

British Flair!

A Week in London with Classical KUSC

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CLASSICAL | fm 91.5



St. Paul's Cathedral from the River Thames, London.

Hello, Classical KUSC mates! Come along with popular afternoon host Rich Capparella for a smashing cultural week of great music,

marvelous museums, and fine dining in London this spring. We'll celebrate an important Shakespeare anniversary, indulge in a scrumptious high tea at the Ritz and of course, hear some spectacular music. Highlights include a concert by the Philharmonia Orchestra led by former LA Phil maestro Esa-Pekka Salonen, a gala anniversary evening at Wigmore Hall with the great Russian pianist Elisabeth Leonskaya, the superb London Symphony Orchestra under Daniel Harding performing Mahler's grand 2nd Symphony, and an excursion east of London for the opening night of the 2016 season at Garsington Opera featuring Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*.

A week in London would not be complete without an evening at the theatre. We'll join in on a big Shakespeare anniversary, the 400th of the Bard's death, with a performance of *Romeo & Juliet* starring Lily James (*Downton Abbey*) and Derek Jacobi (*I, Claudius*) as Mercutio! And we'll have a private visit to the British Library with a Shakespearean scholar to see a rare First Folio and other historic documents. You have the option as well of a performance at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden of Enescu's rarely performed *Oedipe*.

Besides the trip to Garsington Opera, we will journey out of town to Oxford and its renowned colleges, with a side trip to Blenheim Palace and its wonderful gardens, arguably England's finest. Four-star accommodations in the bustling West End, great restaurants, a champagne tour of Parliament, the inimitable Victoria & Albert Museum, two unique historic personal collections, Rich's valuable commentary, and much more await you on this absolutely cracking trip!

May 29–June 6, 2016



Rich Capparella,

on KUSC weekdays from 4–7 pm, is one of the best-known classical music hosts in the US. A man of many talents, he announces

concert broadcasts in Southern California for the Pacific Symphony Orchestra and the New West Symphony, has been a narrator in Carnegie Hall and for the Boston Pops, voiced a theatrical trailer, and is a member of the Grammy Awards classical music screening committee. His recording company, Cardiff Studios, produces commercials and programming for US arts organizations, including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. One of Rich's passions is being lead singer and guitarist in a rock band, *Otherwise Normal*. The music of the deep blue sea also calls to him: he has conducted tours to the Caribbean and Fiji as a scuba instructor. Rich and his wife Marcia live in Santa Monica.

Esa-Pekka Salonen



Tour Highlights

- Prime tickets to four major musical performances by the London Symphony, Philharmonia Orchestra, the Wigmore Hall anniversary gala, and Garsington Opera's production of *Eugene Onegin*
- Prime tickets for Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* by the Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company
- Excursion to Blenheim Palace and Oxford
- Tours of major sites in London including the Houses of Parliament, Victoria & Albert Museum, Wallace Collection, John Soane House, and a private presentation at the British Library
- High tea at the Ritz, the best in London
- Four-star accommodations on a quiet street in the West End
- Commentary by KUSC's Rich Capparella throughout the trip
- Private motorcoach transportation for all activities on the tour
- Free time for extra sight-seeing, shopping or relaxing



Tour Cost: \$5,795, double occupancy, ground only.
Tour limited to 25 participants.

The London tour is organized exclusively for Classical KUSC by The Grand Tour Travel Company of Peterborough, NH. Calif. Lic.: 2088711-40

Daily Itinerary

Sunday, May 29 The KUSC group flight departs LAX for London, with arrival the following day.

Day 1: Monday, May 30 A London How Do!

Flight arrivals at Heathrow transfer to the Kingsway Hall Hotel, four-star lodging on a quiet street in the West End, London's theatre district. As an introduction to the city, we'll cruise the Thames in our own boat and imbibe a welcome drink. We disembark for our **welcome dinner** at Simpson's-in-the-Strand, a historic London eatery where for 170 years they have served traditional roast beef from silver-domed trolleys..

Day 2: Tuesday, May 31 The V&A and Wigmore Hall

Breakfast is served **daily** at the hotel. We continue our introduction to London with a visit to the inimitable Victoria & Albert Museum. The V&A is one of the glories of the city, the largest museum of decorative arts and design in the world. The collections, originally in applied art and science, now span 5000 years of history in 145 galleries. There is a surprise around every corner! **Lunch** is nearby. Our first musical evening is part of the gala 115th anniversary of Wigmore Hall, London's premier venue for chamber music and song recitals. Tonight in the intimate hall—only 550 seats—the great Russian pianist Elizabeth Leonskaya, the Cuartetto Casals, and several vocalists perform an all-Schubert program.



