

EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT

THE SAN FRANCISCO RING CYCLE

Tuesday, June 12th through Sunday, June 17th, 2018

*BECAUSE OF THE UNUSUAL INTEREST IN 'THE SAN FRANCISCO RING' (2018),
WE ARE INCLUDING THIS TOUR IN OUR CURRENT BROCHURE.*



War Memorial Opera House

“Wagner’s Ring is the most monumental work of art ever created: epic in scope, towering in its creative vision, majestic in its imaginative power. Larger than life yet poignantly human, it engages the mind even as it thrills the senses with pure visceral excitement.”

San Francisco Opera



Greer Grimsley



Evelyn Herlitzius



Karita Mattila

The San Francisco Opera has earned an enviable reputation for superlative Wagner productions, particularly under the leadership of the company’s former Music Director **Donald Runnicles** from 1992 – 2009. The Scottish maestro, currently in charge of the Deutsche Oper in Berlin, will return to San Francisco in June of 2018 for three complete cycles of Richard Wagner’s towering **Der Ring Des Nibelungen**. Great Performance Tours will attend Cycle I from June 12th through June 17th.

“Director **Francesca Zambello**’s production... uses subtle yet astute analogies to convey the countless ways this stirring story reflects our own society... The production colorfully evokes the California Gold Rush era, drawing provocative parallels between Wagner’s mythical kingdom of gods and goddesses and the Industrial Revolution’s entrepreneurs and tycoons.” (*San Francisco Opera*). The set designer is **Michael Yeargan**, and the all-important lighting designs are by **Mark McCullough**. This *co-production* with the Washington Opera was rapturously received at the Kennedy Center last May. The four Ring operas will be sung in the original German with *English supertitles*.

The international cast will include some of the foremost Wagnerian singers of our time: **Greer Grimsley** (Wotan/The Wanderer), **Evelyn Herlitzius** (Brünnhilde), **Karita Mattila** (Sieglinde), **Brandon Jovanovich** (Siegfried), **Daniel Brenna** (Siegfried), **Jamie Barton** (Fricka & Waltraute), **Falk Struckmann** (Alberich), **Andrea Silvestrelli** (Fasolt & Hagen), **Raymond Aceto** (Fafner & Hunding), **Stefan Margita** (Loge), **David Cangelosi** (Mime), **Brian Mulligan** (Gunther & Donner), **Melissa Citro** (Gutrune), and **Ronnita Miller** (Erda). *Remaining cast TBA.*

Our accommodations are for **six nights** at the deluxe **J.W. Marriott Hotel**, ideally located on Post Street only a couple of blocks from the city’s central Union Square. Within convenient walking distance are a plethora of art galleries and designer shops, and restaurants. The Marriott offers a full range of dining facilities and twenty-four hour room service. We have been delighted with our experiences there on our frequent visits during the past decade. **IMPORTANT: There WILL be a performance on our first evening. If you wish to arrive a day early, we will be happy to make your reservations for the night of Monday, June 11th. Let us know NOW if you do want the early night.**

Early Tuesday evening, June 12th, a **cocktail reception** will be an opportunity to meet other members of the Tour. Our party will be in a private entertainment area of the hotel.

Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm, our first **Ring** performance at the **War Memorial Opera House** will be **DAS RHEINGOLD** (no intermission).

Wednesday, June 13th, is left free for you to sleep late (especially for East Coasters with a three-hour time change) and for independent activities prior to the evening's early curtain.

Wednesday evening, we will return to the Opera House for the 7:00 pm curtain of **DIE WALKÜRE**.



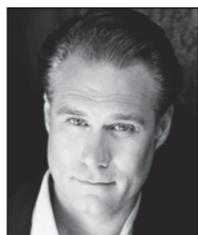
Martin Heade's orchids in the DeYoung Museum

gardens are divided into a succession of separate 'rooms' each with a distinct character. "The spectacular grounds present a hallmark of garden landscape design, breathtaking in scale and displaying the diversity of California flora." (*Filoli*)

At 6:30 pm on Friday evening, we will return to the Opera House for **SIEGFRIED**.

Saturday morning, June 16th, a relaxed and hearty **breakfast** is reserved for us at **Sears Restaurant**, a short walk from the Marriott.

Sears upholds the reputation of the Armenian Boyagian family who originally created the friendly atmosphere. The breakfast menu features such irresistible dishes as 'eighteen Swedish pancakes' and 'sour-dough French toast with strawberry syrup'. After enjoying the generous servings, you will readily appreciate why the daily lines are around the block by mid-morning.



Brandon Jovanovich

Thursday morning, June 14th, we will visit one of San Francisco's major art museums. (Depending on exhibitions not yet announced this far in advance, we will visit the newly renovated **Museum of Modern Art (MoMa)**, the **DeYoung Museum in Golden Gate Park**, or the **Legion of Honor** overlooking the Bay area.



Daniel Brenna

Thursday evening, we will enjoy a generous **buffet dinner** at the private **Olympic Club** only a block from the hotel. Our San Francisco travelers are always pleased when our schedule permits us to include this dinner on a Thursday, the only evening when the Club offers their elaborate buffet in their gracious main dining room. *No performance this evening.*

The newly renovated San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

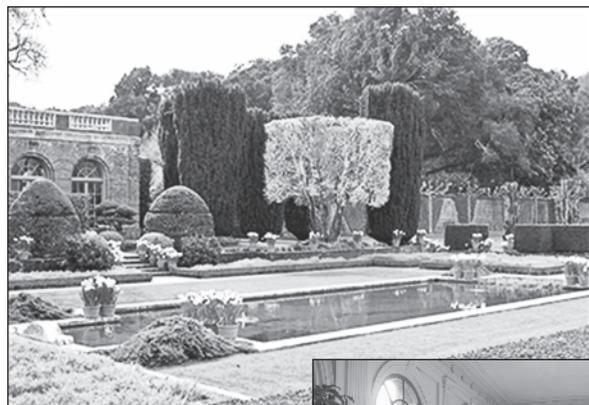


The remainder of Saturday is left free for independent activities and for independent dining in one of the city's many unusual restaurants. *No performance this evening.*

On Sunday, June 17th, our final Ring performance will be the 1:00 pm matinee of **DIE GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG**.

Following the performance, **dinner** is planned at **Cesario's**, a friendly Italian restaurant only a block from our hotel.

Independent departures should be on Monday morning, June 18th.



Filoli pool garden and garden room



Filoli was initially a private estate built in 1916 – 1919 in the residential hills of Woodside, twenty-five miles south of San Francisco in the Palo Alto area. The gracious mansion is an imposing example of country house architecture by the Californian Willis Polk, and the extensive sixteen acres of formal

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San Francisco Ring Ring Cycle:

Price per person, based on double occupancy	\$ 6,650*
Single room supplement	\$ 890

**Included in the price are the four RING tickets in Orchestra. A portion of the ticket cost will be designated as tax-deductible.*

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.

Air fare NOT included.