ARIAS ON THE HIGH SEAS
Two Unique Cruises for Opera Lovers

Schubert & Schumann: Piano & Lieder in Japan
Aboard Le Soléal • May 15-25, 2019

Opera in the Eastern Mediterranean
Aboard Le Bougainville • November 13-29, 2019
Dear Traveler,

The Metropolitan Opera Guild is delighted to announce the 2019 offerings for our Members Travel Program. This year, we journey beyond the Mediterranean, exploring the history and cultures of two ancient worlds, on two very special cruises—one along the southern shores of Japan, from Maizuru to Osaka in the spring; the other tracing the footsteps of ancient history through Greece, Turkey, Egypt, and Jordan in November.

Both voyages feature intimate musical programs performed exclusively for our guests, paired with excursions to iconic destinations ashore. Piano & Lieder in Japan will examine the rich array of Eastern tradition while immersing our travelers in the sublime music of Shubert and Schumann; while on Opera in the Eastern Mediterranean, we join the renowned bass-bartione José van Dam on the brand new small ship Le Bougainville, and enjoy one of our opera recitals in front of the ancient library at Ephesus.

Friends of the Metropolitan Opera Guild will comprise a small and congenial group aboard these cruises—all of our shore arrangements are private, and we will enjoy our own seating in the ship’s dining room. The remaining travelers onboard will include both international opera enthusiasts and members from other leading cultural institutions.

The quality and variety of sites to be visited along these historic shores make each of these itineraries truly one-of-a-kind. We hope you will join our fellow opera lovers for an unparalleled artistic voyage you won’t soon forget!

Sincerely,

Richard J. Miller, Jr.
President, The Metropolitan Opera Guild
Guest Performing Artists

Schubert & Schumann: Piano & Lieder in Japan
May 15-25, 2019 aboard Le Soléal

A Masters graduate in Musicology from the Sorbonne, Soprano DELPHINE HAIDAN trained at the Paris National Opera’s school. She has performed in productions such as Les contes d’Hoffmann (the Muse Nicklausse) in Paris and Zurich, La damnation de Faust (Marguerite) in Moscow, and more recently L’Enfant et les sortilèges (Cat and Squirrel) at La Scala. Her career has taken her international, including the Konzerthaus in Vienna and London’s Royal Albert Hall.

Pianist MAURIZIO BAGLINI boasts a brilliant career as soloist, chamber player, music teacher and artistic director. As soloist he performs on international stages such as the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, the Teatro alla Scala of Milan, the Kennedy Center of Performing Arts, and is guest of prestigious festivals including Yokohama Piano Festival and Australian Chamber Music Festival. Maurizio’s record production includes works by Schumann, Liszt, Brahms, Schubert, Domenico Scarlatti, and Mussorgsky.

GENEVIEVE LAURENCEAU began playing violin at the age of three. After several international successes, she was invited to perform as a soloist with major international orchestras under the direction of conductors such as Michel Plasson. From 2007 until 2017, Geneviève was first violin and super soloist with the Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse. In 2009, she founded the “Festival de Musique d’Obernai” of which she is artistic director.

Clarinetist PIERRE GÉNISSON is one of the leading wind instrumentalists of his generation. At the age of 21, he was appointed principal clarinet of the Orchestre Symphonique de Bretagne. He has regularly performed as a guest soloist with major European and international orchestras. Pierre splits his time between France and the U.S., performing as a soloist in New York, Los Angeles, Austin, San Francisco, Philadelphia, and Seattle.

Cellist SILVIA CHIESA boasts a brilliant solo career, touring regularly in Europe, China, the U.S., Australia, and Russia. In 2005 she founded a Duo with pianist Maurizio Baglini, which has been applauded on international stages such as Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome, Salle Gaveau in Paris, and Oriental Art Center in Shanghai. She is artist in residence for the Amiata Piano Festival.

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A Brussels native, bass baritone JOSE VAN DAM is one of today’s leading opera performers. Since his debut in Paris, in Les Troyens, he has been the regular guest at the world’s most important opera houses and festivals (the Metropolitan Opera, Paris, Covent Garden, La Scala of Milan, Wiener Staatsoper, etc.). His most famous roles include Falstaff, Simon Boccanegra, Philip II (Don Carlos), Don Giovanni, and many others. Van Dam also developed a career in the oratorio and lied fields; his repertoire is just as wide. He received the rank of Knight in the order of the Legion of Honor, and in 1998 was ennobled by King Albert II.

