

THE

LIEDER

WINTER 2023



WELCOME friends



Bill Stephan, CVE
Executive Director &
Chief Artistic Officer



As we prepare to turn the page on another spectacular year at the Lied Center, I want to personally thank you for your inspirational support of the arts in Nebraska. Because of you, dreams come true every day at the Lied!

If you were one of the thousands of Nebraskans who joined us for Disney's *Aladdin*, you were no doubt blown away by the spectacular performance of Marcus M. Martin as the Genie. What a thrill it was to learn that he got the confidence and inspiration to pursue a career in the arts right here at the Lied Center! He traveled to Lincoln as a young man when he qualified for the International Thespian Convention (formerly held at the Lied), and says it was a turning point in his life. As Lied Center founder Christina Hixson has remarked to me in the past, you never know whose life will be changed at any given performance at the Lied.

The excitement continues as 2024 kicks off with the long-awaited return of the epic musical *Les Misérables*! *Les Mis* holds a special place in Lied Center history, as it was the very first major Broadway production to come to Lincoln during the Lied's first season in 1990. We've heard from so many people who were introduced to the magic of Broadway through that amazing production, and can't wait to experience it again—this time with their own children or grandchildren! *Les Mis* is my personal favorite musical, and I hope you'll be with us on January 9-14 to fall in love with this timeless story all over again.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the Lied Center! Because of you, students are learning from great artists, Nebraskans statewide are experiencing the power of the arts, and world-class performances are thrilling audiences on the Lied stages.

Happy holidays, and I'll see you at the Lied!



Linda Dickenson
President | Friends of Lied
Board of Directors

The cozy winter season is upon us, and what better way to celebrate the holidays than to come to the Lied Center with family and friends to enjoy captivating and lively performances.

Autumn was a busy time for the Lied Center with performances of *The Blues Brothers*, *Emanuel Ax*, and *Aladdin*—just to name a few. Your Friends of Lied membership sustains these extraordinary performances, but also supports the remarkable, educational missions of the Lied Center that continue to transform lives of people throughout Nebraska. In fact, the fall Arts Across Nebraska program delivered performances of the *O Pioneers!* opera to adult and student audiences in Scottsbluff, McCook, and Red Cloud. Mariachi Zapata performed in Fremont, Nebraska City, Grand Island, and Kearney.

As the curtain rises on the remaining season's performances, we can all look forward to the spellbinding energy that only a live theatrical performance delivers, leaving you with memories that linger long after the final bow. Warmest wishes for a new year filled with music, dance, Broadway, and theatrical performances. See you at the Lied!



Aladdin Pre-Performance Dinner

The Friends of Lied Board held its first pre-performance dinner of the 2023-24 season prior to the Oct. 7 performance of *Aladdin*. These fun themed meals are held for the public before several performances each season and are a great way to do “dinner and a show.”

Don't miss the final pre-performance dinner of the season, before *Mean Girls* on Saturday, April 13. All pre-performance dinners take place in the Lied Commons with cocktails at 5:30 pm. and dinner at 6 p.m. Dinner tickets are \$45 per person with a cash bar available. Make your reservations online or call the box office at 402-472-4747.



Jake Shimabukuro event

Gallery 1516 in Omaha was the setting for a special evening with ukulele virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro in October. Friends of Lied members organized this event for more than 60 Omaha-area arts enthusiasts to learn about Friends membership with a taste of one of the talented artists who performed at the Lied earlier this season. Along with his sensational performance, Jake also signed and donated a ukulele to be auctioned at the Lied Gala coming up on Feb. 10.

Featured Member

Congratulations to the winner of our Friends of Lied Fall New Member Promotion, Brenda & Kerryshane Clarke from La Vista. They joined Friends of Lied after attending the Jake Shimabukuro event at Gallery 1516 in Omaha. They chose tickets to *The Simon and Garfunkel Story* at the Lied Center this spring.

