

# THE LIEDER

SPRING 2020



## LIED 30 CENTER





The Lied Center's 30th Anniversary has featured a spectacular season of programs ranging from *Phantom of the Opera* and St. Louis Symphony to the *Wizard of Oz* and Boston Pops. It is thanks to the generosity of individuals including Friends of Lied members who make these programs possible. Thank you for your investment in the arts, supporting the education of young people and ensuring our quality of life in Nebraska. I would like to express a special thanks to everyone who made *Wonderland at the Lied: A Mad Hatter's Ball* a success. This magical event not only proved to be a whimsical experience, it raised a significant sum of money to support arts programs at the Lied Center. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this event.

As I reflect on this past season, I feel like we have experienced the best of times and the worst of times. The cancellation or rescheduling of events in March, April and May has been painful. I am pleased that we have been able to reschedule many of the performances including Michael Londra with Celtic Fire, Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood, Michael Feinstein and the Boston Pops.

Thank you for renewing your Friends of Lied gift. Your support during this challenging time is more important than ever for the future of the Lied Center. The loss of ticket income and rental revenue for a three-month prime operating period is going to be a big challenge. Together, we can make it through and be back in the theater enjoying world class artistry very soon.

Thank you for joining me in thanking Ann Chang for the tremendously positive impact she has made at the Lied Center. While Ann may not be with us next season, you can count on continuing to see the world's greatest orchestras and top classical programs at the Lied Center in the future. Every year we do our best to take the Lied Center's season to the next level and provide distinctive programs for your enjoyment. I look forward to another year of enjoying the greatest artists in the world with you.

Best regards,

Bill Stephan  
Executive Director & Chief Artistic Officer  
Lied Center for Performing Arts



Your consideration and generosity have helped the Friends of Lied achieve another awesome year and will continue to help the Lied through this trying time. Thank You!

It feels a bit odd to be sharing our successes but hopefully we can all enjoy this sparkle of light during an otherwise dreary stay. To that end, let me share that the Friends of Lied achieved another record year for membership – our 1189 members contributed over \$502,000 to support the Lied Center. We sold over 100 tickets to each of our Pre-Performance Dinners for *Phantom of the Opera*, *Bandstand* and *Waitress!* In February we had over 300 guests join us for a fantasy evening at our gala: *Wonderland at the Lied – A Madhatter's Ball*. Most guests wore hats and even some wore costumes. Their generous support raised over \$136,000 that evening, another record! The success of this event is thanks to the hard work of co-chairs Jan Cook and Roxane Swanson and the entire Friends of Lied Board.

The Friends of Lied is the largest donor to the Lied Center for Performing Arts. Because of the generosity of our closest Friends like you, the Lied Center can continue to provide meaningful education opportunities and world-class performances in Lincoln and across the state. That is why your membership is so important. As we are in the midst of our membership drive please keep us in mind knowing that your donation will continue to deliver exceptional performing arts here to Nebraska.

As we navigate these uncharted waters please take note of calendar changes for both Lied events and Friends of Lied events. For example, our Annual Friends of Lied Meeting on May 6th will be a different format this year. Look for an email invitation to join this meeting. And remember, members at or above the Special Friend level will still receive early access to season subscriptions. Please watch for that announcement.

As the President of the Board of Directors, I thank you for your continued commitment to the Lied Center. Please let us know how we may improve your experience as a Friend. As always, I look forward to seeing you at the Lied soon, hopefully very soon!

Tracy Sanford  
President  
Friends of Lied Board of Directors  
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## PRE-PERFORMANCE DINNERS

Pre-performance dinners are a great way to get your night started before attending the show! Get parked early and enjoy a themed, catered dinner with Friends. The *Bandstand* dinner was held on January 17 and the Lied Commons was turned into a fancy VFW, with classic Americana décor and WWII propaganda. The *Waitress* dinner was on March 6 and had a diner feel, complete with a soda shop photo area and of course, we served pie! Be on the lookout for our announcement of pre-performance dinners for the 2020-2021 season!



**Staff Appreciation Luncheon** The Friends of Lied Board of Directors hosted the Lied Center staff for a luncheon to thank them for their hard work and dedication. The attendees enjoyed a lovely lunch catered by Yes Chef. Ann Chang, Artistic Director, treated everyone to a beautiful piano performance after the meal. Lied Center Service Awards were also handed out to several recipients.



