

THE CARTAGENA FESTIVAL, COLOMBIA

Tuesday, January 9th through Sunday, January 14th, 2018
Unesco World Heritage Site



Cartagena street

The Cartagena Festival: *“Renowned musicians from across the globe fill the city’s plazas, churches and theaters with classical music. It’s not just the Caribbean locale and classical music that makes this Festival special.”* www.americasquarterly.org

“Cartagena is a storied city on Colombia’s north coast with a gorgeous full name, ‘Cartagena de Indias’. She inspired Gabriel Garcia Marquez’ novels of magical realism.” Condé Nast Traveler

In response to the growing attraction of Cartagena as an international destination, Jet Blue initiated direct round-trip service from Kennedy Airport in 2013. Convenient direct service is also offered on Avianca Airlines from Miami.

The Cartagena Festival in Colombia was inaugurated twelve years ago under the artistic direction of **Charles Wadsworth**, who led the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center for many years. Now under the leadership of General Director **Antonio Miscena**, the annual Festival offers a plethora of Chamber Concerts, Recitals, and Vocal Concerts featuring international artists of the highest caliber. This year the Festival’s title is **El Gusto por la Forma: El Estilo Clásico (The Taste for Form: The Classical Style)** and will celebrate the repertoire of **Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven**. Of great interest to our opera enthu-

siasts, Mozart’s lyrical comedy **Così fan Tutte** will be mounted in a *new co-production* with Italy’s prestigious Spoleto Festival.

Our hotel is in the heart of the ‘old town’, where the atmosphere is completely safe and comfortable, far removed from the high-rise commercial district in Boca Grande which serves a different international business clientele.

In January of 2018, we are enthusiastically returning for our eighth consecutive Tour to this unique Festival. The colonial Spanish-style ‘old town’ – designated a **Unesco World Heritage Site** – has become a well-kept secret for discerning



Chris and Bunny Clark, Carlos Lleras and Charles Wadsworth (seated) at the Santa Clara pool

travelers and a proud show-place for the Colombian government. The narrow streets of restored 18th century (and earlier) houses are lined with picturesque balconies overflowing with tropical flowers and vines. The Festival's concerts are held in a variety of exquisite venues, ranging from intimate Catholic chapels to the grand tiered Teatro Adolfo Mejía. Festival visitors frequently walk from the hotel to the nearby venues, shops and cafés. Everyone who has joined us on our previous



Cartagena waterfront

Tours has fallen in love with this Festival within easy reach of U.S. airports. The January weather is glorious every day, with a welcome sea-breeze in the afternoons and not a cloud in the brilliant blue sky.

IMPORTANT: *Our arrangements include a per-person contribution to the Festival to support its education and social outreach program, including master classes and instrument-making workshops which we are invited to visit. We are also invited to enjoy two private parties for VIP's during our stay (dates TBA). A busy program of six performances is included in our package.*

Tuesday, January 9th, departure from New York's Kennedy Airport at 7:54 am on Jet Blue Airways flight #1533, arriving in Cartagena at 12:48 pm. (IMPORTANT: *Jet Blue's 2017 schedule has not yet been confirmed. The direct flight may NOT be offered on Tuesdays, in which case you may want to fly on Monday the 8th for one early night at our hotel.*)



Cartagena old town

office will meet anyone arriving on these flights or independently on alternate flights. The Cartagena airport is only a fifteen-minute drive from our hotel.)

Or departure from Miami's International Airport at 1:40 pm on Avianca Airlines flight #35, a direct flight arriving in Cartagena at 4:21 pm. Or independent travel. *Because of our contribution, the Festival*



Deluxe accommodations for **five nights** with a generous **buffet breakfast** of Caribbean specialties included at Cartagena's leading **Santa Clara Hotel**. This charming and historic property

enjoys an ideal location near everything. The large outdoor swimming pool (and spa) are surrounded by several floors of rooms all featuring private balconies. The Festival maintains a welcome desk in the lobby to assist with any personal arrangements. During our stay, you will have the opportunity to compliment some of the Festival's artists, as many of them stay at the Santa Clara and are frequently seen in the restaurant and at the pool. The hotel's dining room on the central

courtyard serves light meals before and after the Festival performances; and a number of attractive restaurants and cafés are within a few minutes' walk. *Several morning events are conveniently planned in the Chapel on the hotel's premises.*

IMPORTANT: *Latin American evenings are later than we are used to. While jet lag is minimal between New York/Miami and Cartagena (there is no time change!), you may wish to arrive a day early to relax prior to our busy schedule. You should let us know NOW if you do wish the early night, as the hotel is fully booked during the Festival. If you choose the Miami flights, please consider arriving a day early (January 8th) to avoid a very rushed schedule on the 9th (4:21 pm flight arrival followed by 7:00 pm concert).*



Santa Clara Chapel

Most of our afternoons are left free for you to explore the Old Town independently and for a requisite *siesta* before the late evenings. Cartagena is best appreciated by walking through the neighborhood at your own leisure. Cartagena's fine arts museum (mostly contemporary painters and sculptors) and two small emerald museums are well worth a visit (the one in the New Town has mounted an exhibit tracing the history of the emerald industry and displays many tempting items for sale). There are also an historic fort and a hill-top convent (where we will attend Thursday evening's concert), both outside the city walls but easily accessible by taxi.

