



THE

LIEDER

WINTER 2024

Happy Holidays

from all of us at the Lied Center!



Bill Stephan, CVE
Executive Director &
Chief Artistic Officer



As we prepare to turn the page on another spectacular year at the Lied, I want to offer you my personal gratitude for your continued support of the arts in Nebraska. You make it possible for the hope, inspiration, and connection offered by the arts to reach more people than ever before, both right here in Lincoln and in communities across the state.

We're kicking off the new year with several must-see events, and I hope you've got your tickets! *RENT in Concert* is the perfect representation of what we do best at the Lied — a thrilling, unforgettable performance that will also be life-changing for the young artists involved. Broadway director Sammi Cannold will lead a cast of Tony Award nominees and Broadway veterans, alongside several spectacularly talented emerging artists from right here in Nebraska! Two of the performers are alumni of the Lied's Triple Threat Broadway Intensive, and we are so proud of them. Lincoln native and Broadway performer Mary Kate Moore stars as Maureen, and you can read an interview with her in this issue of the *Lieder* written by FOL board member (and Mary Kate's mother!), Sue Gast Moore.

Don't forget that 2025 kicks off with a HUGE Broadway lineup including our historic run of *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*, the hilarious *Beetlejuice the Musical*, and the beloved *Annie*, as well as heart-pounding tap with the *Syncopated Ladies*, the grandeur of the Czech National Symphony Orchestra and *Academy of St. Martin in the Fields*, and so much more. There's so much to look forward to in 2025 at the Lied, and I'm so glad you'll be here for all of the excitement.

I wish you all the warmth and joy of the season and can't wait to see you soon at the Lied!

The leaves have fallen and winter is settling in. It's time for hot cocoa, hot toddies, and making memories with performances at the Lied.

Our '24-25 season began in earnest this fall with unique and enjoyable performances of all varieties including a play, dance, Broadway shows, family shows, jazz, comedy, piano and a special celebration of Johnny Carson's 99th birthday — truly something for everyone! Numerous additional events were made available to students and the general public to enhance some of these performance experiences. Your support as a Friends of Lied member helped make the performances and extra events possible. Thank you!

In November, Arts Across Nebraska began its season of events with a tour of Kerfuffle's *Bookworms* to entertain 3-5 year olds in Winnebago, Pender, and Eagle. The Lied partnered with Linked2Literacy and utilized Friends of Lied board members to help hand out books to the children at these events. Additional Arts Across Nebraska events are scheduled across Nebraska in the spring. In January, the annual Famfest event, *Goodnight Moon and The Runaway Bunny*, will be presented. Once again, your Friends of Lied membership dollars help make these events possible.

I hope to see you at the Lied this holiday season (*The Illusionists* and *The Midtown Men*) and in the new year for many spectacular events. Wishing you and yours the best of everything in the coming year.



@friendsoflied



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Dee Cummins
President | Friends of Lied
Board of Directors

ON THE COVER: *Beetlejuice the Musical* is coming to the Lied March 4-9, 2025.

Purchase tickets online at <https://www.liedcenter.org/event/beetlejuice>

BACK TO THE FUTURE PRE-PERFORMANCE DINNER

The Friends of Lied Board held a pre-performance dinner between the matinee and evening performances of *Back to the Future* on October 19. These fun themed meals are held for the public as a great way to do “dinner and a show.” For the first time, the event was scheduled to allow matinee goers to attend after the performance, while those with evening show tickets could dine beforehand. Guests enjoyed dinner catered by the Talon Room, a cash bar including themed cocktails Great Scotch! and Timeless Tonic, and a performance by the Lincoln Southwest High School HawkTet vocal group.



MEMBER FEATURE

The Friends of Lied Board would like to honor two past presidents who recently passed away, Sally Desmond and Margery “Midge” Irvin. Sally was one of four founding members of the Friends of Lied Board, beginning the organization in November 1988. She served on the board from 1989-1997 and served as president in 1995-96. Sally passed away this August at the age of 88. Midge volunteered for numerous organizations over many years, serving on the Friends of Lied board from 1993-1999 and as president in 1996-1997. She regularly attended Lied performances until she passed away in September at the age of 93.



Sally Desmond

Midge Irvin

The best seats in the house!



