



A Preview of the Lyric Opera Guild's 2009-2010 Trips!

Domingo - DiDonato - Fleming - Florez - Mattila - Voigt Terfel - Gheorghiu - Alagna - Morris - Graham - Hampson

Is the Lyric Opera Guild going to continue to sponsor its popular series of opera trips for the 2009-2010 season? Does McDonald's have yellow arches? Check out our series of upcoming opera trips, and if your mouth is beginning to water, then join the company!



Joyce DiDonato

The flyer for our first trip, to New York in October, is enclosed with this season preview. Flyers for our other trips will be following in the summer and winter. Watch for them in your mail.

New York City - October 14-18, 2009

The Metropolitan Opera has such a great schedule next year that we had a really hard time making a choice for the best combination of operas for our Guild travelers. Often we do two trips to New York a year, but this year we've decided to take the plunge and try for three, because we just couldn't turn down any of these opportunities!



Rodion Pogosssov

On our first New York Trip, in October, you will see *The Barber of Seville* with Kansas City's own **Joyce DiDonato**, partnered by tenor **Barry Banks** as Almaviva and the latest Russian star, **Rodion Pogosssov**, in the title role. We'll also catch the wonderful **Renée Fleming**, now at the height of her impressive career, as the Marschalin in Strauss' delightful *Der Rosenkavalier*, along with mezzo **Susan Graham**, upcoming soprano **Miah Persson**, and tenor **Ramon Vargas**.

We will also have a chance to hear the Met's new production of *Tosca*, starring the incredible dramatic singing actress **Karita Mattila** and the ringing tenor



Karita Mattila

Marcello Alvarez. In addition, you will have an option of a Saturday matinee performance of the Met's always-spectacular *Aida*. We will also spend an evening on Broadway, attending the new Elton John musical, the inspiring *Billy Elliott*, which has been nominated for 15 Tony awards this year. You will also have an option of a **Christine Brewer** recital at Carnegie Hill (she starred in the Met's *Ring* cycle this spring). What a lineup!

Los Angeles - December 11-14, 2009

This fabulous weekend in Los Angeles will include your chance to get into the beautiful Disney Hall (consider it a preview of the coming Kauffman Performing Arts Center, as the theater was designed by the same acoustical firm), and also hear our favorite mezzo, Prairie Village native **Joyce DiDonato**, along with the stratospheric tenor **Juan Diego Florez**. Whew! And if that weren't enough, you will also hear the marvelous **Renée Fleming** in recital.



Renée Fleming

At Disney Hall, the Los Angeles Philharmonic will welcome pianist **Yefim Bronfman** and conductor **Zubin Mehta** for a performance of the Bartok *Piano Concerto* and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 3*. Come with us and check out the acoustics!

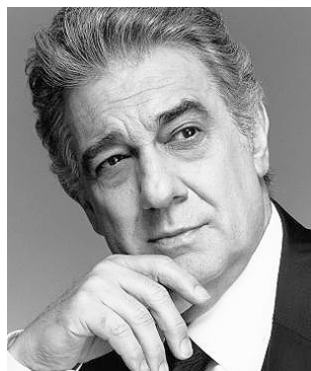


Juan Diego Florez

Then, at the Los Angeles Opera, **Joyce DiDonato** will perform *The Barber of Seville* along with Peruvian superstar **Juan Diego Florez** and baritone **Nathan Gunn**. Renée Fleming's recital will be at Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, where many great stars have performed.

New York City: January 18-22, 2010

The hottest ticket at the Metropolitan Opera this year, we understand, will probably be to Verdi's estimable but rarely done **Simon Boccanegra**, featuring none other than **Placido Domingo** singing the title character, a baritone role. That's right; he apparently has run out of tenor roles to sing!



Placido Domingo

Domingo, who in the judgment of a recent poll of experts is the greatest opera tenor ever (Caruso came in second and Pavarotti was third), will probably be retiring soon. This may be one of your last chances to hear him on stage. As if that wasn't enough, the performance will also feature **Marcello Giordano** and the great bass **James Morris**.

We will also have a chance to see the Met's new production of **Carmen** with opera's favorite couple, the impressive **Angela Gheorghiu** and **Roberto Alagna**. Also, we'll hear another Verdi rarity, the early **Stiffelio**, with the romantic tenor **Jose Cura**, **Angela Marambio** and **Andrzej Dobber**.

This trip will also include **Billy Elliott** on Broadway or an optional performance of the Met's spectacular **Turandot** with **Maria Guleghina** and **Salvatore Licitra**, which, if you haven't seen it, is one of the great experiences in the opera house.



Salvatore Licitra

New York City: April 20-24, 2010

This trip will include the Met's new production of **Tosca** with **Karita Mattila**, heartthrob tenor **Jonas Kauffman** and star baritone **Bryn Terfel**, along with the Franco Zeffirelli production of **La Traviata** with an all-star cast of **Angela Gheorghiu**, **James Valenti** and **Thomas Hampson**.

One of the hot Met tickets of the season is the company's new production of Handel's glorious opera **Armida**, and it stars none other than **Renée Fleming**, along with no fewer than three tenors: **Laurence Brownlee**, **Bruce Ford** and **Barry Banks**. Also, in case you haven't seen **Deborah Voigt** in Wagner,

this is your chance -- we'll see her in **The Flying Dutchman** (now when was the last time you saw that?).

As always, if you would rather see a Broadway show than one or more of the operas, just let us know and we will happily make the substitution.



Angela Gheorghiu

San Francisco: June 10-14, 2010

San Francisco is almost always pleasant in June, and on this trip we'll have some great performances to enjoy as well. First, we'll hear the famed **Michael Tilson Thomas** conducting the San Francisco Symphony and violinist **James Ehnes** in the Beethoven **Violin Concerto**, along with excerpts from Berg's opera **Lulu** with soprano **Erin Wall**.

Then it's on to the San Francisco Opera for three great performances: Gounod's timeless



Deborah Voigt

Faust with **Stefano Secco**, **Patricia Racette** and **John Relyea**; Puccini's rarely performed **La Fanciulla del West** starring **Deborah Voigt** and tenor sensation **Salvatore Licitra**; and Wagner's **Die Walküre** with international Wagner star **Nina Stemme**, **Eva-Maria Westbrook** and baritone **Mark Delavan**.

Also included on this trip will be a tour of the nearby Sonoma wine country with visits to several outstanding wineries and a pleasant group lunch. It should be four marvelous days to remember.

Santa Fe: July-August 2010

The Santa Fe Opera has not yet announced its 2010 summer season, but if we see a great combination of performances we're thinking of a journey to the Southwest, so watch your mail for an announcement!

We hope you can join us for one or more of our exciting Lyric Opera Guild trips. You'll make new friends, see some great opera, and enjoy performances from the most celebrated opera stars of today!