



THE **LIEDER**

SUMMER 2025

Here's to a new season of making memories together!



Bill Stephan, CVE
Executive Director &
Chief Artistic Officer



It's such an exciting time at the Lied Center, and I'm so glad you're part of it! We just announced our new season of top music, theater, and dance from around the world, including spectacular Broadway, thrilling classical ensembles, the return of all-time audience favorites, and so much more. It all kicks off this August with 13 performances of *Disney's Frozen*, bringing the magic of the beloved smash hit film to the stage. We'll also get to welcome back musical masters including Yo-Yo Ma, Wynton Marsalis, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Boston Pops, celebrate Johnny Carson's 100th birthday, ring in the holidays in a big way with *Mannheim Steamroller Christmas*, *A Christmas Story*, and *Canadian Brass Christmas*, and so much more... 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 an amazing show of support for the arts on Give to Lincoln Day! Thanks to Friends like you, more than \$98,000 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 Dee Cummins for her wonderful year of service, and welcome new president Deb Nelson.

So here's to a wonderful new season of making memories together! Take the time now to plan and schedule your favorite moments of the year with us. Life is short. Eat the cake. Buy the tickets. Enjoy these once-in-a-lifetime moments that we can treasure together forever. I look forward to seeing you soon, #AtTheLied!



Dee Cummins
President | Friends of Lied
Board of Directors

What an amazing finish to the Lied's 2024-2025 season. Looking back, I will always remember the DeLorean flying across the Lied stage in *Back to the Future* and the Parsons Dance number with the dancer soaring across the stage while seeming to never touch the floor. I hope you also have new special memories from this past season that make you smile.

Our 2025 gala, *Paris Lights*, was held on Feb. 1 and surpassed previous numbers in both attendance and funds raised. As a result of this year's fundraising and friend-raising efforts, we were able to present the Friends of Lied annual gift to The Lied on May 22 in the amount of \$650,000. Thank you! Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Together we support The Lied to help keep the arts alive and flourishing in Lincoln and across the state of Nebraska.

Connections were a continued part of our board efforts this past year. We participated in events to connect with the Friends of Lied membership, the Lied staff, and our Nebraska communities. Special thanks to Bill Stephan, Executive Director of the Lied; Amy Ossian, Associate Director of Development and Membership; and to the rest of the Lied staff for working with us to help accomplish our tasks in support of the Lied. What an amazing group of people they are!

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as president this past year alongside our talented and dedicated board members from across the state. I now turn the leadership of the board over to Deb Nelson and welcome her as the 2025-2026 President of the Friends of Lied Board of Directors. She is already hard at work with plans for the coming year. We are in good hands going forward!



GREATER NEBRASKA MEETING

The April Friends of Lied Board meeting is historically hosted by the Greater Nebraska Committee outside the walls of the Lied Center. Aurora was the destination this year, when the Friends traveled to the Edgerton Exploit Center on April 9. Bill Stephan updated members on upcoming Lied events, and a delicious lunch was served. Afterward, attendees were treated to a fun and fascinating raptor presentation. It was a nice opportunity to explore our beautiful state and get together in person again after the previous two board meetings were Zoom-only after blizzards in February and March.

SPRING LUNCHEON

The Friends of Lied Board of Directors held their annual spring luncheon on May 14. Outgoing board members were recognized for their service, and 12 new members were welcomed to the board. President Dee Cummins ceremoniously passed the gavel to Deb Nelson, 2025-26 President. The luncheon was held at the Country Club of Lincoln, with beautiful spring flowers decorating the ballroom and an educational floral arrangement lesson by member and event co-chair Gary Tarnish. Event co-chair Julie Uribe served as the entertaining emcee, and Amy Ossian shared details on exciting events happening at the Lied Center in the coming year. Many Legends members were also present to catch up with friends and help welcome the new FOL board members. It was a wonderful chance to look back on the successes of the year and look ahead to great things to come.

