

## TWO NEW YORK HOLIDAYS

*The MET, Carnegie Hall, NY City Ballet*

**I. NEW YORK APRIL HOLIDAY** Monday, April 9th through Thursday, April 12th

**II. NEW YORK MAY HOLIDAY** Monday, April 30th through Thursday, May 3rd



*The MET's new production of Mozart's *Cosi fan tutte*. Photographed here at the English National Opera.*

**N**ew York remains the mecca for discerning travelers who recognize the rewards of live performances showcasing the world's leading singers. The months of April and May of 2018 will be filled with events that reinforce the city's reputation as our foremost destination for the performing arts.

During the second week of April, we have found an exceptional **four-night** program of three operas at **THE MET** and a not-to-be-missed concert at Carnegie Hall. The operas will be Verdi's melodic melodrama **Luisa Miller**, superbly cast with **Sonya Yoncheva**, **Piotr Beczala** and **Placido Domingo** under the baton of **James Levine**; a new production of Mozart's peerless comedy **Così fan Tutte**; and Donizetti's lyric tragedy **Lucia di Lammermoor** featuring 'bel canto' soprano **Jessica Pratt** opposite the thrilling Italian tenor **Vittorio Grigolo**. At Carnegie Hall, our early request has been confirmed for orchestra seating for the hottest ticket of the season: the **Boston Symphony Orchestra** led by Music Director **Andris Nelsons** in Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde (Act II)* with **Camilla Nylund** and **Jonas Kaufmann** singing the title roles. (*Kaufmann's performances in Boston and NY mark his initial portrayal of Tristan and his only operatic appearances in the U.S. this season.*)

A second program into early May will also extend over **four nights** in order to embrace a pair of highly anticipated *new productions* at the **MET** – Puccini's *Tosca* starring Russian diva **Anna Netrebko** at the height of her remarkable career, and Massenet's enchanting *Cendrillon ('Cinderella')*, with a brilliant cast headed by **Joyce DiDonato**, **Alice Coote** and **Stephanie Blythe**. For our third evening, we are pleased to include an *all-Balanchine* evening of dance by the revered **New York City Ballet**, which

gave us the surprise popular hit of our two previous spring holidays. A final highlight of our May program will be the *new production* of Lerner & Loewe's timeless musical **My Fair Lady** by Lincoln Center Theater, the company that gave us iconic revivals of 'Oklahoma', 'Carousel', 'South Pacific' and 'The King and I'.

**Accommodations for four nights** for both holidays will be at the private **New York Athletic Club (NYAC)**, beautifully located on Central Park South (59th street at 7th Avenue). The NYAC offers pleasant, comfortable bedrooms and many advantages of a large, private club: a spacious dining room overlooking Central Park from the 11th floor; friendly bars on the main floor and in the second-floor Tap Room which serves convenient meals; the best-equipped large swimming-pool and sauna/steam room complex in the city; extensive health-club features and exercise equipment; and a relaxing library with a wide collection of books and current journals. There are several appealing cafés and restaurants in the immediate neighborhood, and Carnegie Hall is only one block away from the 58th street rear entrance.

A **cocktail buffet or dinner** will be enjoyed on the first evening of each weekend, which will provide an opportunity to meet other members of the Tour. On our last evening, **dinner** will be arranged in one of the interesting restaurants in the Lincoln Center or Carnegie Hall area.

We are pleased to offer you a Guest Pass to the **Metropolitan Museum of Art** on Fifth Avenue at 82nd Street. Your pass will allow for free entry at your own convenience into the extensive permanent galleries and all exhibitions not requiring a reserved ticket.



*Anna Netrebko*



*Jonas Kaufmann*

**Transfers** are included for all of our performances not at Carnegie Hall. (The Club is only one block of easy walking distance from Carnegie Hall.)

All MET Opera performances are performed with **MET TITLES** optionally displayed on the seat in front of you, which has proven to be enormously popular.

