

# THE LIEDER

WINTER 2020



**BLUE  
MAN  
GROUP** <sup>TM</sup>

**ON TOUR**

**JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 2, 2020**





As we celebrate the arrival of 2020 and the decade ahead, it warms my heart to reflect back on the past decade at the Lied Center for Performing Arts. *The Phantom of the Opera* provided one of the Lied Center's greatest programs in history artistically, with attendance and in community impact. Derek Davis, as the Phantom, was incredible and rivaling any actor ever to play the role. Over 29,000 people enjoyed seeing *Phantom* which sets a new Lied Center attendance record. We were able to provide over 2,000 school children the opportunity to see *Phantom* for only \$10 a ticket and 1,900 UNL students attended the program. Musical theater students had the opportunity to attend a master class by Derek Davis and local dancers learned the choreography to *Masquerade*. We have never seen so much community partnership and excitement for a program. The Friends of Lied pre-performance dinner was an outstanding special event that deepened the patron experience. The power of the Phantom's singing, the incredible set and the overall awe-inspiring production will be a cherished memory for many years to come. Thank you for being part of this historic program.

Over the past ten years we built the Lied Commons, renovated the Carson Theater and the Glenn Korff Broadway Series was established. The Circles of Giving and Patron Friend programs were created to further develop artist presentations at the Lied Center which helped us bring artists like Tony Bennett, Chicago Symphony, Bernadette Peters, Emanuel Ax, Wynton Marsalis, Yo-Yo Ma, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Merle Haggard. The GK Platinum Fund was established that supported bringing Broadway's biggest stars to the Lied Center such as Harry Connick Jr., Idina Menzel, Audra McDonald, Kristen Chenoweth, Misty Copeland and American Ballet Theatre.

As we look to the next decade of the Lied Center, we have the opportunity to build on the artistic programs of the past, grow audiences, increase impact on young people and enhance Nebraska's performing arts center. While it is hard to imagine a better decade than the past ten years, the best is yet to come thanks to Friends like you. I look forward to dreaming with you and making those dreams come true. Together, we will enjoy the best of times and performances.

Cheers to future years!

Bill Stephan, CVE  
Executive Director & Chief Artistic Officer  
Lied Center for Performing Arts  
williamstephan@unl.edu



How do you top a wonderful season of love and giving? I have an idea for you! Don a special hat, fight those midwinter blues, and join us on February 15th for a night of fantasy at our biennial Gala, Wonderland at the Lied: A Mad Hatter's Ball.

This year promises to be extra special as we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Lied. Our formal event will include a sit-down dinner, live music and dancing. And, yes, we planned it for February 15th so you could bring your special someone.

If you are not able to join us for Wonderland at the Lied, you can look forward to the pre-performance dinners scheduled for *Bandstand* on Jan 17 and *Waitress* on March 6.

Additionally, you can look for The Lied's Night of Broadway in Nebraska City on January 14th or Kerfuffle's The Caterpillars Footprint in Kearney on March 30. Both of these programs are part of the Lied's Arts Across Nebraska, a program your Friends' membership helps to sponsor.

And, there's always next year, a phrase we Nebraskans have probably become too accustomed to hearing. However, for the Friends of Lied, this means submitting your membership for the upcoming season so you can take advantage of all the exciting benefits membership brings. Plus, your membership helps bring the world's foremost performers to the stage right here in Nebraska.

Tracy Sanford  
President  
Friends of Lied Board of Directors  
tracysanford@me.com

# PRE-PERFORMANCE DINNER

The Friends of Lied hosted 125 guests at the pre-performance dinner on October 25 before *The Phantom of the Opera*. The event helped set the tone for a thrilling night, not soon to be forgotten. Tables were decorated with drama. Centerpieces featured black candelabras, sheet music, and white masks. Red napkins were folded beautifully into roses and featured on black tablecloths. Guests noshed on wedge salad, New York strip steak, twice-baked potatoes, and green beans. Scrumptious brown sugar cake was served for dessert, all catered by Yes Chef. If you missed this dinner, don't worry! There's two more remaining: *Bandstand* on January 17 and *Waitress* on March 6. Reservations can be made at [www.liedcenter.org](http://www.liedcenter.org). Have dinner with Friends!

