

LONDON & GLYNDEBOURNE

The Royal Opera, Glyndebourne, Holland Park
 Tuesday, June 4th through Tuesday, June 11th

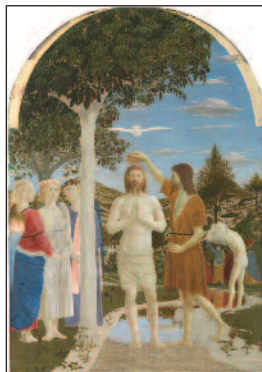


Glyndebourne Festival picnickers

Our 2023 London Spring Tour was quickly sold out, due to our private accommodations at the **Royal Automobile Club**, the Royal Opera's stellar performances, and our long overdue return to Glyndebourne. To repeat this experience in June of 2024, we look forward to **Covent Garden** for the season's highlight of Giordano's thrilling 'verismo' favorite, **Andrea Chénier** (with **Jonas Kaufmann** in the title role), and to **Glyndebourne** for an important *new production* of Bizet's **Carmen**. We will add a third operatic venue next year with **Holland Park**, where Puccini's **Tosca** will reflect this company's perennial success with the Italianate operatic tradition. A fourth event will be **Guys and Dolls** in "Nicholas Hytner's joyous production finding new depths in the classic Broadway musical" (NY Times).

Tuesday, June 4th, departure from New York's Kennedy Airport at 10:15 pm on American Airlines flight #104, arriving at London's Heathrow Airport at 10:30 am on the morning of the 5th. *Or independent travel to London.*

Our accommodations for **six nights**, with full **English breakfast** included, are at the private **Royal Automobile Club (RAC)** in the city's prestigious St. James's locale. The imposing neo-classical façade fronts onto Pall Mall, a stone's throw from St. James's Palace. The wide-ranging facilities include the Great Gallery and Broadlands dining rooms, the Cocktail Bar and Long Bar, a spacious Drawing room for reading, and a suite of saunas and hot-rooms adjacent to the Olympic-sized swimming pool. It is a comfortable 10–15 minute walk to Fortnum & Mason and the shops along Piccadilly, as well as the Royal Academy of Art and the National Gallery on Trafalgar Square. While the bedrooms are generally small, we are privileged to offer this opportunity of enjoying the RAC. **IMPORTANT: Any rooms for early nights are available on request only. Be sure to let us know if you wish to arrive before the 5th.**



Piero della Francesca's Baptism of Christ, National Gallery

Wednesday, June 5th, an Italian **dinner** will be arranged at one of the local restaurants. This will be an opportunity to meet other members of the Tour. *No performance this evening.*

Thursday morning, June 6th, we have planned a leisurely 2-hour **Walking Tour** beginning at 10:30 am. The area around the Club and St. James's Square is rich with British history, dating back to the 17th century development of London's West End. **Norfolk House** in the Square was owned by the Astor family and was the headquarters



Nicholas Hytner's revival of Guys and Dolls

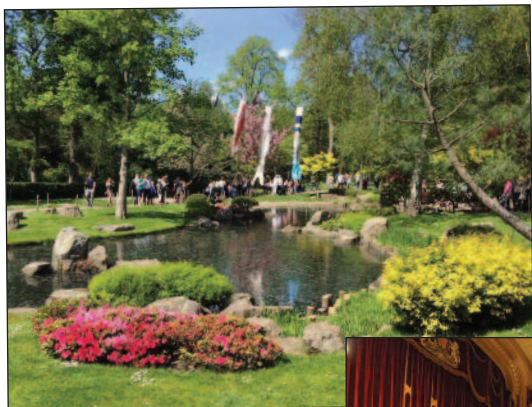
for Eisenhower's Allied Command during World War II. Nearby is **St. James's Church, Piccadilly** designed by Christopher Wren in 1684. Our stroll will continue along the varied luxury shops along **Jermyn Street** and will pass by the old-world **Gentlemen's Clubs** (White's, Boodle's and Brooks's) on St. James's Street before ending at **St. James's Palace**, opened in 1536 and a fine example of Tudor style.

Thursday evening, our tickets are confirmed for Nicholas Hytner's sensational revival of Frank Loesser's timeless musical, **Guys and Dolls**. The innovative and perfectly cast production at the Bridge Theatre on the Thames remains London's hottest show since its opening a year ago. "There's nothing I could wish more for theatregoers than to experience this for themselves." (NY Times)

The daytimes on Friday through Sunday are left free for independent activities in London. The Club's concierge desk will be happy to assist you with sightseeing plans and theatre matinees. The Royal Academy on Piccadilly and both the National Gallery and Portrait Gallery on Trafalgar Square are within a 10 – 15 minute walk.

