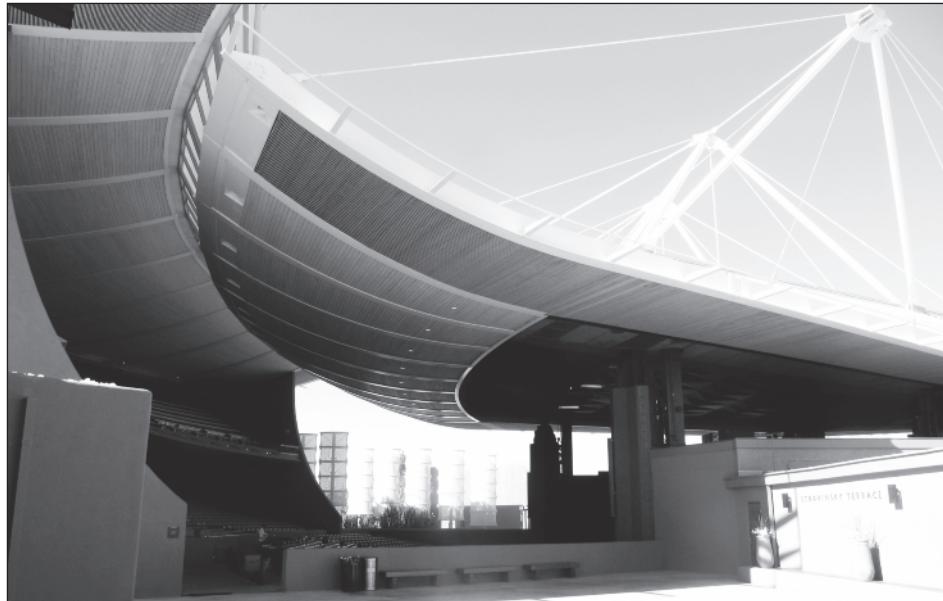

THE SANTA FE OPERA

Five major operas; Renée Fleming Concert

Monday, August 5th through Saturday, August 10th



Santa Fe Opera House

"At 2,000 metres above sea level lies the city of Santa Fe, nestled into the mountainscape, the clouds so close to the ground they are almost within reach. The Crosby Theatre, open-air home to Santa Fe Opera, has a magical quality that most opera houses can only dream of achieving, and the company presents what is probably the finest summer opera festival in the U.S." Opera, Nov. '18

Renée Fleming: "She gives a serene, luminous performance of *The Four Last Songs*."

Stephen Edding, RenéeFleming.com

Patricia Racette: "Her vocal prowess remains largely undiminished . . . She manages a star performance through her remarkable subtlety and vocal grace." Broadstreet Review

Ben Bliss is wonderful as Ferrando, with an ideally sweet voice and boyish earnestness." NY Times, review of the MET's '*Così*'

Rod Gilfry sings every phrase with crisp diction and dramatic point . . . He is becoming the singer of choice for new American operas." NY Times

Lisette Oropesa (in '*La Traviata*') bids fair to be among its great exponents of her generation." MET review, Opera News

Amanda Majeski has established herself as an artist of singular finesse and aristocratic energy." Opera News



Renée Fleming We are also among the fortunate ticket-holders for the *sold-out* **Concert** featuring the beloved soprano **Renée Fleming**. This will be our 6th performance, instead of our usual chamber music concert.

The English titles for all five works are displayed on a screen in front of your seat, similar to the optimum solution initiated by the MET.

In chronological order of composition, the operas will begin with Mozart's lyric comedy, ***Così fan Tutte*** (1790); Bizet's melodic French opera, ***The Pearl Fishers*** (1863); Puccini's enduring romantic tragedy, ***La Bohème*** (1896); Leos Janacek's gripping Czech melodrama, ***Jenůfa*** (1904); and the *world premiere* of Paul Ruders' contemporary opera, ***The Thirteenth Child***. With the exception of '*The Pearl Fishers*', all four of the other works will be staged in *new productions*. Many of today's most accomplished artists choose the Santa Fe Opera as an ideal opportunity for assuming new and adventurous roles.

