
THE SALZBURG EASTER FESTIVAL & MUNICH

Tuesday, March 20th through Wednesday, March 28th



Salzburg Castle

“Whether the Salzburg Easter Festival, with prices even higher than its summer counterpart, is socially exclusive, is no longer the point. What matters is that it is artistically exclusive: it has finally set a standard which the world can envy.” Opera

“Opera is hardly ever perfect. But in Munich these days it comes closer, consistently, than anywhere else I know.” NY Times

Anja Harteros: *International OPERA Awards: Best Female Singer, 2015*

“Elina Garanca’s voice is one-in-a-million, allying grace and power to a commanding authority.” The Independent

“Bryan Hymel’s rare gift for singing the French ‘heroic’ repertory – which demands a unique mixture of power, refinement, and technical flexibility in the highest register – makes him doubly valuable.” The New Yorker

“Adrienne Pieczonka is a revelation (as Chrysothemis), with a lavishly creamy voice capable of expressing all the emotions that Elektra forbids herself.” Financial Times

Christian Thielemann: *“Germany’s most sought-after conductor”* Daily Telegraph, London

Kirill Petrenko: *“In the short time he has worked as Music Director of Munich’s Bavarian State Opera, he has celebrated one triumph after another.”* Berlin Philharmonic

For the past twenty-two 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 2018, the Festival remains under the direction of the prestigious German conductor **Christian Thielemann**, and the orchestra will be the **Dresden**

Staatskapelle. Maestro Thielemann will conduct three of the concerts as well as the opera.

The major operatic evening will be an eagerly anticipated *new production* of Giacomo Puccini’s **Tosca**, with an international cast showcasing soprano **Anja Harteros** at the height of her career. The concerts will offer works of Mozart, Berlioz, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Brahms and Mahler – with such illustrious soloists as mezzo-soprano **Elina Garanca**, cellist **Sol Gabetta**, and the du-pianist sisters **Katia and Marielle Labèque**. The choral concert will be Gustav Mahler’s *Symphony No. 3*.

In most years, we have combined Salzburg with a second city where the opera program is the most enticing of the season – sometimes Munich, Vienna, Prague or Zürich. *Immediately prior to Salzburg this year*, we have chosen to return to the Bavarian capital of Munich, for **three nights** at the renowned **Vier Jahreszeiten Hotel** and **three performances** at the revered **Bayerischer Staatsooper**. Our first evening will be the company’s celebrated production of Richard Strauss’s **Der Rosenkavalier** – a peerless traditional staging with exquisite scenic designs – conducted by Music Director **Kirill Petrenko**. A second opera will be Giuseppe Verdi’s mature masterwork, **Les Vêpres Siciliennes**, in the original French version created for the Paris Opera. Our third evening in Munich will be the *Premiere Production* of **Anna Karenina**, a ballet version of Tolstoy’s romantic tragedy with an eclectic score by Rachmaninov, Lutoslawski and others.

Munich and Salzburg are two of our favorite destinations. We look forward to this convenient combination of exhilarating music in two cities with enticing restaurants and state-of-the art theatres for our diversified performances. This Tour is highly recommended for those who have never experienced the refined ambience of Salzburg’s Easter Festival or the high musical standards of Munich’s State Opera. For this writer, our program is ‘not-to-be-missed’ because of Harteros as Tosca, Mahler’s towering *Symphony No. 3*, Munich’s iconic ‘Rosenkavalier’, Verdi’s often overlooked ‘Sicilian Vespers’, and an adventurous new ballet version of ‘Anna Karenina’.

Tuesday, March 20th, departure from New York's Kennedy Airport at 6:30 pm on Lufthansa flight #411, arriving in Munich at 7:25 am on the morning of the 21st. Or independent travel to Munich.

MUNICH: MARCH 21ST – 23RD

Accommodations for **three nights**, with a lavish **buffet breakfast** included 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. For many reasons, the Vier Jahreszeiten remains everyone's first choice in Munich. *As there will be a performance on our first evening, you may wish to arrive a day early to adjust to the time change. We will be happy to reserve your room for the optional additional night of March 20th, if you notify us soon.*

Early Wednesday evening, March 21st, 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.