 <b>BANDSTAND</b> <i>A New Musical</i>	<b>BANDSTAND</b> PRE-PERFORMANCE DINNER <b>FRIDAY,</b> JANUARY 17, 2020
 <b>WAITRESS</b> A BROADWAY MUSICAL BAKED FROM THE HEART	<b>WAITRESS</b> PRE-PERFORMANCE DINNER <b>FRIDAY,</b> MARCH 6, 2020
 <b>\$35 PER DINNER</b> <b>CASH BAR.</b>	
<b>RESERVE YOUR SEATS BEFORE THEY'RE GONE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ONLINE AT <a href="http://WWW.LIEDCENTER.ORG">WWW.LIEDCENTER.ORG</a></li><li>• CALL AMY AT 402-472-4704</li><li>• MAIL TO 301 N. 12TH STREET LINCOLN, NE 68588</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO FRIENDS OF LIED WITH SHOW TITLE IN MEMO LINE</li><li>◦ PLEASE INDICATE NAME OF GUESTS AND DIETARY RESTRICTIONS.</li><li>* RESERVATION DEADLINE IS ONE WEEK PRIOR TO EACH EVENT.</li></ul>	



## Call for Nominations

Nominations are being accepted for the Board of Directors of Friends of Lied. The Friends of Lied Board includes members from across the state of Nebraska who volunteer their time and energy on behalf of the Friends of Lied, in support of the Lied Center. Directors serve three-year terms and attend monthly meetings, September-May, to assist in friend-raising and fund-raising on behalf of performing arts in Nebraska.

If you or someone you know would like to join this great mission, and share his/her time and passion on behalf of the Lied, please contact us. As a statewide organization, we welcome Friends who live outside Lincoln to consider becoming board members.

Go to [www.liedcenter.org/friendsoflied](http://www.liedcenter.org/friendsoflied) for more details and our nomination form. You may also contact Friends of Lied Advisor, Kristen Cline, at (402) 419-3185 or [kristencline@mac.com](mailto:kristencline@mac.com) or Lied Center Membership Manager, Amy Ossian, at (402) 472-4704 or [aossian2@unl.edu](mailto:aossian2@unl.edu) for more information.



## Friends of Lied Biennial Gala

A whirlwind of wonder and whimsy await you for one night only! You are cordially invited to *Wonderland at the Lied: A Mad Hatter's Ball*! Take in a feast for all of your senses as you dine and dance in the wonder of a fantastical night. Get swept up in the enchantment on Saturday, February 15, 2020. Enjoy drinks, auctions, dinner and dancing, all while supporting performing arts in Nebraska.

## Entertainment

Dance the night away on the main stage of the Lied to the sounds of Musivo Live from Kansas City. Care to join in the fun? You'll even have an opportunity to sing with the band! Or sway to the smooth jazz sounds of Vince Learned in the Johnny Carson Theater.





The 2020 Gala Co-Chairs  
have organized an amazing event, which includes:

### **Silent & Live Auction**

Use your cell phone or iPad to log on to Qtogo, a secure bidding site, to preview the amazing silent auction items before you even arrive! Or feel free to ask the technology staff on hand to assist you. Artwork, event tickets, and unique experiences are just a sampling of items that will be featured.

On the night of the gala, a few live auction items could be yours. Win an opportunity to sing on-stage with the band! Take home an original sculpture by David Biehl!

### **Share the Passion!**

A pinnacle moment of the night will surely be when everyone learns about the amazing things that are happening at the Lied Center. It's a time when we'll open our hearts and share the passion that we all have for the performing arts in the state of Nebraska by making a charitable gift.

### **Reservations**

Surprise your sweetheart with seats to the hottest event in town during Valentine's Day weekend! Reserve your seats today by returning the invitation you receive in the mail. Or make your reservations online at [liedcenter.org/gala](http://liedcenter.org/gala).

