The Metropolitan Opera Guild

**Opera in the Baltic**

Music & Opera Houses from Stockholm to Copenhagen
Aboard the Deluxe *Le Bellot* | May 8-18, 2020
Dear Traveler,

We invite you to join fellow members of the Metropolitan Opera Guild on this splendid voyage that combines the pleasures of cruising the Baltic Sea with exclusive tours of the region’s opera houses and sublime music from some of Russia’s most talented young stars. The Slavic soul is embodied in singing, and Russian opera in particular captures the artistry and romance of this enigmatic country. With days spent exploring the great cities of the Baltic, our evenings will feature private recitals on board the brand-new Le Bellot, a state-of-the-art small ship with accommodations for no more than 184 guests.

Our talented cruising companions will be soprano Elena Galitskaya and bass Mischa Schelomianski, who will perform selections from Russia’s best operas, such as Glinka’s *A Life for the Tsar* and Tchaikovsky’s *Eugene Onegin* or his painful drama *Iolanta*. *Le Bellot* will be transformed into a floating concert hall when we hear the monologues of Boris or Pimen from Mussorgsky’s *Boris Godunov* and the arias of Ivan Khovansky from *Khovanshchina*. From Borodin’s *Prince Igor* to Rimsky-Korsakov’s *The Golden Cockerel*, fans of great Russian voices will thrill to this festival of song, caviar, and vodka!

With evening spent in private recitals, our days are dedicated to exploring the shores of the Baltic. Private tours of three national opera houses are on the itinerary: the majestic, neo-classical Royal Opera House set in the heart of Stockholm, which features a magnificent golden foyer; the Estonian National Opera House, which was reconstructed in a Stalinist style in 1947 (complete with a ceiling painted in the style of Socialist Realism) after it was heavily damaged by Soviet air raids in 1944; and the Finnish National Opera House, built in 1993 and thus the most modern opera institution we’ll see during the cruise. Our two days in St. Petersburg will similarly be a celebration of art, architecture, and culture, as virtually the entire city has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Sincerely,

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

Soprano Elena Galitskaya was born in Russia and is now based in Paris. In 2009, she made her operatic debut with Opéra de Lyon, singing Lyusya in the Shostakovich operetta Moscow, Cheryomushki and was immediately re-engaged to sing Laurie Moss in The Tender Land. Roles at Lyon have included Zerlina in Don Giovanni, Despina in Cosi fan tutte, Barbarina in Le nozze di Figaro, and Frasquita in Carmen. A keen recitalist, Elena has sung the lieder of Schumann, Strauss, and Wolf and the songs of Fauré, Shostakovich, Tchaikovsky, and Rachmaninoff.

Moscow-born bass Mischa Schelomianski’s repertoire includes such roles as Seneca from L’Incoronazione di Poppea, Osmin from Die Entführung aus dem Serail, Sarastro from The Magic Flute, Leporello from Don Giovanni, The Prince Gremin from Eugene Onegin, Vodnik from Rusalka, Tiresias from Oedipus Rex, and many others. He has performed in many prestigious venues such as the Paris Opera, Glyndebourne Festival, Aix-en-Provence Festival, Théâtre des Champs-Elysées in Paris, and in the opera houses of Munich, Frankfurt, Prague, Vienna, Valencia, Toulouse, as well as in Japan and Chile. In the concert field, he has performed with the Orchestre de Paris, the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, and the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Russian pianist Natalia Morozova has received several international prizes, including First Prize at the Isole Borromee International Competition and First Prize for duo at the Camillo Togni International Competition in Gussago. She recently produced recordings with the Basel Sinfonietta, the Yekaterinburg Philharmonic and the Moscow Symphony Orchestra.

Violoncellist Anastasia Kobekina has performed with many renowned orchestras such as Moscow Virtuosi, Kremerata Baltica, the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, the Sinfonia Varsovia, and the Toulouse Symphony Orchestra. In 2018 she became a “New Generation Artist” of the BBC 3 Radio Scherne and was awarded the Prix Thierry Scherz and the Prix André Hoffmann at the Swiss Winter Music Festival.

