

# SALZBURG EASTER FESTIVAL & DRESDEN

Sunday, March 24th through Tuesday, April 2nd



Salzburg castle

For more than twenty-five years, we have offered an annual **four-night** visit to the prestigious **Salzburg Easter Festival** encompassing the complete four-performance cycle of opera and concerts. For 2023, the Festival will be led for the first time by **Sir Antonio Pappano**, the distinguished Italian Music Director of Covent Garden's Royal Opera. The orchestra will be the revered **Accademia di Santa Cecilia** of Rome. Our four evenings will include the *new production* of Amilcare Ponchielli's 'grand opera' **La Gioconda** (starring **Anna Netrebko** opposite **Jonas Kaufmann**); the towering **Verdi Requiem** conducted by Pappano; an **Orchestral Concert** led by **Jakub Hrusa** (recently named Pappano's successor at Covent Garden); and a Recital of arias and songs by soprano **Lise Davidsen** and tenor **Freddie de Tommaso**. The Easter performances will take us into Salzburg's **Grosses Festspielhaus (Large Festival Hall)**, renowned for its brilliant acoustics and sightlines, and the intimate **Mozarteum**.



Anna Netrebko



Jonas Kaufmann

As always, we have combined Salzburg with a second city where the opera program is the most enticing of the season – usually Munich or Vienna. This year, we have chosen to fly to the Saxonian capital of **Dresden** immediately following Salzburg.

We are eager to attend three performances at the exquisite **Semper Opera**, where our dates coincide with a compact **Richard Strauss Festival**. (For Strauss 'aficionados', this opportunity will compensate for the MET's disappointing '23 – '24 season's omission of a single Strauss opera.) Dresden's Strauss program will offer performances of **Elektra** (with **Lise Lindstrom** in the title role); a *new production* of **Die Frau Ohne Schatten** (conducted by Music Director Christian Thielemann); and a Recital by German soprano **Christiane Karg**.



Dresden's Semper Opera House

Sunday, March 24th, departure from New York's Kennedy Airport at 4:55 pm on Lufthansa flight #401, arriving in Frankfurt at 5:25 am on the 25th. This connects with Lufthansa #1102, departing Frankfurt at 9:00 am and arriving in Salzburg at 10:00 am. Or independent travel to Salzburg.

## SALZBURG: MARCH 25TH – 28TH

Accommodations in Salzburg are for **four nights** (with a generous **buffet breakfast**) at the **Imlauer Pitter Hotel**, centrally located near the Mirabel Gardens and a short walk from the Mozarteum. The Pitter retains the classic Austrian atmosphere that attracts local residents to its several well-known dining areas. Both the **Rainerstube Keller** and the gourmet **Imlauer Restaurant** serve regional menus before and after the Festival performances, and the **Plaza Bar** is a popular gathering spot for international visitors. The top floor offers the **Sky Restaurant Imlauer** for breakfast with a beautiful view over Salzburg, and a fitness, sauna and relaxation area.

**IMPORTANT:** *Because there is a performance on our first evening, you may want to arrive a day earlier to adjust to the time change. You should let us know NOW if you want us to reserve your room for the additional early night of March 24th, as the Imlauer Pitter is in great demand during Easter Week.*

Salzburg's Easter Festival ranks with Bayreuth and Glyndebourne as the most prestigious cultural and social events of the European musical season. As usual, our limited number of tickets for 2024 include four performances immediately following Palm Sunday. (Our tickets in the *Large Festival Hall* will be in the *Rang ('Balcony')*, where the acoustics are opti-

*mum and sightlines are excellent.)* The Festival performances are in the early evening and allow for late dinners after the performances. Because the emphasis on the music is all-pervasive during Easter Week and because Salzburg is best explored on foot, no sight-seeing excursions are planned during our few days. Our intention is for you to take pride that you are a Patron of the Festival even more than a member of our Tour. As a Patron, you will have complimentary access to a major exhibition in the Residenz and possibly a **midday rehearsal** for one of the orchestra concerts (depending on the date to be announced later).



View from Imlauer Pitter rooftop restaurant



Antonio Pappano,  
Conductor

Our first event will be on Monday, March 25th. At 7:00 pm, **Sir Antonio Pappano** will lead the **Verdi Requiem** in the **Large Festival Hall**. The illustrious quartet of soloists for Verdi's choral masterwork includes soprano **Sonya Yoncheva**, mezzo-soprano **Judit Kutasi**, tenor **Jonas Kaufmann**, and bass **Michele Pertusi**.

After the concert, a light **Reception** will be arranged at our hotel. This will be an opportunity to meet other members of the Tour.

