

Kansas City
LYRIC OPERA
GUILD

Remember the good old days when you could travel to **Europe** with the Lyric Opera Guild? Well, as the pandemic begins to recede and European countries are opening up to international travel again, the good old days are returning! Please join us under the leadership of our friends **Rob and Barbara Seaver** and **Don Dagenais** for a trip to two outdoor Italian opera festivals, the **Verona Festival** and the **Puccini Festival**, in July 2022. We will try to make up for lost time...this trip should have something for every opera fan.

We will start in **Verona**, where the Verona Opera Festival has featured performances in the old **Roman Arena** for decades. These are always spectacular shows with large casts, international stars and impressive sets and costumes, designed for outdoor viewing. We will hear three Verdi favorites, *Nabucco*, *La Traviata* and *Aida*.

We will take day trips to Verdi's **birthplace**, his estate **Sant'Agata**, and to **Parma**,

Join Us on a Trip to the Verona Festival and Puccini Festival in Italy

July 6-17, 2022

the nearby town which had such a close association with Verdi throughout his career (and also known for a certain cheese). We will also visit **Mantova** (known as Mantua in English), home of the famous Duke of *Rigoletto* fame, and even see "Rigoletto's House."

Then we'll head for **Lucca**, a charming old walled Roman town, which is the birthplace of Puccini. We will visit **Puccini's birthplace** and his villa at **Torre del Lago**, and attend performances of *Madama Butterfly* and *Tosca* at the **Puccini Festival** in an impressive outdoor venue near his villa.

The trip includes your air fare, all opera tickets, ground transportation, touring and two meals a day (breakfast is included each day).

We know you want more detail, so here are our plans:

**Wednesday,
July 6 and Thursday,
July 7, 2022.**

We depart from



The Arena, the famous amphitheatre of Verona

Kansas City, fly to Europe overnight, and arrive in **Verona, Italy** the following morning. We check into the Hotel Bologna, have a bit of a rest, then take an easy orientation tour of the heart of Verona before having a welcome dinner and turning in for a good night's sleep.

Friday, July 8, 2022.

This morning we will enjoy some more sightseeing in Verona. In the early afternoon we will partake in a splendid group lunch. You will have some free time in the afternoon to explore more of Verona or just relax in one of Verona's sidewalk cafes. Dinner is on your own, and in the evening we will stroll to the Arena, the magnificent ancient amphitheater nearby for a spectacular Franco Zeffirelli-designed performance of Verdi's *Aida*.

Saturday, July 9, 2022. Today we journey to **Parma**, the historic city which was so important in Verdi's career. We hope to get a tour of the historic Parma opera house. We will enjoy a memorable lunch in the one of the great culinary centers of the world. We will see the famous Galleria Nazionale di Parma with its collection of



The sprawling Palazzo Ducale of Mantova (Mantua)

artwork by Da Vinci, Canaletto, Correggio, Tintoretto and others. In the evening we will be back in Verona attending a production in the Verona Arena, this time Zeffirelli's sumptuous production of Verdi's *La Traviata*.

Sunday, July 10, 2022. Today will be devoted to an exploration of the trails of Verdi. We will visit his **birthplace** as well as **Busetto** where Verdi spent his formative years, have lunch nearby and visit Villa Verdi in **Sant'Agata**, his country estate. Afterwards, we will return to Verona for a performance of *Nabucco*, Verdi's early masterpiece which brought him national and worldwide fame.

Monday, July 11, 2022. For our last day in Verona we will visit the **Basilica of San Zeno**, famed for its Romanesque architecture and Mantegna's magnificent alterpiece. This church was supposedly the place where Romeo and Juliet were married. We will also go to **Organo**, a district of Verona, for a tour of **Chiesa Parrocchiale di Santa Maria**, a church begun in the 6th century. After a group lunch you will have some free time on your final



The tree-topped tower of the Palazzo Guinigi, Lucca

day in Verona. Dinner is on your own (no opera this evening).

Tuesday, July 12, 2022. We will say goodbye to Verona and journey to **Mantova** (also known as Mantua), the setting for one of Verdi's greatest operas, *Rigoletto*. We won't see the opera, but we will tour the **Palazzo Ducale di Mantova** ("Ducal Palace"), the Renaissance-era **Basilica of Sant'Andrea** and "Rigoletto's house." We will lunch in Mantova. After lunch we will continue on to Lucca, where we will check into centrally located Hotel Ilaria. Dinner will be on your own.

Wednesday, July 13, 2022. We will have a walking orientation tour of **Lucca** this morning, where almost everything within the old city walls is within easy walking distance.

Lucca was one of the first cities colonized by the Romans and was important to the career of Julius Caesar. Lunch will be on your own. In the afternoon we will visit **Puccini's birthplace**, now a charming museum. This evening we will enjoy an excellent group dinner (no opera tonight).

