

# THE MUNICH OPERA FESTIVAL

## Seven Performances

Wednesday, July 12th through Thursday, July 20th



National Theater, home of Bavarian State Opera

*“Munich’s Opera Festival, a mix of brand-new productions, stagings from the past season and immaculately cast revivals, has become perhaps the most dependably, densely exciting presentation of opera in the world... Opera is hardly ever perfect. But in Munich these days it comes closer, consistently, than anywhere else I know.”*

NYTimes



Anja Harteros

**A**s in most recent years, Munich’s traditional summer Opera Festival in 2023 will offer an undeniable plethora of **seven varied performances** (taking us into three of the cities beautiful opera theatres) within a compact **seven-night period**. Reflecting the imaginative range of the repertoire and the superlative casting, our July week promises to be the highlight of Europe’s summer offerings. Our program will include four major operas – Handel’s richly melodic **Semele**, Mozart’s lyric comedy **Così fan Tutte**, Wagner’s psychological music-drama **Lohengrin**, and Richard Strauss’s emotionally shattering **Salome**. (All operas are in the original language with English surtitles.) Several additional evenings will offer a **Recital** by Munich’s star soprano **Anja Harteros**; a **Piano Recital** by the Russian-German sensation **Igor Levit**; and an evening of **Chamber Music** in the Roco Cuvillies-Theater.

Wednesday, July 12th, departure from New York’s Kennedy Airport at 5:25 pm on Lufthansa flight #411, scheduled to arrive in Munich at 7:30 am on the 13th. Or independent travel to Munich.



English Garden

Accommodations for **seven nights** at the deluxe **Vier Jahreszeiten** (‘Four Seasons’) Hotel, with a grand European **buffet breakfast** included. The Vier Jahreszeiten ranks as Munich’s finest, offering a wide variety of services in an old-fashioned Bavarian atmosphere. The hotel’s cuisine is renowned throughout Europe, and an indoor pool is situated on the penthouse floor with an open balcony for sunbathing. The ideal

location is only two blocks from the opera house and a short walk from the central Marienplatz shopping area. *You may wish to arrive a day early to adjust to the time change. We will be happy to reserve your room for the additional night of July 12th.*



Camilla Nylund



Wolfgang Koch

Thursday evening, July 13th, a **cocktail reception** will provide an opportunity to meet other members of the Tour. Our party will be in a private entertainment suite of the hotel.

At 8:00 pm on Thursday, a short walk will take us to Munich’s National-theater for the sold-out **Recital** by **Anja Harteros**. A great favorite in Munich, Harteros has earned an enviable reputation for her operatic portrayals in the works of Verdi, Giordano,



Wagner and Strauss. Her annual Festival Recitals are always a cause for celebration. *Program and accompanist To Be Announced.*

Friday afternoon, July 14th, a two-hour **walking tour** will introduce you to the historical center of Munich, encompassing the Gothic Frauenkirche ('Church of our Lady'), the Hofbrauhaus, Odensplatz with the Field Marshall's Hall, and the Residenzplatz. Our walk will conclude with a stop at the **Café Luitpold** for the German tradition of afternoon **coffee and cake.**

At 8:00 pm on Friday evening, we will return to the National Theater for a performance of Richard Strauss's **Salome.** The text is taken almost word-for-word from Oscar Wilde's shocking eponymous play, culminating in the celebrated Dance of the Seven Veils and the soprano's challenging Final Scene. Strauss's ground-breaking score will be conducted by **Mikko Franck,** and the staging is a revival of the 2019 production by the Polish team of director **Krzysztof Warlikowski** and set designer **Malgorzata Szczesniak.** The title role will be sung by Finnish soprano **Camilla Nylund,** with **Wolfgang Koch** as John the Baptist, **Gerhard Siegel** as Herod, and **Waltraud Meier** as Herodias. *Sung in German.*

Saturday, July 15th, is left free during the day for independent activities. During our several free mornings and afternoons, you should spend some time strolling through the woods and fields of the spacious **English Garden,** where the local population enjoys nude swimming and sunbathing along the fast-running waters of the Isar River. Also not to be missed are the **Alte Pinakothek's** priceless collection of European masters, re-opened in 1998 after extensive renovation; the **Neue Pinakothek,** in a modern circular gallery of unusual architectural beauty; and the **Glyptothek** museum of classical antiquities. Munich also offers a wide variety of international boutiques and designer shops.

