

Further reading: Andreas, A. T. *History of Cook County Illinois*. 1884. • Benedetti, Rose Marie. *Village on the River, 1888–1988*. 1988. • Lyons *Diamond Jubilee, 1888–1963*. 1963.

Lyric Opera. From 1910 to 1946, seven OPERA companies—several merely different names for the same reorganized company—presented seasons at Chicago’s AUDITORIUM THEATER and the Civic Opera House. All sunk in a sea of debt. From 1946 to 1954 the city had no resident opera company. Three people changed everything: Carol Fox, a student singer; Lawrence Kelly, a businessman; and Nicola Rescigno, a conductor and vocal teacher. With money from friends and Fox’s father, the three formed the Lyric Theatre of Chicago in 1952. Their plan was to restore the city to the front ranks of international opera companies by building a roster of European singers whom the Metropolitan and San Francisco operas had overlooked or ignored. On February 5, 1954, the Lyric Theater presented its “calling card,” a starry performance of Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* at the Civic Opera House. The success of that production made possible a three-week season in autumn of 1954 consisting of 16 performances of 8 operas; 12 of those performances sold out the 3,600-seat theater. The inaugural season brought the American debut of the fiery American-born Greek soprano Maria Callas, as the title role in Bellini’s *Norma*. Callas went on to even more rapturous successes here as Violetta in Verdi’s *La Traviata*, the title role in Donizetti’s *Lucia di Lammermoor*, and Cio-Cio San in Puccini’s *Madama Butterfly*, among other roles. Italian singers and operas predominated in those early years. By 1956, when Fox took sole command of a rechristened Lyric Opera of Chicago, the company had been nicknamed “La Scala West.”

By the late 1990s, Lyric boasted a greatly expanded repertoire, an imposing roster of world-class singers (including Catherine Malfitano, Renée Fleming, Dawn Upshaw, Jane Eaglen, Jerry Hadley, Ben Heppner, James Morris, and Bryn Terfel), and capacity houses for nearly every performance in seasons that extended from September to March. Ardis Krainik, who succeeded Fox as general director upon the latter’s retirement in 1981, earned a reputation as a tough businesswoman and shrewd arts executive. She also won wide respect for the Lyric as a theater that took twentieth-century opera as seriously as the classics. The company’s first integral production of Wagner’s *Ring* cycle, in March 1996, was its most ambitious and, at \$6.5 million, most expensive artistic endeavor to date. Her ambitious initiative “Toward the 21st Century,” which included a retrospective of important American operas and world premieres commissioned by the Lyric, was a bellwether for similar programs at other U.S. companies.

At Krainik’s death in January 1997 she was succeeded by William Mason, the company’s director of operations, artistic and production. As the Lyric entered the early twenty-first century, it remained internationally respected as a theater of high performance standards resting on an enviably secure financial base.

John von Rhein

See also: Classical Music; Entertaining Chicagoans

Further reading: Cassidy, Claudia. *Lyric Opera of Chicago*. 1979. • Davis, R. *Opera in Chicago*. 1966.

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MacArthur Foundation. The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation was created in 1978 through the bequest of John D. MacArthur, a Pennsylvania native who amassed a great fortune in the INSURANCE business and in real-estate investments in Florida. The bulk of his fortune, both company shares and real estate, was left to the foundation, whose endowment had surpassed \$4 billion (making more than \$150 million annual grant making) by 1998.

At its inception, the MacArthur Foundation attracted attention because it was a new, general purpose, nationally focused foundation with an asset base that almost immediately made it among the country’s largest. The MacArthur Foundation was unusual in that the donor left no specific instructions as to the purpose of his philanthropic legacy. He simply named a number of business associates, old Chicago friends, and prominent academics as the board of trustees, whose job it has been to develop a systematic program of giving.

The MacArthur Foundation had become one of the largest and most important philanthropic foundations in the country by the end of its second decade. It focused on two major areas of giving: Human and Community Development (with special attention to Chicago and to Palm Beach County, Florida), and Global Security and Sustainability. But it was best-known to the general public for its MacArthur Fellows Program, popularly known as the “genius” awards—large prizes given without application to people of outstanding promise and performance in any field of endeavor.

