

Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

10 Day Opera In New York



ESCORTED ITINERARY – PRE-SET DATES – NON-FLEXIBLE INCLUSIONS

A Celebrity Escorted Tour

Detailed Itinerary: Included meals are shown with the letters B, L and D. 7950DBL

Wednesday 9 January: Arrive New York

Meet your tour leader and fellow tour participants over welcome drinks and finger food in our hotel.

Thursday 10 January: Midtown and Verdi

This morning a specialist architectural guide shows us some of the remarkable 20th century architecture of Midtown Manhattan. We survey 'Beaux Arts' style buildings such as Grand Central, Art Deco skyscrapers and sleek 'mid-century modern' buildings. After a welcome lunch,

www.celebraionescapes.com

678-500-9548

Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

Belinda Montgomery guides us through tonight's performance at the Lincoln Center. Verid's *Otello* features soprano Sonya Yoncheva, who emerged just a few years ago and is now one of the most in-demand divas in the world. Australian tenor Stuart Skelton is an experienced exponent of the title role, while charismatic Venezuelan conductor Gustavo Dudamel conducts. (B, L)

Performance details

Venue: Metropolitan Opera

Program: Verdi, *Otello*

Performers: Stuart Skelton (Otello), Sonya Yoncheva (Desdemona), Željko Lučić (Iago)

Friday 11 January: Frick Collection – Rockefeller Center

This morning we visit the former Fifth Avenue home of 'robber baron' Henry Clay Frick. Set on an entire block, this elegant home has been a museum since shortly after Frick's death in 1913. It contains a superb collection of Renaissance to 18th-century European art, accompanied by exquisite furniture and decorative arts. This afternoon we visit the Rockefeller Center, completed in the Great Depression and a supreme example of New York skyscraper architecture. This evening is free, but there are plenty of performance options available, including a Broadway play or musical, the New York Philharmonic and Carnegie Hall. (B)

Saturday 12 January: Art and Design and a Met Matinee

After a talk on *Adriana Lecouvreur* we depart the hotel on foot, calling in first at the Museum of Art and Design, overlooking Central Park on Columbus Circle. The Museum hosts constantly-changing exhibitions of decorative arts and design from around the world. We continue the short distance to the Lincoln Center, and our matinee performance. Seeing the great Russian diva Anna Netrebko live will surely be a highlight for many tour participants. (B)

Performance details

Venue: Metropolitan Opera

Program: Francesco Cilea, *Adriana Lecouvreur*

Performers: Anna Netrebko (Adriana), Piotr Beczala (Maurice), Anita Rachvelishvili (The Princess), Gianandrea Noseda (conductor)

Sunday 13 January: Neue Galerie, Central Park

The Neue Galerie, on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, was established by the art dealer Serge Sabarsky and the art-loving entrepreneur Ronald S Lauder. The collection focuses on early 20th-century painting and decorative arts from Vienna, and its centrepiece is Gustav Klimt's portrait of Adele Bloch Bauer, subject of the recent film, *The Woman in Gold*. Our before-hours tour will also include a visiting exhibition of early 20th-century art (the Neue regularly holds exhibitions of the highest calibre). This afternoon, if the weather is good, we stroll through Central Park, once dubbed 'the largest work of art in New York', for the remarkable landscaping

Celebration

· ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

by Calvert Vaux and Frederick Law Olmsted. Along the way we learn a little of the park's history and design. Alternatively, you might like to catch a Sunday matinee performance at Carnegie Hall or a Broadway theatre. (B)

Monday 14 January: The Met Museum and Verdi

This morning has been set aside to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art, whose 54 departments contain paintings, decorative arts and artefacts from all corners of the globe, covering more than 3,000 years of human history. Rather than trying to cover the whole collection, our visit will focus on one or two departments and a selection of the special exhibitions that are showing. We may also call in at the Met's new campus on Madison Avenue, the Met Breuer. After lunch at the Museum, Belinda. In the afternoon there is a pre-performance talk on Verdi's much-loved *Aida*, a mix of scenic grandeur and intimate emotions. Before the performance we will share a light dinner. (B, D)

Performance Details

Venue: Metropolitan Opera

Program: Verdi, *Aida*

Performers: Sondra Radvanovsky (*Aida*), Yonghoon Lee (*Radames*), Dolora Zajick (*Amneris*), Roberto Frontali (*Amonasro*), Nicola Luisotti (conductor)

Tuesday 15 January: Guggenheim and Debussy

In the mid-morning there is a background talk on Claude Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande*. As the work and the musical style will be unfamiliar, Belinda Montgomery's careful analysis will add greatly to your understanding and enjoyment. In the afternoon we head to the Guggenheim Museum on the Upper East Side. Housed in Frank Lloyd Wright's iconic spiral-shaped building on Fifth Avenue, the Guggenheim has both an excellent permanent collection and large-scale visiting exhibitions of modern art. This evening we return to the Lincoln Center for our performance. (B)