**GOLD
CIRCLE**

Join the Gold Circle program and enjoy the same prime seats for every Lied Season performance in the main hall for the next five years starting with the 2025-26 Season. Membership benefits include:

- Enjoy the best seats in the house
- Customized seat plaque
- Concierge ticketing service
- Gold Circle suite access
- Complimentary valet parking
- Opportunities to meet the artists

Enjoy two prime seats for the next five years by making an annual contribution of \$5,000 (\$25,000 pledge paid over five years) or make a single contribution of \$20,000 and enjoy one free year! Contact Casey Sigrist at casey.sigrist@unl.edu or 402-472-4737 to inquire about becoming a Gold Circle member today!

STAFF FEATURE

Sasha Dobson is the Education Outreach Manager at the Lied Center. She is a Lincoln native who received her BFA in Acting from Ithaca College in NY and her MFA in Acting from UNL. She connects the artists who perform at the Lied Center with students on campus and in the community through educational experiences such as masterclasses, workshops, lecture/demonstrations and artist Q&A's. She loves everything she does at the Lied but her favorites are overseeing the high school summer programs: The Lied Center Triple Threat Broadway Intensive and The Lied Center Piano Academy. Sasha is an artist who feels passionately about the power of theater to foster empathy and understanding. She looks to create and support theatrical spaces for audiences to witness diverse perspectives and narratives, by promoting dialogue and connection within communities. As an actor, director, and dialect coach, she brings characters to life on stage, while also guiding others to achieve authenticity in their performances. Her role as an educator and teaching artist allows her to share her expertise and passion with aspiring talent, shaping the next generation of theater artists.



Sasha Dobson

RENT

IN CONCERT



RENT in Concert comes to the Lied on January 18, and Lincoln's own Mary Kate Moore will play Maureen! Kate's previous credits include national tours of *Into the Woods*, *Les Miserables* and *MJ the Musical*. She was also on Broadway in the 2022 revival of *Into the Woods*. Sue Moore, Kate's mom, is a first year board member for Friends of Lied. She sat down with Kate for this mom/daughter interview.

Sue: Tell me about growing up in LINCOLN and what influence the Lied Center had on your career path.

Kate: I didn't really know that theater was an option as a career until I came to the Lied Center for the first time and saw the touring musicals that came through. It was such an eye-opening experience as a young person to witness career professionals doing theater in my hometown.

Sue: What was the most memorable performance that you saw at the Lied Center?

Kate: It's hard to name just one, because I remember so many pretty vividly — but *CATS* was the first time that I was really floored by theater, and I remember wanting to buy all the merch in the lobby after the show was over. I also saw a production of *Sweeney Todd* at the Johnny Carson Theater when I got a little older, which was a completely different dramatic experience that felt really visceral and powerful from a storytelling perspective. Those two really are the ones that stick out in my memory the most.

Sue: You'll be back in January for *RENT in Concert*. This will be the second show you've done on that stage; the first time was the *Into the Woods* tour in 2017. How does it feel to come back to be on that stage again?

Kate: It's literally coming home. I remember being a kid in that theater doing dance recitals. I graduated from high school on the stage of the Lied. Performing with the tour of *Into the Woods* at home was such a nostalgic experience. I think that *RENT*, with so many local musicians on stage with me, will really feel like a cool Nebraska homecoming. It'll be a very fun memory to share with my fellow Nebraskans.

Sue: Do you have any advice for Lincoln or Nebraska theater kids that want to do what you're doing?

Kate: I would love to see continued, robust, love for theater in Nebraska. I don't think that this is a state that many people associate with really great stage performances, but they do exist here. My advice would be to continue to find those resources and expose yourself to as much of the art form as possible. From there, don't give up on following the dream as far as you can, whether that means staying in Nebraska and inspiring other artists in the state, or pursuing a career in New York like I did.



Samara Follette (center) performs as part of the 2023 Lied Center Triple Threat Broadway Intensive.

In addition to Tony Award nominees A.J. Shively, Crystal Lucas-Perry, and Sidney DuPont and Broadway performers including Mary Kate Moore, *RENT in Concert* features top Nebraska talent selected by Broadway casting agent Peter Dunn (*Hamilton*, *Freestyle Love Supreme*, and more).

Among the emerging talent selected to perform are two alumni of the Lied Center Triple Threat Broadway Intensive! The Lied is so proud of Elise Anderson and Samara Follette, who have both participated for multiple years in our summer camp that gives talented high school students the opportunity to learn directly from Broadway professionals. Now, they're both making their professional debuts on the Lied Center stage. We can't wait to see them shine!