ISABELLE KABATU, Belgian soprano of African origins, won first prize at the prestigious Viotti competition in Varallo, Italy, in 1994. In the same year, she made her career debut in the title role of La Traviata in Lisbon. Her repertoire covers Italian, German, and French operas. Isabelle has taken on dramatic roles with Norma, Abigaille (Nabucco), Lady Macbeth, Gioconda, Didon (The Trojans) and Brünnhilde in Wagner’s Ring Cycle.

Baritone LIONEL LHOTE graduated from Brussels’ Conservatoire Royal de Musique. His career started at Opéra Royal de Wallonie, and since his international breakthrough, he has appeared as Sharpless in Madame Butterfly, Faninal in Rosenkavalier, Don Alfonso in Naze di Figaro, and many others. He distinguished himself in the role of Somarone in two different productions of Berlioz’s Béatrice et Bénédicte.

Pianist ANTOINE PALLOC has worked with singers such as Béatrice Uria-Monzon and Frederica von Stade. Recent engagements have taken him to San Francisco, Berlin, Nice, Toulouse, Strasbourg, Rio, as well as Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall, and the Kennedy Center.

Belgian tenor MARC LAHO studied voice and trumpet at Académie Royale de Beaux-Arts in Liège. He made his debut at Opéra de Monte Carlo in the role of the Officer in J. Massenet Thérese. His repertoire includes the roles of Don Ottavio in Don Giovanni, Fernando in Donizetti La Favorita, and Nemorino in L’elisir d’amore. Recently he has been heard in The Damnation of Faust at Bolshoi Moscow and at the Colmar Festival.

STEFANO MAZZONIS DI PRALAFERA, director of the Royal Opera of Wallonia, will join our performers onboard for lectures and discussion.
Itinerary

**Wednesday, May 15, 2019**
**FLY FROM THE USA**

**Thursday, May 16**
**OSAKA, JAPAN**
Arrive in Osaka and transfer to the Imperial Hotel. In the evening gather with fellow travelers for a welcome dinner. (D)

**Friday, May 17**
**OSAKA | MAIZURU | EMBARK**
Join an excursion that includes Osaka Castle and Shitennoji Temple, one of Japan’s oldest temples. After lunch at a local restaurant, transfer to Maizuru to embark Le Soléal. (B,L,D)

**Saturday, May 18**
**SAKAIMINATO | MATSUE CASTLE | SAKAIMINATO**
Made entirely out of pine, Matsue Castle was built in 1611, and, with a partial reconstruction in 1692, never having been ransacked or burned, remains as it was in the 17th century. Explore the five-story façade, which offers views of the city, Lake Shinji, and the distant mountains. Visit the Adachi Museum of Art and its gardens. The museum houses numerous works by the great masters of modern Japanese art. (B,L,D)

**Sunday, May 19**
**BUSAN, SOUTH KOREA**
Visit Haedong Yonggungsa Temple, originally built in 1376 by in the Enshu landscape style of stroll garden. In the afternoon travel to Kurashiki for a visit to the Ohara Museum of Art, as well as the Ohashi Family’s House, typical of wealthy merchants of the 18th century. (B,L,D)

**Monday, May 20**
**NAGASAKI, JAPAN**
Our excursion will take us to Dijemma, once an island in Nagasaki harbor, which was the home to Dutch traders during the Tokugawa period. We will visit the Glover Mansion and Garden and the Sotukuji Temple, one of the finest examples of Chinese Ming dynasty temple architecture in the world. Also tour the Atomic Bomb Museum and Peace Park. (B,L,D)

**Tuesday, May 21**
**KAGOSHIMA | CHIRAN | KAGOSHIMA**
Drive through picturesque tea plantations to reach Chiran, a small town that is renowned for its collection of samurai houses. Several of the residences are still being used by samurai descendants. The gardens display a unique style and date from the 18th-19th century. (B,L,D)

**Wednesday, May 22**
**UWAJIMA | UCHIKO**
Uchiko’s picturesque old street of Yokaichi is lined with old buildings dating from the last years of the Edo period and the early years following the Meiji Restoration. Walk past the old sake brewery, the Amazake Chaya Teahouse, the Uchiko-za Theater and the Kami Hagi-tei, the former home and workshop of one of Uchiko’s most influential families. (B,L,D)