## I. NEW YORK APRIL HOLIDAY

APRIL 9TH – APRIL 12TH

Our April Holiday will begin at 7:30 pm on Monday, April 9th, with the MET's production of Giuseppe Verdi's **Luisa Miller**.

Inspired by one of Friedrich Schiller's gripping melodramas ('Kabale und Liebe'), 'Luisa Miller was written shortly before 'Rigoletto' and contains a number of Verdi's soaring arias, duets and ensembles. The compelling rhythmic energy also points towards another of the great 'middle Verdi' works – 'Il Trovatore'. Tonight should prove richly satisfying for an audience eager to encounter one of the beloved Italian composer's less familiar works for the stage. The stellar international cast is headed by Bulgarian soprano **Sonya Yoncheva** in the multi-faceted title role (returning after her most recent triumphs as Violetta and Desdemona), the consummate Polish tenor **Piotr Beczala** as Rodolfo, **Placido Domingo** in yet another 'Verdi baritone' assumption as Luisa's father, and Russian basses **Alexander Vinogradov** in his MET debut as Count Walter and **Dmitry Belosselskiy** as the villainous Wurm. Music Director Emeritus **James Levine** will be the experienced conductor, and the traditional production is directed by **Elijah Moshinsky** with sets designed by **Santo Loquasto**. *Sung in Italian with MET Titles.*

At 7:30 pm on Tuesday, April 10th, our second opera will be the MET's new production of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's **Così fan Tutte**. The libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte inspired Mozart to create a seamless succession of consummate arias. In particular, the wealth of duets for the fickle sisters and their disillusioned but persistent lovers is unique in the composer's operatic output. "Mozart's gift of melody was at its most miraculous in this delightful opera subtitled 'The School for Lovers'." (*Decca Record Co.*). The ensemble cast of Mozartians will feature American soprano **Amanda Majeski** as Fiordiligi, mezzo-soprano **Serena Malfi** as Dorabella, baritone **Adam Plachetka** as Guglielmo, tenor **Ben Bliss** as Ferrando, and baritone **Christopher Maltman** as the cynical catalyst Don Alfonso. Broadway's Tony-Award winning soprano **Kelli O'Hara** will no doubt be a scene-stealer as the saucy maid Despina. The conductor is **David Robertson**, Music Director of the St. Louis Symphony, and the staging is directed by **Phelim McDermott** with scenic designs by **Tom Pye**.



Vittorio Grigolo

Wednesday, April 11th, at 7:30 pm, our third MET opera will be Gaetano Donizetti's **Lucia di Lammermoor**. We have chosen to include Donizetti's most popular and enduring opera because of the promised virtuosity of the Italian tenor **Vittorio Grigolo** as Edgardo, following his 'breakout season' last year as Roméo and Werther; and the American 'bel canto' specialist **Jessica Pratt** in the coloratura title role. The ensemble cast will also feature Italian baritone **Luca Salsi** as Lucia's brother Enrico and Russian bass **Vitalij Kowaljow** as the compassionate chaplain Raimondo. The highlights of tonight's performance will be the famous Mad Scene and Sextet, Lucia's first-act aria 'Regnava nel silenzio', and Edgardo's concluding lament 'Fra poco a me ricovero'. **Roberto Abbado** is the conductor, and the production is by the team of director **Mary Zimmerman** and designer **Daniel Ostling**. *Sung in Italian with MET Titles.*

At 8:00 pm on Thursday the 12th, our April Tour will culminate with the sold-out Carnegie Hall concert by the **Boston Symphony Orchestra** under its hugely popular Latvian Music Director **An-**

**dris Nelsons**. Tonight's program is devoted to Richard Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde, Act II*, which includes the composer's most passionate and lengthy love duet ('*Liebesnacht*') and the painful lament of King Marke after he learns of Tristan's betrayal. Appearing in the challenging title roles will be the radiant Finnish dramatic soprano **Camilla Nylund** and today's reigning romantic tenor **Jonas Kaufmann**. Japanese mezzo-soprano **Mihoko Fujimura** will intone Brangaene's dire warnings, and German bass **Georg Zeppenfeld** completes the cast as King Marke. *We are fortunate to have early confirmation for our Orchestra seats.*

Independent departures should be on the morning of Friday, April 13th.