Orchestra tickets for three operas will be balanced by locations in the Loge for two performances. In recent years, our tour members have consistently enjoyed the views and acoustics of the Loge seats. Our tickets for Renée Fleming's concert are confirmed in the Orchestra.

This summer, our two carefully selected sightseeing excursions will take us to the opera-oriented exhibition at **Site Santa Fe** entitled **Bel Canto Contemporary Artists Explore Opera**; and to the village of **Abiquiu** for a visit to the private studio of artist **Walter W. Nelson**.

There will be ample free time to explore Santa Fe's colorful Plaza and to visit the city's major museums.

Our accommodations for **six nights** will again be at **La Posada de Santa Fe**. This gracious resort is recognized as Santa Fe's most characteristic 'old style' property, in the quiet atmosphere of a lush garden setting with spacious comfortable rooms and a relaxed outdoor breakfast patio. The location is a few short blocks removed from the city's bustling Plaza, and a shuttle bus is available for those who prefer not to walk. Adjacent to the outdoor swimming pool is a convenient bar for poolside drinks, salads and sandwiches; and the fully equipped Spa offers massages, wraps and other treatments. Most importantly, La Posada preserves the authentic charm of old Santa Fe and an outdoor landscape.

Independent arrivals should be on Monday, August 5th. Because there is a performance on the first evening, we are pleased to offer a *limited number of rooms* for the early *optional* night of Sunday, August 4th, for those who wish to arrive a day before the Tour begins. *You should notify us NOW if you want the early night's accommodation.*

Early Monday evening, August 5th, our Tour will begin with a **Buffet Reception** in a private entertainment area of the hotel. This will be an opportunity for you to meet other members of the Tour.

At 8:00 pm on Monday, our first performance in the dramatic setting of the Santa Fe Opera House will be Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's **Cosi fan Tutte**. 'Cosi' remains this writer's favorite Mozart opera, by virtue of the seamless variety of duets for the two fickle sisters and their disillusioned lovers. Mozart lavished his melodic genius on the demanding arias for Fiordiligi – 'Come scoglio' in the first Act and 'Per pieta' in Act II. The ensemble cast will feature **Amanda Majeski** and **Emily D'Angelo** as Fiordiligi and Dorabella, **Ben Bliss** and **Jarrett Ott** as their suitors Ferrando and Guglielmo, and **Rebecca Evans** and **Rod Gilfry** as the conniving maid Despina and worldly-wise Don Alfonso. The company's esteemed British Music Director **Harry Bicket** will be



La Posada de Santa Fe



Amanda Majeski



Rebecca Evans



Ben Bliss



Rod Gilfry

the conductor, and the *new production* is directed by **R.B. Schlather** with scenic designs by **Paul Tate DePoo**. Sung in Italian with English and Spanish titles.

Early afternoon on Tuesday, August 6th, we will depart for **Site Santa Fe**, a dynamic museum for innovative exhibitions, in a downtown location on the Paseo de Peralta encircling the city. This summer's exhibition, **Bel Canto Contemporary Artists Explore Opera**, "celebrates the beauty of opera while challenging the viewer to delve deeper into the history and narratives of opera that are often overlooked" (*Rojo Creative Tours*). A mid-afternoon **High Tea** will be served this afternoon.

At 8:00 pm on Tuesday evening, we will return to the opera house for a performance of Leos Janacek's **Jenufa**. Premiered in 1904 in Brno, the opera unfolds in a series of emotional confrontations juxtaposed with personal prayers of soaring lyricism and power, culminating in the final scene of redemption. Despite the selfish

display of betrayal and even the murder of an innocent infant, 'Jenufa's ultimate message is of Christian love and forgiveness. The English surtitles will bring Janacek's vivid drama to life, and you will experience one of the undisputed masterworks of the 20th century and of the Czech operatic repertoire. The roles of Jenufa and her foster-mother Kostelnicka are two of the most unforgettable characters in all of opera. The MET's consummate singing actress **Patricia Racette** will portray Kostelnicka and soprano **Laura Wilde** will make her debut in the title role.