OMAHA METRO EVENT

New and potential Friends of Lied members from the Omaha area were treated to a cocktail reception at the home of Friends board member Sharlette Schwenninger before the May 4 performance of *Take3*. Board member CK Duryea chaired the event, where guests enjoyed Prosecco and treats.

STAFF FEATURE

Hannah Bertrand is a Lincoln native. After receiving her BFA in Dance from Ball State University, she spent a couple years in Saint Louis to be a trainee with the Big Muddy Dance Company. She is thrilled to be back in Lincoln and working at the Lied as the Administrative and Development Associate. She stays connected to the arts even further by choreographing musicals at Nebraska Communities Playhouse (and sometimes even performing in them). She hopes to continue to hone her craft and contribute to Nebraska's arts!

WELCOME NEW FRIENDS OF LIED MEMBERS!

Brad & Jen Bangs

Mary M. Beck

Tressa Beckler

Don & Linda Bottorf

Gregory Buttell

Patricia Callaway

Dave Collett

Rose Mary Datus

Pam Deal

Kimberly Eberly

Mark Franzen

Debra K. Fritz

Lou & Kathy Gogela

Kari Hasemann-Herbert

Tyler Hayden

Adam D. Heiser

Lora Henderson

ReAnne J. Isom

Jeff & Nancy Joe

Richard Katt

Dallas & Nancy Kiburz

Kathy Klotz

Stan Kravig

James & Janelle Kremer

Chris & Christine Lamberty

Scott & Amber Lane

Laura Makovicka

Jeff & Teri Martin

Sarah Meisenbach

Kathleen Murray-Ojeda

William Olson

Karen Rathke

Rebecca Schreiner

La Familia de Rentaria-McKathnie

The Schubert Family

Michael & Karen Schweitzer

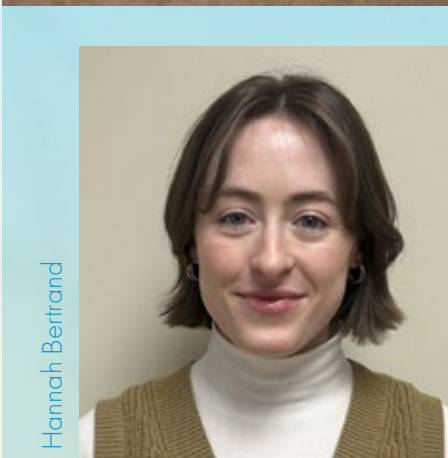
Rich & Liz Scott

John Shields

Gracen A. Sommerer

Wyatt Suddarth & Alexa Rosenau

Otilia Titus



Hannah Bertrand

Presenting the Spectacular 2025-2026 Season!

Every season at the Lied is unique, combining encore performances from legendary artists with breathtaking talent that has never graced the Lied Center stage. In the recently announced 2025-2026 season, Yo-Yo Ma, Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, Boston Pops, and Canadian Brass all return to the Lied Center as some of our community's favorite artists of all time.

It's a big year for orchestral music as the Lied welcomes the Philadelphia Orchestra back to Lincoln! Recognized as one of the "Big Five" American orchestras, this nationally treasured ensemble is celebrating 125 years of musical excellence as one of the top orchestras in the world. It's been over 25 years since this orchestra has filled the Lied Center with music. Plus, America's orchestra returns! The beloved Boston Pops orchestra, celebrating the music of John Williams under the baton of Keith Lockhart, will deliver another celebrated performance.

It's going to be a thrilling year in family entertainment, kicked off by Disney's *Frozen*. This Broadway spectacle takes over the Lied Center for two weeks in August, bringing the beloved smash-hit film to the stage. Speaking of Disney classics, the Lied will

also welcome the live-to-film concert of *Moana*, featuring the full movie accompanied by a live Polynesian band. Illusionist Reza returns after thrilling a sold-out crowd in 2023, and youth graphic novel favorite *Dog Man* makes his debut appearance at the Lied Center this season.

