

TANGLEWOOD & THE BERKSHIRES

Boston Symphony Orchestra; Clark Art Institute & Edith Wharton's The Mount

Thursday, August 1st through Sunday, August 4th



Norman Rockwell's Stockbridge Main Street

The Red Lion Inn: *"An Inn since 1773, the bustling Red Lion has hosted presidents, near-presidents, senators and celebrities... This is the authentic inn."*

Fodor

Tanglewood: *"The United States of America is destined to have a great music and art center."*

Serge Koussevitsky, 1939

"In a time of hubristic museum expansionism, the beloved Sterling and Francine Clark Institute has managed something distinctly surprising. It has gotten bigger and better."

NYTimes

Joyce DiDonato: *"Her performance (the MET's 'Norma') provided yet more evidence – as if we needed it – of her status as a supreme bel canto stylist."*

NY Classical Review

Joshua Bell's *phenomenal technique and tone justify his superstar status."*

The Guardian

Yefim Bronfman: *"A marvel of digital dexterity, warmly romantic sentiment, and jaw-dropping bravura."*

Chicago Tribune

"The best thing about this performance – indeed the best thing I've experienced in a theatre all season – is Antonio Pappano's conducting . . ."

London Times

For our summer visit to Tanglewood and the Berkshires, we have chosen the first few days of August to include a trio of **Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO)** concerts encompassing a wide variety of repertoire. The revered BSO has always been Tanglewood's resident ensemble, under such acclaimed conductors as Serge Koussevitzky, Charles Munch, Leonard Bernstein, Seiji Ozawa, James Levine, and now the BSO's

Latvian Music Director, Andris Nelsons. A highlight will be the annual **Koussevitsky Memorial Concert**, featuring **Joshua Bell** as the soloist for Dvorak's *Violin Concerto*. Second will be the talented young members of the **National Youth Orchestra** offering works by Berlioz and Richard Strauss, with mezzo-soprano **Joyce DiDonato** as the soloist and Covent Garden's **Sir Antonio Pappano** on the podium. Third will be the Sunday afternoon program

combining Sibelius' *Symphony No. 1* with Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No. 3*, showcasing pianist **Yefim Bronfman**. Our fourth performance will be a play or musical to be chosen from the several leading theatre companies which grace the Berkshires' summer schedule – Williamstown Theatre Festival Berkshire Theatre Group, Barrington Stage Company, Shakespeare & Company.

A daytime excursion will take us to the picturesque college town of Williamstown to visit the recently renovated and expanded **Clark Art Institute** in Williamstown, where we will view the priceless permanent collection as well as the summer exhibition of *Renoir, The Body, The Senses*. The Clark received unanimous accolades when it was re-opened in 2014.

Finally, literary and architecture aficionados will be grateful for our annual visit to **'The Mount'**, Edith Wharton's gracious 1902 mansion outside Lenox. The Italianate gardens are in full bloom in July and August.

The Albany (N.Y.) Airport is the closest terminal to our hotel in Stockbridge, a little more than an hour by car. Independent arrivals should be on Thursday, August 1st. Taxis are readily available at the Albany Airport (estimated \$100 one-way to Stockbridge, but we suggest you call **Abbott's Limousine** in Lee, Massachusetts (413) 243-1645 to coordinate the least expensive transfer to the



Joyce DiDonato



Joshua Bell



Yefim Bronfman

Red Lion Inn. Stockbridge is about three hours by car from New York City. *(Please see our concluding paragraph regarding our transfer from New York)*



Sir Antonio Pappano

For the eleventh consecutive year, we are grateful to return for **four nights** at the renowned **Red Lion Inn** in Stockbridge, which has long been considered the Berkshires' most popular hotel. The Red Lion has maintained its unique New England charm but has also been periodically renovated to keep pace with the requirements of the modern traveler, now including an **outdoor swimming pool**. The **Main Dining Room** serves regional cuisine, and a variety of other less formal dining facilities includes **Widow Bingham's Tavern**, the **Al Fresco Courtyard** (under outdoor umbrellas), and the **Lion's Den Pub** (in the basement, with live evening entertainment). The quiet ambience of the Main Street location continues to attract visitors from throughout the world. For guests arriving by private car, the Red Lion has a free overnight parking lot. *(Many members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra reside at the Red Lion during the Tanglewood season. By the end of our visit, you will easily recognize a number of the musicians whom you will see on the premises and in the dining room.)*

Early Thursday evening, August 1st, **dinner** will be arranged to meet other members of the Tour. Our dinner will be in one of the Red Lion's informal dining rooms.



Edith Wharton's The Mount; dining room



Our first evening will take us to Tanglewood's prize-winning **Ozawa Hall** in nearby Lenox for the 8:00 pm concert by the **National Youth Orchestra of the USA**. These gifted young artists are chosen from literally thousands of applicants who aspire to the experience of traveling with a world-famous conductor to a variety of international venues. Our conductor will be the prestigious Music Director of Covent Garden's Royal Opera House, **Sir Antonio Pappano**. The virtuoso program will include Hector Berlioz' romantic song cycle, *Les Nuits d'Été* ('Summer Nights') and Richard Strauss's programmatic tone poem, *An Alpine Symphony*. The beloved American mezzo-soprano **Joyce DiDonato** will be the soloist for Berlioz' lushly orchestrated six songs set to the poems of Théophile Gautier.