### **Anniversaries**

#### **5 Years:** Alex

Cerveney-Sandall, Jeff Koch, Sasha Dobson, Sharon Burkle

#### **10 Years:** Bill Stephan

**30 Years:** Dan Stratman

### **Retirees**

Larry Wathor (June 30)

Dan Stratman (Oct 17)

Ann Chang (Feb 29)



# Wonderland at the Lied: A Mad Hatter's Ball

Over 300 people attended the biannual Lied Center Gala over Valentine's Day weekend. The unseasonably warm weather set the perfect tone for an amazingly successful evening. Co-chairs Jan Cook and Roxane Swanson organized a night that transported guests to a wonderland of beautiful décor, delicious food, and dancing.

Nearly every guest arrived donning a fanciful hat. They sipped champagne and were greeted at the door by Alice and the Mad Hatter. Next, friends conversed, bid on silent auction items and previewed the live-auction items.

The main stage welcomed guests with dramatic tented harlequin fabric that hung from the overhead stage railings. A backdrop of larger-than-life queen of hearts cards gave the illusion of floating through red-backlit air. The tables were decked out with arrangements of rich red roses and gilded frames that made guests feel as though they were gazing through a looking glass.

The delicious dinner consisted of bruschetta salad, beef and salmon steaks, whipped sweet potatoes and roasted root vegetables. Dinner wrapped up with chocolate mousse as guests were enlightened by people whose lives have been touched by the Lied Center. These testimonials included a piano and a vocal performance.

Everyone must have been inspired by these testimonials, because when guests were asked to "fill the heart" with monetary gifts, the goal of \$30,000 was reached in record time! Next, the live auction proved to be animated with bidding wars on many of the items, including ski and golf vacations.

Dancers rushed the dance floor as Musivo Live started jamming to everyone's favorite dance hits. Otherwise, people slipped down the rabbit hole into the Johnny Carson Theater to sway to smooth jazz numbers performed by Vince Learned and friends.

The hard work and long hours by the volunteers and Lied staff were repaid by the smiling faces, the generosity of the donors and the wonder of the evening.



The Friends held a Madhatter's Ball  
With dining and decor to enthrall  
We raised lots of money  
But don't you know honey  
Most fun was had by all!

It's performing arts we adore  
We hope you'll continue supporting and more  
The Lied provides great talents  
But tickets don't cover the balance  
So join Friends and get benefits galore!





## Education update: Community Engagement

The Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company was in residence February 24-27 with their piece *What Problem?*, which engaged 29 community dancers from the UNL and broader Lincoln communities and 21 singers from the UNL a cappella groups the Bathtub Dogs and Boots & Cats, as well as a student conductor from the Glenn Korff School of Music. Community members participated in two community meals with the company, three days of rehearsal, and the performance on the Mainstage February 27 at 7:30 PM. The Lied Center also hosted a public town hall entitled *The Future We See, A Town Hall*, which had over 75 attendees, on the topic of isolation in Lincoln. Additionally, two modern dance masterclasses with the company were hosted by UNL dance classes.



## Lied Center - 30th Anniversary



### Man Behind the Name: Ernst F. Lied

Have you ever wondered about the Ernst Lied, the namesake of our performing arts center? Ernst F. Lied was born in Columbus, Ohio, in 1906. His family then moved to Kansas City, where he graduated high school. A self-proclaimed less-than-average student, he attended the University of Kansas, then ultimately graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1927.

When his family moved to Omaha, he opened the Lied Buick dealership on his own. During the war, he pivoted his career by opening Lied Precision Tool which made wing nuts and other parts for wartime fighter planes. Once the war was over, he resumed selling Buicks until he decided the Buick was no longer a quality car. In 1958, he sold his dealership and set his sights on Las Vegas.

He chose the burgeoning desert town because he had traveled there with his mother and thought it was similar to Omaha and had the potential for growth. There he built a housing development of 79 homes, a shopping center, and a 100-unit motel on the new Vegas strip. He continued buying up real estate based on where power lines were. In his lifetime, Ernst only sold one piece of land, just to prove to his friends back in Omaha that he hadn't lost his mind!

We will forever be grateful for Mr. Lied's ingenuity and business acumen.

# Congratulations On Your Retirement, Ann

It was the end of an era as Ann Chang's final goodbye festivities wrapped up after the Barry Douglas performance at the Lied Center on March 1. A packed house enjoyed the opportunity to say goodbye to Ann as she departs for her next adventure. The Lied Commons was decorated beautifully as friends and colleagues collected over the last decade showered Ann with well wishes. Tracy Sanford toasted Ann on all of her accomplishments for the Lied Center and for the University of Nebraska and presented her with a brick from the Friends of Lied that will be added to the walkway leading to the Commons. Guests were treated to a beautiful cake that was decorated like a piano in Ann's honor. The Friends of Lied congratulate Ann on her amazing career and wish her well as she moves to Chicago. (Ann Chang pictured with Barry Douglas).