Violinist Nadja Nevolovitsch has performed as a soloist and chamber musician with the Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra, Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra, the New Russia State Symphony Orchestra, and others. She has been awarded prizes at the Sion-Valais in Switzerland, the Toshiya Eto in Tokyo, and the International Competition for Young Soloists in Luxemburg.
Friday, May 8, 2020
FLY FROM THE USA

Saturday, May 9
STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN
Arrive in Stockholm, Sweden’s capital, and transfer to the deluxe Sheraton Stockholm. This evening, meet fellow travelers for a welcome cocktail reception at the hotel. (R)

Sunday, May 10
STOCKHOLM | EMBARK
After breakfast, visit Drottningholm Palace, home to Sweden’s Royal Family. This 17th-century palace and its grounds are a UNESCO World Heritage site. We will tour the Court Theatre, unique in that its original sets, stage machinery, and props are in perfect working order and still in use. Then drive crosstown to Millesgarden, the remarkable home, sculpture garden, museum, and art gallery complex designed by artist Carl Milles and his wife Olga. In the afternoon, tour the Royal Opera House, the national venue for opera and ballet since 1773. Transfer to the pier to embark Le Bellot and enjoy the views as we sail through the Stockholm Archipelago. (B,D)

Monday, May 11
TALLINN, ESTONIA
One of the best-preserved medieval towns in Europe, and capital of the republic of Estonia, Tallinn reveals a distinctive blend of German, Scandinavian, and Russian influences. A walking tour of the Old Town includes the massive Toompea Castle, begun around 1229; the 13th-century cathedral, renowned for its exquisite Baroque altar; the remains of the city walls; and several fine medieval merchants’ houses. Take a memorable tour of the art nouveau/classicist Estonian National Opera House. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, May 12
ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA | HERMITAGE | PETER AND PAUL FORTRESS
This morning explore the Hermitage Museum, formerly the Winter Palace of the czars. The museum houses one of the world’s greatest art collections, displaying masterpieces by da Vinci, Titian, Rubens, and Rembrandt, among others. In the afternoon, visit the birthplace of St. Petersburg, the Peter and Paul Fortress, including the State Museum of St. Petersburg History, and the Peter and Paul Cathedral, with the world’s tallest Orthodox bell tower. Either this evening or next we will attend an opera or theater performance. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, May 13
ST. PETERSBURG | TSARSKOYE SELO | PETERHOF
Enjoy a full-day excursion to two former summer retreats of the czars: Tsarskoye Selo and Peterhof. Tsarskoye is a beautiful complex crowned by the ornate Catherine Palace, with its opulent interior, and surrounded by French and English gardens. The 18th-century Monplaisir Palace was designed by Peter the Great himself and the surrounding park is dotted with fountains and sculptures. If our opera/theater performance did not occur on Tuesday, we will enjoy it this evening. (B,L,D)

Thursday, May 14
HELISENKO, FINLAND
Helsinki, Finland’s energetic capital, is internationally recognized for its striking architecture. Our excursion includes the grand Orthodox Uspenski Cathedral; colorful Market Square, featuring food, furs, and other local goods; the subterranean Temppeliaukio Kirkko (Rock Church), hewn from solid rock; and a tour of the Finnish National Opera House. (B,L,D)

Friday, May 15
VISBY, GOTLAND ISLAND, SWEDEN
On Gotland—the largest island in the Baltic Sea—enjoy a walking tour of the beautifully preserved medieval town of Visby, once a stronghold of the Hanseatic League. A highlight of the tour is the Gotlands Fornsal Museum, dedicated to the display of Viking and Nordic artifacts. (B,L,D)

Saturday, May 16
GDAŃSK, POLAND
Call at Gdańsk, a city that was nearly destroyed during World War II. Explore the Main Town, whose historic-looking buildings were completely rebuilt following the war as a testament to the city’s resilience. Pass through the Highland Gate, the official start of the “Royal Route”; discover the Gdańsk History Museum, located in the Gothic-Renaissance Main Hall building; and visit the 12th-century St. Nicholas’ Church. (B,L,D)

Sunday, May 17
AT SEA (B,L,D)

Monday, May 18
COPENHAGEN, DENMARK | DISEMBARK (B)
The Estonian National Opera House, which we will tour in Tallinn.

