

The

LIEDER

SPRING 2021

*Support
Our Stages*
2021 FRIENDS OF LIEDER
VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER





Bill Stephan, CVE
Executive Director &
Chief Artistic Officer



The February 24th edition of *The New York Times* stated, “[The] future has already arrived at the Lied Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln, Neb., where socially distanced performances returned in July. The center bought a five-camera system to broadcast work from its theater and has been using it since September. Its spring 2021 season – yes, it has a spring season – will feature Kelli O’Hara, the Silkroad Ensemble and mandolinist Chris Thile, all viewable either in person or online.”

Indeed, the future is now at the Lied Center! Our hybrid in-person/virtual spring season is garnering national attention for its innovation, and we continue to receive requests from venues around the nation who want to model their own reopening after what has been accomplished at the Lied. Through the most challenging year in the history of the organization, the Lied Center has emerged as a national leader in charting a path forward for the performing arts.

None of that would have been possible without the support of the Friends. You have stood with us through it all, and I want to offer my personal gratitude to each of you who have maintained or even increased your gifts during this time.

We’ll have more good news to share soon, including the announcement of our 2021-2022 Broadway season later this spring, followed by the announcement of the rest of the 2021-2022 season in May. As Friends of Lied, you’ll be the first to know! The day when we can again gather in full audiences to celebrate spectacular artistry is growing ever closer, and it’s so good to know you’ll be there with us when the curtain rises.

I’ll see you soon at the Lied!



June Pederson
President | Friends of Lied
Board of Directors

Support Our Stages, the Friends of Lied Board of Directors Spring 2021 virtual fundraiser is off to a wonderful start! This virtual event originated from the creative minds of board members Jessie Waller and Carol Coughlin. Beginning with the March 15 announcement, we celebrated sponsorship support from 30 companies and organizations. This was accomplished through the diligent work of the Support Our Stages Corporate Sponsorship Committee chaired by Jill Davis.

Our Paper Patron committee, led by Megan Darlington and Keri Kercher, worked with our local vendor 48th Street Crafters Market to create “Paper Patrons,” a cutout that can be customized to each donor’s liking. From skin color to hair color and glasses, the choices are fun to select.

Our Marketing Committee, chaired by Katie Taddeucci, organized television interviews, media releases, a printed invitation and social media promotions for this short six-week campaign. A delightful 30-second video was created by talented board member Megan D’Amour and her husband Marc. I encourage you to take the opportunity to view it on our Support Our Stages web page.

Paper Patron purchasers and corporate sponsors will be invited to virtually attend the Lied Center Season Announcement in May. Pulling off an entirely new fundraiser at a time when we cannot have an in-person event is a significant accomplishment! If you have already supported this fundraiser, thank you.

>> If you have not supported yet, please visit www.liedcenter.org/SOS (or scan the QR code to the right) or contact Amy Ossian at 402-472-4704 / aossian2@unl.edu

Support Our Stages

2021 FRIENDS OF LIED VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER

We invite you to become a Paper Patron and help us fill the seats! Support the Lied Center by purchasing customized cutouts.

Have some fun and support the arts without donning a dress, renting a tux or even leaving your house!

For each \$100 tax-deductible gift, you will have the opportunity to build one Paper Patron. Create a cutout for each member of your family, gift one to a friend, or honor a loved one. With hundreds of possible combinations, you will ‘have a ball’ designing your own custom cutouts! This virtual fundraiser is in lieu of our annual fundraising event.

Participants will receive an exclusive invitation to watch On Stage, the Lied Center’s virtual 2021-2022 Season Announcement, in May. The Paper Patrons will be placed in the theatre seats and showcased on-camera during the event.



Customized cutouts are available through April 20 at
www.liedcenter.org/SOS



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Thank you to our Starring Role Sponsors:



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Ensemble Sponsors:

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EDUCATION AT THE LIED



UNL Students Learn from Artists O'Hara, Abduraimov in Virtual Format

Just as life has looked a bit different for all of us this year, so have Lied Center master classes. Zoom was the medium of choice by artists and students alike and the Lied Center Education Team effectively transitioned our work to the digital platform, hosting dozens of post-show Q&A sessions, vocal and instrumental master classes, and conversations with artists on everything from growing up LGBT to surviving as an artist during this unprecedented time to career tips and tricks.

One of our more impactful engagements this spring took place on February 22nd with **Tony Award@-winning vocalist and iconic Broadway leading lady Kelli O'Hara**. Five participants from the Glenn Korff School of Music and Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film were able to perform musical theatre songs for O'Hara and receive one-on-one feedback. Twenty-five additional students were able to observe and learn from their peers and participate in a Q&A session with O'Hara at the end of class, where she shared words of wisdom and her predictions about the future of the industry. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for these students to work with such an accomplished artist in anticipation of her June 12th concert at the Lied Center.