Stanley N. Katz

See also: Philanthropy

Macedonians. The most intense period of Macedonian immigration took place before

WORLD WAR I, and after a long lull, resumed in the decades after WORLD WAR II. In the first stage, thousands of Macedonians left the Old Country in the wake of the bloody 1903 Ilinden Uprising against Ottoman control, which ended with the ruin of some 200 villages and exposed many Macedonian men to conscription in the Ottoman army. The rest came as male labor migrants who sought to improve their families’ grim economic fortunes by returning home with earnings from American factories. After World War I, with their home country divided between Bulgaria, Serbia, and Greece, the thousands of Chicago-area Macedonians recognized that they would not return to Europe. Reluctantly, wives and children joined their husbands and fathers, laying the groundwork for stable Macedonian communities in North America.

Prior to the creation of a Macedonian republic in 1944, most Macedonian immigrants viewed themselves as ethnically BULGARIAN and often referred to themselves as Macedonian-Bulgarians or simply Bulgarians. While immigration records failed to list Macedonians as a separate category, approximately three-quarters of those listed as Bulgarians were from the regions of Kostur and Bitola in Macedonia. These immigrants, and those from Bulgaria proper, typically settled together in the pre-World War II years, and established communities in Chicago and GARY as well as downstate in Madison, Granite City, and Venice, Illinois. In 1909 Grace Abbott, writing about the desperate poverty in which hundreds of these immigrants were initially living, estimated that 1,000 Macedonians and Bulgarians were living in Chicago.

Early in the century, Macedonians worked almost exclusively in heavy industry. Many found work in Chicago’s rail yards. Others worked in slaughterhouses, tanneries, fertilizer factories, and steel mills. Chicago served as a transfer point for Macedonians heading to St. Louis, or to the Western states to find railroad and mining WORK. Prior to the formation of Orthodox churches in the 1930s, Macedonian immigrants found solace in cafes near their BOARDINGHOUSES, and in a number of MUTUAL BENEFIT SOCIETIES, the first of which was founded in Chicago in 1902.

Chicago Macedonians campaigned openly for the independence of their homeland. In 1910, several hundred members of the Bulgaro-Macedonian League paraded through the city’s West Side and rallied at Bricklayer’s Hall to protest Ottoman rule. In 1918 Chicago Macedonians held a “Great Macedonian Congress” to express hope that President Wilson’s Fourteen Points would guarantee Macedonia a free homeland. In 1922, Macedonians in North America formed the Macedonian Political Organization (MPO) to campaign for Macedonian independence. Since the 1930s, Chicago and Gary have hosted the MPO’s

annual conventions on at least six occasions. In 1938 Bulgarians and Macedonians together founded St. Sophia Bulgarian EASTERN ORTHODOX Church on North Lawndale Avenue.

After World War II, Macedonian immigrants coming from the new republic or from northern Greece began to view themselves as ethnically Macedonian, and had fewer connections to the older generation. Macedonian Orthodox churches began to grow in the Midwest, Northeast, and Ontario, and in the 1960s the new generation of Chicago Macedonians, which was steadily making its way into the American middle class, founded Sts. Cyril and Methodins in Hinsdale, Illinois. The task of ascertaining the total number of Macedonians in Chicago is confused by the association of many with either the Bulgarian or GREEK churches, but Macedonians probably numbered fewer than 10,000 at the end of the twentieth century.

Gregory Michaelidis

See also: Americanization; Demography; Multicentered Chicago

Further reading: "Macedonians." In *Harvard Encyclopedia of American Ethnic Groups*, ed. Stephan Thernstrom, 1980. • Danforth, Loring M. *The Macedonian Conflict: Ethnic Nationalism in a Transnational World*. 1995.