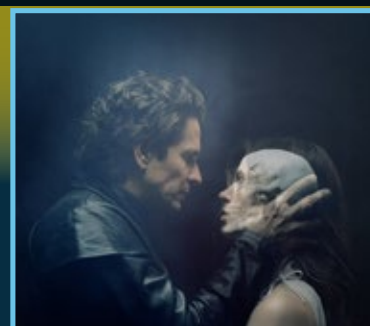
Of course, it's also another big year for Broadway, including Glenn Korff Broadway series programs such as *Hadestown*, *The Music Man*, *A Christmas Story*, *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical*, and *SUFFS*, the new hit musical making its Nebraska premiere. Winner of the 2024 Tony Awards for Best Score and Best Book of a Musical, this moving show tells the story of the brave, passionate, funny, inspirational women who fought to win the right for women to vote in the United States.

There isn't enough room here to mention all the exciting, inspirational, nostalgic, joyful events coming to the Lied this year (Johnny Carson's 100th Birthday Celebration! Cirque Kalabante! Stars of American Ballet, The Soweto Gospel Choir! The 2025 Van Cliburn Gold Medalist!), so we invite you to see the full lineup and become a **Create Your Own Season subscriber at liedcenter.org/season/**

On Stage Launches the 2025-2026 Season for Lied Center Supporters!

On Tuesday, May 8, supporters and friends of the Lied Center gathered for the annual On Stage season announcement party. This fun event was both the official reveal of the spectacular 2025-2026 season and a chance for donors to choose the events they'd like to sponsor. Attendees were treated to performances from the "wonder woman of jazz," multi-instrumentalist Gunhild Carling, and also had the chance to experience a performance from guitarist Daniel Martinez representing the Lied's new 'Strings of Many Colors' program that brings music from around the world into Lincoln Public Schools.

The Lied Center was also proud to have On Stage be part of The Broadway League's 'Study ABroadway' professional development program! Jake Glassman, Marketing and PR Manager at The Grand Opera House in Delaware, flew to Lincoln to be a member of the Lied Center team for the day and a guest at this unique event.





Take3 brings classical crossover to McCook, Gothenburg, and North Platte in Arts Across Nebraska season finale

Our final Arts Across Nebraska tour of the 2024-2025 season, Take3, departed in mid-April, visiting McCook, Gothenburg, and North Platte. Take3, founded by accomplished violinist Lindsay Deutsch, blends the power and energy of rock music with the sophistication and beauty of classical music, featuring artists from Bizet to AC/DC. Deutsch, pianist Kyoka Minami, and cellist Georgia Bourderionnet, performed a student matinee, an outreach workshop, and public performance in each community. The group served a wide range of students and community members, including working with the third-grade music class at McCook Elementary School and performing at the Fox Theater, a lecture demonstration with the K-5 YMCA afterschool program in Gothenburg and performances at the Sun Theater, and high school orchestra student engagement at North Platte High School with performances at the North Platte High School Performing Arts Center. 1,407 Nebraskans were served by the Take3 tour.

Surveys indicated that teachers appreciated the opportunity for their students to see a live performance in their community, and students enjoyed the interactive and high-energy nature of the show. Many students noted how inspired they were by seeing instruments played live, with several stating that they were exploring possibilities for their future and found a renewed interest in strings because of their experience with Take3. One student offered, “Honestly, I love that you brought in a group of people that are professionals and inspire people to continue doing orchestra or simply playing their instrument. I feel as if it helps people actually want to play when they can see where they could be if they put in the effort.”

In total, the 2024-2025 season served 1,731 Nebraskans, performing 9 student matinees, 3 public performances, and 7 outreach services in communities across Nebraska, traveling 1,297 miles!

We are grateful to Kat Ousey and Friends of Lied Education committee members Dee Cummins, Sue Moore, Sharlette Schwenninger, Kim Hinrichs, Maris Schad, Paulette Stefka, Sheila Schumacher, and Charlene Schneider for hosting membership tables and broadening our impact with patrons in all of our partner communities this season. It makes the program extra meaningful when members can attend, connect with local communities, and participate in Arts Across Nebraska firsthand!