On Tuesday, March 26th, we will return to the **Festspielhaus** for a 7:00 pm Concert by the **Orchestra of the Accademia di Santa Cecilia**. The young Czech conductor **Jakub Hrusa** will be on the podium for Bohuslav Martinu's tone poem *The Frescos of Piero della Francesca* and a pair of works by Hector Berlioz – the *Roman Carnival Overture* and *Harold in Italy*. **Pinchas Zukerman** will be the soloist for 'Harold', a virtuoso concerto for viola and orchestra.



Lise Davidsen



Freddie  
De Tommaso

Following Tuesday's concert, a late **dinner** will be arranged at the **Meissl & Schadn** restaurant serving Austrian menus in the heart of town.

At 6:00 pm on Wednesday, March 27th, we are among the fortunate ticket-holders for the *new production* of Amilcare Ponchielli's operatic tragedy, **La Gioconda**. Set in Venice, Arrigo Boito's pot-boiler of a libretto inspired Ponchielli's most rewarding score which requires six major singing-actors. Among the musical highlights are Enzo's lilting aria 'Cielo e Mar', Gioconda's emotional 'Suicidio!', and the Act IV ballet 'The Dance of the Hours'. A stellar international cast is headed by Russian diva **Anna Netrebko** in the title role opposite German tenor **Jonas Kaufmann** as Enzo Grimaldi, **Eva-Maud Hubeaux** as Laura, **Agnieszka Rehlis** as Gioconda's blind mother 'La Cieca', **Luca Salsi** as the villainous Barnaba, and **Tareq Nazmi** as Laura's cuckolded husband Alvisio Badoero. **Antonio Pappano** is the conductor, and the *new production* is directed by **Oliver Mears** with scenery by **Phillip Fürhofer**. *Sung in Italian with English supertitles.*

On Thursday, March 28th, we plan to travel up the **Gaisberg Mountain** outside Salzburg for a relaxed **lunch** overlooking the

spectacular scenery from the friendly **Zistel café**.

At 7:00 pm on Thursday, our last event in Salzburg will be a joint **Recital** by the MET's sensational Norwegian soprano **Lise Davidsen** and the British-Italian lyric tenor **Freddie de Tommaso**. Their program in the **Mozarteum** will include Lieder and Arias by Wagner, Verdi, Giordano, Puccini, Tosti and others. **James Baillieu** will be the pianist.

Friday, March 29th, departure from Salzburg at 2:25 pm on Lufthansa flight #1105, arriving in Frankfurt at 3:30 pm. This connects with Lufthansa #214,

departing at 5:10 pm and arriving in Dresden at 6:10 pm. **IMPORTANT: These flights are NOT included in our land arrangements. If you are planning your own air travel, please be sure to include both flights from Salzburg to Dresden.**

## DRESDEN: MARCH 29TH – APRIL 2ND

Prior to the devastating destruction near the end of World War II, the Baroque city of Dresden was one of Europe's leading intellectual centers. Today it continues to reemerge at a rapid pace, most notably in the city center where the great art museums and the SemperOper have all been painstakingly restored. Dresden's priceless **Zwinger Palace** is the home of three incomparable collections of European paintings, Meissen porcelain, and jeweled artifacts (the legendary **Green Vault**). Perhaps the most dramatic reconstruction culminated in 2005 with the emotional completion of the **Frauenkirche** ('Church of Our Lady'), the masterpiece of German Baroque architecture which defined the city's skyline from 1743 until the 1945 Allied bombing. Of similar importance, the fabled 'Green Vault' collection was also restored in 2005 to its original pre-War setting in the **Dresden Castle** adjacent to our hotel.

Accommodations for **four nights** with an elaborate **buffet breakfast** included at the **Kempinski Taschenberg Palace Hotel**, ideally located directly across the street from the Semper Opera House and the Zwinger Palace. *All of our events are within very short walking distance of the hotel.* This deluxe property – one of Europe's finest hotels - is built above the ruins of the eponymous Baroque palace in the heart of the city, with large, elegant rooms. A health club and indoor swimming pool overlook the city from the top floor. *This will be our first return to the hotel following extensive renovations.*

Friday evening, March 29th, is free for independent dining after getting settled in Dresden. *No performance.*

Mid-morning on Saturday, March 30th, a short **Walking Tour** will take us to Dresden's **Frauenkirche**, the Protestant Cathedral which was reopened in 2005 after years of dedicated reconstruction. A graceful Baroque landmark, the Frauenkirche has become a symbol of the city's resurgence during the decades following the Allied bombing of 1945. Our walk back



Frauenkirche

and forth to the church will also serve as an orientation to Dresden's vital city center, where we encounter new shops, cafés and restaurants every time we return.