Early Friday evening, June 7th, we will enjoy the festive atmosphere of **Holland Park Opera** about 45 minutes by bus from the Club. The covered open-air venue is set within the Park's extensive gardens best appreciated with a stroll during the intermission. The company has consistently received high

praise for a repertoire ranging from Verdi and Puccini to the 'belcanto' works of Bellini and Donizetti. At 7:30 pm,



*Holland Park
Royal Opera House,
Covent Garden*

our performance will be **Tosca**, Puccini's riveting melodrama highlighted by Flavia Tosca's celebrated 'Vissi d'arte', her lover Cavaradossi's pair of plangent arias – 'Recondit'armonia' and 'E lucevan le stelle', and the lascivious Baron Scarpia's 'Te Deum'. *Sung in Italian with English titles.*



On Saturday, June 8th, a late **lunch** will be served at the **Piazza Restaurant** on the 5th floor of the Royal Opera House. There will be ample free time to explore the shops of Covent Garden and to find a British tearoom prior to the evening's performance.

At 7:30 pm on Saturday evening, Music Director **Sir Antonio Pappano** will lead the forces of **The Royal Opera** in a performance of Umberto Giordano's **Andrea Chénier**. This sizzling music-drama of the French Revolution is famous for its dramatic arias and duets – Chénier's declamatory first-act 'Improvisato', the surging second-act love duet for the poet and Maddalena, the third-act trial by Robespierre's mock court with the show-stopping arias 'Nemico della patria' and 'La mamma morta', and the heroic final duet inspiring the lovers to choose the guillotine in defiance of tyranny. The sensational casting for the trio of principals will include German tenor **Jonas Kaufmann** as Chénier, American-Canadian



Royal Automobile Club

soprano **Sondra Radvanovsky** as Maddalena di Coigny, and Spanish baritone **Carlos Alvarez** as Carlo Gérard. Featured in supporting roles are **Rosalind Plowright** as the aristocratic Countess de Coigny and **Elena Zilio** as a heart-breaking Madelon sacrificing her grandson. The production is directed by Sir David McVicar with set designs by Robert Jones. *Sung in Italian with English titles.*



Jonas Kaufmann



Sondra Radvanovsky



Carlos Alvarez

Sunday, June 9th, is left free for independent concerts and other activities prior to the long trip to Glyndebourne on Monday. *No performance.*

Midday on Monday, June 10th, we will transfer 2½ hours by private bus to the **Glyndebourne Festival**, located near Brighton on the southern coast of England. Glyndebourne is the

private estate of the Christie family, where the intimate opera house is surrounded by glorious gardens and rolling sheep meadows. The largely wooden structure of the new theatre (opened in 1994) captures the atmosphere of an Elizabethan theatre and preserves a warm, intimate atmosphere with exceptional acoustics. During the long interval, we will enjoy the Glyndebourne tradition of a **picnic** in a covered space on the grounds. Our opera will be the eagerly anticipated *new production* of Georges Bizet's **Carmen**. Based on Prosper Mérimée's classic

French novel, 'Carmen' is assured its place in the operatic repertoire by virtue of the colorful orchestration, the vivid characterizations of the principals, and the familiar emotional arias and choral ensembles. This will be "a deeply human *new production* directed by Tony Award-winning **Diane Paulus**, a giant of American theatre, making her Glyndebourne debut." Music Director **Robin Ticciati** is the conductor of the **London Philharmonic** in the pit, and the cast features Tunisian-Canadian **Rihab Chaieb** as the sensuous gypsy opposite Ukrainian tenor **Dmytro Popov** as Don José. *Sung in French with English surtitles.* (We will return to London shortly after midnight.)

Departure from London's Heathrow Airport on Tuesday, June 11th, at 3:15 pm on American Airlines flight #105, arriving at New York's Kennedy Airport at 6:05 pm. *Or independent departure.*

London & Glyndebourne

Price per person, based on double occupancy	\$ 7,150*
Single room supplement	\$ 960

*The price reflects our considerable Patron contributions to both Covent Garden and Glyndebourne in order to secure excellent tickets.

You should be prepared to walk at least ten minutes to participate in this Tour.

Airfare NOT included.