Thursday, July 14, 2022. You will be able to explore some of the charms of Lucca on your own this morning. We will have a group lunch at one of Lucca's many fine restaurants. In the afternoon we will journey to the great Romanesque cathedral complex in **Pisa**, home of the famous leaning tower (campanile). Dinner will be on your own (no opera tonight).

Friday, July 15, 2022. In the morning we will visit **San Martino**, the cathedral of Lucca. Construction was begun in 1063 by Bishop Anselm (later Pope Alexander II).

This morning we will also tour the fine museum of the cathedral. After a fine group lunch we will spend part of our afternoon at the historic and gorgeous **Villa Guinigi**, the national museum housing artwork from the area in and around Lucca. The rest of your afternoon is free until we take the short ride to Torre del Lago, the site of the Puccini Festival, for an outdoor performance of *Madama Butterfly*.

Saturday, July 16, 2022. Today we take



The Puccini Festival in Torre del Lago

a side trip to the medieval town of **Pietrasanta**, once part of the Republic of Genoa. We will have a superb group lunch at one of Italy's finest restaurants. Afterwards we will explore Puccini's villa at **Torre del Lago**, which has been left much the way it was when he composed his famous operas there. This evening supper is on your own then we will return to the Puccini Festival for our last performance, *Tosca*.

Sunday, July 17, 2022. This morning we go to airport in Pisa where we will board our flight for the return trip to Kansas City, with memories of Verdi and Puccini on our minds.

We hope you can join us for the historical tours, wonderful food and spectacular operas at these two top-flight outdoor Italian opera festivals!

If you have any questions about the arrangements in Europe, please call our tour guide, Rob Seaver, at (203) 286-9542 or e-mail him at seaver1952@gmail.com. If your questions are about the airline arrangements or payments, please call Don Dagenais at (816) 444-7407 (home) (or (816) 665-8293 (mobile) or e-mail him at ddagenais503@gmail.com. Thanks!

Tour Cost:

Land Arrangements	\$6,400
Airfare from and to Kansas City	\$2,000
Total	\$8,400
Added single supplement (if you want a single room at the hotels)	\$1,500

Notes:

1. Our deposit amount for this trip is higher than usual because we have to purchase opera tickets early to be assured of good seats.
2. The air fare quote is based upon prices as of the time this brochure is distributed. The air fare is subject to airline price increases. You may make your own air travel arrangements if you wish and deduct the airline costs from the total.

Further information:

♪ In these days of Covid-19, you must be fully vaccinated to participate in this trip. We will require a copy of your vaccination certificate as well as your passports, which of course are necessary for all international trips.

♪ We are subject to whatever rules Italy may have in place regarding international travel and Covid-19 protocols. We will advise you of these sufficiently in advance so that you can comply. Your full compliance with these (such as, for example, completing any Italian entrance forms and obtaining any European vaccine passports) will be up to you, although we will assist as necessary.

♪ The opera schedules and productions are outside our control, of course, so these plans are subject to whatever changes the Verona Festival and Puccini Festival may make.

♪ These are all outdoor performances, which should provide additional safety from any potential Covid-19 effects. However, this also means that the performances are subject to weather conditions. We will

keep you advised on everything we know, but please pack appropriately.

♪ This trip is limited to no more than 20 travelers due to limited space at the hotels and on transportation vehicles. Your spot on this trip is assured once you send us the completed registration form at the end of this brochure, along with your payment of the full deposit amount.

♪ Please be advised that once we receive your reservation we will be purchasing opera tickets, booking hotel rooms and making other financial commitments on your behalf that are not possible to undo. Therefore, if you must cancel this trip for any reason, we cannot guarantee a return of your money and in fact may require additional payments to cover the amounts we have expended for you. Of course, we will try to minimize your financial exposure as much as possible, but we still advise that you purchase travel insurance on your own, which is not covered by the tour cost. We do not recommend any particular travel companies, but travel insurance is widely available from a number of different insurance providers. Please check the terms of your policy before purchasing.

RESERVATIONS – Verona and Puccini Festivals

(please print legibly)

Full Name(s) (as on passport): _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____

E-mail address: _____

Date(s) of birth (required by airlines): _____

[check one] Single Room
 Double Room, sharing with _____

Do you have any special dietary restrictions? _____

To reserve your spot on this trip, please send this form and a deposit of **\$2,500 per person** by **December 15, 2021**. *Please include a photocopy of your passport and of your Covid-19 vaccination certificate.* The reason for the amount of this deposit is that we will be spending considerable amounts to purchase airline and opera tickets well in advance of the trip. These trips often sell out quickly, so reservations will be honored in the order the checks are received. Your sending of this reservation form and your check constitutes a contract for you to join this trip.

The remainder of your payment will be due on **March 15, 2022**. You will receive an invoice prior to that time.

Please make your check payable to **Lyric Opera Guild Trips** and mail it to Don Dagenais, 5401 Brookside Blvd. # 503, Kansas City, MO 64112. If you wish to make your own air arrangements, let us know and we will deduct the air fare from your final payment (see trip cost summary above).

Thank you!