



Opera in Munich

Handel, Wagner & Purcell in the great Bavarian Capital

19–23 July 2023 (MJ 800)

5 days • £3,450

(including tickets to 3 performances)

Lecturer: Patrick Bade

Three performances at the Munich Opera Festival: *Semele*, *Tristan and Isolde*, *Dido and Aeneas*.

Stellar casts include René Pape, Stuart Skelton and Brenda Rae.

The Nationaltheater in Munich is one of the world's most dependable houses, and the Prinzregententheater has Jugendstil charm.

The city is the most enjoyable in Germany, and walks and visits are led by art and opera historian, Patrick Bade.

Munich is perhaps the most attractive of Germany's cities, and has always been a major centre for opera. The Nationaltheater is at the moment enjoying a reputation as one of the finest houses in Europe: 'La Scala may be grander... Vienna more stately, the Metropolitan more prestigious... but for all-round excellence in pretty well every department, Munich's Nationaltheater has the edge, both in matters of creature comforts and sheer dedication to the art'.

Opera apart, Munich is widely considered to be the most agreeable city in Germany in which to live, and rivals Berlin for wealth of art and historic architecture. Munich is everyone's favourite German city. The seat of the Wittelsbachs, who ruled Bavaria from 1255 until 1918 as Counts, Dukes, Electors and, from 1806, as Kings, Munich was a city which grew up around a court, not one spawned by trade or industry. Consequently, artistically and architecturally it is still one of the best-endowed centres in Europe.

Itinerary

Day 1: London to Munich. Fly at c. 12.40pm from London Heathrow to Munich. Tour the city by coach to see much of the best of Munich's historic architecture: Neo-Classical Königsplatz, historicist Ludwigstrasse, Jugendstil houses and the modern Gasteig Arts Centre. The first of four nights in Munich.



Munich, Frauenkirche, watercolour by E. Harrison Compton, publ. 1912.

Day 2: After the daily talk, set out on a walking tour which culminates in a visit to the Alte Pinakothek, one of the world's greatest Old Master galleries. The afternoon is free, though a visit to the Residenz with its exquisite Rococo Theatre by Cuvillies is recommended. Evening performance at the Prinzregententheater: *Semele* (Handel) with Stefano Montanari (conductor), Claus Guth (director), Brenda Rae (Semele), Michael Spyres (Jupiter), Jonas Hacker (Apollo), Jakub Józef Orłowski (Athamas), Emily D'Angelo (Juno), Philippe Sly (Cadmus/Somnus), Delphine Galou (Ino), Jessica Niles (Iris), Milan Siljanov (High priest).

Day 3: Drive out to Nymphenburg, summer retreat of the ruling Wittelsbachs. Set in an extensive park, there is a spreading Baroque palace and several delightful garden pavilions, the apogee of Rococo. Some free time. Early evening performance at the Nationaltheater: *Tristan and Isolde* (Wagner) with Juraj Valcuha (conductor), Krzysztof Warlikowski (director), Stuart Skelton (Tristan), René Pape (King Marke), Anja Harteros (Isolde), Wolfgang Koch

(Kurwenal), Sean Michael Plumb (Melot), Jamie Barton (Brangäne), Jonas Hacker (A shepherd), Christian Rieger (A steersman), Liam Bonthron (A young sailor).

Day 4: Morning walk to see more of the city's treasures, including the vast Gothic cathedral and the Asamkirche, a Baroque masterpiece. Free time in the afternoon, opportunity to visit more of Munich's many outstanding art collections. Evening performance at the Nationaltheater: *Dido and Aeneas* (Purcell) with Andrew Manze (conductor), Krzysztof Warlikowski (director), Ausrine Stundyte (Dido), Günter Papendell (Aeneas), Victoria Randem (Belinda), Rinat Shaham (Venus), Key'mon Murrh (Sorceress), Elmira Karakhanova (First Witch). This performance is followed by the one-act monodrama *Expectation* (Schönberg) with Andrew Manze (conductor), Krzysztof Warlikowski (director), Ausrine Stundyte (The Woman).

Day 5: Munich to London. Fly from Munich to London Heathrow, arriving at c. 1.15pm.

Opera in Munich
continued

Lecturer

Patrick Bade. Historian, writer and broadcaster. He studied at UCL and the Courtauld and was senior lecturer at Christie's Education for many years. He has worked for the Art Fund, Royal Opera House, National Gallery and V&A. He has published on 19th- and early 20th-century painting and on historical vocal recordings. His latest book is *Music Wars: 1937-1945*.

Practicalities

Price, per person. Two sharing: £3,450 or £3,280 without flights. **Single occupancy:** £3,970 or £3,800 without flights.

Included: air travel (Euro Traveller) with British Airways; accommodation as described below; breakfasts, 2 dinners and 1 lunch with wine; private coach for the excursions and transfers; admissions; tips for waiters, drivers and guides; all state and airport taxes; the services of the lecturer and tour manager.

Music: tickets (top category) for 3 operas are included.

Accommodation. Platzl Hotel, Munich (platzl.de): 4-star hotel located in the heart of the old city, a 5-minute walk from the opera house. *Single rooms are doubles for sole use.*

How strenuous? The tour involves a lot of walking and standing in museums and churches and should not be attempted by anyone who has difficulty with everyday walking and stair-climbing. Average distance by coach per day: 11 miles.

Group size: between 10 and 22 participants.