Performance details

Venue: Metropolitan Opera

Program: Debussy, *Pelléas et Mélisande*

Performers: Isobel Leonard (*Mélisande*), Paul Appleby (*Pelléas*), Yannick Nézet-Séguin (conductor)

Wednesday 16 January: JP Morgan Library – New York Philharmonic

Late this morning we visit the magnificent collection of the JP Morgan Library. In 1903 banker JP Morgan commissioned Gilded Age architect Stanford White to design a Renaissance-style pavilion to hold his precious literary collection. Spending the equivalent of \$900 million in today's

Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

terms, Morgan acquired an unrivalled collection, ranging from ancient Mesopotamian tablets to illustrated manuscripts of the Middle Ages, some of the first and rarest printed books, music manuscripts and important documents of American history. The collection has expanded beyond the original pavilion and now incorporates a Renzo Piano-designed atrium and nearby buildings. After lunch in the Morgan restaurant, Belinda introduces tonight's concert, featuring works from the very beginning and the very end of the Romantic Style. Renowned Israeli pianist Yefim Bronfman is joined by incoming chief conductor Jap Van Zweden. (B, L)

Performance details

Venue: David Geffen Hall, Lincoln Center

Program: Beethoven, Piano Concerto No. 2, Rachmaninov, Symphony No.2

Performers: New York Philharmonic Orchestra, Yefim Bronfman, Jap Van Zweden

Thursday 17 January : MoMA

The Museum of Modern Art, located a few steps from our hotel, contains a collection of European and American art from the 1880s to the present day and has had an immense influence on our understandings of modern art. A museum lecturer takes us through the highlights of the permanent collection in the hour before MoMA opens its doors to the public. After our tour the remainder of the day is free to enjoy the museum. This evening we make our final journey to the Lincoln Center. After our farewell dinner at the Grand Tier restaurant, we attend the the powerful Richard Eyre production of Carmen, a Met favourite since its 2009 premiere. An excellent international cast of mainly young singers guarantees a satisfying final evening. (B, D)

Performance details

Venue: Metropolitan Opera

Program: Bizet, *Carmen*

Performers: Clémentine Margaine (Carmen), Roberto Alagna (Don José), Aleksandra Kurzak (Michaëla), Alexander Vinogradov (Escamillo), Omer Meir Wellber (conductor)

Friday 18 January: Departure

The morning is free to relax or undertake last minute sightseeing. In the mid-afternoon there is a transfer to John F Kennedy airport for those returning to Australia.

Celebration

· ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —



Celebrity Host: Lindy Montgomery

A graduate of both the University of Sydney and the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, where she taught musicology for 13 years.

Lindy Montgomery is a music educator and performer with over twenty five years' of experience in her field. She has been involved in a number of school tours throughout Europe and the United States and has led groups to Germany, Canada and the USA for Academy Travel. She

has also toured widely throughout Australia, Europe and Asia as both a soloist and as a member of various choral groups.

Lindy holds a Bachelor of Music Education, majoring in piano from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music as well as a Bachelor of Music (Hons), majoring in singing from the University of Sydney. She has taught all age groups, from primary music, through high school and including thirteen years in the Musicology Department of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, tutoring in Aural Perception, Solfège and Harmony. Lindy currently holds the position of Co-ordinator of Vocal Studies at Ascham School.

As a soprano, Lindy has made many solo appearances with the Sydney Chamber Choir, The Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, Pinchgut Opera, Cantillation and Sydney Philharmonia Choirs. She is also a regular performer with smaller ensembles such as The Marais Project, Synergy Percussion and Halcyon.

Lindy's first tour with Academy was to Germany, focusing on cities with particular significance to the history of western music – Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden and Munich. She recently returned from Canada and the United States, where, among other musical delights, her group was treated to a private chamber concert in beautiful Quebec City, the mighty Boston Symphony and, naturally, The Metropolitan Opera. Future destinations include the sublime beauty of Prague, Budapest and Vienna.

For Lindy, the opportunity to lead an Academy Tour combines all her passions in one, immersive experience:

"I love to perform, whether it's singing in front of an audience, or holding forth on an upcoming concert or opera. Preparing a lecture and sharing my love of the repertoire with an attentive group really enhances the concert-going experience for me as well. Knowing that I have illuminated the music and provided informative context for my group is deeply satisfying. A

www.celebraionescapes.com

678-500-9548

Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

music tour with Academy Travel is exactly the kind of holiday I would choose for myself so there's a lovely sense of community and connection from the very start."

End of Services.

Ready to plan your journey? Contact us today ! 678-500-9548

Schedule Your Creative Planning Session Now!