



CICERONI
T R A V E L

OPERA IN THE COUNTRY THE GLYNDEBOURNE FESTIVAL

MONDAY 3 – FRIDAY 7 AUGUST 2020 (5 DAYS)

LECTURERS: PETER HILL & TOM DUNCAN

£2395

- **Discover Glyndebourne's unique Opera Festival**
- **Operas will include Beethoven's *Fidelio*, Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* & Handel's *Alcina***
- **Each opera introduced by expert lecturer and noted recitalist, Peter Hill**
- **Gently paced optional local visits**
- **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 undoubted, it continues both to enthral and to challenge in equal measure. We are delighted to offer you the opportunity to enjoy this unique Festival, choosing two or three of the following operas from the second half of the 2020 season – Beethoven's *Fidelio*, Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* & Handel's *Alcina*, 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.

2020 marks the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth in 1770 and to celebrate this occasion *Fidelio* will be directed by the up-and-coming young British director, Frederic Wake-Walker, and conducted by Robin Ticciati. It will be the first new production of the opera at Glyndebourne in nearly twenty years.

Mozart has always been the most performed composer at Glyndebourne and we shall include David McVicar's insightful production of Mozart's landmark work *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*. Inspired by the eighteenth century's fascination with the exoticism of the Ottoman court, it is a witty and light-hearted work without the darkness of his later operas.

Over the past two decades, Glyndebourne has consistently surprised and delighted audiences with its fresh take on works by Handel. The company is building on that record with the first major new UK production of *Alcina* for over 20 years. Set in a world of enchantment and magic, the opera calls for lavish stage effects, promising a visual spectacle.

Supporting the opera programme, Prof Peter Hill will join us when he gives a series of morning lecture/seminars on each of the three opera days, supported by piano accompaniment when the opera of the evening will be analysed and discussed. He has led opera tours for us to Dresden and Leipzig and his contribution will surely enhance everyone's enjoyment. On some of the three opera days we plan to include one or two local visits and we will ensure that there is plenty of time to relax each afternoon before setting out for Glyndebourne.

For this gently paced visit, we shall stay at the comfortable **4* Buxted Park Hotel**, close to Uckfield and the Ashdown Forest, just ten miles from Glyndebourne. Set amidst 300 acres of parkland the present house is a Palladian mansion built in 1722, with subsequent alterations and additions. Badly damaged by fire in 1940, 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, a stunning staircase designed by Lord Burlington, sections of Chesterfield House in London and handsome elements sourced from houses by designed by Robert Adam.

ITINERARY OUTLINE

Day 1: Monday 3 August – Participants can 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 4 August – After breakfast Tom Duncan will lead the group as 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, a stunning staircase designed by Lord Burlington, sections of Chesterfield House in London and handsome elements sources from houses by Robert Adam.

After coffee, Prof Peter Hill will give the first of his three morning **Seminar/Lectures**, introducing each opera, relating them to the wider development of the relevant composer, in this morning's case, Beethoven and his only opera, *Fidelio*. Each day he will use the piano to support his analysis. Peter is a distinguished lecturer and keyboard recitalist, known for his acclaimed recordings of Bach for Delphian, including the Well-Tempered Clavier, Goldberg Variations and French Suites. He has also recorded Beethoven's Diabelli Variations and is a noted interpreter of the piano music of Messiaen.

We have a light buffet lunch and mid afternoon we travel to **Glyndebourne**. 2020 marks the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth in 1770 and to celebrate this occasion *Fidelio* will be directed by the up-and-coming young British director Frederic Wake-Walker and conducted by Robin Ticciati. It will be the first new production of the opera at Glyndebourne in nearly twenty years. We have a group dinner during the interval.

Day 3: Wednesday 5 August – Mid morning Peter Hill will give the second of his **Lecture/Seminars** when he introduces Mozart's early opera *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*. We have a light buffet lunch and mid afternoon we travel to **Glyndebourne** for our second opera. Mozart has always been the most performed composer at Glyndebourne and tonight we shall see David McVicar's insightful production of Mozart's landmark work *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*. We have a group dinner during the interval

Day 4: Thursday 6 August – Mid morning Peter Hill will give the third of his **Lecture/Seminars** when he introduces Handel's *Alcina*. We have a light buffet lunch and mid afternoon we travel to **Glyndebourne** for our final opera. Handel has always been a favourite of Glyndebourne's and in 2020 the first major new UK production of *Alcina* for over 20 years will be staged. Set in a world of enchantment and magic, the opera calls for lavish stage effects, promising a visual spectacle. Taking the title role will be Russian soprano Kristina Mkhitarian, with Armenian soprano Nina Minasyan as Morgana, Anglo-French mezzo-soprano Anna Stéphany as Ruggiero and American contralto Avery Amereau as Bradamante. We have a group dinner during the interval.

Day 5: Friday 7 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 £320. As we are required to purchase all the opera tickets in December 2019 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 the tour this would also be non-refundable, unless we were able to re-sell the relevant ticket.

PRACTICALITIES

Price £2395 **Deposit** £480 (if attending 2 operas) £720 (if attending 3 operas)

Single Supplement £160, £200, £325 (Double for Sole Use – Classic, Executive and Suite respectively)

Hotel Upgrades Couples/Two sharing are in in Executive Room – Upgrade to Suite £250

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

Price includes 2 Top Tier Opera Tickets, 3 dinners & 3 buffet lunches with wine, water & coffee, all local transfers, entry fees & gratuities, services of Tom Duncan & Peter Hill

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



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