Machine Politics. Urban political machines, built largely on the votes of diverse immigrant populations, dispensed jobs and assorted welfare benefits while offering avenues of social mobility at a time when local governments provided a paucity of such services. In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Chicago sustained a strong two-party tradition that prevented the development of a centralized political machine. Neither the DEMOCRATS nor the REPUBLICANS succeeded in consolidating power citywide. Republicans prevailed most often in national elections; the Democrats won the majority of local contests; and both parties experienced considerable divisiveness that prevented any faction from establishing hegemony. Several Chicago MAYORS, most notably Carter H. Harrison (Democrat, 1879–1887, 1893), Carter H. Harrison, II (Democrat, 1897–1905, 1911–1915), and Republican William Hale "Big Bill" Thompson (1915–1923, 1927–1931) enjoyed loyal followings but failed to translate personal popularity into lasting organizational strength.

The potent Democratic machine that dominated Chicago POLITICS for nearly half a century formed under the leadership of Anton Cermak, a Bohemian immigrant of working-class origins. After the death of COOK COUNTY Democratic leader George Brennan in 1928, Cermak secured control of the party hierarchy and defeated Thompson in the 1931 mayoral campaign. He subsequently forced the party's dominant IRISH contingent to accept other ethnic groups into his "house for all peoples,"

bringing representatives from the GERMAN, POLISH, CZECH, and JEWISH communities into leadership positions. The life of the Democratic machine's George Washington was cut short in 1933 when Cermak became the unintended victim of an attempted assassination of president-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt.

After Cermak's death, the Irish seized control of the Democratic machine as party chairman Patrick A. Nash engineered the appointment of Edward J. Kelly as mayor. The KELLY-NASH MACHINE followed Cermak's lead, however, doling out PATRONAGE jobs, political appointments, and favors to a broad spectrum of ethnic groups. Kelly not only held the fledgling political machine together in its infancy but strengthened it by utilizing three important sources. First, he became a fervent supporter of Franklin D. Roosevelt's NEW DEAL and kept the city solvent through the liberal use of federal funds at a time when the GREAT DEPRESSION provided the most serious threat to the financial well-being of municipal governments. Second, he acquired additional financial resources from organized crime. By ignoring the operation

of GAMBLING, PROSTITUTION, and other forms of VICE in the WINDY CITY, Kelly obtained from illegal sources the "grease" necessary to keep the machine operating. Third, he actively cultivated AFRICAN AMERICAN voters, and his success paid huge dividends in later years when Chicago's black population increased dramatically. Kelly won reelection in 1935, 1939, and 1943, but problems arose by 1947. Concerns about the number of scandals in municipal government (especially in the public school system) surfaced alongside a rising public outcry against the highly visible presence of organized crime in the city. But among the Democratic faithful, Kelly's greatest liability proved to be his uncompromising stand in favor of public housing and desegregated public SCHOOLS. The party leadership persuaded Kelly not to seek reelection in 1947 and replaced him with a figurehead, civic leader Martin H. Kennelly.

The Democratic machine endured Kennelly's presence in the mayor's office for two terms but then replaced him with a party regular, Richard J. Daley, in 1955. During Daley's prolonged tenure in city hall—he was reelected



Left to right: John Coughlin, alderman, First Ward; Anton J. Cermak, mayor; Herman Bundesen, health commissioner; J. Hamilton Lewis, U.S. senator; Al J. Hoover, municipal court bailiff; Michael Kenna, committeeman, First Ward; John J. Sullivan, Cook County Superior Court judge; Clayton Smith, recorder, Cook County, and chair, Democratic Party Managing Committee. Cermak's election as mayor in 1931 was attributable in large part to his use of incentives and threats to secure the support of different factions of the Democratic Party, including former rivals like Smith and Bundesen. As president of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County since 1922, and the dominant county Democratic leader after 1928, Cermak commanded considerable patronage. Rival Democratic leaders had expected to maintain Irish control of the party, although other ethnic groups (Poles, Germans, Jews) constituted larger proportions of the city's population. Some Irish ward stalwarts, such as Kenna and Coughlin, had long been allied with Cermak. Others fell into line as Cermak outmaneuvered his opponents and constructed a new, multiethnic, citywide Democratic "machine" that would be reinforced by his successors. Photographer: Unknown. Source: Chicago Historical Society.