Our Lyric Opera Guild travelers have begged us for years to do a trip to London. We all love London, but there is one major problem: obtaining tickets to the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden. No opera trip to London would be complete without it, and tickets to Royal Opera House performances are sold out many months in advance.

Finally, however, due to the diligence of Rob Seaver, we have managed to figure out a way to get tickets to Covent Garden. It wasn’t easy and they won’t be cheap, but we can do it! In fact, Rob has been able to get us tickets to not one, but **two**, performances there in June 2023.

So...let’s go to London!

This trip will feature opera performances at the **Royal Opera House at Covent Garden** and also at **Opera Holland Park**, which is London’s charming longtime summer opera festival which performs in an open air (covered) theater in Kensington Park. We will also enjoy an entertaining in-the-round ballet at **Royal Albert Hall**. Several other venues have not announced their summer 2023 seasons yet, but we are planning to also include at least one performance at **Grange Opera**, another London summertime venue. Other possibilities for us are classical music concerts or recitals at **Wigmore Hall** and the **Barbican**. We will provide the details as soon as we have them, but we didn’t want to delay any further before getting you this brochure.

This trip will also offer fabulous tours. We will go to the **National Gallery**, which has one of the greatest collections of old master paintings in the world. We will also tour **Westminster Abbey** and see the tombs of Shakespeare and Handel, among other luminaries. Other destinations will include **Oxford** and its renowned university; **Salisbury Cathedral**; ancient site of **Stonehenge**; the **British Museum** which contains the Rosetta Stone and the Elgin Marbles from the Parthenon; and the reconstructed **Globe Theatre**. In addition we will offer optional tours to see the Crown Jewels at the **Tower of London** and view modern masterworks at...
the Tate Modern Museum. And did we mention a cruise along the Thames?

The “catch” is that we have to sign up early to make the first payment on our Royal Opera House tickets and get dibs on the best performances. The cost will be higher than we usually experience, and the initial payment is higher because of financial commitments that we must make early. But when will you have another chance to see two operas at the Royal Opera House?

Here is our plan:

**Wednesday, June 21.** We will depart Kansas City and arrive in London the following morning.

**Thursday, June 22.** We arrive in London and will have a bus orientation tour of the city on the way to our fine hotel. We will check into the Bloomsbury Hotel which is in the center of London. It is within walking distance of the Royal Opera House and the British Museum. We will have the balance of the afternoon to rest or to stroll around on our own and familiarize ourselves with the surrounding area. This evening we will have a welcoming group dinner.

**Friday, June 23.** We tour the world-famous National Gallery in the morning. After a group lunch we will go to Westminster Abbey to visit the tombs of Handel and Shakespeare as well as monuments to other composers and figures of British history. This evening we will probably attend a performance at Opera Holland Park. That company is offering Verdi’s Rigoletto, Puccini’s La bohème, Gilbert and Sullivan’s Ruddigore and a new opera by British composer Jonathan Dove called Itch (Dove is a melodic composer whose previous opera, Flight, is a contemporary hit). We do not yet know which opera will be performed on this night.

Another possibility is that the Barbican in London is offering a performance of Jody Talbot’s opera Everest. You might recall that it received great acclaim when done in Kansas City a few years ago.

**Saturday, June 24.** Today we will offer an optional tour to the Tower of London to see the fabulous Crown Jewels, and to the nearby Royal Albert Hall, London, England.
Tower Bridge. We will have a group lunch. The afternoon we will have an optional tour to the Tate Modern Museum or you can explore central London on your own. Tonight we plan to offer a performance at Opera Holland Park, depending on the schedule which has not yet been released.

Sunday, June 25. We will go to the Victoria and Albert Museum in the morning, the greatest museum in the world for decorative arts. We go to a 2:30 p.m. matinee performance at Royal Albert Hall of an entertaining in-the-round presentation of Prokofiev’s ballet Cinderella, then enjoy a group dinner.

Monday, June 26. Today we head off to nearby Oxford to visit that historic city with its world-famous university. After a group lunch in Oxford we will visit the ancient site of Stonehenge, then tour the magnificent Salisbury Cathedral before returning to London in the evening.

Tuesday, June 27. We plan to visit the British Museum in the morning and enjoy a group lunch. For those who wish, they can return to the British Museum in the afternoon (it’s too much to absorb in one visit!). This evening we go to Covent Garden for the Royal Opera House performance of Verdi’s Il Trovatore. The cast features Gregory Kunde, Ludovic Tézier, Rachel Willis-Sorensen and Jamie Barton, with Antonio Pappano conducting.