## I. NEW YORK MAY HOLIDAY

APRIL 30TH – MAY 3RD

Our late spring program will begin at the MET on Monday, April 30th with the 7:30 pm performance of Giacomo Puccini's **Tosca**. Premiered in Rome in 1900, 'Tosca' remains among a handful of the Italian repertoire's most enduring 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.

This new production is the opera everyone wants to see this year, because the histrionic title role will be sung for the first time by Russian soprano **Anna Netrebko**. Her extraordinary international career has most recently embraced Elsa in Dresden's 'Lohengrin' as well as acclaimed portrayals of Tatyana ('Eugene Onegin'), Puccini's Manon Lescaut, and Verdi's Violetta and Lady Macbeth at the MET. Opposite her will be Argentine tenor **Marcelo Alvarez** as Cavaradossi and Germany's **Michael Volle** (the MET's next Wotan) as Scarpia. **Bertrand de Billy** is the

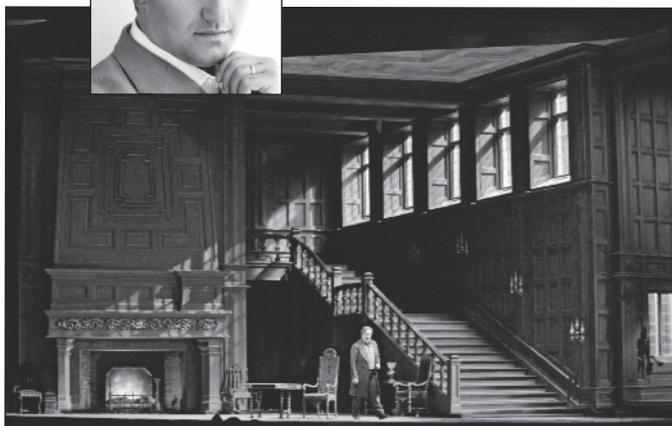
Sonya Yoncheva



Piotr Beczala



Ken Howard/Metropolitan Opera



Verdi's Luisa Miller, Act I at the MET

Placido Domingo



conductor, and **Sir David McVicar** is responsible for the direction. The familiar Roman settings will be designed by **John Macfarlane**. *Sung in Italian with MET Titles.*

At 7:00 pm, Tuesday evening, May 1st, we look forward to the thrilling revival of **My Fair Lady** by the **Lincoln Center Theater**. First performed on Broadway in 1956, Alan Jay Lerner & Frederick Loewe's famous musical boasts a classic score containing 'I Could Have Danced All Night', 'Get Me to the Church on Time', 'Wouldn't it be Lovely', 'On the Street Where

You Live', 'The Rain in Spain', and 'I've Grown Accustomed to Her Face'. The American director **Bartlett Sher** will be in charge of re-creating George Bernard Shaw's unforgettable characters, the Cockney flower girl Eliza Doolittle and her speech professor Henry Higgins. Mr. Sher has already achieved critical acclaim for the company's beloved revivals of 'South Pacific' and 'The King and I' as well as this season's riveting Tony-Award winner 'Oslo'. Following these three hits in Lincoln Center's **Vivian Beaumont Theatre**, 'My Fair Lady' will be mounted on the same expansive stage. *(The cast has not yet been announced.)*



Joyce DiDonato



Stephanie Blythe

At 7:30 pm on Wednesday evening, May 2nd, we will enjoy a diversified program of the **New York City Ballet** at **Lincoln Center's Koch Theater**. We have included this superlative company in several of our recent long weekends, when our Tour members were unanimously enthusiastic to discover the exceptional level of dancing and the imaginative repertoire. Tonight we will encounter the choreography of dance-genius **George Balanchine** in three of his greatest works: *Concerto Barocco*, choreographed to Bach's *Concerto for Two Violins*; *Agon*, set to one of Stravinsky's angular scores; and *The Four Temperaments*, Balanchine's 1946 version of Paul Hindemith's commissioned orchestral work. The new Music Director **Andrew Litton**, formerly in charge of the Dallas Symphony, is often in the pit and has been singled out for maintaining the high standards of the orchestra.



