



OPERA IN THE COUNTRY THE GLYNDEBOURNE FESTIVAL

MONDAY 8 – FRIDAY 12 AUGUST 2022 (5 DAYS)

LECTURERS: PETER HILL & TOM DUNCAN

£2975

- Enjoy Glyndebourne's unique Opera Festival
- Operas will include Handel's *Alcina*, Puccini's *La Bohème* & Poulenc's *La voix humaine* & *Les mamelles des Tirésias* in a double bill
- Each opera introduced by expert lecturer & noted recitalist, Peter Hill
- Seated restaurant dinner with wine at Glyndebourne on each opera evening
- 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 enthrall and to challenge in equal measure. Given the difficulties of recent times, the company will once again present a full programme for the 2022 season. We are delighted to offer you the opportunity to enjoy this unique Festival as we have been able to secure tickets for four operas over three evenings from the second half of the 2021 season – Handel's *Alcina*, Puccini's *La Bohème* & Poulenc's *La voix humaine* & *Les mamelles des Tirésias* in a double bill, 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.

Handel's *Alcina* has never been performed at Glyndebourne so this will be a particularly exciting evening. "Spirits of the night and ministers of revenge, come to me..." gives an indication of how the seductive enchantress, *Alcina*, seeks love. This is Handel's last and greatest 'magic' opera with at its centre one of the composer's most complex heroines – at once witch and woman, villain and victim.

La Bohème is Puccini's tragic tale of love, deservedly one of the most popular operas in the repertoire. It needs little or no introduction, its many arias a constant of many a 'desert island disc' list while the doomed relationship between Mimi and Rodolfo tears at the heart-strings.

Poulenc is one of French music's most attractive modern composers, ever able to conjure magic from varied themes and in a variety of musical styles. This new production will pair contrasting tales when in *La voix humaine* we meet *Elle*, a woman on the edge of a tragic abyss, and in *Les mamelles de Tirésias* we meet *Thérèse* who abandons domesticity for a life of giddy romp and subterfuge!

Supporting the opera programme, Professor Peter Hill will join us once again 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, Parma and Glyndebourne and his contribution will surely enhance everyone's enjoyment.

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 severely damaged by fire in 1940. Restored by Mr and Mrs Basil Ionides, it incorporates a great many elements saved from then recently demolished town and country houses.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Monday 8 August – Participants can arrive at our hotel, the 4* **Buxted Park** from 3.00 pm onwards. We meet for drinks when Tom Duncan will introduce our hotel, **Buxted Park**. Medieval in origin, the present house is a Palladian mansion built in 1722 with subsequent alterations and additions. Severely 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 war-damaged and demolished town and country houses. These included for example, a stunning staircase designed by Lord Burlington, sections of Chesterfield House in London and handsome elements sourced from houses by Robert Adam. We then have our first group dinner in the hotel - wine, water & coffee are included with all group lunches and dinners.

Day 2: Tuesday 9 August – After breakfast we meet in one of the hotel's fine drawing rooms when Professor Peter Hill will give the first of his morning **Seminar/Lectures**, introducing each of the included operas, using 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. This morning he will introduce Handel's *Alcina*. This is one of Handel's greatest creations, the story of a son searching for his father, a woman searching for her fiancé, an enchantress searching for truth. We have a light buffet lunch and mid-afternoon we travel to **Glyndebourne** to see this production by Francesco Micheli, conducted by Jonathan Cohen with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. There will be a group dinner during the interval.

Day 3: Wednesday 10 August – This morning Peter Hill will introduce Puccini's *La Bohème*, set in Paris as winter enfolds not only the city, but the doomed seamstress Mimi, and her lover Rodolfo. This will be a new production - the first in over twenty years at Glyndebourne, directed by Floris Visser and Jordan de Souza conducts the London Philharmonic. We have a group dinner during the interval.

Day 4: Thursday 11 August – We meet after breakfast when Peter Hill will introduce tonight's double-bill operas, Poulenc's *La voix humaine* & *Les mamelles des Tirésias*. We have a light buffet lunch and mid-afternoon we travel to **Glyndebourne** to see the Poulenc operas mentioned above, with the London Philharmonic conducted by Robin Ticciati in a new production by Laurent Pelly. There will be a group dinner during the interval.

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

PRACTICALITIES

Price £2975 **Deposit** £750

Single Supplement £120 (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 3 Top Tier Opera Tickets, 4 dinners & 3 buffet lunches with wine, water & coffee (nb. all meals included), all local transfers, entry fees & gratuities, services of Tom Duncan & Peter Hill

Not included Travel to/from Uckfield



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