As we begin to see a decrease in COVID cases, more outreach is able to take place in a hybrid model, where artists are able to join students in small, socially distanced, masked groups to share their craft and re-

ceive feedback, while their peers also tune in to learn via Zoom. On March 12th, three piano students from the Glenn Korff School of Music were able to participate in a master class at the Lied Center with **internationally acclaimed pianist Behzod Abduraimov**, who gave a concert at the Lied Center on February 28th. Students were able to play their selected pieces for Abduraimov, who joined the group via Zoom projected on a large screen at the Lied, via high-definition webcam. Additional piano students and faculty were able to experience the master class by joining the Zoom link, where they could watch their fellow students play and benefit from feedback provided by Abduraimov. Two additional master classes are planned in this format later in the spring with pianists Joyce Yang and Arnoldo Cohen.

While we eagerly await the opportunity to once again bring our students face-to-face with the greatest artists in the world, the Lied is proud of our ability to fulfill our mission by offering high quality, virtual arts engagement opportunities to our UNL and Lincoln communities throughout the pandemic.



Lied Learning Online: A Year "Behind The Screen"

In a year filled with so much challenge and change, the Lied staff continued to fulfill our mission in new and innovative ways. The resulting projects have been true bright spots in an often dark time.

One of the brightest spots is **Huskers in the Spotlight**, a Lied Learning Online digital arts education program. Investing in the UNL community, the Lied has presented monthly livestream concerts highlighting talented student artists through this ongoing virtual performance series. Through **Huskers in the Spotlight**, we offer students an unparalleled professional experience: a platform to showcase their art and an opportunity to record a high-quality video for their reels. Dozens watch live, and the recordings consistently rack up at least a thousand views. The series features in a range of genres and musical styles. From the indie-funk tunes of Past Casual to classical piano works performed by Sean Lebita, there is something for every Lied Center patron to enjoy.

The final concerts presented on Facebook LIVE are the end result of a weeks-long process. We kick things off a couple of months before the show, when our Education & Community Engagement staff recruits artists for the season, writes scripts, and assists students in developing effective setlists, building stage plots, and engagingly presenting their work. On the day of, our production staff transforms the Lied Commons – usually a meeting space – into a socially-distanced production studio! Each student artist receives personalized lighting and sound design, in addition to a moving, multi-camera streaming experience.

The effect of **Huskers in the Spotlight** reaches beyond our campus community. Some high schools in the Lincoln Public Schools system have even hosted live stream watch parties! The entire **Lied Learning Online**

program stretches into the Lincoln area and beyond. Local community centers integrate Tiny Lieders into their curriculums, New York University graduate students watch our **Lunch & Learn** episodes, and kids from New Jersey to Colorado attend our virtual **Master Classes @ the Lied** workshops. While a year of learning Zoom etiquette, organizing virtual "Happy Hours," and sewing homemade masks was not how anyone planned to spend the last 365 days, at the Lied Center, we are proud of what we have accomplished together. We never, truly, shut down. When we couldn't do things the regular way, we just did what artists do best – we made something new. As we embark on our next chapter as an organization, we know that whatever we encounter, we will continue to bring the arts to our community, both on the stage and behind the screen. We hope you'll join us, too.



Left page: UNL students in Zoom master classes with Behzod Abduraimov, master class with Kelli O'Hara. This page: clockwise: Huskers in the Spotlight concerts with Past Casual, Wildwoods, and Sean Lebita, a Tiny Lieders program in action

MOSAIC Continues with Strong Spring Line-Up

The Lied Center's **MOSAIC series**, which focuses on creating a more empathetic, inclusive, and anti-racist campus and Lincoln community through the arts, is featuring four performances this spring that include extended outreach with artists.

Ronald K. Brown/**EVIDENCE: A Dance Company's** virtual presentation of *Grace* on February 5th featured outreach activities including a modern dance master class with UNL dance students and faculty and a post-show conversation between Ronald K. Brown, founder and artistic director of EVIDENCE: A Dance Company and Susan Ourada, UNL Associate Professor and Area Head for Dance.

Rhapsody in Black, another MOSAIC series program, was presented virtually on March 9th and also included two engagement activities: a Q&A session with introduction to theatre students and a post-show conversation between Rhapsody in Black playwright LeLand Gantt and UNL Associate Professor of English and Ethnic Studies Dr. Kwakiutl Dreher. Engagements with both Ronald K. Brown and LeLand Gantt produced rich conversations that provided a deeper insight into their artistic creations.

