

THE **LIEDER**

// FALL 2020 //



Bill Stephan, CVE
Executive Director &
Chief Artistic Officer



Dear Friends,

As a member of the Friends of Lied, I know you understand that the arts bring joy and inspiration into our lives, and we need that now more than ever! It's impossible to overstate the effects that COVID-19 has had on the arts, and this year will be the most difficult financial period the Lied Center has ever faced. I would like to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have maintained your support during this time, and extend a special thanks to those who have increased their gifts.

The Lied Center is proud to be among the first major performing arts centers in the nation to reopen. We began welcoming patrons back in July with socially distanced seating. Our current capacity in the main hall is a little over 500 seats. The audience is perfectly spread out and the live acoustics provide a vibrant arts experience. We've upgraded our air filters based on CDC recommendations, and have the maximum amount of fresh air circulating in the building. We also require facial coverings for everyone who enters the building. So here's to safely and joyfully returning to the Lied!

The Lied Center is continuing to provide arts education experiences on our Facebook page and website. We are also in the process of developing technology to share broadcast-quality viewing of select Lied Center performances. Please make sure you are receiving our e-mails in your in-box to find out about all the opportunities available!

Studies show that during live performances, the heartbeats of people in the audience actually sync up. In this time of isolation, how beautiful will it be for our hearts to again beat as one?

Thank you so much for continuing to be a Friend. I can't wait to see you back at the Lied!



June Pederson
President, Friends of Lied
Board of Directors

The Lied Center is opening again and the Friends of Lied are excited! The ticket and facility staff, along with the Lied administration, deserve our thanks for the work they have done to comply with all the necessary requirements to keep us safe as we open the season. I also want to acknowledge the outstanding work done by Bill and the Lied staff to produce Lied Live!, the two summer intensives for students and the traveling neighborhood concerts, all the while reconstructing the season performance schedule.

Although everything is different, some things remain the same. The Friends board has been meeting virtually since March. Our annual retreat was held on September 9. The day included a presentation from Liz Lange, a philanthropy consultant. And plans began taking shape for our annual events. Pre-performance dinners are planned for spring of 2021. And the fundraiser traditionally held in the spring is still in the beginning stages. Please stay tuned!

At a time when the only certainty has been uncertainty, we appreciate each of you who have renewed your membership or became a new member this year. Membership totals in August were at more than 94 percent of where we were a year ago and 86 percent of last year's gift. Your support is critical to the continuation of the reputation the Lied Center has achieved and we are profoundly grateful. See you at the Lied!

Cover: **The Phantom of the Opera's Derrick Davis returns to the Lied Center on October 17.**

WELCOME BACK TO THE LIED!

The experience may be different than in the past, but live performances have returned to the Lied Center!

When the curtain rises on the 2020-2021 season at the Lied, it will have been a full six months since COVID-19 began forcing the cancellation of events in March. In that time, we've been working to make sure that returning to the Lied would be the safest experience possible.

As the Lied reopens, we're making the following commitments to health and safety:

- ▶ All shows at the Lied through at least January 16, 2021 will feature socially-distanced seating, dramatically reducing the capacity of the auditorium. Most seats will be available in pairs, with a distance of six feet between each group of seats.
- ▶ There will be increased cleaning and disinfecting that meets or exceeds University and health department guidance.
- ▶ The Lied has joined with UNL in requiring that face coverings be worn inside any campus building, including the theater.
- ▶ The Lied is adopting more comprehensive ticket flexibility than ever before. In an effort to encourage patrons who are feeling ill or have been exposed to someone who is ill to stay home, the Lied is making all tickets fully refundable, right up until show time.
- ▶ If a show is postponed or canceled, patrons will be offered the choice of keeping the value of their tickets as on-account credit to be used for another show or receiving a full refund.

In addition, Lied staff has been busy making improvements and modifications to the building that will also help in providing the safest possible patron experience. New touchless sinks and soap dispensers have been installed which, when added to the existing touchless toilets and paper towel dispensers, make the Lied restrooms entirely touch-free. New electrostatic sprayers approved by the EPA have been purchased for use in disinfecting surfaces between shows, and the building's fresh air intake has been increased, as have the ratings of Lied Center air filters.

