



CICERONI
T R A V E L

SUSSEX EXPLORED THE GLYNDEBOURNE FESTIVAL

MONDAY 5 – FRIDAY 9 AUGUST 2019 (5 DAYS)

LECTURER: TOM DUNCAN

£2370

- **Combine Glyndebourne's unique Opera Festival with private visits**
- **Operas include Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, Dvořák's *Rusalka* & Handel's *Rinaldo***
- **Wonderful choice of visits including Firle Place, Glynde Place & Marchants Hardy Plants**
- **Study Morning at Firle focusing on the Chippendale and Sèvres pieces**
- **Historic hotel in lovely Sussex countryside**



Glyndebourne

OVERVIEW

Glyndebourne is synonymous with all that represents excellence in the musical traditions of Great Britain. Year after year, this remarkable festival presents six operas during the summer months. Its reputation is undoubted and it continues both to enthral and to challenge in equal measure. Thus, it is with great pleasure that we offer you the opportunity to enjoy this unique Festival, choosing two or three of the following operas – Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, Dvořák's *Rusalka* & Handel's *Rinaldo*. You will be able to select two or three operas, to include each evening a seated interval dinner with wine. Our seats will be within the Stalls, Foyer Circle and Circle areas, offering excellent sight of the stage.

Our chosen operas will include Dvořák's *Rusalka*, a heartbreaking fairytale of love and loss and it will come vividly to life in an evocative production from Melly Still. Mozart has always been the most performed composer at Glyndebourne and his most magical comedy, *Die Zauberflöte*, returns after a long absence in a new production from Baarbe et Doucet. Finally, Handel has always been a favourite of Glyndebourne's and in 2019 the witty and irreverent Robert Carsen production of *Rinaldo* will return with an all-new cast.

Supporting the opera programme, participants will be able to enjoy a range of private visits to some splendid houses and gardens. Glynde Place is the next door estate to Glyndebourne and is the seat of the Brand family, the Viscounts Hamden. An Elizabethan courtyard house, it has recently been restored to great acclaim. Nearby, Marchants Hardy Plants is one of the UK's leading private nurseries, where the owners have created a 'reference' garden of outstanding beauty, particularly good in late summer, to which we shall be introduced.

We make a welcome return to Firle Place, the seat of the Viscounts Gage, for a very special and private Study Morning jointly led by Deborah Gage, Firle's Honorary Curator and Dame Rosalind Savill, former Director of The Wallace Collection. Firle is now home to many of the treasures once owned by the 1st Lord and Lady Melbourne, ordered for their London home on Piccadilly (now Albany) and Brocket Hall in Hertfordshire. These include two of the finest cabinets ever made by Thomas Chippendale, a remarkable service ordered from the Sevres manufactory in 1770-71, and some wonderful paintings.

For this gently paced visit, we shall stay at the comfortable **4* Buxted Park Hotel**, close to Uckfield and the Ashdown Forest and just ten miles from Glyndebourne. Set amidst 300 acres of parkland and Medieval in origin, the present house is a Palladian mansion built in 1722 with subsequent alterations and additions. Badly damaged by fire in the mid twentieth century, it was restored by the immensely rich Mr and Mrs Basil Ionides. He was an architect and in the reconstruction he incorporated a great many elements from recently demolished town and country houses, including, for example, sections of Chesterfield House in London and a stunning staircase designed by Lord Burlington. It will be an ideal base from which to explore the surrounding countryside.

ITINERARY OUTLINE

Day 1: Monday 5 August – Participants should arrive at our hotel, the 4* **Buxted Park** from 3.00 pm onwards. We have our first group dinner in the hotel - wine, water & coffee are included with all group lunches and dinners.

Day 2: Tuesday 6 August – We leave the hotel by coach and our first visit will be a private one to nearby **Firle Place**, the seat of the Viscounts Gage, for a very special and private Study Morning jointly led by Deborah Gage, Firle's Honorary Curator, and Dame Rosalind Savill, former Director of The Wallace Collection. Firle is now home to many of the treasures once owned by the 1st Lord and Lady Melbourne, ordered for their London home on Piccadilly (now Albany) and Brocket Hall in Hertfordshire. These include two of the finest cabinets ever made by Thomas Chippendale, a remarkable service ordered from the Sèvres manufactory in 1770-71, and some wonderful paintings. We have coffee on arrival and lunch before we return to our hotel. Mid afternoon we travel to **Glyndebourne**. Mozart has always been the most performed composer at Glyndebourne and his most magical comedy, *Die Zauberflöte*, returns after a long absence in a new production from Barbe et Doucet. We have a group dinner during the interval.

Day 3: Wednesday 7 August – This morning we drive the short distance to **Glynde Place**, the next door estate to Glyndebourne and the seat of the Brand family, the Viscounts Hamden. An Elizabethan courtyard house, it has recently been restored to great acclaim. After lunch we return to our hotel for a short rest. Mid afternoon we travel to **Glyndebourne**, for our chosen opera: Dvořák's *Rusalka*, a heartbreaking fairytale of love and loss, and it will come vividly to life in an evocative production from Melly Still. We have a group dinner during the interval.

Day 4: Thursday 8 August – After breakfast we explore our hotel, **Buxted Park**. Medieval in origin, the present house is a Palladian mansion built in 1722 with subsequent alterations and additions. Badly damaged by fire in the mid twentieth century, it was restored by the immensely rich Mr and Mrs Basil Ionides. He was an architect and in the reconstruction he incorporated a great many elements from recently demolished town and country houses, including, for example, sections of Chesterfield House in London and a stunning staircase designed by Lord Burlington. After coffee we drive the very short distance to **Marchants Hardy Plants**, one of the UK's leading private nurseries, where the owners have created a 'reference' garden of outstanding beauty, particularly good in late summer, to which we shall be introduced. We return to the hotel for a light lunch and mid afternoon we travel to **Glyndebourne**. Handel has always been a favourite of Glyndebourne's and in 2019 the witty and irreverent Robert Carsen production of *Rinaldo* will return with an all-new cast. We have a group dinner during the interval.

Day 5: Friday 9 August – After a leisurely breakfast the group disperses.

The Operas: Please note that the tour price includes tickets for two of the three Operas. If you would like to attend all three Operas, then the payment for the third Opera, which also includes dinner, will be an additional £315. As we are required to purchase all the opera tickets in December 2018 you are asked to provide an additional deposit of £240 per person if attending all three operas. In the event of you having to cancel this would also be non-refundable, unless we were able to re-sell the relevant ticket.

PRACTICALITIES

Price £2370 **Deposit** £480 (if attending 2 operas) £720 (if attending 3 operas)

Single Supplement £160 (Double for Sole Use)

Hotel 4 nights with breakfast at 4* Buxted Park Hotel, Uckfield

Price includes 2 Top Tier Opera Tickets, 3 dinners & 3 lunches with wine, water & coffee, all local transfers, entry fees & gratuities, services of Tom Duncan, Deborah Gage & Rosalind Savill

Not included Travel to/from Uckfield, 1 dinner, 1 lunch & a ticket for a third opera



CICERONI TRAVEL
2 The Square, Aynho, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX17 3BL
Telephone +44 (0) 1869 811167 Fax +44 (0) 1869 811188
Email info@ciceroni.co.uk Website www.ciceroni.co.uk