### **30th Anniversary Sponsor**

**Eye Surgical Associates**

### **Benefactor Sponsors**

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### **Patron Sponsors**

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### **Advocate Sponsors**

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## EDUCATION TEAM NEWS

As part of the Lied Center's Arts Across Nebraska program, Grammy-winning zydeco artist Terrance Simien brought his Creole for Kidz show to elementary school students in Scottsbluff, Kearney, and Norfolk, Nebraska. Through five matinee performances, two interactive outreach activities, and one performance for the public, Simien and his band reached more than 2,600 students with his creative Creole folk music. At the Merryman Performing Arts Center in Kearney, students played zydeco on "rub-boards" with Terrance and his band. The Arts Across Nebraska tour was a great opportunity for Nebraska students to learn about Creole culture and experience a live performing arts event with world-class musicians.



Honor friends & family, celebrate graduations, weddings, birthdays, or retirement by purchasing custom engraved bricks for the Lied Plaza.

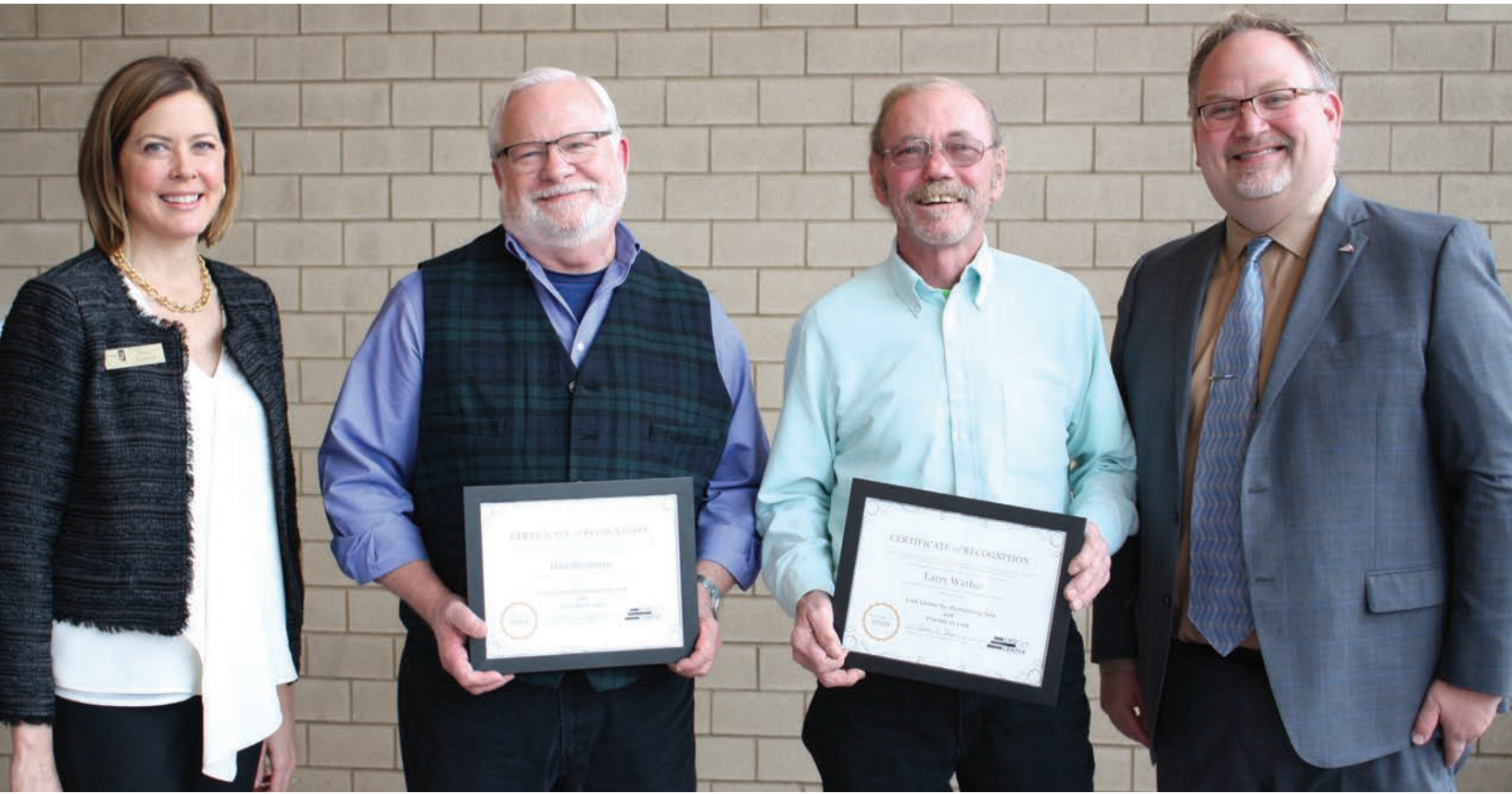
**Place order online or contact Amy Ossian  
at [aossian2@unl.edu](mailto:aossian2@unl.edu) or 402-472-4704.**