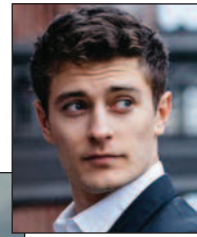


*Fra Filippo Lippi's Annunciation in the Alte Pinakotek*

Early Saturday evening, we are fortunate to attend the 6:00 pm performance of George Frideric Handel's 18th century Baroque opera, **Semele.** This will be the *Premiere of the New Co-Production with the MET Opera,* at Munich's historic **Prinzregenten Theater.** With a witty libretto taken from a text by William Congreve,



*Brenda Rae*



*Jakub Josef Orlinski*



*Prinzregenten Theater*

'Semele' is among Handel's finest accomplishments, with such familiar arias as 'Where 'er you walk', 'Myself I shall adore', 'Despair no more shall wound me', and 'O Sleep, why dost thou leave me'. Conductor **Stefano Montanari** will lead a cast including **Brenda Rae** as Salome, **Michael Spyres** as Jupiter, **Jakub Josef Orlinski** as Athanas, and **Emily D'Angelo** as Juno. The director is **Claus Guth,** and the scenery is designed by **Michael Levine.** *Sung in English.*

Sunday afternoon, July 16th, a pre-opera **lunch** will be arranged at the **Spatenhaus,** Munich's popular Bavarian restaurant directly across the square from the National Theatre.

At 5:00 pm on Sunday, we will return to the **National Theater** for Richard Wagner's **Lohengrin.** The revival of last season's new production is

conducted by **François-Xavier Roth** with the sought-after German tenor **Klaus Florian Vogt** ideally cast as the romantic swan-knight. Opposite him will be South African soprano **Johanni van Oostrum** as Elsa, with German



*Klaus Florian Vogt*



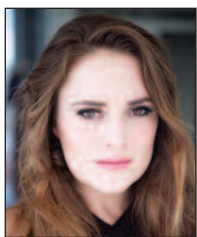
*Anja Kampe*

Wagnerians **Anja Kampe** as Ortrud and **Johan Reuter** as Friedrich von Telramund. The director is **Kornei Mundrucz,** and the set designer is **Monika Pormale.** Premiered in 1850, 'Lohengrin' is the most Italianate of Wagner's music-dramas and continues to be a corner-stone of Munich's repertoire. *Sung in German.*

Monday morning, July 17th, a guided visit is planned through the private state apartments of the **Alte Residenz,** the palatial former home of the Wittelsbach rulers only a few short blocks from our hotel. The original Renaissance structure has been expanded many times and now houses a vast collection of German decorative arts and paintings.

At 7:00 pm on Monday, our opera in the **National Theater** will be Mozart's peerless comedy, **Così fan Tutte.** Inspired by his librettist Lorenzo da Ponte, Mozart's consummate score unfolds in a seamless stream of brilliant arias and duets. Under the baton of conductor **Vladimir Jurowski,** the cast includes **Louise**





Louise Alder

Alder and Avery Amereau as the fickle sisters Fiordiligi and Dorabella, Konstantin Krimmel and Sebastian Kohlhepp as their disillusioned suitors Guglielmo and Ferrando, and Sandrine Piau aside Johannes Martin Kränzle as the worldly-wise protagonists Despina and Don Alfonso. The production by director Benedict Andrews and designer Magda Willi was unveiled only last year. *Sung in Italian.*

On Tuesday, July 18th, an excursion is planned into the lake-country to the Southwest of Munich. About an hour from the city, **Lake Starnberger** is bordered by grand villas and gardens and is widely known as the site of 'Mad' King Ludwig's drowning. We will visit the lakefront **Buchheim Museum** containing -a priceless collection of Blauer Reiter paintings (Kandinsky, Gabriele Munter, Franz Marc) before an outdoor **lunch** at the nearby **Klosterghasthof Andechs**. A short walk uphill will take us inside the Benedictine **Andechs Abbey**, a fine example of 17th century Baroque architecture, before returning to the hotel in the late afternoon.



Buchheim Museum  
Franz Marc painting,  
Die Blauen Fohlen



Lake Starnberger



Tuesday evening, we will attend the 8:00 pm **Piano Recital** by the Russian-German virtuoso **Igor Levit**, revered throughout the music world as one of the "most important artists of his generation" (*NY Times*). The concert will be in the **National Theater**.

Program TBA.



Igor Levit

Wednesday the 19th is free during the daytime for independent activities.

Wednesday evening, a pre-concert **dinner** will be arranged at **II Tenore**, our preferred Italian restaurant a short walk from the hotel. At 8:00 pm, our busy musical week will conclude with a rare opportunity to

enjoy a concert in the exquisite 18th century **Cuvilliés-Theater** within the Residenz Palace complex. The **Chamber Music** program by the **Munich Hofkapelle** will offer works of Mozart including *Concert Arias* featuring two sopranos and the *String Quartet in G Major, K. 387*.

Thursday, July 20th, departure from Munich Airport at 12:45 pm on Lufthansa flight #410, which is scheduled to arrive at New York's Kennedy Airport at 3:35 pm. Or independent departure.



Cuvilliés Theater

**Munich:**

Price per person, based on double occupancy:	\$ 6,950*
Single supplement	\$ 990**

**Airfare NOT included.**

\*Our price includes **7 performances** because there is nothing we want to miss during our week.

\*\*We regret the high single supplement during high season. However, all single travelers will be accommodated in comfortable 'double rooms for single occupancy'.