28th Arts Across Nebraska Season to bring percussion, theatre, and music to Greater Nebraska

For the 2025-2026 season, we will be presenting **Omaha Street Percussion**, a high energy, dynamic, local percussion ensemble with an educational emphasis September 21-25, 2025, touring western Nebraska.

123 Andrés, our rescheduled bilingual, GRAMMY-winning duo, will be our second tour, traveling to Nebraska City, Kearney, and Norfolk March 30-April 2, 2026.

Our third tour will bring **Capital City**, an inventive new play from Animal Engine Theatre Company, based on the novel by Mari Sandoz, to eastern Nebraska April 13-18, 2026, immediately following their world-premiere performance run at the Lied Center April 9-12.

We are excited to share these diverse performing art forms and ignite new partnerships across the state in the 28th season of Arts Across Nebraska! Be on the lookout for more information regarding show dates and locations on our website this summer.



OUR 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 2024-25 Friends of Lied President Dee Cummins and Vice President of Membership Clover Fredericks to the Lied’s Executive Director & Chief Artistic Officer Bill Stephan at the May 22 performance of *Arrival from Sweden: the Music of ABBA*.

MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT

The evening of the annual gift presentation, Friends of Lied members were treated to a member appreciation pre-performance reception, as a thank you for the part they play in supporting the Lied. More than 100 guests attended the event, chaired by FOL Board members Bridgett Ojeda and Dee Cummins, before enjoying the performance of *Arrival from Sweden: the Music of ABBA*.



ALTON BROWN: LIVE PPD

The Talon Room was the setting on April 15 for a new twist on the Friends of Lied’s popular pre-performance dinners. These fun, themed dinners have traditionally been held in the Lied Commons, giving attendees an easy way to catch “dinner and a show.” This time, more than 80 attendees enjoyed a tasty dinner before *Alton Brown: Live* at the nearby Talon Room, with creative fruit and vegetable centerpieces setting the stage for the culinary act to come.

PUPS & POPS

The FOL Board is always brainstorming creative ways to thank Friends of Lied members, and one new pre-performance event geared toward members of all ages took place March 22 before the matinee performance of *Annie*. Guests were able to pick up a cake pop or cupcake in the Steinhart Room, along with interacting with a sweet pup from the Capital Humane Society. Bandita the sweet bulldog and the sweet treats were enjoyed by all!



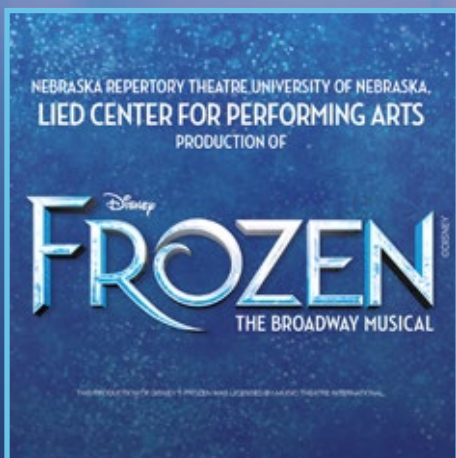
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of*



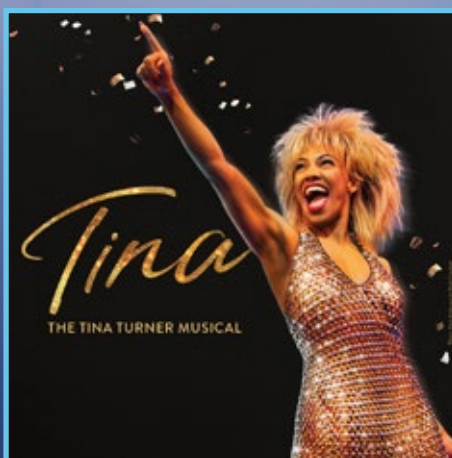
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SAVE THE DATE



DISNEY'S FROZEN
August 15-24, 2025
liedcenter.org/frozen



TINA
October 8-11, 2025
liedcenter.org/tina



MANNHEIM STEAMROLLER
Tuesday, December 23, 2025
liedcenter.org/steamroller