**Thursday, May 23**
**HIROSHIMA | ITSUKUSHIMA SHRINE**
Visit Hiroshima’s Peace Memorial Park and Museum and the Atomic Bomb Dome. In the afternoon, our excursion takes us to the Itsukushima Shrine, a holy place of Shintoism since the earliest times. These structures provide an exquisite example of the Japanese habit of turning art to worship. Itsukushima’s balance of the sea, the buildings, and the forest on Mt. Misen are recognized as the standard of beauty in this tradition. (B,L,D)

**Friday, May 24**
**TAMANO | OKAYAMA | KURASHIKI | TAMANO**
Our first stop in Okayama is the Korakukan Garden, considered one of the three best landscape gardens in Japan. With an area of 133,000 square miles, the garden was built in 1700 by in the Enshu landscape style of stroll garden. In the afternoon travel to Kurashiki for a visit to the Ohara Museum of Art, as well as the Ohashi Family’s House, typical of wealthy merchants of the 18th century. (B,L,D)

**Saturday, May 25**
**OSAKA | DISEMBARK | FLY TO THE USA** (B)
Hellenistic and Roman excavation site includes the ancient theater, the Library of Celsus, terrace houses with mosaics and frescoes, as well as early Byzantine remains. (B,L,D)

**Tuesday, November 19**

**RHODES, GREECE**

Rhodes was known in the ancient world for its schools of philosophy and rhetoric. Discover Rhodes Town’s labyrinthine streets and splendid open plazas, as we visit the Palace of the Grand Master of the Crusader Knights of St, John and the Archaeological Museum. (B,L,D)

**Wednesday, November 20**

**AT SEA** (B,L,D)

**Thursday, November 21**

**CROSSING THE SUEZ CANAL** (B,L,D)

**Friday November 22**

**SAFAGA, EGYPT | LUXOR**

Disembark in Safaga for an overnight excursion to Luxor. Built on the site of the ancient city of Thebes, Luxor was the capital of Egypt from 1550 to 1070 B.C. Visit Luxor Temple, originally built during the reign of Amenophis the III, and then expanded by Ramses II. Explore the Luxor Museum and its displays of pottery and jewelry including an assortment of items from the Theban temples and necropolis. (B,L,D)

**Saturday, November 23**

**LUXOR | SAFAGA**

Tour the Valley of the Kings, where most of the kings of the 18th, 19th, and 20th dynasties were buried. From here, proceed for a visit to Queen Nefertari’s tomb. In the afternoon visit the Karnak Temple Complex. Pass through the Avenue of the Sphinxes, admitting the obelisks and monuments that line the path to the Great Temple of Amun. Return to Safaga and reboard *Le Bougainville*. (B,L,D)

**Sunday, November 24**

**AT SEA | AQABA, JORDAN** (B,L,D)

**Monday, November 25**

**AQABA | DISEMBARK | FLY TO THE USA** (B)

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**OPTIONAL POST-CRUISE EXTENSION**

**PETRA & THE TREASURES OF JORDAN**

Spend more time in the fascinating ancient world of Jordan with an extension that includes a tour of the breathtaking ruins of Petra and the holy sites of Amman, the capital.
Schubert & Schumann: Piano & Lieder in Japan

FARES  PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

All accommodations aboard Le Soleil face outside affording sea views, and other than the eight superior staterooms, all feature a private balcony. All staterooms include a bedroom with either two twin-size beds or a king-size bed, sitting area (separate living room for the Prestige Suites), mini-bar, safe, spacious closets, climate control, telephone, WiFi access, TV with movies on demand, iPod player, and bathroom with marble vanity, shower, and fine amenities.

- SUPERIOR STATEROOMS  $9,710
- DELUXE STATEROOMS  $10,200
- PRESTIGE STATEROOMS, DECK 4  $11,000
- PRESTIGE STATEROOMS, DECK 5  $11,370
- PRESTIGE STATEROOMS, DECK 6  $11,750
- DELUXE SUITES  $15,020
- PRESTIGE SUITES, DECK 5  $19,150
- PRESTIGE SUITES, DECK 6  $19,920
- OWNER’S SUITE  $22,370

Single Occupancy Supplement: Singles are available in Deluxe Staterooms (Deck 3) at the rate of $16,580. Other cabin categories available, subject to availability. Please contact us for more details.