Adrienne Pieczonka



Peter Rose

At 6:00 pm on Wednesday evening, the curtain at the **Nationaltheater** will rise on the Bavarian State Opera's glorious **Otto Schenk/Jürgen Rose** production of Richard Strauss' **Der Rosenkavalier**. Munich's version of this masterpiece has always overwhelmed our previous travelers with its evocative recreation of the Viennese ambience of von Hofmannsthal's human comedy. The Marschallin's Act I 'Monologue', the soaring lyricism of the Act II 'Presentation of the Rose' and the heart-breaking final Trio in which the Marschallin gracefully lets go of her Cavalier are among the finest achievements of the Strauss/von Hofmannsthal partnership. Tonight's cast of seasoned Strauss exponents is led by the Canadian soprano **Adrienne Pieczonka** as the Marschallin, American mezzo-soprano **Angela Brower** as Octavian, German lyric soprano **Hanna-Elizabeth Müller** as Sophie, and British bass **Peter Rose** repeating his MET portrayals of Baron Ochs. The Italian tenor will be sung by the American 'bel canto' specialist, **Lawrence Brownlee**. The company's Russian Music Director **Kirill Petrenko** is the conductor. Every Strauss 'aficionado' should have the privilege of encountering 'Rosenkavalier' in Munich's sumptuous staging.

Because of our short stay in Munich and two long operas on our first nights, Thursday and Friday are left free during the day for relaxing at the hotel and independent activities.

At 7:00 pm on Thursday evening, March 22nd, we will return to the **Nationaltheater** for the *new production* of Giuseppe Verdi's **Les Vêpres Siciliennes**. This will be the original five-act French version unveiled in Paris in 1855. The libretto by Scribe and Duveyrier is set in Palermo during the 13th century uprising

of the Sicilians to overthrow the French occupation. Verdi lavished the lengthy melodic score with a succession of demanding arias, duets and ensembles, beginning with the longest overture he ever wrote. The opera "is of enormous importance... It marks a decisive turn away from the language of his middle-period Italian operas and the emergence of many stylistic features we associate with the later Verdi." (*New Grove Dictionary of Opera*).



Carmen Giannattasio



Bryan Hymel

Munich's international cast is headed by Italian soprano as Hélène, American heroic tenor **Bryan Hymel** as Henri, Romanian baritone **George Petean** as Guy de Montfort, and Uruguayan bass **Erwin Schrott** as Procida. The conductor is **Omer Meir Wellber**, and the staging is directed by **Antú Romero Nunes**.

Friday evening, March 23rd, a pre-theatre **dinner** is planned before the opera at **Il Tenore**, a favorite Italian trattoria a short walk from the hotel.

At 7:30 pm on Friday, our last performance in Munich will be the Bayerischen Staatsballet's *Premiere Production* of a new full-length **Anna Karenina**. The German choreographer **Christian Spuck** has created this version of Leo Tolstoy's classic Russian novel. The score is taken from works of Rachmaninow, Lutoslawski, and several other European composers. The conductor will be **Robertas Servenikas**.

On Saturday, March 24th, a several-hour bus ride will take us through the mountainous landscape of Southern Bavaria to the picturesque Austrian city of Salzburg.

SALZBURG: MARCH 24TH – 27TH

Our accommodations in Salzburg are for **four nights** (with a generous **buffet breakfast**) at '**The Pitter**' – a traditional Salzburg 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. Our twin/double rooms are **upgraded Junior Suites**, and our single rooms are **upgraded to double rooms for single occupancy**. Following a major renovation, the Pitter has recently reopened with important on-site improvements and services. The top floor now offers the **Sky Restaurant Imlauer** for breakfast with a beautiful view over Salzburg, and a fitness, sauna and relaxation area.



Lobby of the Pitter Hotel

The famed **Easter Festival** was initiated in Salzburg by the legendary Herbert Von Karajan close to thirty years ago. Von Karajan was then succeeded by the beloved Italian conductor **Claudio Abbado** (recently deceased) and the British conductor **Sir Simon Rattle**. The baton has now passed to Germany's **Christian Thielemann** and his **Dresden Staatskapelle Orchestra**. The Easter Festival ranks with Bayreuth and Glyndebourne as the most prestigious cultural and social events of the European musical season. Tickets for the two Cycles of performances are in the hands of the subscribers who rarely release them.

As usual, our limited number of tickets for 2016 include one entire Cycle of performances extending over the long Easter Weekend: **one opera and three orchestral/choral concerts**. (Our tickets in the *Large Festival Hall, Salzburg* (*'Balcony'*), where the acoustics are optimum and sightlines are excellent.) The Festival performances are in the early evening and allow for leisurely dinners after the performances.