## GET TO KNOW YOUR LIED CENTER STAFF



### **Zac Franzen – Events Coordinator**

I was extremely privileged to begin working as the Events Coordinator here at the Lied Center this past January. Although I've only been in this position for a few months, I've been with the Lied Center since 2010 as a receptionist and Friends of Lied intern. I work to advance many of the events that are taking place here; whether it be social events in the Lied Commons, dance recitals in the Carson Theatre, or the phenomenal theatrical productions on the main stage. Being an active supporter of the arts community across Nebraska, it is a dream to be able to make my greatest passion in life into my career. My vast experience includes directing, teaching, and countless performances in plays, immersion theatre, poetry, and interp; with my personal favorite being musical theater. For ten years, I have been a licensed judge for the state of Nebraska in both Play Production and Speech, traveling all across the state to work with high school students. Besides theater, I love traveling and studying other cultures and languages. I speak English, Spanish, Russian, French, and Italian. I am also nishing my degree at UNL majoring in Global Studies with an emphasis in European & Asian Foreign Policy and a double minor in Political Science and National Securities. I look forward to working here at the Lied Center and hope to see you all at one of our many events



### **Mark Moore-Associate Director of Event and Facility Services**

When asked if I am new to the Lied Center Staff I reply, "I am not new, I am renewed!" My first day at the Lied was when the building opened. I started as a stage manager until 2001 when I moved to the private sector. The production of Phantom of the Opera this fall was when I had the opportunity to start back at the Lied in this newly created position. I work with two outstanding groups, the events team and the facility crew. I also do various projects, such as upgrading our concession stands to the safety and security for patrons, performers and staff. There will be much more for you to enjoy at the Lied as we move forward with these projects.

My background is in the performing arts with a double major from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Theater and Dance. That led me to living in New Hampshire and then in New York City working on shows. A dance injury changed my focus to the backstage elements and theater management. I met my wife, Ann, while performing in a show together at the Lincoln Community Playhouse. We have been married for 34 years and have two daughters who are both involved in wildlife studies. Carolyn is a biologist and works for the US Government in Ames, Iowa. Kathryn is a park ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park in Estes Park, Colorado, and is married to Jason Lenz. In addition to the performing arts, I enjoy hiking in the mountains, traveling, singing in church choir and taking walks with our Belgian Malinois.



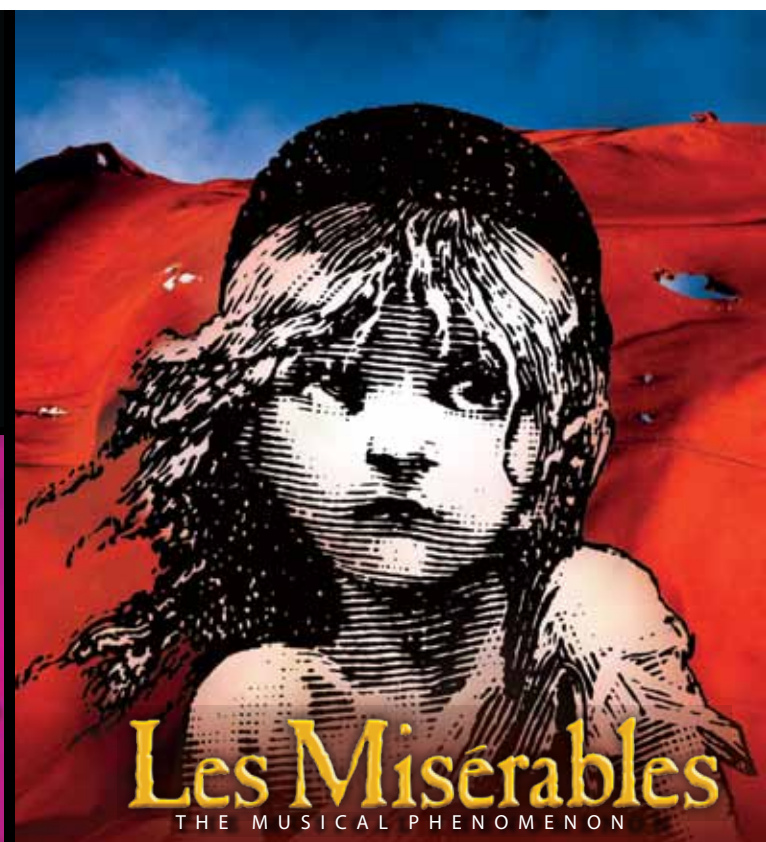
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