A German menu will be included on Saturday at the **Alte Meister** restaurant which adjoins the Zwinger Palace across the square from the opera house. *Depending on opening hours, this will be a late pre-opera lunch or a post-opera dinner.*

At 4:00 pm on Saturday, a highlight of Dresden's Strauss Festival will be a performance of **Die Frau Ohne Schatten** ('The Woman Without a Shadow'), premiered in Vienna in 1919. The complex libretto by Hugo von Hofmannsthal centers on the barren emotional plight of the childless Emperor and Empress on one level, the unsatisfied desires of the burdened human couple



Camilla Nylund



Evelyn Herlitzius

Barak the Dyer and his wife on another, and the turbulent manipulations of the Empress' guardian nurse on yet a third level. All five of these major roles require extraordinary singers to override Strauss's rich orchestration and to extend



Christian Thielemann,  
Music Director,  
Dresden  
SemperOper

into the upper registers of his demanding vocal writing. This masterwork might best be viewed as Strauss's 'RING Cycle' in one opera, as compared with Wagner's exhausting four-part tetralogy. Tonight's cast of Strauss specialists will include sopranos **Camilla Nylund** as the Empress and **Miina-Liisa Värelä** as the Dyer's Wife, mezzo-soprano **Evelyn Herlitzius** as the Nurse, and heldentenor **Erik Cutler** as the Emperor. (The baritone for Barak the Dyer TBA). The conductor will be **Christian Thielemann**, Music Director of Dresden's SemperOper. The *new production* is by the team of director **David Bösch** and set designer **Patrick Bannwart**. *Sung in German with English titles.*

Our performance on Easter Sunday, March 31st, will be an 11:00 am **Recital** in the Semper Oper by German soprano **Christiane Karg**. Her program will concentrate on the Lieder of Richard Strauss. (*Accompanist TBA*).

Sunday afternoon, a guided visit will take us to the **Picture Gallery of the Old Masters**, (Gemäldegalerie) located in the architectural crown of Baroque Dresden, the **Zwinger Palace**. This is a priceless collection of masterworks: Italian Renaissance (Raphael, Giorgione, Fra Angelico), 17th century Flemish (Rembrandt, Vermeer, Rubens) and Northern German (Dürer and Holbein). **There is also an unforgettable series of cityscapes by the Venetian painter Bernardo Bellotto (the nephew of Canaletto) depicting 18th century Dresden in all of its glory.** Bellotto's detailed works have proven to be indispensable models for the city's 20th century reconstruction.



Bernardo Bellotto's  
New  
Market in  
Dresden,  
Gemälde-  
galerie

The Picture Gallery ranks with the Louvre, the Hermitage and the Prado among the most valuable painting collections in Europe. *After our guided visit, you will be free to remain as long as you wish.*



Dresden Castle and Taschenberg Palace Hotel

Monday morning, April 1st, our timed entry tickets will enable us to visit Dresden's legendary **Grünes Gewölbe** ('Green Vault') housing Europe's most dazzling array of jewels and other precious objects crafted by German, Italian and French artisans from the Middle Ages through the 18th century. The 'Green Vault' is now housed in its original pre-War setting of the **Dresden Castle**, a stone's throw from our hotel.

Our final opera performance at 5:00 pm on Monday will be the Strauss Festival's **Elektra**, another of the composer's collaborations with his favorite librettist Hugo von Hofmannsthal. "Using huge orchestral forces, Strauss takes the iconic Greek legend and ramps it up to fever pitch, giving audiences a 100-minute thrill ride that's unparalleled in its intensity." (*Lyric Opera of Chicago*). The overwhelming title role will be a 'tour de force' for American soprano **Lise Lindstrom**. Elektra's sympathetic sister Chrysothemis will be portrayed by Lithuanian soprano **Vida Miknevičute**, and the charismatic German mezzo-soprano **Doris Soffel** will complete the trio of Strauss's anguished ladies as Clytemnestra. Baritone **Christof Fischesser** will be heard as Elektra's brother Orestes, with tenor **Jürgen Müller** as Aegisth. The conductor is



Lise Lindstrom

**Marc Albrecht**, and the staging is by director **Barbara Frey** and set designer **Muriel Gerstner**. *Sung in German with English titles.*



Fabergé egg, Green Vault.

After the opera, **dinner** will be planned at **Anna**, one of Dresden's newest restaurants, adjacent to the Green Vault.

Tuesday, April 2nd, departure from Dresden at 9:55 am on Lufthansa flight #2123, arriving in Munich at 10:50 am. This connects with Lufthansa #410, departing Munich at 12:05 pm and arriving New York's Kennedy Airport at 2:55 pm. Or independent departure.

### Salzburg Easter & Dresden Strauss

Price per person, based on double occupancy	\$ 6,880*
Single room supplement	\$ 980

\*Our price includes a mandatory Patron contribution (per person) to the Easter Festival.

**Airfare NOT included.**

**IMPORTANT:** *Air reservations should be made early during the very busy Easter period.*