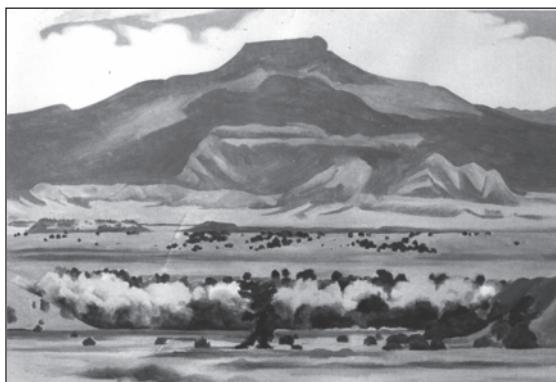
Patricia Racette

Mezzo-soprano **Susanne Mentzer** will return to Santa Fe as the grandmother Buryovka. The male principals will be **Alexander Lewis** as the compassionate Laca and **Richard Smagur** as a licentious Steva. **Johannes Debus** is the conductor, and the *premiere new production* is by director **David Alden** and set designer

Charles Edwards. Sung in Czech with English and Spanish titles.

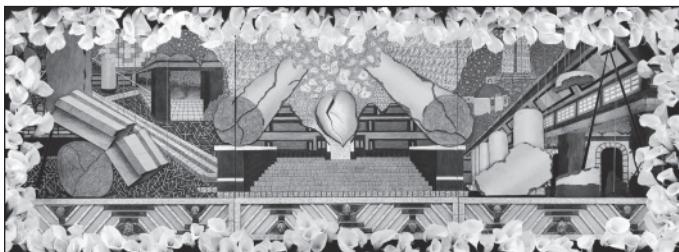
Wednesday, August 7th, is free during the day for independent activities. There are countless galleries and shops to explore, as well as exhibitions at the **New Mexico Museum of Art** and other major southwest institutions—such as the extraordinary **Girard Collection** of miniature villages and toys in the **Museum of International Folk Art**. The **Georgia O'Keeffe Museum** opened in 1997 to great fanfare and is within easy walking distance of our hotel. **IMPORTANT: A four-day Museum Pass** is included with our package, which allows entry into the city's museums at your own leisure. (*Because of our many repeat travelers, we prefer to devote our excursions to out-of-the-way locations instead of the nearby museums which can be visited on your own.*)

Wednesday evening, our 8:00 performance will be a *new production* of Giacomo Puccini's **La Bohème** - "that perfect balance of realism and romanticism, of comedy and pathos which makes 'La Bohème', on its own level, one of the most satisfying works in the operatic repertoire" (*New Grove Dictionary of Opera*). The libretto is based on Henry Murger's French novel *Scènes de la vie de Bohème*, and the premiere was in Turin in 1896. Santa Fe's roster will offer sopranos **Vanessa Vasquez** and **Kirsten MacKinnon** as Mimi and Musetta, **Mario Chang** and **Zachary Nelson** as Rodolfo and Marcello, and **Will Liverman** and **Solomon Howard** as Schaunard and Colline. Bass **Dale Travis** will assume the dual assignment of Benoit and Alcindoro. **Jader Bignamini** will conduct, and director **Mary Birnbaum** and designer **Grace Laubacher** will make their Santa Fe debut. *Sung in Italian with English and Spanish titles.*



Georgia O'Keeffe, Pedernal mountain

On Thursday morning, August 8th, a full-day excursion will take us to the village of Abiquiu, about an hour and a half north of Santa Fe. The dramatic scenery has been immortalized in the paintings of Georgia O'Keeffe. We will visit the private studio of **Walter W. Nelson**, whose works in painting, photography and outdoor installations began in 1967, spanning a period of 40 years. We will meet the artist, and we will stop for **lunch** today at the **Abiquiu Inn** before returning to Santa Fe in the late afternoon.