Elise Anderson (left) performs as part of the 2019 Lied Center Triple Threat Broadway Intensive.



Friends of Lied Presents

PARIS LIGHTS

FEBRUARY 1, 2025

A big THANK YOU to everyone who bought tickets to the gala - the event is now sold out!

Contact us at lieddevelopment@unl.edu to be added to the wait list.

Even if you aren't attending this year, you can still make a donation or bid on these and other spectacular items in the silent auction online at www.liedcenter.org/gala:

- **Estes Park Condo**: Four Nights for 4-6 guests
- **Deer Creek Cabin** in Bailey, Colorado: Four Nights for 4 guests
- **Husker tickets** for football, volleyball, softball, men's and women's basketball
- **10 Lied tickets and private intermission reception** with charcuterie and drinks, for either Barricade Boys, Parsons Dance, or TAKE3
- **2 Prime tickets to Itzak Perlman** on Saturday, April 19, with valet parking
- Saro Cider: make and name your own cider with 10 friends.
- Blackstone Grill with \$300 Nebraska Star Beef gift card
- Bison Residential Basketball System
- and so much more!

Gala attendees can take part in an exciting live auction to win these items and more:

- **Perfect Paris trip**: Five-night stay for two guests at Hotel Andre Latin, plus events including the option to see a Moulin Rouge show!
- **Italian villa**: Seven-night stay for up to 12 guests at Villa Destino, a six-bedroom, seven-bath private estate in Montone, Italy. Available April 12-19 or May 3-10, 2025
- **Custom A.T. Thomas Jewelry pendant necklace**: designed in yellow gold with diamonds and sensational gemstones
- **Private Dinner by Chef Rachel McGill of DISH**: a five-course menu from James Beard semifinalist and runner-up on Food Network's *Chopped*, for up to eight guests

A SPECIAL "THANK YOU" TO OUR SPONSORS:

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Arts Across Nebraska to span state in February, April 2025

Two Arts Across Nebraska tours will visit venues from Nebraska City to North Platte this spring.

First, Christina and Andrés of the GRAMMY and Latin Grammy Award-winning duo 123 Andrés will bring their lively, interactive concert to student audiences in Kearney, Nebraska City, and Norfolk, February 18-21. Students will join them as they search the continents for their missing friend Juana and learn about geography and music along the way. Andrés and Christina, both native Spanish speakers, incorporate language seamlessly, empowering students to sing in both Spanish and English, as well as moving and dancing. Learning has never been so fun!



All performances on this tour are invited student matinees.

Merryman Performing Arts Center - Kearney - Tuesday, February 18

Hayward and Northside Elementary - Nebraska City - Thursday, February 20

Johnny Carson Theater - Norfolk - Friday, February 21

Next, TAKE3 visits McCook, Gothenburg, and North Platte, sharing their signature collision of classical and pop music. "Stunning, Superb, Powerful ..." says the Los Angeles Times of TAKE3: Where ROCK meets BACH, featuring the music of popular artists, including The Beatles, Billy Joel, Elvis, Neil Diamond, Imagine Dragons, and crowd favorites, "Sweet Home Alabama," "Hallelujah," "Game of Thrones," "Stand by Me," and "Pirates of the Caribbean." Featuring musicians trained at the world's top conservatories, this unique trio of violin, cello, and piano brings together the power and energy of rock music with the sophistication and beauty of classical Bach.



Fox Theatre - McCook - Monday, April 14 at 7 PM

Sun Theater - Gothenburg - Tuesday, April 15 at 7:30 PM

North Platte High School - North Platte - Thursday, April 17 at 7:30 PM

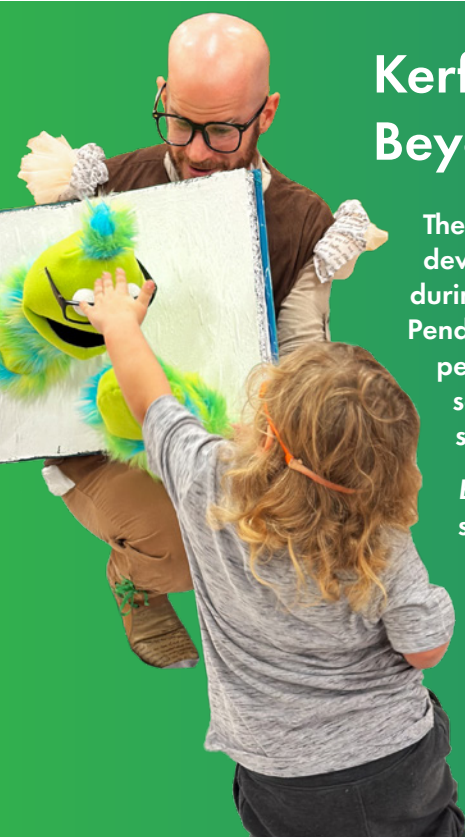
Please visit www.liedcenter.org/education/arts-across-nebraska for more information and venue-specific ticketing links. Arts Across Nebraska is made possible through generous contributions by the Richard P. Kimmel and Laurine Kimmel Charitable Foundation, Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and Friends of Lied.

