

THE LIEDER

SPRING 2025



Welcome Spring

Fresh Beginnings and New Adventures Await!



Bill Stephan, CVE
Executive Director &
Chief Artistic Officer



There's always so much to be excited about in the Spring at the Lied Center, and this year is as busy and joyful as ever! Thank you for being part of all the magic.

We recently announced our thrilling 2025-2026 Glenn Korff Broadway Series, and it will truly be a season to remember. We're proud to host the Nebraska premiere of the Tony Award-winning *Suffs*, fresh from its Broadway run. With producers including Malala Yousafzai and Hillary Clinton, this moving musical tells the true story of the women who led the fight for women's suffrage in the United States. We'll also welcome Disney magic back to the Lied with the Lincoln premiere of *Frozen*, celebrate the holidays with the beloved *A Christmas Story*, relive the joy and romance of the classic *The Music Man*, and dance to the music of *TINA- The Tina Turner Musical*. If you haven't already become a Broadway subscriber, please consider this my personal invitation to do that now. Then, stay tuned for the announcement of the full 2025-2026 season of music, theater, dance, and much more in May!

I also want to offer my sincere gratitude to everyone who made this year's Friends of Lied Gala such a spectacular success and unforgettable evening of fun, and make special mention of Gala Co-Chairs Deb Nelson and Gary Tharnish. Thanks to the hard work and generosity of so many of our amazing Friends of Lied members and Lied Center staff, hundreds of people spent an evening in Paris in support of the arts!

As always, thank you for all that you do to support the Lied Center's mission of educating, inspiring, and entertaining the people of Nebraska through the performing arts. I'll see you soon #AtTheLied!



Dee Cummins
President | Friends of Lied
Board of Directors

Looking back on 2024, we completed the year with more than 1,200 Friends of Lied members and over \$580,000 in membership dollars. **THANK YOU** to Friends of Lied members for your generous support of the Lied through your memberships!

Many of you also supported the Lied at the 2025 Paris Lights gala on Feb. 1 - **THANK YOU!** Over 430 people attended the gala and helped us raise a record breaking sum of approximately \$170,000 to support the Lied in its mission to "educate, inspire and entertain the people of Nebraska through the performing arts." A special thank you to our gala co-chairs Deb Nelson and Gary Tharnish for guiding us to a successful gala. Many thanks also to the gala committee chairpersons and all the committee members who worked hard to make the evening possible.

Looking forward, there are many amazing events on the schedule to help make all of your days brighter as the seasons are changing. Check out the wide range of events at the Lied such as *Annie*, *The Barricade Boys*, *Parsons Dance*, *Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain*, *Metro Jazz Quintet*, *Alton Brown Live*, and *Itzhak Perlman* to name a few. Additionally, Arts Across Nebraska will be bringing *Take 3* to North Platte, McCook, and Gothenburg in April.

Treat yourself to an amazing experience with the Lied this Spring. I hope to see you there!



Thank you to the 1,219 members who donated a total of \$587,540 to the Friends of Lied last calendar year. Your support makes it possible to bring world-class artists to the stage and classrooms across Nebraska!

FALL MEMBER PROMOTION

The Friends of Lied held a fall membership promotion at *Carson Tonight* on Oct. 23 and *The Illusionists: Magic of the Holidays* on Dec. 17. All new members who joined during this time period were entered in a drawing to win a pair of complimentary tickets. The winner was a new Special Friend member, Michael Everley.

FRIENDS OF LIED EVENTS

The Friends of Lied Board was busy this winter with several events:

Staff Appreciation Lunch - On Dec. 13, the Friends of Lied Board thanked the Lied Center staff for the help they provide the Friends and for their dedication to making the Lied Center an outstanding performing arts center. Grab-and-go meals were provided for employees, and Lied Center Service Awards celebrated those reaching milestone anniversaries: Sharon Burkle, 10 years; Sasha Dobson, 10 years; and William K. Stephan, 15 years.

Member Appreciation - A hot cocoa bar was served up for Friends of Lied members attending the Midtown Men performance on Dec. 21. Attendees could warm up from the cold with hot cocoa and plenty of topping options as a thank you for being a member.

Open House and Behind-the-Scenes Tour - Friends of Lied members at the Fabulous Friend level or higher were invited to a special Open House and Behind-the-Scenes Tour of the Lied Center on Jan. 10. Attendees were treated to tasty charcuterie boxes, cookies and drinks before going on a small group tour.

STAFF FEATURE

Rose Khorsandi has been the Administrative Projects Coordinator at the Lied Center since May 2024. In this role, Rose is the Lied Center Business Office jack-of-all-trades. She reviews all the artists' contracts, from Broadway shows to Arts Across Nebraska to Gala performers. She also coordinates with UNL HR and helps with financial record keeping. In 2022, Rose first joined the Lied Center team as a Development Intern. She has loved her time at the Lied and is incredibly grateful for the vast range of learning opportunities she has had.