Though this will be a unique season, it will also be an especially joyful one! Perhaps now more than ever before, we're celebrating the opportunity to be together to be entertained and inspired by great art. We are so thankful you'll be with us as the curtain rises on another exceptional season at the Lied!

SPECIAL DELIVERY!

Many things are different this year, including the way we are delivering benefits to our members. Here are a couple of ways the Friends of Lied have pivoted this summer to accommodate restrictions during COVID-19.

One of the benefits of membership at the Best Friend (\$1000+) level and higher is receiving an invitation to the Lied Center's annual "On-Stage" Season Preview Party. This year, we brought the party to our guests by delivering an On-Stage party kit in box to everyone who RSVPed. Kits included Lied branded glassware, ingredients for a specialty cocktail, cookies, season info, and a link to view the event live online.

During On-Stage, Patron Friends (\$2500+) typically have the opportunity to bid on an event to sponsor for the coming season. This year, Patron Friends were able to sign up for a show or education/outreach event to sponsor in advance of On-Stage. All Patron Friends were recognized for their support during the program. Thanks to all who participated in this unique and entertaining event!



THIS FALL AT **THE LIED CENTER**



SEPT.
26

OCT.
1

NEWSICAL THE MUSICAL



THE REMINDERS



NOV.
8

KELLI O'HARA



NOV.
13

ON BROADWAY



DEC.
3

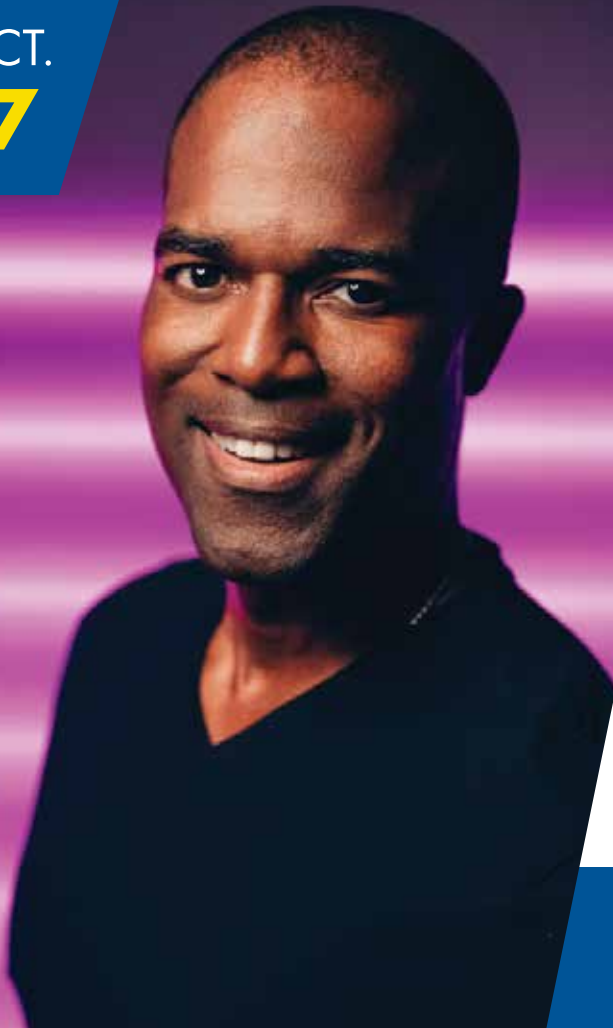
JAN.
16

CANADIAN BRASS, CHRISTMAS



MIKE SUPER

OCT.
17



The Phantom Returns!

The 25th anniversary tour of *The Phantom of the Opera* was the largest production in Lied Center history, thrilling more than 30,000 audience members who were there to experience the magic. At the center of the production was the Phantom himself, actor Derrick Davis.

