



Join the Guild in Toronto!

May 11-16, 2012

Erin Wall ♪ Alan Held ♪ William Burden
Canadian Opera Company at the Four Seasons Centre

Toronto! In all of our years of running opera trips, the Lyric Opera Guild has never taken a trip to Toronto, the home of the Canadian Opera Company, the "Metropolitan Opera of Canada." Why? Because we've been waiting for just the right combination of performances in a friendly month (May!) so you can enjoy the cultural excitement and gracious European feel of Canada's major city.

On this trip, in a mere six days, you will experience exciting performances of masterpieces old and new, enjoy highlights of this wonderful city, and even see nearby Niagara Falls. Such a deal!

Friday, May 11. We will leave on Air Canada and arrive in Toronto in the early evening. You can enjoy dinner on your own in preparation for the rest of our trip.

Saturday, May 12. Today is free for you to explore Toronto. This evening we attend a double bill by the Canadian Opera Company at the newly renovated Four Seasons Centre where the company performs. Tonight we hear the romantic and tuneful ***A Florentine Tragedy*** by the early 20th century German master **Alexander Zemlin-sky**, whose lush operas are now making a comeback after being ignored all too long. The opera is set to a story by Oscar Wilde, a cat and mouse game with a stunning twist. The second half of the evening is Puccini's delightful comedy ***Gianni Schicchi***, one of the *Il Trittico* operas, featuring the beloved soprano aria "O mio babbino caro." Metropolitan Opera baritone **Alan Held** stars.

Sunday, May 13. This afternoon we hear Handel's rare but gorgeous opera ***Semele***, the story of a love affair between Semele, a princess and mistress of the god Jupiter, whose vanity and ambition become her undoing. Director and set designer Zhang Huang has created a critically acclaimed production using a Ming Dynasty ancestral temple as his canvas, painting astonishing and playful stage pictures for Handel's most sensuous Baroque opera. World famous baritone **William Burden** is the star. This evening we will discuss the opera over dinner at one of Toronto's finest restaurants.



The Four Seasons Centre (above) houses the R. Fraser Elliott Hall (below) in which the Canadian Opera Company performs.



Monday May 14. After a free day to explore the charms of Toronto, we will meet for an evening performance of *The Tales of Hoffmann*, Jacques Offenbach's classic opera about the doomed love affairs of the poet Hoffmann. Tenor **David Pomeroy**, who has sung at the Lyric Opera and many other houses, sings the title role, and the famed coloratura soprano **Erin Wall** is Antonia.



Baritone Alan Held and soprano Erin Wall are among the stars performing at the Canadian Opera Company.

Tuesday, May 15. Our operatic adventures over, we will take a day trip to nearby **Niagara Falls** and enjoy the spectacular scenery and natural beauty from the Canadian side, the "best" side for viewing. The tour includes a winery with tasting, an historic War of 1812 site, a ride behind the falls or a sky tower viewing (your choice) plus shopping for souvenirs.

Wednesday, May 16. The morning affords you a last chance to explore Toronto. In the afternoon, filled with memories of this unique trip, we will fly back to Kansas City.

The May weather in Toronto is often delightful, so this should be a perfect time of year for our visit.

During your free time in Toronto, there are many exciting possibilities. The Art Gallery of Ontario, containing a marvelous art collection (for instance, it is now featuring the famous Chagall and the Russian Avant Garde collection, and the historic Thomson Ship Model Collection. The Royal Ontario Museum features natural history exhibits such as the currently featured Maya -- Secrets of the Ancient World.

For shopping, Yorktown is a delightful anomaly in the midst of Toronto high rises and shopping malls. Tucked into a pocket of downtown, the quaint Victorian architecture in Yorkville houses dozens of restaurants, boutiques and art galleries. Bloor Avenue runs adjacent to Yorkville and features shopping that is upscale and includes Holt Renfrew, Prada, Hermes, Gucci and Hazelton Lanes.

The Toronto Eaton Centre is a bright and airy shopping mall in the heart of Toronto's downtown that houses more than 250 stores -- the third largest mall in Canada and, measured by visitors, Toronto's biggest tourist attraction. The stores appeal to the budget conscious and spendthrifts alike. The Toronto Eaton Centre connects underground with the Toronto PATH network of shops and businesses -- great for cold or rainy days. More than just a place to shop, the four-level, glass domed Eaton Centre is of architectural interest and features a huge mobile of a flock of Canadian geese, Flight Stop, designed by artist Michael Snow.

The Hudson's Bay Company, Canada's oldest corporation, has several different store chains in Toronto and thousands across Canada. The flagship store is right across from the Toronto Eaton Centre on the corner of Bay and Queen. The Bay is a good old-fashioned department store with everything from clothes to household items, and a place to have a little lunch. The Bay is particularly famous for its Hudson's Bay Blanket, sold for more than two centuries.

We hope you will join us!

Tour Cost:

Land Arrangements	\$1,656
Airfare from and to Kansas City	\$744
Total	\$2,400
Single supplement.....	\$490

If you have any questions please e-mail our tour guide, Richard Byrum, at rwb@byrumkc.com any time, or call him at (816) 926-1054. Thanks!

To reserve your spot on this trip, just print this page, fill out the coupon below, and mail it with your check for the down payment (\$500) made payable to Lyric Opera Guild Trips by no later than **January 30, 2012**. We need this deposit in order to purchase the opera tickets and make down payments on our hotel, airline tickets and ground transportation. Then our trip leader, Dick Byrum, will be in touch and will advise you of the amount of your final payment, due **March 30, 2012**.

RESERVATIONS (please print legibly)

Full Names (as on driver's license): _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-mail address: _____

[check one] Single Room Double Room, sharing with _____

To reserve your spot on this trip, please send this form and a deposit of **\$500 per person** by **January 30, 2012**. The remainder of your payment will be due on **March 30, 2012**. Please make your check payable to **Lyric Opera Guild Trips** and mail it to Richard Byrum, 401 East 65th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64131.

If you wish to make your own air and/or hotel arrangements, let us know and deduct the air fare and/or hotel cost from your final payment (see trip cost summary below).

Thank you for joining us!

This trip includes:

- ♪ Round trip air fare between Kansas City and Toronto on Air Canada.
- ♪ Bus transportation to and from the airport and the Hilton Toronto hotel.
- ♪ Accommodations for five nights.
- ♪ Orchestra section seats to all four opera performances.
- ♪ Group meal at a leading restaurant.
- ♪ Tour to Niagara Falls including guide, wine tasting and sight seeing.
- ♪ All baggage and portorage fees, except for any bag fees the airline charges, which you must pay on your own.
- ♪ Tax deductible contribution to the Kansas City Lyric Opera Guild.

Cancellation Policy

You may receive a refund for any monies not expended less \$200.00 cancellation charge. If items have been purchased or deposits made based on your reservation, refund will be made only for the items that can be resold and only for the amount of resale. *We strongly recommend trip cancellation insurance to protect your investment in this trip.* Please call your travel agent for details.

Deviation Policy

All deviations from this brochure must be made in writing at the time of the reservation and are subject to availability and the tour leader's approval. The tour leader must acknowledge all deviations in writing for the requested deviations to be confirmed.