

A Preview of the Lyric Opera Guild's 2011-2012 Trips!



Domingo - DiDonato - Netrebko - Guleghina - DeNiese - Furlanetto - Hvorostovsky - Ramey - Vargas - Gunn

Dear Lyric Opera Guild Trips fans:

The major opera companies have now published their schedules for next season, and your Trips Committee has pored over them carefully to try to put together the very best selection of trips for you. We think all of them are winners! Here are the trips we plan to take...you will get further notification of them later, but we wanted you to be able to plan your calendar. And be sure to read our *Please note!* message below.

New York City, October 2-16

Two of the greatest dramatic operas ever written, and also two of the most rarely performed, are Verdi's early *Nabucco*, which launched his career (containing the famous "Va pensiero" chorus sung by thousands in the streets of Milan at his funeral many years later) and Donizetti's *Anna Bolena* (*Anne Boleyn*) one of the great "Three Queens" opera by the same composer who wrote *Lucia di Lammermoor*.

We will see both of these operas at the Met, featuring world-famous sopranos **Maria Guleghina** and **Anna Netrebko** in the two title roles.

This trip will also include a night on Broadway or an optional New York Philharmonic concert, along with *Il Barbieri di Siviglia* (*The Barber of Seville*) at the Met, with the hotshot mezzo sensation **Isabel Leonard** and the young tenor phenom, **Javier Camarena**. Baritone **Peter Mattei** reprises his famous portrayal of the title role.



Anna Netrebko as Anna Bolena

New York City, January 30-February 3, 2012

The hottest ticket at the Met next year is likely to be *The Enchanted Island*, a modern cobbled-together opera (*pastiche*) featuring the music of several composers including Handel, Vivaldi and Rameau. The plot is based upon Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, but the real story here is the singers: Kansas City's own superstar **Joyce DiDonato**, the inimitable **Placido Domingo**, the charming soprano **Danielle DeNiese**, and the riveting countertenor **David Daniels**, among others. Wow!



Joyce DiDonato and Danielle DeNiese star in *The Enchanted Island*

This trip will also include *Anna Bolena* (*Anne Boleyn*) with **Anna Netrebko** and Verdi's rarely performed *Ermani* with tenor **Salvatore Licitra**, baritone **Dmitri Hvorostovsky** and bass **Ferruccio Furlanetto**, plus other stars.

We will also spend a night on Broadway, and

try for tickets to the Met's *Götterdämmerung*, also being performed during this time period (but those tickets are going like hotcakes and may be sold out in presale).

Toronto, May 12-15, 2012

Did you know that Toronto is the home of the Canadian Opera Company (COC), the "Metropolitan Opera of

Please note!

Because of ever higher mailing costs, the Guild Trips are moving to an **e-mail based trip brochure system** this year. To make that work, we must have your current e-mail address! If you wish to remain on our mailing list, please call or e-mail Will Petrie at the Lyric Opera office: 816-471-4933, ext. ---, or wpetrie@kcoopera.org, and give him your current e-mail address. The only other notifications you will see will be in our newsletter, and often those will be too late for you to sign up for the trip.

If you want a hard copy of a brochure, of course you can print out the hard copy of the e-mail we will send, or print it out from the Lyric Opera's web site where our trip information always appears (www.operakc.org).

If you don't have an e-mail address, or really need a hard-copy brochure, please call Will and let him know that, and we will send out a limited number of hard copy brochures, but only to those who *specifically request it*.

Thank you for helping us conserve funds, so that every dollar of profit can benefit the Lyric Opera!

Canada,” which performs in the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, a spectacular opera house which opened just five years ago?

We have wanted to schedule a trip to Toronto ever since, and have been waiting for just the right combination of performances. This year, we think we have it.

We will see an intriguing double bill of Zemlinsky’s *A Florentine Tragedy* and Puccini’s comic *Gianni Schicchi*, a production of Handel’s ravishing *Semele*, and a new production of Offenbach’s comic drama *Les Contes de Hoffmann (The Tales of Hoffmann)*.

The COC presents outstanding international stars. *The Tales of Hoffmann* will feature tenor **David Pomeroy** (who was the Duke in the Lyric Opera’s *Rigoletto* in 2010) in the title role, and famed coloratura soprano **Erin Wall** as Antonia. The double bill stars Metropolitan Opera baritone **Alan Held**. The Handel opera features world-famous baritone **William Burden**, who sings with the Met, the San Francisco Opera and other great companies around the world.

By the way, who is Zemlinsky? He was an early 20th century German composer, very much of the romantic tradition, whose operas were ignored in his own time because of the then-popularity of the dissonant music of Schoenberg, Berg and others. It has taken a long time for his reputation to recover, but he is now considered one of the masters of the early 20th century and his operas are gradually being revived. You will love the lush melodies and brilliant orchestration of *A Florentine Tragedy*, one of his greatest scores.

This trip will also feature some touring of Toronto and a chance to see some of the city’s highlights...it is a charming European-style city, and the weather should be just about perfect in May.

San Francisco, June 20-22, 2012

Verdi and Mozart. What better a combination could there be? In San Francisco in June? Well, we thought it sounded about perfect, and hopefully you will too.

The San Francisco Opera’s summer season features Verdi’s early classic *Attila* which has two of the greatest bass singers in opera, **Ferruccio Furlanetto** and **Samuel Ramey**, along with tenor **Ramon Vargas**. It is being performed in tandem with Mozart’s always delightful *Die Zauberflöte (The Magic Flute)* starring young tenor **Alek Shrader** and baritone **Nathan Gunn**, along with young soprano **Heidi Stober** and coloratura soprano **Albina Shagimuratova**, who is “in demand everywhere” as the Queen of the Night.

Shrader, by the way, was one of the young stars in the Met film *The Auditions* a couple of years ago... he has now graduated from auditions and is performing light tenor roles around the country (and will be a Harriman Jewell recitalist next season here in Kansas City). Gunn is the athletic baritone who was in the Metropolitan Opera’s first HD simulcast of this opera, and he reprises the role of Papageno in San Francisco.

This short trip should be just the thing to start off your summer!



Placido Domingo



Dmitri Hvorostovsky



William Burden



Above: Erin Wall and Alan Held appear in Toronto. Below: Nathan Gunn as Papageno and Alek Shrader sing in San Francisco.



Samuel Ramey

Your Preview of Our 2011-12 Guild Trips!

Avenue of the Arts
1029 Central Street
Kansas City, MO 64105-1677



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 4042
Kansas City, Mo.