Kerfuffle's Bookworms Takes Audiences Beyond the Bookshelves

The ensemble of Kerfuffle, an award-winning Midwestern theater and dance company devoted to creating work for children ages 0-6 years, mesmerized pre-school audiences during the first Arts Across Nebraska tour of the season November 13-15 in Winnebago, Pender, and Eagle, with their performance of *Bookworms*. The group conducted six student performances, two creative drama workshops, and a teacher professional development session in these three days, with another virtual teacher professional development session scheduled for December. The tour served 248 students and 90 adults, traveling 744 miles!

Bookworms is an original, highly visual and multi-sensory performance combining storytelling, movement, and puppetry for ages 3-6. As audiences are welcomed by The Storyteller into a typical library story time, something strange starts to happen. The stories are not how The Storyteller remembers them! The mischievous bookworms take audiences to Beyond the Bookshelves where they help restore the stories.

The production was well received in each community, with one Eagle teacher commenting, "I loved that the students had an opportunity to experience theater



Chloé Arnold's Syncopated Ladies: Empowering Communities Through Dance and Education

The Lied Center for Performing Arts is thrilled to welcome Syncopated Ladies, and their Emmy-nominated creator and founder, Chloé Arnold, to the Lied Center in January. Known for their electrifying performances and viral videos — amassing over 100 million views — this female-led group from Los Angeles has collaborated with icons like Beyoncé and captivated audiences worldwide with their innovative blend of rhythm and empowerment.

During their residency, the Syncopated Ladies will engage our community through a dynamic series of educational outreach activities:

- Workshops for K-12 students at the Malone Center and Lancaster County Youth Services Center, introducing young dancers to the joy of rhythm and expression
- Community Dance Masterclass for ages 12 and up, inspiring the next generation of movers
- Lunch & Learn with UNL students, where students from the Office of Academic Services and Intercultural Services will hear firsthand about Arnold's journey and the power of resilience in the arts
- Entrepreneurship Conversation and Q&A with UNL College of Business students, exploring the intersection of arts and business, from brand building to the influence of social media

The Syncopated Ladies will also perform a student matinee at 10:30 AM on January 22, ensuring arts access for young audiences, and their public evening performance on January 23 at 7:30 PM will be a part of the Lied's Arts for All program, providing UNL students two free tickets.

This collaboration promises to inspire, educate, and connect, proving once again that the arts are a powerful vehicle for community transformation.

up close. The storytelling was truly brought to life, and the students could participate as much or as little as they wanted. The actors did such a great job of building the confidence of students who were a little more resistant at first. It really inspired our creativity!"

A special thank you to Kat Ousey and Linked2Literacy for partnering to provide a free book for each child who attended the performance! Friends of Lied members Kat Ousey, Dee Cummins, Sue Moore and her daughter Kate Moore, and Sheila Schumacher volunteered to distribute books and spread the word about the Lied Center and the work we do to reach all Nebraskans. Thank you for representing the Lied and supporting Arts Across Nebraska.



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of



Lied Center for Performing Arts
301 North 12th Street
PO Box 880151
Lincoln, NE 68588-0151
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This holiday season, give the gifts of inspiration, entertainment, and time spent together!

From tickets to amazing shows to gift certificates that never expire, Friends of Lied memberships that keep giving all year long to custom engraved bricks on our plaza, we've got meaningful ideas for all the arts lovers on your list.

The best part? They can all be purchased online and printed out right now!

- Tickets to Great Shows
- Lied Center Gift Certificates (Can be used for tickets, summer camps, and more!)
- Live Webcast Season Packages
- Friends of Lied Gift Memberships
- Custom Engraved Bricks in Lied Plaza

Get all the details at liedcenter.org/giftguide