Copenhagen, Denmark

Program Inclusions

Included

- One night at the Sheraton Stockholm, with sightseeing and breakfast
- 8-night cruise aboard the deluxe Le Bellot
- Complete program of shore excursions led by expert guides
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions aboard ship; Captain’s gala dinner
- All meals aboard ship including early riser’s coffee & pastry, breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, and dinner
- Open bar aboard ship, including select wines with lunch and dinner
- Onboard concerts by guest musicians
- 24-hour room service
- Comprehensive pre-departure materials
- Baggage handling and airport transfers aboard on the designated program arrival and departure dates
- Port taxes and charges
- Unlimited Wi-Fi on board
- Gratuities to shipboard personnel, porters, guides, and drivers

Not included

Airfare; airport taxes; visa and passport fees and/or immigration reciprocity taxes (if applicable); luggage, cancellation, and accident insurance; medical and repatriation insurance; personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls, spa services; meals and beverages other than those specified above.
The five-star *Le Bellot* is the fifth in a series of six new luxury PONANT Expedition ships, launching 2018–2020. These state-of-the-art vessels combine PONANT’s understated elegance with a spirit of adventure and feature Blue Eye, the world’s first underwater passenger lounge. *Le Bellot* is a small-capacity ship with just 92 staterooms and a crew of 110. Guests enjoy attentive service, gourmet French-inspired cuisine, and a relaxed, congenial ambiance.

**DECK PLAN**

- Owner’s Suite: Deck 5
- Grand Deluxe Suites: Decks 5 - 6
- Privilege 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

**FARES  PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY**

All accommodations aboard *Le Bellot* are outside staterooms and suites, and feature a private balcony. All staterooms 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.

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Deluxe Staterooms</td>
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Single occupancy staterooms are available in Prestige Staterooms at the following rates: $12,110 (Deck 4); $12,500 (Deck 5); $12,920 (Deck 6). Subject to availability.
TERMS & CONDITIONS

Compagnie du PONANT, PONANT Group USA, LLC, and PONANT USA, LLC are referred to collectively 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 25% deposit. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Checks and credit cards are accepted.

CANCELLATION: MODIFICATION PENALTIES & REFUNDS: All cancellations or modifications must be in writing. Any and all guests not reporting for departure or prevented from reporting for departure or waiving 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 moneys to any guests 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 to departure: 10% of full fare
- 90–61 days prior to departure: 50% of full fare
- Within 60 days of departure: 100% of full fare.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: PONANT partners with Allianz Global Assistance, the gold standard in travel insurance. Allianz Travel Insurance plans provide benefits for trip cancellation/interruption; travel delays; emergency medical/dental; emergency transportation, and 24/7, award-winning assistance by phone—anytime, anywhere. Terms, conditions and exclusions apply.

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. PONANT reserves the right to substitute musicians.

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS/LIMIT OF LIABILITY: The passenger agrees that PONANT GROUP and The Metropolitan Opera Guild (TMOG) act 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 performed by independent suppliers who are not agents 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. Any and all guests not reporting for departure or prevented from reporting for departure or waiving 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 moneys to any guests 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.

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- 90–61 days prior to departure: 50% of full fare
- Within 60 days of departure: 100% of full fare.

JURISDICTION: These terms & conditions are subject to and interpreted according to international regulations and concern the transportation of passengers and their luggage from the time 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 related either 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.

SHIPS’ REGISTRY: France
FL Seller of Travel Ref No ST37706
CA Seller of Travel Ref No 2120712-40

Each participant must sign below:
I/We have read the "Terms & Conditions" section and agree to its terms.

SIGNATURE DATE

REGISTRATION

TMOG E100520
Enclosed is my check for $______ (25% of tour fare) as a deposit to hold ____ place(s) on Opera in the Baltic. 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: AJ Kiehner 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):

--- Deluxe Stateroom
--- Prestige Stateroom, Deck 4
--- Prestige Stateroom, Deck 5
--- Prestige Stateroom, Deck 6
--- Deluxe Suite
--- Prestige Suite, Deck 5
--- Prestige Suite, Deck 6
--- Privilege Suite
--- Grand Deluxe Suite
--- Owner’s Suite

--- Twin Beds
--- Queen Bed
--- Single Occupancy
--- Share (cannot be guaranteed)

Dr., Mr., Ms., Mrs.

First Last

Address

City/State/Zip

Telephone (Day) (Evening)

E-mail

Signature Date

Signature Date
For further information or reservations, please call AJ Kiehner of The Metropolitan Opera Guild at 212-769-7075 or PONANT at 888-400-1082 (Monday to Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Eastern Time).

A Quintessential Collection™ Cruise

OPERA IN THE BALTIC

Aboard the Deluxe Le Bellot

May 8-18, 2020

70 LINCOLN CENTER PLAZA, 6TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10023-6593

The Metropolitan Opera Guild

TMOG E10620