Later this spring, the Lied will present two more performances and associated activities as part of the MOSAIC series – the Silkroad Ensemble on April 15th (profiled to the right) and a virtual presentation of *Everytime I Talk About...Black Voices in a Time of Change: Poetry, Art, and Music* on April 20th.

Everytime I Talk About... is unique in that it is an original event being produced by the Lied Center, in collaboration with acclaimed poet and UNL Chancellor's Professor of English Kwame Dawes. This unique evening will feature seven poets from the UNL community who will draw on the works of the late poet Lucille Clifton and their own compositions to celebrate the long history of Black poets bringing often uneasy truths to the heart of America. In addition to readings by the poets, the evening will include original compositions of Lucille Clifton poems set to music by Omaha musician Mesonjixx and selections from the visual artist Aaron Douglas' collection at the Sheldon Museum of Art. *Everytime I Talk About...Black Voices in a Time of Change: Poetry, Art, and Music* will prove to be an unforgettable evening and a reminder of the transformative power of art.



SILKROAD ENSEMBLE

APRIL 15, 2021 | 7:30 PM

Founded by cellist Yo-Yo Ma, Silkroad Ensemble has been called "vibrant and virtuosic" by the *Wall Street Journal* and "one of the 21st century's great ensembles" by the *Vancouver Sun*. The group creates music that engages difference, sparking radical cultural collaboration and passion-driven learning to build a more hopeful world. On April 15, this innovative ensemble makes their Lied Center debut.

Yo-Yo Ma conceived Silkroad in 1998 as a reminder that even as rapid globalization resulted in division, it brought extraordinary possibilities for working together. In an innovative experiment, he brought together musicians from the lands of the Silk Road to co-create a musical language founded in difference, a metaphor for the benefits of a more connected world. This initial gathering of artists was rooted in a simple, initial question: "What happens when strangers meet?" And thus, Silkroad was born, as both a touring ensemble comprised of world-class musicians from all over the globe, and a social impact organization working to make a positive impact across borders through the arts.

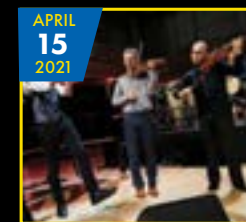
In the days leading up to their main stage performance on April 15, Silkroad Ensemble will be in residency at the Lied. Led by clarinetist and composer Kinan Azmeh, they will be creating a new work for performance and possible recording, and will also work with University of Nebraska-Lincoln students as part of that process. A composition masterclass is planned with Glenn Korff School of Music students, as well as an interactive discussion as part of the UNL Office of Diversity and Inclusion's "Dish It Up" program.

As the only in-person event currently on Silkroad Ensemble's calendar for 2021, this is a truly unique opportunity for students and audiences alike. The Lied Center is proud to be bringing this exceptional ensemble to Lincoln, and is excited to share their new work with the community!

SPRING PERFORMANCES 2021

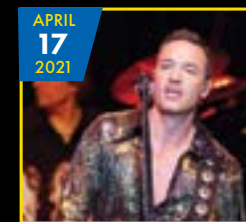
All events can be attended in person at the Lied or watched live online!

There's a lot to be excited about this spring at the Lied! Did you know that every event that will be on the Lied stage this spring is also available to watch from home via live webcast? Whether in-person or virtually, we hope you'll join us for these exciting and inspirational performances! Get more information and tickets to all events at >>> [liedcenter.org](https://www.liedcenter.org).



SILKROAD ENSEMBLE APRIL 15, 2021 | 7:30 PM

The Silkroad Ensemble creates music that engages difference, sparking radical cultural collaboration and passion-driven learning to build a more hopeful world. Founded by cellist Yo-Yo Ma, the group has been called "vibrant and virtuosic" by the *Wall Street Journal*, "one of the 21st century's great ensembles" by the *Vancouver Sun*. Don't miss their Lied Center debut!



SUPER DIAMOND APRIL 17, 2021 | 4:00 & 7:30 PM

In tribute to the much-loved, international pop icon Neil Diamond, Super Diamond performs the timeless classics, including "Sweet Caroline," "America," and all your favorite hits. Super Diamond's success in America is unprecedented for a tribute band. With a nod from Neil (the man himself), Super Diamond is the most celebrated Neil Diamond tribute artist in the world.



