

EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT

BERLIN: WAGNER'S RING CYCLE

Tuesday, April 11th through Tuesday, April 18th, 2017



Evelyn Herltzius



Samuel Youn



Stefan Vinke



Brandon
Jovanovich



Eva-Maria
Westbroek



Donald Runnicles

Berlin's venerable **Deutsche Oper** has been widely hailed for its superlative production of Richard Wagner's complete four-opera cycle of **Der Ring des Nibelungen**. With the Scottish conductor **Donald Runnicles** in charge of an exceptional international cast, the **Götz Friedrich** staging will be unveiled again over a concise period of only five nights next spring. We were fortunate to send a *sold-out* group a few years ago for a similar experience, and we do not want to miss the April '17 revival.

Because 'The Ring' is typically staged in Europe over a considerably longer period, the Deutsche Oper's five-night Cycle provides a unique opportunity of experiencing Wagner's masterpiece during a short visit sensibly conceived for international travelers. Our six-night Tour will include two free nights (one before the Cycle begins and another between the two final performances) and of course the four nights of the operas. Our package therefore reflects the most advantageous price of any major European Ring in our thirty years of offering music tours. Optimum Orchestra Seats are already confirmed. Because we have enjoyed a rewarding relationship for many years, our seats at the Deutsche Oper are the best we ever receive for a European Ring.

The production is a revival of the acclaimed 1985 staging directed by the late **Götz Friedrich**, Germany's revered director, for many years the guiding force behind the Deutsche Oper and a sought-after guest director at Berlin's other houses and throughout Europe. The set designer is **Peter Sykora**, whose dramatic concept combines symbolic and natural elements to reveal a contemporary view of Wagner's complex vision. The conductor is the Scottish maestro **Donald Runnicles**, who has earned his Wagnerian credentials with superlative performances as the San Francisco Opera and throughout Europe during the past several decades. An outstanding cast of experienced international artists is listed at right:

Our excursions will focus on the peerless European masters of the **Gemäldegalerie ('Painting Gallery')** as well as an introductory tour of the major districts of the city. To visit Berlin 'after The Wall' is a revelation. Every traveler should discover the thrill of walking through the Brandenburg Gate and onto 'Unter den Linden' Boulevard – past where The Wall formerly blocked all passage. The survival, reconstruction and final reunion of Berlin add a moving chapter to modern political history, now reinforced by the return of the nation's government to the Reichstag and other major sites reflecting the city's turbulent 20th century upheaval.

Tuesday, April 11th, departure from New York's Kennedy Airport at 5:30 pm on Air Berlin flight #7249, a convenient direct flight to Berlin arriving at the city's Tegel Airport at 7:10 am on the morning of the 12th. Or independent travel to Berlin.

Accommodations for **six nights** with an elaborate **buffet breakfast** at the **Bristol Kempinski Hotel**. Combining old-

world appointments and personal service with renovated furnishings, the Kempinski is a famous landmark and meeting place in Berlin. Located on the corner of the throbbing Kurfürstendamm adjacent to the city's prime shopping area, the Kempinski features an indoor swimming pool and health club (complimentary for hotel guests) and several excellent restaurants. The gourmet **Grill Room** remains open for late suppers after the opera, and the convenient **Eck Café** on the corner offers convenient snacks and all-day dining. *All of our rooms are confirmed in the hotel's Deluxe category.*

Brünnhilde: Evelyn Herltzius
(Ricarda Merbeth for 'Siegfried')

Wotan: Samuel Youn
(Rheingold & Siegfried) &
Iain Paterson (Walküre)

Siegfried: Stefan Vinke

Siegmond: Brandon Jovanovich

Sieglinde: Eva-Maria Westbroek

Erda: Ronnita Miller

Fricka & Waltraute: Daniela Sindram

Hagen & Fasolt: Albert Pesendorfer

Fafner: Tobias Kehrer

Gutrune: Ricarda Merbeth

Alberich: Werner Van Mechelen

Loge & Mime: Burkhard Ulrich

Wednesday evening, April 12th, a **welcome reception** in a private entertainment area of the hotel will be an opportunity to meet other members of the Tour prior. *No performance this evening, to allow you to recover from jet lag.*

Mid-morning on Thursday, April 13th, an orientation tour of Berlin will introduce you to the various districts of the city. En route we will view the major monuments along the famed boulevard '**Unter den Linden**' ('Under the Linden Trees'), as well as **Potsdamer Platz**, and several sections of the former Wall. We will also pass the highly publicized **Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe**.

At 7:30 pm on Thursday evening, our first 'Ring' performance at the **Deutsche Oper** will be **Das Rheingold** (*performed without intermission*).

Friday morning, April 14th, is left free for independent activities prior to the long opera performance. During the several free periods of our stay, your individual outings should certainly include shopping along the elegant **Kurfürstendamm** and a leisurely exploration of the huge '**KaDeWe**' department store (the 'Kaufhaus des Western' or 'Shopping House of the West'),

celebrated for its sumptuous food halls. You can easily arrange with the concierge for a day-tour to **Potsdam**, about an hour from Berlin, where Frederick the Great's **Sans Souci Palace** is one of the Baroque splendors of the 17th century, and where the Four-Power agreement was signed at the end of World War II in the **Cecilienhof** Prussian villa. The **Zoo's** wide variety of species in the heart of the city is a perennial attraction for Berliners; and within a few blocks of our hotel is the haunting **Gedächtniskirche** (Memorial Church), a symbol of the city's survival with the cobalt blue modern nave juxtaposed against the bombed ruins of the original Gothic apse.