James Levine,  
MET Music  
Director Emeritus

Our May Tour will conclude on Thursday evening, May 3rd, with the 8:00 pm *new production* of Jules Massenet's romantic French opera **Cendrillon ('Cinderella')** at the MET. Premiered in Paris in 1899, Massenet's version

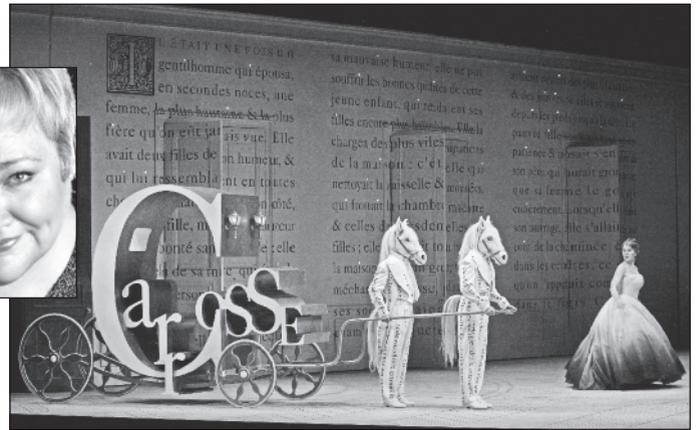
of 'Cinderella' is not often heard today but has always struck this writer as far more inventive and engaging than Rossini's ubiquitous 'bel canto' comedy 'La Cenerentola'. Massenet's lyricism is perfectly matched to the dénouement of the Charles Perrault fairytale, yielding many passages of sustained melody and rich orchestration, as well as incisive characterizations for the title role, her Prince Charming, her father and stepmother, and her Fairy Godmother. The MET's ideal cast is headed by the versatile Amer-



Andris Nelsons,  
BSO Music  
Director

Carnegie Hall

ican mezzo-soprano **Joyce DiDonato** as Cinderella (Miss DiDonato is also lionized for her portrayal of Rossini's Angelina), British 'trouser' mezzo **Alice Coote** as Prince Charming, **Stephanie Blythe** lending her rich contralto to the role of Mme. De la Haltière, French bass-baritone **Laurent Nouri** as Pandolfe, and Korean coloratura **Kathleen Kim** as the Fairy Godmother. French specialist **Bertrand de Billy** is the conductor, and the new staging



Kan Howard

Laurent Pelly's new production of Massenet's Cendrillon. Photographed here at the Santa Fe Opera.

is by director **Laurent Pelly** and designer **Barbara de Limburg**. *Sung in French with MET Titles.*

Independent departures should be on Friday, May 4th.

**TWO NEW YORK HOLIDAYS:**

**April 9th – 12th**

Price per person, based on double occupancy \$ 3,180  
Single room supplement \$ 590

**April 30th – May 3rd**

Price per person, based on double occupancy \$ 3,180  
Single room supplement \$ 590

**IMPORTANT: While our tickets for the MET are usually in the Prime Orchestra, one of our opera tickets on each Tour will be in the Dress Circle or Grand Tier, where acoustics and sightlines are optimal. At Carnegie Hall, our tickets for April 12th will be on the main floor. Our tickets for the NY City Ballet and for 'My Fair Lady' will be in the Orchestra.**

**Because the New York Athletic Club has a limited number of king-bedded rooms, couples requesting a one-bedded room will be accommodated in a queen-sized bed. For any couples requesting a king bed, there will be an additional charge of \$50 per night (\$200 for the Tour) for this upgrade, depending on availability.**