

---

# GLIMMERGLASS FESTIVAL

*Four New Productions*

**Thursday, August 15th through Sunday, August 18th**



*Cooperstown on Lake Otsego*

*"Some of the most adventurous and innovative opera productions in New York take place far from Manhattan, in the up-state village of Cooperstown. Glimmerglass is respected throughout the international opera community for the consistently high quality of its productions."*      *Vanity Fair*

**John Corigliano's THE GHOSTS OF VERSAILLES:**  
*"It's comic and serious, entertaining and erudite, silly and thoughtful, emotional and mysterious, harrowing and uplifting, intimate and over-the-top. The more times you see it, the more you'll find in it and the more you'll get out of it."*

LA Times

World premiere of **BLUE**: *"It is amazing to be part of this ... I don't have enough great words to say about it."*

Mezzo-soprano **Briana Hunter**, Opera News, Feb. '19

*"Musically, Christine Ebersole is a freewheeling time traveler whose affection for operetta and vaudeville allows her to hopscotch merrily through the decades."*      *NY Times*

**Gordon Hawkins:** *"One of the most promising young singers of the decade"*      *Washington Post*

*"The show-stopper of any 'Onegin' is Tatiana's letter scene, here handled with forceful, impeccably focused singing by **Yelena Dyachek**."*      *Opera News*

**Adrian Timpani:** *"Vocal glamour to burn and a magnetic stage persona"*      *IMG Artists*



*Christine Ebersole*



*Gordon Hawkins*



*Yelena Dyachek*

**D**uring the past few years, Glimmerglass Festival has set an example to other summer festivals with unusually creative programs. Recent innovative productions have ranged from 'West Side Story' and 'Oklahoma' to Handel's 'Xerxes', Janacek's 'Cunning Little Vixen', and Kevin Puts' contemporary 'Silent Night'. Now under the leadership of the dynamic General & Artistic Director **Francesca Zambello**, the 2019 Festival promises to be equally stimulating. Maintaining the company's proven record of refreshing stagings, **all of the operas will again be presented in new productions**. This summer marks the forty-fourth season of the firmly established Festival. All opera enthusiasts owe it to themselves to discover the vibrant atmosphere of this company.

In order of chronology, this summer's four productions (all are new to Glimmerglass audiences) will be Giuseppe Verdi's masterful lyric tragedy, **La Traviata**; Jerome Kern & Oscar Hammerstein's classic American musical, **Show Boat**; John Corigliano's 20th century opera, **The Ghosts of Versailles**, which was premiered at the MET in 1991; and the eagerly anticipated **world premiere** of Jeanine Tesori's tragedy, **Blue**, set in Harlem during our own time.

While accommodations are impossible to find on your own, we have secured a **four-night** stay at Cooperstown's leading **Otesaga Hotel** – everyone's first choice for a visit to Lake Otesaga and Glimmerglass.

The natural scenic beauty of the landscape around Cooperstown and Lake Otsego has proven to be an unexpected discovery for many of our regular travelers from all parts of the country. Some of our friends have returned to Cooperstown with us repeatedly, not wanting to miss any new productions in the idyllic setting of the Alice Busch Opera Theatre on the shores of crystal-clear Lake Otsego.

Thursday, August 15th, independent arrival by car, or at either the **Syracuse or Albany, N.Y. Airports or Train Stations**, where transportation is readily available to Cooperstown, about an hour and a half away from both cities. You should make reservations for this transfer by calling either Premiere Transportation in Albany (518) 459-6123, or Adonis-Avanti Limousine Service (315) 866-2011. We urge you to call early to make your transfer arrangements. (Or independent travel to Cooperstown. **Please see our concluding paragraph regarding private round-trip coach transportation between Manhattan and the Otesaga Hotel.**)

Accommodations for **four nights** with a lavish **buffet breakfast included** at the deluxe **Otesaga Hotel** in Cooperstown, a fully equipped resort with outdoor pool, extensive dining facilities, tennis courts and golf course. This famous establishment boasts an idyllic setting on the shore of Lake Otsego, with clear waters to rival the mountain lakes of Switzerland. The Otesaga is expensive but will add immeasurably to your enjoyment of our tour. (*Our confirmation is upgraded to 'Lake View' for all of the 15 rooms in our contract.*)

Early Thursday evening, August 15th, **dinner** will be arranged in the hotel's main dining room. This will be an opportunity to meet other members of the Tour. The Otesaga features the best large dining room in the area.