Wednesday, June 28. Today we will visit St. Paul’s Cathedral, tour the reconstructed Globe Theatre (the original is where Shakespeare’s plays were performed) and visit the always-vibrant Borough Market, London’s striking glass-enclosed food market. We will have a group lunch there. You can enjoy the rest of the afternoon on your own. Perhaps a visit to Buckingham Palace for the changing of the guard? Or maybe a stroll through Hyde Park. In the evening we plan to offer a performance to be determined.

Thursday, June 29. We will head for the boat dock at Putney and board a river cruise for an enjoyable ride on the Thames past many of the most famous sites in London, finishing at Greenwich. At Greenwich we will have lunch at a charming café overlooking the Thames. Then we will visit the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich. This evening we will attend a performance of Massenet’s Romantic opera Werther at the Grange Park Opera.

Friday, June 30. The day will be yours to further explore London. We will meet for a farewell group lunch at a restaurant near the hotel. In the evening we will offer an optional performance at the Royal Opera House of Verdi’s magnificent grand opera Don Carlo. The principal singers are Lise Davidson, Brian Jagde and John Relyea, conducted by Daniele Rustioni.

For those not caring to return to the Royal Opera, there are other possibilities. One is that the Metropolitan Opera orchestra, directed by Yannick Nézet-Séguin, is giving a concert at the Barbican of excerpts from Berlioz’ Les Troyens and Verdi’s Othello, with singers Joyce DiDonato, Renée Fleming and Russell Thomas. It is a one-night-only performance and it may be impossible to get tickets, but let us know if this interests you and we can try our luck. Another
possibility is that you could catch a play or a musical in the West End. At the moment we don’t know what will be playing, but as the trip gets closer we are happy to help you find tickets.

**Saturday, July 1.** Today we will bus to the airport for our return flight to Kansas City.

If you have any questions about the arrangements in the United Kingdom, 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!

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**Tour Cost:**

- Land Arrangements .............. $7,200
- Airfare from and to Kansas City ......................$1,900
- **Total .....................................** $9,100

Added single supplement
(if you want a single room at the hotel)......................... $2,500

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.

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Please see the next two pages for important notes about this trip and for the trip registration form.
Notes:

♫ We are limited to 18 tickets per performance at the Royal Opera House, so please keep this in mind in making your reservation, as the first 18 to sign up will get these tickets!

♫ The first night we are in London, on July 20, there is a performance of Wagner’s *Tristan und Isolde* at the Grange Park Opera. We are not including that as part of this trip because it’s a long opera and everybody will probably be tired after the overseas trip. But if you are an aficionado and would like to see *Tristan* that night, let us know and we’ll try to get you a ticket.

♫ As of the date of this brochure, neither the United Kingdom nor the United States have any Covid-19 or other health related travel restrictions in place. However, as a courtesy to others on the trip and for your protection, we require that you be vaccinated with at least the original two shots plus at least one booster shot to participate in this trip. We will ask for a copy of your vaccination certificate in case it is required by hotels, transport companies or otherwise.

♫ We will need to obtain copies of your passports, which of course are necessary for all international trips, and we will require a signed waiver of liability form in favor of the Lyric Opera of Kansas City.

♫ We are subject to whatever rules the United Kingdom may have in place regarding international travel and Covid-19 protocols. These may change in the future, of course. 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 entrance forms and obtaining any 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 producing organizations may make.

♫ 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 sell travel insurance. 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 insurance.

*If you wish to join us on this trip, please print the registration form on the following page, fill it out, and return it to the address provided in the firm with your check for the initial payment.*
Reservation Form
Lyric Opera Guild Trip to London – June 2023

Name(s) as on passport(s):
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

Address:
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

Phone number(s): _________________________________________________
E-mail address(es): ________________________________________________

☐ I prefer a single room (extra charge is $2,500).

Do you have any dietary restrictions? If so, please explain:
________________________________________________________________

Birth date(s) (required by the airline):
________________________________________________________________

Are you making your own airline arrangements? ☐ No ☐ Yes

Would you like to purchase an optional ticket to Don Carlo at the Royal Opera House? The price is $395 per ticket. ☐ No ☐ Yes

Reserve your spot on this trip by sending a deposit of $2,500 per person. Please send a check made payable to “Kansas City Lyric Opera Guild” for our receipt no later than November 1, 2022. Please write “Guild Trip to London” on the subject line of your check. Also please include in your envelope a copy of your passport and a copy of your Covid-19 vaccination card.

Mail these items to: Don Dagenais, 5401 Brookside Blvd. No. 503, Kansas City MO 64112.

We will bill you for your final payment, which will be due on February 1, 2023.

Thank you!