Lied Center Staff Feature

Casey Sigrist has been with the Lied Center since 2021 as the Development Coordinator, managing Circles of Giving and Corporate Sponsorships. Casey moved to Lincoln seven years ago, after working for Walt Disney World. In addition to her full-time work at the Lied, Casey is also a part-time graduate student working toward her MBA in the UNL College of Business. In her spare time, she serves as the Membership Co-Officer for the Junior League of Lincoln and volunteers in the community, as well as attends women's leadership and development opportunities. Three of her favorite Lied Center performances before she joined the staff were *Cinderella* in 2017, *Firebird* in 2018 and *Phantom of the Opera* in 2019.



Spectacular performances this winter #AtTheLied!

The coming months are packed with unforgettable performances, ranging from the groundbreaking *Kinetic Light: Descent* to the thrilling 50th anniversary production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and so much more.

We hope to see you at these can't-miss performances!

Les Misérables **January 9-14, 2024** **8 performances!**

For the first time in more than two decades, the world's most popular musical is returning to Lincoln! Set against the backdrop of 19th century France, *Les Misérables* tells an enthralling story of love, passion, sacrifice, and redemption – a timeless testament to the survival of the human spirit. This epic and uplifting story has become one of the most celebrated musicals in theatrical history. The magnificent score includes the songs "I Dreamed a Dream," "On My Own," "Bring Him Home," "One Day More," "Master of the House," and many more.



Dancing Beethoven **Featuring Les Grands Ballets Canadiens** **and Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra** **February 14, 2024**

Spend Valentine's Day experiencing the power and romance of this once-in-a-lifetime collaboration! More than 50 world-class dancers from Montreal's Les Grands Ballets Canadiens will bring Beethoven's iconic 5th and 7th symphonies to life, accompanied by the full Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra. The Lied Center is honored to host this renowned ballet company for one of only three performances in the United States this year!



Get Your Tickets today!





Join us for the Friends of Lied Gala New York, New York Saturday, February 10, 2024

The Lied Center will be transformed by the bright city lights and sounds of Broadway on Saturday, February 10, 2024. Dress in your finest attire from fifth avenue and join us for upscale cocktails, gourmet dining, and dazzling entertainment. Experience the excitement of the city that never sleeps without leaving Lincoln!

Enjoy a concert on mainstage featuring Franc D'Ambrosio. Best-known for the lead role in Andrew Lloyd Webber's Tony Award-winning musical *The Phantom of the Opera*, Franc D'Ambrosio played the famed masked man more than 2,100 times, holding the title of "The World's Longest-Running Phantom" for more than a decade. Or dance the night away at Studio 54 with DJ Lawrence Chatters in the Carson Theater.

Trust us, you won't want to miss this event!



Single Ticket: \$175
Private Table for Ten: \$1,750

A heartfelt
THANK YOU
to our amazing sponsors!



Aladdin Outreach Took Lincolnites to A Whole New World in October!



In more ways than one, Disney's *Aladdin* was an inspirational and magical addition to the beginning of the Lied's season. On stage, the company showed us an entrancing performance with elaborate visuals and brilliant composition during their eight-show series Oct. 3-8. Off the stage, the members of *Aladdin* gave just as much energy and inspiration to our community through six outreach events. From conversations on diversity and inclusion with UNL students to engaging with LPS elementary students, they were able to serve people of many diverse backgrounds and interests.

Cast members J. Andrew Speas and Ben Chavez spoke at an OASIS Dish It Up segment held at the Jackie Gaughan Multicultural Center. During this talk, they spoke on the ways they show up as diversity, equity, and inclusion ambassadors on the road and opened up about their journeys as artists. This event served 32 UNL students, faculty, and staff members.

Ensemble and main cast members Colt Prattes and Angelina Mullin held an Artist Q&A for an Introduction to Theatre class, with other performing arts students invited to attend. They were able to speak life into the generation of young artists who are steadily approaching their own careers. There were 168 UNL students in attendance.

The Genie, Marcus M. Martin, and cast member Jake Letts spoke at Clinton Elementary for an all-school assembly Q&A session serving 500 Lincoln Public School students. Many students shared regards of not being interested in theatre prior to the assembly but through seeing the passion in these actors, left with a newfound interest in the art of performing.