Rose is originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, and moved to Lincoln in 2022 to work on her Master of Music - Flute Performance at UNL, which she completed in May (hooray!). Prior to that, she earned a Bachelor of Music - Flute Performance from University of Denver. Rose is currently working on a project to explore cultural identity through music making. As a self-identified Classical music nerd, Rose loves seeing any and all orchestral performances at the Lied.



Tami Lambie & Pat Knaub



Rose Khorsandi

WELCOME NEW FRIENDS OF LIED MEMBERS!

Kay & Tom Bergquist

Nick & Ann Cusik

Andrea & Gene Dinkelman

Tommy & Marlene Hansen

Kevin & Brenda Henning

Dr. Todd & Julie Hlavaty

Karen Huff

Marlin D. Jeffers

Bill & Bonnie Johnson

Mark & Val Kline

Kimberly Tyler & Paul Kramer

Jeff & Pam Krenk

Carl McReynolds

Tasheika N.

Derek & Larissa Palu

Cortney Ray

Marty Schantell

Al & Karen Scribner

Diana Stemper

Jay & Jeanine Trofholz

Francis & Virginia Widden

Curtis & Lila Wolff

2025 Friends of Lied Gala

The annual Lied fundraiser is always a highly anticipated event - this year's Paris Lights gala even sold out in record time. For this spectacular *Moulin Rouge*-themed event, the city of love circa 1890 was brought to the Lied Center by the Friends of Lied board. With the incredible generosity of attendees and event sponsors, we raised nearly \$170,000 to support the mission of the Lied Center.

Gala co-chairs Deb Nelson and Gary Tarnish, along with the Friends of Lied Board of Directors, worked tirelessly to plan and pull off the night. The Lied Center staff also lent their expertise in the weeks leading up to the big event.

Upon arrival, guests were greeted by the iconic red windmill from *Moulin Rouge* and a complimentary champagne table as they toured the silent auction during cocktail hour. The evening then continued on the main stage, where red roses and golden candelabra, whimsical cabaret backdrops, and the Lied Center's very own Eiffel Tower set the scene for a formal dinner reminiscent of a Parisian feast, provided by Venue.

During the dinner program, guests' attention was captured above the stage by a one-of-a-kind aerial performance by Megan Spencer. Then an exhilarating live auction encouraged the crowd to open their hearts and pocketbooks. Most-wanted items included a trip to Paris, a custom A.T. Thomas Jewelry diamond pendant, and for the second year in a row, a private dinner by Chef Rachel McGill of DISH. Guests could also pledge a donation to "Fill the Heart for the Arts" and watch onscreen as progress continued toward that goal.

Following dinner and the live auction, guests could enjoy the music of Vince Learned & Friends on the main stage. Or they could dance the night away in Satine's Boudoir - a.k.a., Carson Theater - with DJ Chatters spinning classic hits and Megan Spencer offering another unique performance.

Paris Lights was a wonderful evening filled with old-fashioned glamour to come together in support of a great cause.



Mark your calendar for these important dates:

- **March 25** New Broadway Packages on Sale to Public
- **April 15** Pre-Performance Dinner at Talon Room before Alton Brown Live **Reserve tickets online by April 1!**
- **May 6** On Stage Season Announcement Party for Best Friend level+ members
- **May 7** Public Season Announcement
- **May 7** Early Access to Season Tickets for Special Friend level+ members
- **May 13** Access to Season Tickets for Close Friend level+ members
- **May 22** Friends of Lied Member Appreciation & Check Presentation at Arrival: Music of ABBA
- **May 29** Give to Lincoln Day!
- **May 30** Friends of Lied Annual Membership Meeting for members at all levels
- **Aug. 1** Early Access to Single Tickets for Great Friend level+ members
- **Aug. 7** Access to Single Tickets for Close Friend level+ members

3 Questions with Take3

TAKE3 founder, violinist Lindsay Deutsch, on her unique musical mashups, the moment on stage that changed everything, and how Itzhak Perlman and Big Bird started it all.

When did you start playing the violin, and what had your musical journey been like?

I was watching an episode of Sesame Street when I was two years old, and Itzhak Perlman happened to be performing with Bert and Ernie that day. I was absolutely transfixed by the rich sound of the violin and knew, instantly, that this would become my life. My parents presented me with a tissue box strung with rubber bands, and that’s how it all began. Within a few years, I was practicing five hours a day on the classics - Bach, Brahms, and Beethoven-- and ended up at the Colburn Conservatory, one of the top conservatories of music in the world. It was a chance encounter after graduation with Yanni that sent me down the crossover/pop path, and I have been touring the world with him and with TAKE3 ever since.