*Lauren Snouffer*



*Michael Adams*

Thursday evening at 7:30 pm, our first performance will be the Jerome Kern & Oscar Hammerstein II classic, **Show Boat**. The beloved American musical is based on Edna Ferber's eponymous best-selling novel, following the lives of performers and laborers on a Mississippi River show boat from 1887 to 1927. The themes of racial prejudice and enduring love inspired Kern's peerless score which includes *Ol'Man River*, *Make Believe*, *Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man*, and *Bill*. First performed in 1927, 'Show Boat' was hailed as "a radical departure in musical storytelling, marrying spectacle with seriousness... Here we come to a completely new genre – the musical play as distinguished from musical comedy." (*The Complete Book of Light Opera*). **Francesca Zambello** will be the director, and the cast will include **Lauren Snouffer** as Magnolia opposite **Michael Adams** as her dashing lover Gaylord Ravenal, **Alyson Cambridge** as Julie (who sings the simple but heart-breaking *Bill*), **Lara Teeter** as Cap'n Andy Hawks, and the irresponsibly Broadway star **Christine Ebersole** as Parthy Ann Hawks. **James Lowe** is the conductor, and the set-designer is **Peter J. Davison**. *Performed in English with projected English text.*



*Otesaga Hotel porch*



*Fenimore Art Museum:  
Tsimshian rattle in  
the Thaw Collection;*

*Two Boys in  
Green Tunics*



On Friday morning, August 16<sup>th</sup>, a morning visit is arranged to the **Fenimore Art Museum** of New York history and American art

which houses the extraordinary **Eugene and Clare Thaw Collection** of Indian artifacts from all over the U.S. The fine art collection donated by connoisseur Stephen C. Clark contains Hudson River School painters (Thomas Cole and Asher B. Durand) as well as historic portraits by Gilbert Stuart and Benjamin West. The extensive American folk art gallery includes a variety of paintings, quilts, ship figure-heads and other artifacts and John Heaton's 1733 landscape, a seven-foot-long panel considered to be one of the first ever painted in the U.S. The 1995 addition of the American Indian Wing, provided the museum with more than 800 treasures of the Eugene and Clare Thaw Collection, now beautifully displayed in the basement of Fenimore House. This summer, the museum's special exhibitions include

*Herb Ritts: The Rock Portraits* (photo portraits of iconic rock singers); *Perfect Harmony* (William Sidney Mount's music and art); and *Heroines of Abstract Expressionism*. You will be free to explore the museum at your own leisure.

At 7:30 pm on Friday, our performance in the opera house will be Verdi's **La Traviata**. With a libretto based on Alexandre Dumas' French tragedy, *La Dame aux Camélias*, Verdi's 'middle period' masterwork boasts a seamless succession of melodic arias, duets and ensembles. The important *new production* is cast with American soprano **Amanda Woodbury** as the courtesan Violetta Valéry, Australian-Chinese tenor **Kang Wang** as her suitor Alfredo Germont, and Moldovan-born baritone **Adrian Timpau** in the piv-



*Amanda Woodbury*



*Kang Wang*



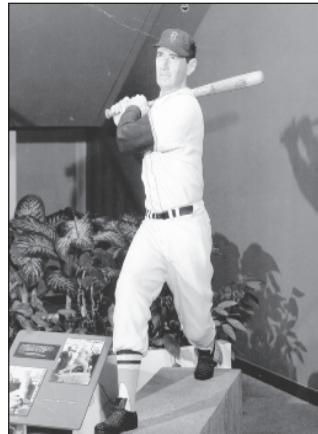
*Adrian Timpau*

tal role of Giorgio Germont. The Festival's esteemed Music Director **Joseph Colaneri** is the conductor, and the staging is

directed by **Francesca Zambello** and designed by **Peter Davison**. Sung in Italian with English titles. (A co-production with Washington, Seattle, Atlanta and Indiana University.)

