



OPERA IN THE COUNTRY THE GLYNDEBOURNE FESTIVAL

SUNDAY 8 – THURSDAY 12 AUGUST 2021 (5 DAYS)

LECTURERS: PETER HILL & TOM DUNCAN

£2495

- **Discover Glyndebourne's unique Opera Festival**
- **Operas will include Mozart's *Così fan tutte* & Verdi's *Luisa Miller***
- **Each opera introduced by expert lecturer & noted recitalist, Peter Hill**
- **Seated restaurant dinner included at Glyndebourne on opera evenings**
- **We visit Brighton's Royal Pavilion to see the newly restored interiors**
- **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 usually presents six operas during the summer months. Its reputation undoubted, it continues both to enthrall and to challenge in equal measure. Given the difficulties of this last year, the company has just announced its revised plans for a shortened 2021 season. We are delighted to offer you the opportunity to enjoy this unique Festival as we have been able to secure tickets for two operas from the second half of the 2021 season – Mozart's *Così fan tutte* & Verdi's *Luisa Miller*, 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.

Mozart has always been the most performed composer at Glyndebourne and we shall include Nicholas Hytner's highly regarded 2006 production of *Così fan tutte*, conducted by Riccardo Minasi. While "all's fair in love and war", what happens when love becomes the battleground? This sophisticated comedy, underpinned with darker undertones, is a perennial favourite.

Luisa Miller marks the emergence of Verdi from his 'years in the galley' to full maturity. In its first ever production at Glyndebourne, this intimate domestic drama, rich in human detail and emotion, shares many of the same themes that will later feature in *Rigoletto* and *La traviata*. Musically it is an amazing 'ensemble' piece. Christof Loy will direct while Enrique Mazzola will be the conductor.

Supporting the opera programme, Professor Peter Hill will join us when he gives a series of morning lecture/seminars on each of the 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, Leipzig and Parma, and his contribution will surely enhance everyone's enjoyment. We shall ensure that there is plenty of time to relax each afternoon before setting out for Glyndebourne.

We have a non-opera day when we take the opportunity to discover the restored splendour of the Prince Regent's Royal Pavilion in Brighton, to coincide with HM the Queen's return loan of many of the original contents. Later that day we visit the remarkable gardens at Marchant's Hardy Plants, close to our hotel.

For this gently paced visit, we 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 after it was badly damaged by fire in 1940. Restored by Mr and Mrs Basil Ionides, it incorporates a great many elements saved 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 designed by Robert Adam.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Sunday 8 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: Monday 9 August – After breakfast we travel by coach into **Brighton** to visit **The Royal Pavilion**. The most spectacular of George IV's many extravagant building projects, all the fixtures and original contents were removed to Buckingham Palace by Queen Victoria in 1847 where they were incorporated into the new East Wing, looking down the Mall. As that wing of the palace is now under restoration, HM the Queen has lent back to the Pavilion temporarily many of these treasures and we shall visit to see these remarkable objects in situ. There will be free time in Brighton to explore and have lunch, not included. On the way back to the hotel we shall visit the wonderful gardens at **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 and there will a group dinner later that evening.

Day 3: Tuesday 10 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 sourced from houses by Robert Adam.

After coffee, Professor Peter Hill will give the first of his morning **Seminar/Lectures**, introducing each opera, relating them to the wider development of the relevant composer, in this morning's case, Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. 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** to see include Nicholas Hytner's highly regarded 2006 production of *Così fan tutte*, conducted by Riccardo Minasi. *Fiordiligi* will be sung by Ida Falk Winland, *Dorabella* by Stephanie Lauricella, *Ferrando* by Alexey Neklyudov, *Guglielmo* by Huw Montague Rendall, *Despina* by Hera Hyesang Park and *Don Alfonso* by Alessandro Corbelli. We have a group dinner during the interval.

Day 4: Wednesday 11 August – Mid morning Peter Hill will give the second of his **Lecture/Seminars** when he introduces Verdi's *Luisa Miller*. We have a light buffet lunch and mid afternoon we travel to **Glyndebourne** for our second opera in its first ever production at Glyndebourne: **Luisa Miller**. This intimate domestic drama, rich in human detail and emotion is an amazing 'ensemble' piece. Christof Loy will direct while Enrique Mazzola will be the conductor. *Luisa* will be sung by Mané Galoyan, *Miller* by Vladislave Sulimsky, *Count Walter* by Evgeny Stavinsky and *Rodolfo* by Charles Castronovo. We have a group dinner during the interval.

Day 5: Thursday 12 August – After a leisurely breakfast the group disperses.

PRACTICALITIES

Price £2495 **Deposit** £600

Single Supplement £175 (Double for Sole Use – Classic Room)

Hotel Upgrades Couples/Two sharing are in an Executive Room

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

Price includes 2 Top Tier Opera Tickets, 4 dinners & 2 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 lunch



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