During our free periods, there are additional concerts and lectures, including optional late-night programs at 10:00 pm, which will not be announced until closer to our dates. Because the Festival's VIP desk is located in the lobby of our hotel, you can conveniently request any additional program information and tickets. (Private car transfers to all our scheduled concerts are available to us because of our contribution to the Festival.) For dining before or after our concerts, you will enjoy discovering the unusual restaurants close to the hotel.

PROGRAM & VENUES: *The Festival's day-by-day program will be announced at a later date. From the variety of morning and evening events, we will include five concerts in addition to the*

major operatic production of Mozart's *Così fan Tutte*. Our schedule of events will be detailed in our Final Itinerary.

Our first event will be a Concert at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, January 9th, in the **Teatro Adolfo Mejía**, Cartagena's beautifully preserved small opera house. During the next few days, we will attend a variety of chamber concerts and recitals in the intimate **Santa Clara Chapel** of our hotel and a similar Chapel in the Santa Teresa Hotel. An evening highlight will be a concert in the outdoor courtyard of the **Cerro de la Popa** (a Catholic convent dramatically situated atop Cartagena's highest point with a spectacular view of the city and the Caribbean coast.

From the wealth of works by Franz Joseph Haydn, the Festival will be offering his *Symphonies No. 44 and 92, Cello Concerto No. 2, and Sinfonia Concertante*.



Myrtò Papatanasiu



Elena Belfiore

From the pen of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, we will hear a variety of his *Symphonies and Piano Concertos*. His peerless comic opera *Così fan Tutte* will be staged in the Teatro Mejía with an international cast including **Myrtò Papatanasiu** and **Elena Belfiore** as the fickle sisters Fior-diligi and Dorabella, **Maria Aleida** as the scheming maid Despina, **Paolo Fanale** and **Gabriele Nani** as the disillusioned suitors



Paolo Fanale



Andrea Concetti

Ferrando and Guglielmo, and **Andrea Concetti** as the cynical protagonist Don Alfonso. This *new staging* of Mozart's masterpiece will be co-produced with Italy's Spoleto Festival, repeating the collaboration which gave us last year's exhilarating *Le Nozze di Figaro*. The conductor will be **Corrado Rovaris**, with direction by **Giorgio Ferrara** and set designs by **Dante Ferretti**.

The genius of Ludwig van Beethoven will be represented by his *Prometheus Overture, Piano Concertos No. 3 and 5, and Symphony No. 8*.

The concerts will by no means be limited to the three classical giants. Cartagena's programs are always imaginative and will include other mainstream and contemporary composers.

Among the artists listed for this season are the **Munich Chamber Orchestra** and German Music Director **Clemens Schuldt**; the **Schumann String Quartet**; pianists **Krystian Zimerman, Gerhard Oppitz, Igor Levit, Rudolf Buchbinder, Khatia Buniatishvili and Freire Nelson**; cellists **Steven Isserlis, Itsvan Vardai and Daniel Müller-Schott**; and violinists **Anne-Sophie Mutter and Veronika Eberle**.



Adolfo Mejía Theater

Sunday, January 14th, departure from Cartagena's airport at 1:49 pm on Jet Blue Airways flight #1532, arriving at New York's Kennedy Airport at 6:48 pm. Or departure at 9:35 am on Avianca Airlines flight #34, arriving in Miami at 12:25 pm. Or independent departure. *Airport transfers are included for everyone.*



Cerro de la Popa; courtyard

Cartagena Festival

Price per person, based on double occupancy	\$ 3,980*
Single room supplement	\$ 980*

**Our higher-than-normal price includes a contribution to the Cartagena Festival which enables us to be included in the Festival's 'VIP arrangements'. The Hotel Santa Clara is expensive, especially for the single supplement, but we feel it is fully justified.*

Airfare NOT included.

YOU SHOULD RESERVE NOW FOR THE DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM NEW YORK AND MIAMI, as they sell out early during the Festival period. IMPORTANT: REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR PASSPORT.

Air fare: Prices are subject to change depending on time of booking. Please contact our agent Linda Botros (see inside back cover) for lowest current fares.