This fall, The Phantom is unmasked as Davis returns to the Lied to present *Derrick Davis: An Evening of Broadway*. This solo concert will highlight this dynamic and passionate performer whose career has also included starring as Mufasa in the U.S. tour of Disney's *The Lion King* and leading performances on Broadway in *The Lion King* and *Carousel*. Most recently, he starred as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Opera Carolina's production of *I Dream*, a rhythm and blues musical about the final 36 hours of Dr. King's life.

On Saturday, October 17, 2020, Davis brings that prowess, strength, and magic back to the Lied Center for two performances only. It's sure to be an unforgettable event with this world class performer!

DERRICK DAVIS AN EVENING OF BROADWAY

This is Not Your Grandmother's Tupperware Party!

To know Dixie Longate is to love her. This fast-talking, gum-chewing, ginger-haired, outrageously funny Alabama gal is bringing the good ol' Tupperware party into the 21st century, leaving hearts a little bigger and food a little fresher everywhere she goes.

Dixie has been selling out all over the country and off-Broadway since 2007, and she'll be at the Lied Center for 8 shows in October. Audiences will enjoy Dixie's wild stories, heartfelt accounts, audience participation... and yes, the opportunity to purchase Tupperware (just wait until you hear her takes on what those plastic containers can do!). There's no predicting what Dixie might say, but there's one thing guaranteed—you'll leave her show with a smile.

DIXIE'S TUPPERWARE PARTY



OCT.
20-25

LIED LEARNING ONLINE

No one could have predicted how quickly all of our lives would change in early March, and the Lied Center's education staff found themselves facing the challenge of creating meaningful content and opportunities in the online atmosphere. Over the summer, the Lied's education department has been hard at work launching Lied Learning Online, a new series of online content with programs aimed at educating theatre lovers of all ages.

The first program in the series, the video podcast **Lunch & Learn**, offers an in-depth look at the arts scene in Lincoln and the arts industry as a whole. Our inaugural *Lunch & Learn* episode in June, centering on the musical *Hamilton*, averaged 90 real time viewers and has reached over 2,000 views on Facebook after its broadcast.

For our smallest patrons, we launched **Tiny Lieders**, a series of early childhood arts workshops, with the help of Kerfuffle, a theater company which focuses on producing arts experiences for young children. *Tiny Lieders* takes families on imagination adventures into outer space, under the sea, and on trips to the farm, all from the comfort of their living rooms!

In addition to cultivating talent, the Lied Learning Online series offers a stage to local talent with **Huskers in the Spotlight**, which showcases original work from current students and alumni from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The Lied's education staff has also been hard at work on the **Master Classes @ The Lied** series, which offers middle and high school students from across Nebraska the opportunity to hone their craft via Zoom. Thus far, Lied teaching artists have offered classes on the topics of song interpretation and dialects.

The Lied is committed to bringing meaningful programming to our patrons in any format in these unusual times. Love for the arts can break through any barrier!



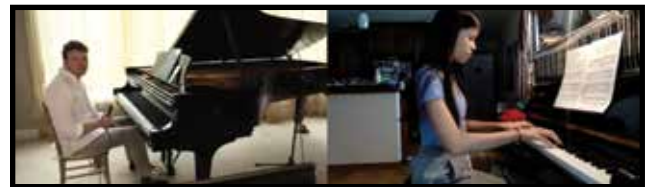
Lunch & Learn: Lied Education team members Ryan Savage and Brenna Zollman interview UNL Glenn Korff School of Music Professor Dr. Robert Woody during the August 4 Lunch & Learn event.



Kerfuffle Puppet Jam: Actors Malik Fortner, Katy Kepler, Jessica Burrill Logue, and Ashley Lavery from Kerfuffle perform in the Lied's Puppet Jam event on June 18 as a part of The Tiny Lieders series.



LCTTBI: Tony Award Winner Jason Michael Webb wraps up a mock audition with student Olivia Nelson during the Lied Center Triple Threat Broadway Intensive Camp in June.



LCPA: Internationally renowned pianist and Lied Center Piano Academy guest artist Dr. Eric Zuber works one-on-one with Clara Kendrick during a private lesson.