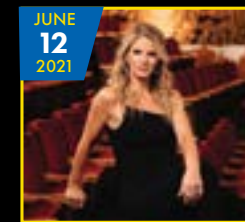
CANADIAN BRASS APRIL 29-30, 2021 | 7:30 PM

Celebrating their 50th Season, the Canadian Brass has performed in nearly every major concert hall in the world and has been seen by millions of viewers on *The Tonight Show*, *Entertainment Tonight* and PBS. From renaissance and baroque music to Dixieland, ragtime and Broadway show tunes, enjoy a concert of the greatest hits by this virtuosic ensemble.



ARNALDO COHEN, PIANO MAY 13, 2021 | 7:30 PM

Brazilian-born pianist Arinaldo Cohen has long had a reputation for astonishing audiences with his musical authority and blistering virtuosity. Praised by *The New York Times* for a sound that is "splendid and full," Cohen returns to the Lied to celebrate the music of composer Franz Liszt after an unforgettable performance in our 2013-2014 season!



KELLI O'HARA JUNE 12, 2021 | 7:30 PM

One of Broadway's biggest stars performs songs from her acclaimed career on stage and screen. Winner of a 2015 Tony Award for her performance in the Broadway revival of *The King and I*, O'Hara also starred on Broadway in *Nice Work If You Can Get It* and *The Pajama Game* and has performed solo engagements at the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall and venues across the world!

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA SEPTET WITH WYNTON MARSALIS: THE DEMOCRACY! SUITE

APRIL 3 | 7:30 PM

Live Q&A with Wynton Marsalis to follow the concert

Free, virtual only | After last appearing on the Lied stage in 2019, trumpeter/composer Wynton Marsalis will lead the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra Septet in a FREE virtual concert for Lied audiences. The concert's unique repertoire celebrates jazz's embodiment of freedom and democracy, and will feature *The Democracy Suite!* a new Marsalis composition written during the ongoing Covid-19 crisis as a response to the political, social, and economic struggles facing our nation.

MICHELLE ELLSWORTH APRIL 10, 2021 | 7:30 PM

Free, virtual only | Experience one of the world's most creative multi-media dance artists who *The New York Times* said "churns out surprises, from coin-operated choreography to implausible science experiments." Recognized with a Guggenheim Fellowship, Ellsworth combines movement with science, architecture and humanities for a mind blowing multi-media presentation.

LIED LIVE ONLINE: LSO'S EDWARD POLOCHICK & ANTON MILLER

APRIL 11 | 7:00 PM

Free, virtual only | LSO Music Director Edward Polochick and Concertmaster Anton Miller will perform a range of popular and classical pieces for violin and piano. Maestro Polochick has been Music Director of LSO since 1998, serves as Artistic Director of Concert Artists of Baltimore, and is a longtime faculty member of the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore. He continues to attract world-wide attention as an orchestral, choral, and operatic conductor. Violinist Anton Miller has served as Concertmaster for LSO for nearly 30 years. Since his Carnegie Hall concerto debut, Miller has appeared throughout the United States and abroad as a soloist, chamber musician, recitalist, and pedagogue.

FREE ONLINE EVENTS CONTINUE THIS SPRING!

EVERYTIME I TALK ABOUT...

Black Voices in a Time of Change: Poetry, Art and Music

APRIL 20, 2021 | 7:30 PM

Free, virtual only | Drawing on the poetry of the late poet Lucille Clifton, UNL Poets will celebrate the long history of Black poets bringing often uneasy truths to the heart of America. Curated by Kwame Dawes, the poets, in conversation with music and visual art, will perform their own compositions and selections of poems by Lucille Clifton whose words continue to resonate in our culture today.

LIED LIVE ONLINE: SAM STACY

MAY 9 | 7:00 PM

Free, in-person and virtual tickets available | Sam is a Lincoln native who recently received national attention after winning a spot on Team Blake on NBC's *The Voice*. He was first introduced to music through choir at First Plymouth Church, then got involved in musical theater and taught himself to play guitar at 12 years old. After graduating from Lincoln Southeast High School and starting college, he'd study by day and gig by night, taking a job at a bank after graduating to keep his evenings free for performing. Once he started making more money from music than at the bank, he quit his day job and never looked back. Stacy now lives in Los Angeles and is a full-time musician.



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Take a moment to review the benefits associated with your membership level.



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DID YOU KNOW?

The Friends of Lied
presented a gift of
\$475,000
to the Lied Center
for 2020.

Sponsorship of Lied Event
Sponsorship Perks like Access to the Suite
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Sneak Peek at 20/21 Season
Early Single Ticket Sales
MemberCard with 2-for-1 Offers
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		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PATRON FRIEND	\$2,500+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
DISTINGUISHED FRIEND	\$1,500 - 2,499	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
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DON'T FORGET TO RENEW FOR EARLY ACCESS TO 21/22 SEASON TICKETS!