At 6:00 pm on Saturday evening, March 24th, we are among the fortunate ticket-holders for the Festival performance of Giacomo Puccini's riveting melodrama **Tosca** in the **Large Festival Hall**. Premiered in Rome in 1900, 'Tosca' remains among a handful of the Italian repertoire's most popular works, highlighted by Tosca's histrionic aria 'Vissi d'arte', Cavaradossi's two great arias from the first and third acts, and Scarpia's demonic 'Te Deum' climaxing Act One in the Church of San Andrea della Valle. Salzburg's expansive stage will no doubt stimulate designers **Philipp Stölzl** and **Heike Vollmer** to capture the famous Roman settings, and Mr. Stölzl is also responsible for the direction. The challenging title role will be sung by Germany's radiant soprano **Anja Harteros**, promising another triumph to her many-faceted career ranging from Verdi's Leonora and Elizabetha to Wagner's Sieglinde and Elsa and Strauss's Arabella and Marschallin. Opposite her will be the MET's Latvian tenor **Aleksandrs Antonenko** as Mario Cavaradossi and French baritone **Ludovic Tézier** as Baron Scarpia. **Christian Thielemann** will be the conductor. *Sung in Italian with English surtitles.*

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 feel that you are a Patron of the Festival even more than a member of our Tour. As a Patron, you will be able to attend a **midday rehearsal** for one of the orchestra concerts (date to be announced later). You may also want to attend a **Palm Sunday** service on March 25th, as several of the local churches will offer musical masses.

March 25th, a short walk from the hotel will take us to the **Café Fingerlos** on nearby Franz Josefstrasse for **coffee and cake**. Only a couple of blocks from the Pitter, the Fingerlos offers "the best sweets and cakes in town" (*Rainer Hochhauser, our local guide and longtime friend*).

At 7:00 pm on Sunday, we will return to the **Large Festival Hall** for a concert by the **Dresden Staatskapelle** under the

Colombian conductor **Andrés Orozco-Estrada**. The program will include Puccini's early *Preludio Sinfonico in A-Major*, Mozart's *Concerto for Two Pianos, K. 365*, and Hector Berlioz' dramatic *Symphonie Fantastique*. The duo pianists for Mozart's exuberant concerto will be the celebrated Canadian sisters, **Katia and Marielle Labèque**.



The Patron rehearsal will most likely be midday on Monday, March 26th. (TBA).

On Monday evening, our 7:00 pm concert in the **Large Festival Hall** will offer the **Dresdner Staatskapelle** in a romantic program of Felix Mendelssohn's *The Hebrides Overture*, Robert Schumann's *Cello Concerto in A-minor*, and Johannes Brahms' *Symphony No. 2*. Music Director **Christian Thielemann** will be on the podium, and the Argentine cellist **Sol Gabetta** is the soloist.

Following Monday evening's concert, a late **dinner** will be arranged at the atmospheric **Peterskeller** in the Baroque square adjacent to the Festival venues.

Our final concert will be on Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm in the **Large Festival Hall**. Maestro **Christian Thielemann** will lead his **Dresden Staatskapelle** in Gustav Mahler's towering *Symphony No. 3*. This six-movement work (the longest of Mahler's nine completed symphonies) requires a



Elina Garanca

mezzo-soprano soloist and full choir to convey the composer's mystical vision of the passages of life. The glamorous Latvian opera star **Elina Garanca** will be the soloist, and the choral episodes will be sung by the **Damen des Wiener Singvereins** and the **Salzburger Festspiele Children's Choir**.

Wednesday, March 28th, departure from Salzburg at 2:30 pm on Lufthansa flight #1595, arriving in Frankfurt at 3:35 pm. This connects with Lufthansa #404, departing Frankfurt at 5:10 pm and arriving at New York's Kennedy Airport at 7:55 pm. Or independent departure.



Christian Thielemann

Munich & Salzburg Easter

Price per person, based on double occupancy	\$ 6,280*
Single room supplement	\$ 650

*Our price includes a mandatory Patron contribution to the Easter Festival.

Airfare NOT included.

Airfare: Prices are subject to change depending on time of booking. Please contact our agent Linda Botros (see inside back cover) for current fares. **IMPORTANT: Air reservations should be made early during the very busy Easter period.**



Anja Harteros



Aleksandrs Antonenko