LUNCH & LEARN

airs the first Tuesday
of the month
@ noon

TINY LIEDERS

airs the second Thursday
of the month
@ 10am

HUSKERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

airs the last Tuesday of
the month @ noon

► For more information or to tune in to a Lied Learning Online broadcast, please visit the Lied's website or Facebook page.

SUMMER CAMPS:

LIED CENTER TRIPLE THREAT BROADWAY INTENSIVE AND PIANO ACADEMY

When the Lied temporarily shut its doors in early March, one of the first questions our education department faced was what to do about our summer camps. It was quickly decided that we were committed to offering these experiences to Nebraska's brightest young talents in a time when many opportunities were being canceled. The conversation then shifted to how we could effectively and safely transfer an in-person camp to Zoom. We proudly hosted both the **Lied Center Triple Threat Broadway Intensive** and **Piano Academy** digitally in June and July, respectively.

The second annual *Lied Center Triple Threat Broadway Intensive* served thirty of Nebraska's future Great White Way stars. Instructors Allison Macri, Con O'Shea-Creal, Sam Hartley, and Tony Award winner Jason Michael Webb guided students through in-depth dance, acting, and singing master classes over the five-day program. Students were given the chance to learn group choreography, sharpen their audition songs and monologues, and participate in mini-sessions about next steps in a theatre career. For students like Robbie Exstrom from Kearney, it wasn't just about building skills, but connecting with the artistic community during COVID-19, saying *LCTTBI* made him, "feel less alone, especially in this time with the

pandemic, being self-isolated. Feeling like you're part of a community is important right now." Instructors, students, and facilitators were able to learn from each other, create connections, and share their performance gifts virtually during the 2020 *LCTTBI*.

Piano Academy included thirteen of the nation's most talented young pianists, a camp attendance record. Going digital for this camp had some advantages, including the ability to welcome participants from Oregon and Texas for the first time in the camp's history. Campers were coached on proper technique, the ongoing changes in the piano performance industry, entrepreneurship, and how to be a better overall pianist from instructors Dr. Eric Zuber, an internationally renowned pianist and featured artist for this year's *Piano Academy*, UNL Glenn Korff School of Music faculty Dr. Paul Barnes, and nationally certified teacher and performer Donna Gunn.

We are eager to gather in person for these camps in the future, but were thrilled to be able to continue to offer these virtual opportunities to students to share their passions and practice their crafts safely during COVID-19.

MOSAIC at the Lied: Making a Difference From a Distance!

The MOSAIC Series at the Lied is dedicated to art and experiences that are idea-driven, curiosity fueled, and radically inclusive, and a large part of that mission involves connecting artists with students and other community members in innovative and meaningful ways. While current health conditions prevent those kinds of interactions from taking place in person, the Lied's education and outreach team has developed an innovative lineup of virtual events.

Step Afrika! had been scheduled to perform at the Lied in early September, but COVID-19 caused the cancellation of their entire 2020 tour. Still, this unforgettable group remained an integral part of this year's MOSAIC events. UNL percussion students were able to

learn from Step Afrika's former artistic director, Jakari Sherman, through a virtual lecture and demonstration of Step Afrika's distinctive percussive style. Community and UNL dance students attended a virtual master class with members of Step Afrika's company, learning about the African American tradition of stepping. On September 9th, the experiences culminated in a free screening of Step Afrika's film *STONO*, which marks the anniversary of the largest rebellion of enslaved African Americans in US history. The film, which was co-commissioned by the Lied Center and was shown to a socially distanced audience in the main hall, was followed by a virtual discussion panel of artists and scholars from around the country.



Friends
of



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// MUSIC ON THE MOVE //

Bicyclist Dan Warren pulls the Music on the Move mobile stage through the East Campus neighborhood. (photos © Justin Mohling)



The Big Red Brass Quartet performs patriotic favorites for the residents of Savannah Pines Retirement Community as part of their trip through the Williamsburg neighborhood. (photos © Savannah Pines Staff)