Friday afternoon, a pre-opera **dinner** is arranged at **Don Giovanni**, an intimate restaurant on Bismarkstrasse only a block away from the Deutsche Oper. This atmospheric 'ristorante' specializes in outstanding Italian cuisine, and we have enjoyed many pleasant evenings here.

At 5:00 pm on Friday, our second 'Ring' installment at the **Deutsche Oper** will be **Die Walküre**.

Saturday evening, April 15th, at 5:00 pm, we will return to the **Deutsche Oper** for **Siegfried**.

On Sunday morning, April 16th, we have planned a visit to the **Gemäldegalerie** ('Painting Gallery'), which now houses most of the Old Masters from the former **Dahlem Museum**. Major works by Raphael, Rembrandt and Vermeer are included in this priceless collection of Western art, which is particularly rich in the Italian Renaissance and in the Dutch and Flemish Primitives (van Eyck, van der Weyden and Breughel).

Sunday is our one free evening for independent dining, or perhaps a concert of your own choice. The hotel's outstanding concierge desk will be happy to assist you with any plans. *No included performance today.*

The morning of Monday, April 17th, is free for sightseeing activities and shopping along the Kurfürstendamm prior to this evening's long opera and very early curtain.

Monday afternoon, a late **lunch** will be arranged at the **Opera Café** adjacent to the Deutsche Oper.

At 4:00 pm on Monday (*be sure to note the early curtain*), our Wagnerian immersion will conclude with the **Deutsche Oper's** performance of **Die Götterdämmerung**.

Tuesday, April 18th, departure from Berlin's Tegel Airport at 1:00 pm on Air Berlin flight #7248, arriving at New York's Kennedy Airport at 3:45 pm. Or independent departure.

Berlin

Price per person, based on double occupancy \$ 5,850*
Single supplement \$ 690

***IMPORTANT: THE DEPOSIT FOR THIS TOUR IS \$2,000. OUR STANDARD CANCELLATION POLICY WILL APPLY, BUT WE MUST ADVANCE THE DATE FOR FULL PAYMENT AND THE CANCELLATION DEADLINE TO 90 DAYS PRIOR TO THE TOUR INSTEAD OF OUR USUAL 60 DAYS.**

Airfare NOT included.

Air fare: Prices are subject to change depending on time of booking. Please contact our agent Linda Botros (See below) for current fares.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Great Performance Tours
1 Lincoln Plaza, Ste 32V, New York, NY 10023
(212)580-1400

FOR EUROPEAN TOURS AIR TRAVEL:

For any deviations in flight arrangements, please contact:
Linda Botros
Ovation Travel
71 Fifth Ave, 10th floor, New York, NY 10003
(212) 329-7248 lbotros@ovationtravel.com

All tickets subject to availability. Casts and programs subject to change.

All prices for international tours are based on present currency exchange rates. In the event of a significant reduction in the value of the dollar relative to any currency, we reserve the right to alter the price of the tour prior to departure.

Deposits, minus \$300 per person, are fully refundable until 60 days before departure date.

All requests for additional hotel nights must be received in writing.

All cancellations must be received in writing.

Canadian clients pay in U.S. dollars by International Money Order.

Please send me a registration form and tour conditions.

*I am enclosing my deposit of **\$1,500 per person per tour for international tours** or **\$1,000 per person per tour for U.S. and Canadian tours** in the amount of _____ for _____ reservation(s) on the tours indicated here.*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone(_____)_____

Clip and Mail.

- SANTA FE OPERA Aug 1-6
- ITALY: MACERATA & PESARO ROSSINI FESTIVAL Aug 3-12
- SALZBURG FESTIVAL Aug 24-Sept 1
- BOSTON CULTURAL WEEKEND Sept 29-Oct 2
- TORONTO SHAW FESTIVAL & NIAGARA Oct 13-16
- TWO NEW YORK HOLIDAYS**
- I. NEW YORK: THE NEW SEASON Oct 21-24
- II. NEW YORK HOLIDAY Dec 6-9
- VENICE, PARMA VERDI FESTIVAL, LA SCALA Oct 5-14
- BUENOS AIRES SPRING HIGHLIGHTS Oct 6-15
- IRELAND: THE WEXFORD FESTIVAL & DUBLIN Oct 30-Nov 7
- LONDON & STRATFORD-UPON-AVON Nov 20-28
- CHICAGO FALL WEEKEND Dec 1-3
- THE CARTAGENA FESTIVAL, COLOMBIA Jan 9-14
- BERLIN: WAGNER'S RING CYCLE Apr 11-18

*** FOR OVERSEAS TOURS:**

- Please ask your travel agent to contact us regarding our flights.
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(212) 329-7248 lbotros@ovationtravel.com



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