- Owner’s Suite—Deck 6
- Prestige Suites—Decks 5 - 6
- Deluxe Suites—Deck 6
- Prestige Staterooms—Decks 4 - 5 - 6
- Deluxe Staterooms—Deck 3

Opera in the Eastern Mediterranean

FARES  PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

All accommodations aboard Le Bougainville are outside staterooms and suites, and all feature a private balcony. All cabins include a bedroom with either two twin-size beds or a queen-size bed, mini-bar, safe, spacious closets, climate control, telephone, WiFi access, TV with movies on demand, iPod player, and private bathroom with fine amenities.

- DELUXE STATEROOMS  $9,210
- PRESTIGE STATEROOMS, DECK 4  $9,970
- PRESTIGE STATEROOMS, DECK 5  $10,310
- PRESTIGE STATEROOMS, DECK 6  $10,680
- DELUXE SUITES  $13,810
- PRESTIGE SUITES, DECK 5  $17,750
- PRESTIGE SUITES, DECK 6  $18,490
- PRIVILEGE SUITE  $19,270
- GRAND DELUXE SUITE, DECK 6  $20,910
- OWNER’S SUITE  $26,120

Single occupancy staterooms available in Deluxe Staterooms (Deck 3) at a rate of $16,180 and Prestige Staterooms (Deck 4) at a rate of $17,700. Subject to availability.

- Owner’s Suite—Deck 6
- Privilege Suites—Decks 5 - 6
- Grand Deluxe Suites—Decks 5 - 6
- Prestige Suites—Decks 5 - 6
- Deluxe Suites—Decks 3 - 4 - 5 - 6
- Prestige Staterooms—Decks 4 - 5 - 6
- Deluxe Staterooms—Deck 3

* Non-contractual plans, ship under construction.
Included
• One night at hotel in Osaka with dinner and breakfast (Schubert & Schuman)
• One night at hotel in Athens with welcome reception; one night at hotel in Luxor (Opera in the Eastern Mediterranean)
• Comprehensive 8-night cruise (Schubert & Schuman) aboard the deluxe Le Soléal
• Comprehensive 10-night cruise (Opera in the Eastern Mediterranean) aboard the deluxe Le Bougainville.
• Complete program of shore excursions and activities, led by expert guides
• Performances by featured guest artists
• Airport/hotel/pier transfers and handling of luggage
• All meals aboard ship including early riser's coffee & pastry, breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, and dinner
• Complimentary open bar aboard ship
• Gratuities to shipboard personnel, porters, guides, and drivers
• Port taxes and charges
• Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions aboard ship
• 24-hour room service
• Comprehensive pre-departure materials

Not included
Airfare; airport taxes; passport and visa fees and/or immigration reciprocity taxes (if applicable); trip cancellation and baggage insurance; medical and repatriation insurance; meals and beverages other than those specified above; personal expenses (such as telephone, Internet, laundry service, hair salon services, à la carte spa treatments, etc.); optional extension to Petra

TERMS & CONDITIONS
Compagnie du PONANT, PONANT Group USA, LLC, and PONANT USA LLC are hereafter collectively referred to as “PONANT GROUP.” Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the passenger and PONANT GROUP and the tour’s sponsoring organization.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: In order to secure a booking, the guest is required to pay a deposit of 25% of tour fare. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.

CANCELLATION, MODIFICATION PENALTIES & REFUNDS: All cancellations or modifications must be in writing, and any and all guests not reporting for departure or prevented from reporting for departure, for any reason whatsoever the benefit of services included in the program cannot claim any refund. PONANT GROUP shall not be required to refund any monies to any guest who must leave the cruise prematurely for any reason, nor shall PONANT GROUP be held responsible for any costs, fees, damages or causes of action which result from the transportation expenses incurred by guest’s early departure.

For any deposited or fully paid booking, cancellation penalties will be assessed as noted below. These cancellation penalties are applicable on all services booked with PONANT GROUP.

• From confirmation of booking date until 91 days prior departure: 100% of full fare.
• 90 - 61 days prior departure: 50% of full fare.
• Within 60 days prior departure: 100% of full fare.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Passengers shall be responsible for subscribing to cancellation/luggage/assistance repatriation/medical insurance(s).

ITINERARY: PONANT GROUP reserves the right to withdraw and/or cancel a sailing to make changes in the itinerary whenever, in its sole judgment, or in the judgment of the vessel owner or operator, conditions warrant it.