Garsington Opera/Wormsley Estate

Day 3: Wednesday, June 1 Blenheim, Oxford and the Bard

A drive north in our private motorcoach takes us to Oxford. First however, we visit magnificent Blenheim Palace, home to the Dukes of Marlborough and Winston Churchill's birthplace. Designed by Vanbrugh in the rare British Baroque style, Blenheim is perhaps best known for its park, landscaped by Capability Brown. We will tour the lovely park and gardens before moving on to **lunch** at the characteristic Trout Inn, a favorite hangout of *Inspector Morse*. A walk through the great university town follows. Too many names to mention are associated with Oxford, from Sir Christopher Wren

to Tolkien and Bill Clinton to Harry Potter. The University can claim 47 Nobel Laureates, 12 Saints and 8 current Cabinet ministers. You return to London in time to rest before the theatre.

This is the initial season of the acclaimed actor and director Kenneth Branagh's theatre company, and Branagh himself will direct Shakespeare's immortal love story, *Romeo and Juliet*. The impressive cast features Richard Madden and Lily James as the star-crossed lovers, the great Derek Jacobi as Mercutio and Marisa Berenson as Lady Capulet.

Day 4: Thursday, June 2 Two Noble Collections

Sir John Soane, a leading British architect of the 19th century, rebuilt three adjoining houses and crammed them with art and antiques in clever ways. The crypt resembles a Roman catacomb! The Museum has become a center for architectural studies and is a veritable treat. Next we move on to the Wallace Collection housed in a Victorian mansion with 25 rooms filled with one of the best collections of French 18th century paintings, porcelain and furniture in the world. **Lunch** follows.

Esa-Pekka Salonen had a popular tenure as music director of the LA Philharmonic from 1992 to 2009, attracting new audiences and leading important new works including some of his own compositions. He is still Conductor Laureate of the orchestra, and is also Principal Conductor of the historic Philharmonia Orchestra in London. Tonight he leads his British band in an all-Stravinsky program at one of the city's newest concert venues St. John's Smith Square, a former church restored as a concert hall.

Day 5: Friday, June 3 Shakespeare Redux and Garsington

Another special experience awaits you at the British Library, celebrating the greatest writer of the English language. Our before-hours private tour begins in the Treasures Gallery with an introduction by a Library curator on Shakespeare's career as a poet, an often overlooked facet of his work. You'll view rare manuscripts and books, including a 1623 First Folio, the only reliable source of twenty of his plays.

This afternoon we head out to Buckinghamshire and the opening night of the Garsington Opera summer season, a production of Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, the tragic story of blighted love based on Pushkin's great verse novel. Garsington takes place amid a landscape of natural beauty amid the rolling hills of Chiltern on the 2500-acre Wormsley Estate. You will be able to stroll the lovely gardens prior to the performance and **dine** during the first intermission.

Day 6: Saturday, June 4 Parliament

This morning we take a private tour of the Houses of Parliament, focusing on the upper House of Lords and the superb art found throughout the chambers. A glass of champagne completes a special visit. **Lunch** is in the posh St. James quarter, followed



Blenheim Palace Garden

by a tour through Westminster Abbey. Begun in 1245, the Abbey is resting place of seventeen British monarchs and the fascinating Poet's Corner the burial place of many of England's greatest literary figures. Your evening is free or you can take in an *optional* performance of George Enescu's rarely performed opera, *Oedipe*, at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden. The Romanian composer's opera is based on the mythological tale of Oedipus and set to a French libretto.

Day 7: Sunday, June 5 The LSO and Mahler

You have a day of leisure in London for additional sight-seeing, shopping or just strolling about. You are near the British Museum, the National Gallery of Art, and Piccadilly shopping. Tonight Daniel Harding leads the superb London Symphony Orchestra, arguably Britain's finest, in Mahler's monumental 2nd Symphony, the "Resurrection." Our **farewell dinner** is in the heart of the West End.

Day 8: Monday, June 6 Cheerio!

Tour ends after breakfast. The group flight returns to Los Angeles with arrival the same day.

Tour Registration

Tour Cost: \$5,795 per person, ground only, double occupancy. Single supplement: \$930
Optional group flight: \$1380 on Virgin Atlantic

DEPOSIT: \$1100 per person, first come, first served. Tax-deductible contribution to KUSC: \$600

Balance deadline: Friday, April 8, 2016.
After that date, call for availability.

Call Minnie Prince of KUSC at 213-225-7534 or mprince@kusc.org to reserve your place on the tour with a credit card deposit, or send a check made out to The Grand Tour for the deposit amount to: KUSC London Tour, KUSC, PO Box 7913, Los Angeles, CA 90007. Registration materials can be downloaded from www.kusc.org

Questions? Contact Minnie Prince at KUSC or The Grand Tour at 800-727-2995 or info@thegrandtour.com