Assistant stage manager, Emily White-Winter, spoke in an intimate gathering with 8 UNL stage management students. Through this, students were able to visualize their careers in real time, and gain visibility on what it takes to work behind the scenes on major productions like *Aladdin*.



Marcus M. Martin, The Genie, poses in front of the Lied Center

The show's Sultan, Sorab Wadia, facilitated a vocal master class for UNL vocal performance students at music convocation, attended by all UNL music majors. Wadia's feedback was meaningful, giving students an opportunity to refine their technique and gain skills to carry for a lifetime. This event served 250 students.

Cast members Dwelvan David and Taylor Mackenzie Smith facilitated a musical theatre workshop with singing and dancing instruction. Sweeping the class into the land of Agrabah through song and dance, this master class walked participants through the dance and music for the show's opening number, "Arabian Nights." There were 19 UNL students and 9 LPS students in attendance.

In all, *Aladdin* outreach events served **over 1,000 members** of the Lincoln community and left a lasting impact during their brief visit.

From Scottsbluff to Nebraska City: Arts Across Nebraska tours *O Pioneers!* and Mariachi Zapata

This fall, Arts Across Nebraska, a Lied education program that tours the state offering arts education opportunities and public performances to rural populations, visited seven communities over the course of two tours, traveling over 1,400 miles and serving 3,635 Nebraskans in just 12 tour days!

In a first of its kind collaboration with UNL Opera, Arts Across Nebraska co-presented UNL professor Tyler Goodrich White's *O Pioneers!*, an operatic retelling of the classic Willa Cather novel recounting life on the prairie. Directed by William Shomos, *O Pioneers!* played three public performances and three educational student matinees Oct. 13-20 in the communities of Scottsbluff, McCook, and Red Cloud. Many teachers commented on the impact of the experience for their students, noting the value of seeing a live orchestra, hearing operatic singing performed for the first time, and the high-quality performance by those on stage. Students appreciated the opportunity to ask the cast questions post-show and connect with the performers. The production featured UNL students and Glenn Korff School of Music graduates as actors, pit members, and technicians, with White conducting the sextet of live musicians. In total, over 735 members of the Scottsbluff, McCook, and Red Cloud communities were served by the *O Pioneers!* tour.

The second tour of this season took Mariachi Zapata, an Omaha-based mariachi ensemble and Omaha Entertainment Award winner, to the communities of Fremont, Nebraska City, Grand Island, and Kearney. The group performed three public performances, five student matinees and conducted four outreaches with area students between November 14-17. Ninety percent of audience survey respondents enjoyed the show and felt they had a greater appreciation of mariachi music after watching the public performance. The performances were highly engaging and interactive, with some audience members getting the opportunity to participate in the show through dancing and singing on stage with the group. Mariachi Zapata had incredible turnout with nearly 2,900 members of the Fremont, Nebraska City, Grand Island, and Kearney areas being served by performances and outreach!

Friends of Lied board members attended events in Scottsbluff, McCook, Red Cloud, Fremont, Nebraska City, and Grand Island. Led by Education Chair Nancy Brosz, members had a table in the lobby and provided information to communities about the work the Lied Center does, benefits of Friends of Lied membership, and shared candy and stickers with audience members. A special thank you to those members for their support of Arts Across Nebraska on the road!



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of



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GIFTS THEY'LL LOVE

This holiday season, give the gifts of inspiration, entertainment, and time spent together!

From tickets to amazing shows, to gift certificates that never expire, to Friends of Lied memberships that keep giving all year long, to custom engraved bricks in our plaza, we've got meaningful ideas for all the arts lovers on your list. The best part? They can all be purchased online right now!

- Tickets to Great Shows
- Lied Center Gift Certificates
- Live Webcast Season Packages
- Friends of Lied Gift Memberships
- Custom Engraved Bricks in Lied Plaza
- Friends of Lied Gala Tickets



Get all the details at
liedcenter.org/giftguide