Walter W. Nelson Homage to Diego Rivera, mixed media



Lisette Oropesa

At 8:00 pm on Thursday evening, we look forward to a revival of the Santa Fe Opera's colorful 2012 production of George Bizet's **The Pearl Fishers**, premiered in Paris in 1863. "Heavenly perfumed music takes us to exotic Ceylon where two friends swear to forget a sarong-clad Brahmin priestess... One man will win her heart - and the other will lose his life." (*Lyric Opera of Chicago*). The celebrated tenor/baritone duet 'Au fond du temple saint' and the high-tessitura arias 'Comme autrefois dans la nuit sombre' (for the soprano Leila) and 'Je crois entendre encore' (for the tenor Nadir) account for the hypnotic impact of this often neglected opera. The vibrant cast is headed by lyric soprano **Lisette Oropesa** as the priestess Leila, Austrian tenor **Ilker Arcayürek** (a company debut) as the handsome fisherman Nadir, baritone **Anthony Clark Evans** as the head fisherman Zurga (Nadir's rival for Leila's affections), and bass **Robert Pomakov** as the Brahmin priest Nourabad. The conductor is **Timothy Myers**, and the production is directed by **Shawn Lucey** with sets designed by **Jean-Marc Puissant**. *Sung in French with English and Spanish titles.*

Friday, August 9th, is a free day for independent shopping and sightseeing.

Early Friday evening, we will enjoy a pre-theatre **buffet dinner** on the grounds of the Opera House. These gatherings of opera enthusiasts offer a generous variety of Southwest cuisine in an attractive outdoor setting adjacent to the auditorium. During the dessert, we will benefit from an informative pre-opera talk on tonight's world premiere production of 'The Thirteenth Child'.

At 8:00 pm on Friday evening, our final opera will be Paul Ruders' **The Thirteenth Child**. The Danish composer boasts four previous operas, including his acclaimed version of 'The Handmaid's Tale' acclaimed by Opera News and the NY Times. This fifth opera is based on a story described as 'a fairy tale thriller' and is inspired by the Brothers Grimm. When

Princess Lyra learns about her long-lost brothers (her father has banished his twelve sons), she embarks on a quest to find them. She finally faces a nearly impossible challenge before the happy resolution. Santa Fe's sixteenth *world premiere* will be directed by **Darko Tresnjak** with scenery by **Alexander Dodge**. Conductor **Paul Daniel** has assembled a cast including **Kirsten MacKinnon** as **Lyra**, **Tamara Mumford** as Queen Gertrude, **Joshua Dennis** as Frederic, **Bradley Garvin** as Drokan, and **David Leigh** as King Hjarne. *Sung in English with English and Spanish titles.*



Harry Bicket

Saturday evening, August 10th, our final event will be the sought-after **Concert** by the **Santa Fe Opera Orchestra** and soprano **Renée Fleming**. This marks the company debut for the beloved American star, who will offer a brilliant program of two works. First will be **Letters from Georgia**, composed by Kevin Puts (already celebrated for his popular opera, 'Silent Night') to original letters written by the iconic Santa Fe artist Georgia O'Keeffe; and Ms. Fleming's signature interpretation of Richard Strauss's radiant **Four Last Songs**. Music Director **Harry Bicket** will be the conductor. It is no surprise that this event is already completely *sold out*.

Independent departures should be on Sunday morning, August 11th.

Please note: The Santa Fe area is served by the Albuquerque Airport. The most reliable transportation from the airport to Santa Fe is offered by Sandia Shuttle Express – 1-888-775-5696 or 505-474-5696. Reservations and further information can be made by telephone. A few flights

Santa Fe

Price per person, based on double occupancy \$ 4,260

Single room supplement \$ 885

Airfare NOT included.