Friday morning, August 2nd, we will enjoy a guided visit through **The Mount**, the graceful and imposing country mansion designed and built in 1902 by Edith Wharton, the pre-eminent American novelist. In addition to her fame as the author of 'The House of Mirth', 'The Age of Innocence', 'Ethan Frome' and many other titles, Wharton was also an imaginative architect who fully expressed her design interests in this 'classical revival' house set in the woodlands outside Lenox. The principles she espoused in her influential book, 'The Decoration of Houses', are perhaps best appreciated in the restored interior of 'The Mount'. Our guided visit of the house will be followed by ample time to stroll through the Italianate gardens and to browse through the unusual bookshop. Restoration of both the house and gardens has been ongoing during the past decade, and The Mount is now one of the Berkshire sites which should not be missed. *(Salads and sandwiches are available on the porch overlooking Edith Wharton's favorite view of the area.)*



The Clark Institute



Winslow Homer's Prout's Neck

Degas' Little Dancer of Fourteen Years



Friday afternoon (and Sunday morning) are left free for you to relax in Stockbridge. During our concise four-day schedule, there will be ample free time for you to browse independently around the historic town center. In particular, you may want to visit the 1886 **Naumkeag House and Gardens**; the **Berkshire Botanical Garden** (also open daily from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm); and the **Chesterwood** country home and studio of the American sculptor Daniel Chester French. Museum enthusiasts will be rewarded by a visit to the nearby **Norman Rockwell Museum**, housing the world's largest collection of Rockwell's American scenes. All four of these museums are located in Stockbridge. You will also be grateful for some leisure time in the Red Lion, as our evenings will run quite late due to congested Tanglewood traffic after the concerts. *(Taxis to any museums can be arranged with the Red Lion's front desk.)*

At 8:00 pm on Friday evening, we look forward to our first concert in the **Tanglewood Shed**. This will be the annual **Serge and Olga Koussevitzky Memorial Concert** honoring the Festival's founders, led this year by the German-born American conductor, **Ken-David Masur** (son of the late Kurt Masur). Following the opening *Memorial to Lidice* by 20th century Czech composer Bohuslav Martinu, we will hear a pair of Antonin Dvorak's melodic masterworks: *Violin Concerto* and *Symphony No. 8*. The celebrated American violinist **Joshua Bell** will be the soloist.

Saturday morning, August 3rd, we will drive about 40 minutes north of Stockbridge to the idyllic small town of Williamstown. The **Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute** reopened in 2014 following major renovation and expansion. Our appointment will introduce you to the museum's priceless collection, which attracts art connoisseurs from all over the world. The painting galleries contain masterpieces by Piero della Francesca, Renoir, Monet, Degas, Winslow Homer and John Singer Sargent. The serene new Clark Center designed by Japanese architect Tadao Ando is an optimum space for major exhibitions. An intriguing show entitled *Renoir, The Body, The Senses* is a highlight of the season, along with exhibitions exploring the *Venice Biennale* and *Ida O'Keeffe* (Georgia's sister, a modernist painter). You will find the museum's **Café 7** convenient for independent lunch on the lower level of the new Clark Center. We will return to the Red Lion in mid-afternoon.



The Berkshire hills

Our performance on Saturday will be chosen at a later date, when the outstanding regional theatre companies announce their summer schedules. In recent years we have enjoyed rewarding productions at **Williamstown Theatre Festival**, **Berkshire Theatre Group** in Pittsfield, **Barrington Stage Company** in Stockbridge, and **Shakespeare and Company** in Lenox. (TBA).

At 2:30 pm on August 4th, we will return to the **Tanglewood Shed** for a Sunday afternoon concert by the **Boston Symphony Orchestra**. The young Russian conductor **Dima Slobodeniouk** is Music Director of Finland's Sibelius Festival, and he will lead the BSO today in Jan Sibelius' *Symphony No. 1* and Sergei Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No. 3*. For the notoriously challenging 'Rach 3' concerto, Israeli-American pianist **Yefim Bronfman** will be the soloist.



Sunday evening, we will enjoy a relaxed **dinner** at **Michael's** restaurant on Elm Street in Stockbridge, a short walk from the Red Lion.

*The Tanglewood Shed;
Seiji Ozawa Hall*

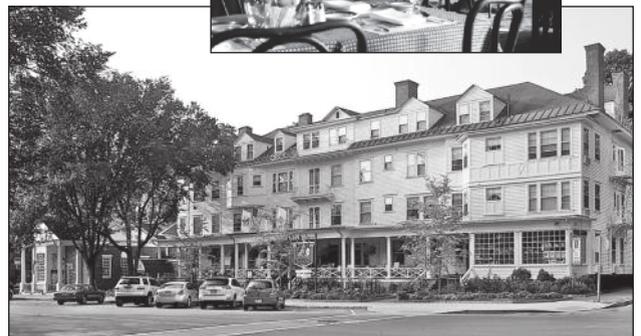


Independent departures should be on Monday, August 5th. As per arrival, please arrange any airport transfer with **Abbott's Limousine** in Lee.

IMPORTANT: *During the past several years, we have learned that by far the easiest transfer from the New York area is by bus from the West Side Port Authority to Williamstown. The Peter Pan Bus Line stops directly at the Red Lion Inn. The bus will depart from the Port Authority (8th Avenue at 42nd Street) at 9:00 am on the morning of Thursday, August 1st, arriving at the Red Lion at 1:00 pm, and will depart on Monday the 5th at 11:00 am for a 3:00 pm return to the Port Authority. You should indicate NOW if you wish to use the round-trip bus transfer, which will cost approximately \$190 per person. We will give you further instructions in the Final Itinerary a month prior to our departure, and we will invoice you then for this additional cost.*



*The Red Lion Inn;
Widow Bingham's
Tavern*



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Tanglewood:

Price per person, based on double occupancy \$ 2,985
Single supplement \$ 750

Airfare NOT included.