadway served 895 Nebraskans in McCook and Nebraska City.

>>> **SAVE THE DATE** <<<

FOR A BRAND-NEW FRIENDS OF LIED  
EVENT CONCEPT

**MARCH 20, 2021**

• **CASINO NIGHT AT THE LIED** •

## FRIENDS OF LIED MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Did you know that ticket sales only cover 40% of operating and programming costs of the Lied Center?

The support received from the Friends of Lied helps bring quality performing arts to students and residents across Nebraska.

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# 1,179

Friends of Lied members in 2019. Together, we had a revenue of

# \$506,670

- a record breaking year!

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## GIVE TO LINCOLN DAY

Our 2020 season started off strong, but dropped off dramatically once the pandemic gripped our country. Thankfully, our community came together and showed their support of the Lied during Give to Lincoln Day on May 28.

We raised a record  
\$43,290.35!

Thank you  
to all who have already  
become a member for the  
2020-2021 season.

# NEW FACES AT THE LIED CENTER



## Lauren Silverman Durban

Communications Manager

I started at the Lied Center on March 17th of this year, which also happens to be the last day that much of the staff was able to work in the building before the campus shut down! Fortunately, the Lied has a kind, creative, generous staff who have helped me transition into my new role via many, many Zoom meetings.

My career has taken me through television (I spent five years as evening anchor for Channel 8 Eyewitness News), print (I've been writing about parenting and performing arts for L Magazine for more than a decade), and radio (I was co-host of JP & Lauren Mornings on KX 96.9 for the last 6 years), and I've always been passionate about the performing arts. I grew up performing on stages around Southern California, and since moving to Lincoln in 2003 I've performed in various venues here as well. I had the chance to perform on the Lied stage last season in Broadway at the Lied with the ASCAP Grow a Show festival!

I'm a huge Broadway nerd, so writing and talking about theater for a living is truly a thrill. When I'm not at the theater, I'm with my husband wrangling our four kids (they're 5, 7, 10, and 12)!



## Jane Schiermeyer Hansen

Education & Community Engagement Director

Since joining the staff in January, I have had the pleasure to work with our incredible education team! As Education & Community Engagement Director, I oversee all elements of the education department, including master classes for UNL students, the statewide outreach program Arts Across Nebraska (a favorite program of mine, as a Fremont, NE native), early childhood programs, the ASCAP New Musical Theatre Festival, the MOSAIC series, and more. Prior to my work at the Lied Center, I served as the Education Director at the Lincoln Community Playhouse and Executive Director of the Youth Actors Academy of Lincoln.

I am a proud graduate of the University of Minnesota Twin-Cities and New York University, where I received my Master of Arts in Educational Theatre in Colleges and Communities. My husband Matt and I enjoy traveling, weekly trivia with family, cheering for the Huskers, and watching Food Network with our cats, Rico and Winston. Teaching and directing young people are two of my greatest passions; I have collaborated on over 20 theatre camps, plays, and musicals in the Lincoln area and beyond. Presently, I am a panelist on two conference presentations for the Theatre for the Very Young (theatre created for children ages 0-5) project Plink! Plink! Plonk!, where I had the honor of engaging with young people in teacher-in-role as Plink, the kazooing bug, in Phoenix, AZ, last fall.



## THE WOMAN BEHIND THE NAME: **CHRISTINA M. HIXSON**

**C**hristina Hixson has spent a lifetime using her instincts to help her make decisions. She moved from Iowa to Omaha in 1944 to attend business school, thanks to a \$600 loan from an uncle. After seven months, she went to work for Ernst Lied's car dealership as a switchboard operator and took dictation since his secretary could not. After the war, Ms. Hixson became his secretary and also took on the accounting duties. Ms. Hixson joined Mr. Lied in Las Vegas in 1960 and became his assistant. She attended all business meetings with him as he relied on her instinctive judgment of people to guide him in his transactions.

Mr. Lied established the Lied Foundation Trust in 1972 in honor of his parents, Ernst M. and Ida K. Lied. After his death in 1980, Ms. Hixson became the sole trustee of his foundation. He clearly

trusted her instincts and business acumen, as he did not leave specific instructions about what to fund with his philanthropic contributions. Christina Hixson has been responsible for thousands of people having access to community facilities and educational opportunities across the country. She has made contributions to projects in California, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, Utah and Washington. A small box of notecards helps keep track of just how much money she has donated. By the end of 2019, "We've given away \$318,238,404," Hixson said.

The Lied Center was honored to host Ms. Hixson during her visit last fall to attend opening night of *The Phantom of the Opera!* The Lied Center is a world-class facility that presents world-class performers thanks to Ms. Christina Hixson.

Friends  
of



Lied Center for Performing Arts  
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# Wonderland

at the Lied  
A Mad Hatter's Ball

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