Saturday the 17th and Sunday morning the 18th are left free for a variety of independent activities in Cooperstown. The hotel offers tennis, golf, swimming and boat rides on Otsego Lake. Cooperstown is also home of the **Baseball Hall of Fame** ("the ultimate experience for a baseball fan"), and the extensive outdoor **Farmer's Museum** of early American life, within walking distance or trolley service from the hotel. Downtown Cooperstown is also convenient for shopping in attractive boutiques and casual dining in a variety of café and garden restaurants. The hotel is a short walk from the heart of town and historic walking tours through the village commence from the hotel most mornings. The unobtrusive **Willis Monie bookstore** on Main Street contains a large selection of second-hand volumes of unusual interest and value.

Saturday evening, we will return to the opera house for the 8:00 pm performance of **Blue**, a *world premiere production* by the American composer Jeanine Tesori. "She is the most prolific and honored female theatrical composer in history, with five Broadway musicals and five Tony Award nominations." (*Wikipedia*). The libretto by Tazewell Thompson is set in 21st century Harlem, where a young black couple struggle with the challenges of raising a son. "In this story of love and loss, we see the father, a police officer, and the mother supported by a loving community of fellow law enforcement, churchgoers and friends as they navigate a devastating reality." (*Glimmerglass*). The cast is headed by mezzo-soprano **Briana Hunter** and bass **Kenneth Kellogg** as The Mother and The Father, and baritone **Gordon Hawkins** as the Reverend. The librettist will also be in charge of the direction, and **Donald Eastman** is the scenic designer. Sung in English with English titles. (A co-production with Washington and Chicago.)



At 1:30 pm on Sunday, August 18th, our fourth opera will be John Corigliano's **The Ghosts of Versailles**. Premiered at the MET in 1991 when every performance was sold out, Corigliano's acclaimed work re-imagines the life of Marie Antoinette through the mind of Beaumarchais, the original playwright of 'The Marriage of Figaro'. The protagonists include

*Baseball Hall of Fame  
Farmers Museum*



Alice Busch Opera House,

*Francesca Zambello,  
General and Artistic Director*



Briana Hunter



Kenneth Kellogg

Figaro, Susanna and Count Almaviva, with hilarious nods to both Rossini's 'Barber of Seville' and Mozart's 'Figaro'. Subsequent stagings were warmly received in Chicago, Los Angeles and at Ireland's Wexford Festival. This new Glimmerglass production will feature the Ukrainian-American soprano **Yelena Dyachek** as Marie Antoinette and will be conducted by **Joseph Colaneri**. (*Remaining cast TBA*). The director is **Jay Lesenger**, with scenic designs by **James Noone**. Sung in English with English titles. (A co-production with Château de Versailles Spectacles).

Sunday evening, a post-opera **dinner** is planned in the informal **Hawkeye Grill** on the lower level of the hotel.

Monday, August 19th, independent departures from the hotel. You should call early to arrange for any limousine service to the Albany Airport. (*Please note our transfer information earlier in this brochure.*).

**IMPORTANT:** We are pleased to offer convenient private coach/van transportation from our NY office location at Lincoln Center to the Otesaga Hotel on August 15th, and returning on August 19th, for a cost of \$380 round-trip or \$190 one-way. The roughly five-hour trip will depart at 9:30 am on the 15th and return by 4:00 pm on the 19th, with a short snack/rest stop en route. Full details will be included with the Final Itinerary one month prior to the Tour. **IMPORTANT:** You should indicate NOW if you wish to use these transfers. PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR VAN or SMALL BUS (depending on the number of requests) MAY NOT BE AS COMFORTABLE AS A DELUXE COACH. However, we believe we should offer the most economic transfers for your convenience, as Cooperstown is not easily accessible from NY City unless you choose to fly to Albany or Syracuse.

#### The Glimmerglass Opera:

Price per person, based on double occupancy	\$ 2,980*
Single room supplement	\$ 950

\*Our Glimmerglass Tour is more expensive than most of our long weekends due to the high premium cost of the 'upgraded Lake View' rooms at the Otesaga Hotel, including their daily buffet breakfast. After our contract of 15 rooms, 'upgraded Lake View' will be subject to availability.