You’ve toured the world with Yanni, been featured on several movie soundtracks, performed with many of the nation’s celebrated orchestras, and so much more... Is there a single career moment that stands out as something you’ll never forget?

My very first performance with Yanni was a life-changing moment for me and solidified my desire to change direction from my purely classical path. On very little notice, I was invited to join Yanni on a tour in Saudi Arabia. I was a total fish out of water and had never plugged the violin into a mic before, never used in-ear monitors, and was generally a nervous wreck trying to learn this new style of playing. I stood up to play my first solo of the show, and all of a sudden my ear monitors went out. I was sure this would be my first and last time performing with Yanni. Then I looked at him, saw his huge smile, looked at the 10,000 person crowd on their feet cheering and realized nothing was wrong - I just couldn’t hear over the roar of the crowd! It was such an exhilarating moment. On the plane ride home I started jotting down the ideas for what would become TAKE3 on an airplane napkin.



What makes TAKE3 special?

TAKE3 was created out of a desire to connect with audiences in a deeper way. As a classical music student, I always felt a disconnect between myself and the listener, as if an invisible wall separated us. At music school I wanted to run around onstage, tell jokes, and chat with audiences during performances, but this just wasn’t proper classical performance practice. I felt more and more like my personality was being stifled and that I couldn’t be myself. Take3 was my answer, but it was important to me to respect my decades of training. We decided to make mashups a central part of our show - combining classical and pop tunes into one song. My favorite is our “Natural” Imagine Dragons mashup with “Carmen,” and I also love our Orange Blossom Special combined with “Flight of the Bumblebee” and “Moonlight Sonata.” The technical virtuosity and rigorous classical music training set us apart from other crossover groups, and our fire, passion, joy, and connection with our audiences set us apart from classical groups. Every show we play is an absolute honor, and although we play 100 shows a year, you can bet we play every show as if it’s our last!

TAKE3 will perform at the Lied Center on Sunday, May 4 at 4 pm, as well as McCook, Gothenburg, and North Platte Apr. 14-17 during their Arts Across Nebraska tour.

Don’t miss their thrilling performance!



Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Guides Artists Through Orchestral Expression

The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, one of the world’s top chamber orchestras, was in residence at the Lied Center Feb. 19-20, leading five outreach events and a public performance. These master classes, held in collaboration with the University of Nebraska - Lincoln Glenn Korff School of Music, focused on piano, trumpet, viola, cello, and oboe. Each 50-minute class allowed students to interact with the guest artists, providing valuable one-on-one insights. Over 165 students were positively impacted by these interactions, with one student noting, “These opportunities are crucial for our growth as performers.”

Inon Barnatan, praised by the New York Times as “one of the most admired pianists of his generation,” led a piano master class, helping both piano and non-piano students refine their performance skills. One participant stated, “Even though I’m not majoring in piano, I learned more about the art of performing a piece.”

Trumpet master class leader **Mark David**, a seasoned performer, shared valuable insights on musical intention and dynamics, benefitting not only trumpet but also voice students. One student said, “Even as a voice student, I learned valuable information that I can apply to my own studies.”

GRAMMY-nominated **Fiona Bonds** led a viola master class, helping students explore personal expression in their music. A student remarked, “Masterclasses like these bring professional musicians we might not be able to study with otherwise.”

Cellist **Richard Harwood**, winner of the Audi Junior Musician Award, led a cello master class, where observing feedback on peers’ performances was just as insightful. One attendee shared, “Hearing feedback on my peers’ playing helped me improve my own.”

Oboist **Rachel Ingleton**, a Royal College of Music alumna, worked with oboe students on musical expression and interpretation. A participant said, “The teacher helped me discover new ways to express myself through my instrument.”

These master classes provide students in Nebraska with rare opportunities to learn directly from world-class artists, equipping them with the skills and knowledge to further their artistic goals. This project was made possible, in part, with support from the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts Endowment Fund.



Fam Fest brings Goodnight Moon to life in lobbies



Our annual Fam Fest event took place on Jan. 14 before the 6:30 p.m. performance of Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia’s *Goodnight Moon* and *The Runaway Bunny*. Beginning at 5 p.m., lobbies opened to ticket holders for story-themed activities and crafts; free food and beverages from Pepsi, Chick-fil-a, and The Cookie Company; and activities from community partners the Sheldon Museum of Art, UNL Recreation Center, Lincoln Children’s Museum, International Quilt Center, Lincoln City Libraries, and Linked2Literacy, who provided free books. In total, 1,227 patrons attended the production, and we anticipate that over half of performance attendees participated in the festivities. A special thank you to Friends of Lied board members Tammy Miller, Deb Nelson, Dee Cummins, Leslie Wright, Sue Moore, Ann Quinlan, and Kat Ousey and sons for their assistance serving food and Education Outreach intern Bridget Koenig for her coordination efforts.

Friends
of



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