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We are proud to report that the Friends of Lied has surpassed its financial membership goal for the 2019 calendar year. This wouldn't be possible without the support of our members and your unmatched passion for the arts. Thank you for your generosity. We also appreciate all members who took the Lied survey this summer; your feedback regarding membership has been instrumental in helping us to make positive changes in the program, including adding new membership benefits. Your membership will now last a full 12 months from the date of your membership contribution, so you can enjoy a full year of benefits regardless of when you choose to give. For more information about our new benefits, be on the lookout for our January renewal mailing! Thanks again to all our Friends for your contributions and patronage.



# Dan Stratman and Larry Wathor Retirements



The Lied Center for Performing Arts is honored to have had two employees that have been with the Center since its inception in 1989. Both Dan Stratman and Larry Wathor announced their retirements after 30 years of service. The organizational and leadership skills of both of these men greatly contributed to the success of the Lied Center.

Dan Stratman directed and managed production and facility operations at the Lied Center, not only overseeing all the performances but also helping with the addition of the Lied Commons, renovation of the Carson Theatre, and venue updates for *The Phantom of the Opera*. Dan ensured we had safe operations at the performances, and made sure crews operated with top efficiency providing record load in/out times with many artist groups. He generously worked with Friends of Lied for light creations for Gala and other fundraisers.

Larry Wathor had been facility manager of the Lied Center for 30 years, making sure that every part of the Lied Center was working properly and was immaculately clean. Larry worked countless holidays and vacation breaks due to unforeseen emergencies. He and his team were always available for set up of any event that happened in the Lied. His help was greatly appreciated.

We at Friends of Lied wish Mr. Stratman and Mr. Wathor happiness and fulfillment in their retirements – and we hope to see them come back to visit the Lied Center soon.

If you are interested in recognizing Dan, and Larry's decades of service to the Lied Center, donations to the Dan Stratman and Larry Wathor Lied Center Production and Facility Improvement Fund (01151310) may be sent directly to the University of Nebraska Foundation or can be made online at [www.nufoundation.org](http://www.nufoundation.org). Questions may be directed to Heather Lundine ([heather.lundine@nufoundation.org](mailto:heather.lundine@nufoundation.org) or 402-458-1281).

Friends  
of



Lied Center for Performing Arts  
301 North 12th Street  
PO Box 880151  
Lincoln, NE 68588-0151  
[liedcenter.org/support/friends](http://liedcenter.org/support/friends)



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# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



**JANUARY 9, 2020**  
4:30-6:30 P.M.

Super Subscriber Open  
House & Backstage Tour



**FEBRUARY 15, 2020**  
6:00 P.M.

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



**JANUARY 17, 2020**  
5:30 P.M.

Bandstand | |  
Pre-Performance Dinner



**MARCH 6, 2020**  
5:30 P.M.

Waitress | |  
Pre-Performance Dinner

Visit [liedcenter.org/friendsoflied](http://liedcenter.org/friendsoflied) or contact Amy Ossian  
at [aossian2@unl.edu](mailto:aossian2@unl.edu) or 402-472-4704 for more information.

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