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS/LIMIT OF LIABILITY: The passenger agrees that PONANT GROUP acts as agent and/or trustee for any person, ground and maritime agents and subcontractors, who provide any service forming, or in connection with, any part of the cruise. Transportation services to the port of departure, transfers to the ship, including, as applicable, hotel room and restaurant bookings or guided tours, are provided by independent suppliers who are not employees of PONANT GROUP. In this respect, PONANT GROUP acts only as an agent and shall not be held liable for said services or for acts or omissions of sub-contractors or other contractors.

PONANT GROUP shall not be held liable for bodily injury to, or death of passengers, or for loss of, or damage to luggage or other personal belongings, unless it is proved that the carrier has information or knowledge of any service or activity, or for bodily injury, death, or damage to luggage or other personal belongings, unless it is proved that the carrier has information or knowledge of any service or activity, or for bodily injury, death, or damage to luggage or other personal belongings, unless it is proved that the carrier has information or knowledge of any service or activity, or any other event beyond the control of PONANT GROUP.

RATES: The prices given at the time of booking are based on economic conditions known on May 1, 2018 and are subject to change. These conditions are, amongst others, the cost of transport and fuel, relevant duties and taxes for the proposed operating period (ports, embarkation and disembarkation taxes, entrance costs to tourist sites), currency exchange rates relevant to the pricing of these programs. PONANT GROUP reserves the right to adjust the legal limits of applicable laws to vary the prices if necessary. All variation of the cost of transport, fuel, taxes, duties and visa costs will be passed on within the voyage cost. Additionally, any surcharge levied will be increased to include an amount to cover agent’s commission. Any change in fare cannot be imposed less than 60 days prior to departure. For the cruise-only rate, daily surcharge, if any, will be calculated based on S= fuel variation\* x daily consumption**

Ship capacity ***

JURISDICTION: These terms & conditions are subject to and interpreted according to international regulations and concern the transportation of passengers and their luggage from the place of boarding the ship to the moment of disembarking, as well as at ports of departure, destination, or stopover. PONANT GROUP shall incur no liability outside this period of time. Without prejudice to required legal regulations, any actions relative to the interpretation, or execution of this agreement shall be brought before the competent courts of Marseille- France. PONANT GROUP is not responsible for omissions, printing and/or presentation errors and reserves the right to make corrections as required.

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REGISTRATION
Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for $___________ (25% of tour fare) as a deposit to hold place(s) on:
☐ Schubert & Schumann: Piano & Lieder in Japan
☐ Opera in the Eastern Mediterranean.

I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure. Please make check payable to: PONANT Yacht Cruises & Expeditions and mail with this registration form to: The Metropolitan Opera Guild, Attn: Kimberly Goodis 70 Lincoln Center Plaza, 6th Floor New York, NY 10023-6593

☐ AmEx  ☐ Discover  ☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard
No. ___________________________
Exp. __________________________

3- or 4-Digit Security Code

Please select cabin category in order of preference (1st, 2nd & 3rd choice):
Le Soléal (Schubert & Schumann):
- Superior Stateroom - Deck 3
- Deluxe Stateroom - Deck 3
- Prestige Stateroom - Deck 4
- Prestige Stateroom - Deck 5
- Prestige Stateroom - Deck 6
- Deluxe Suite - Deck 6
- Prestige Suite - Deck 5
- Prestige Suite - Deck 6
- Owner's Suite

Le Bougainville (Opera in the Eastern Mediterranean):
- Deluxe Staterooms
- Prestige Staterooms, Deck 4
- Prestige Staterooms, Deck 5
- Prestige Staterooms, Deck 6
- Deluxe Suites
- Prestige Suites, Deck 5
- Prestige Suites, Deck 6
- Privilege Suite
- Grand Deluxe Suite
- Owner's Suite

☐ Twin Beds ☐ King Bed ☐ Single Occupancy
☐ Share (cannot be guaranteed)

FIRST NAME: __________________________
LAST NAME: __________________________
DATE OF TRAVEL: ___________ / ___________ / ___________

SIGNATURE: __________________________
SIGNATURE: __________________________
SIGNATURE: __________________________
SIGNATURE: __________________________

Each participant must sign below: I/We have read the “Terms & Conditions” section and agree to its terms.
For further information or reservations, please call Kimberly Goodis of The Metropolitan Opera Guild at 212-769-7062 or PONANT at 888-400-1082 (Monday to Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Eastern Time)

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May & November 2019