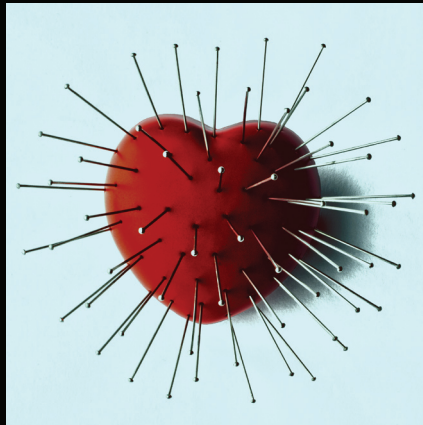




Opera  
Phila  
delphia

## PATRONS OF OPERA PHILADELPHIA

Visit to the  
**WEXFORD FESTIVAL OPERA  
GALA OPENING PERFORMANCES**  
including Dublin and Co. Wicklow



Top: Wexford National Opera House; Bottom: Heculanum, Maria de Rudenz, Venessa (courtesy Wexford Festival Opera)

### October 22-30, 2016

The picturesque fishing port of Wexford, on Ireland's south-east coast, is once again host to discerning opera aficionados from around the world who have discovered the charms of a uniquely Irish approach to the festival genre and the unquestionably high production standards delivered by Artistic Director, David Agler and his team. This 65th season delivers productions that remain true to the tradition of staging three rarely performed operas with recitals, concerts and ShortWorks rounding out a full and varied program. We are privileged to attend all the season premieres, guaranteeing to catch the genuine excitement that surrounds the Festival events and the infectious warmth of the Wexford locals who clearly relish the opportunity to show off their hometown and roll out the welcome mat! As a very fitting start and finish to our Ireland visit we spend our first three nights enjoying the best that Dublin has to offer in terms of art, theater and, of course, its profound literary connections. We complete our Irish sojourn in the luxurious surroundings of County Wicklow's world famous Powerscourt Estate and Gardens where we will toast the end of our time together in suitable style.

#### OPERA PROGRAM

The three main stage operas at O'Reilly Theatre are French composer Félicien David's *Heculanum* (1859), a grand opera set in Pompeii at the time of the eruption, Samuel Barber's *Vanessa* (1958) and Donizetti's infrequently performed *Maria de Rudenz* (1838). In conjunction with the ShortWorks *Il Campanello*, Maestro Agler continues the tradition of bringing the prolific Italian *bel canto* lesser known operas to the Wexford stage. Our program will also include the 1937 one act opera *Riders to the Sea* by Ralph Vaughan Williams based on J.M. Synge's play and a lunchtime RTÉ Contempo Quartet concert, with a program of Haydn, Bartók and a new commission from Sebastian Adams.

#### DUBLIN AND CO. WICKLOW

The opera festival is preceded by two days in Dublin, allowing time to relax and explore Ireland's rich literary heritage including The Writers Museum, Trinity College Old Library and Book of Kells, National Gallery and a theater performance. Immersion in the Celtic experience continues



Fountain at Powerscourt Estate (courtesy Amanda Susan Munroe)

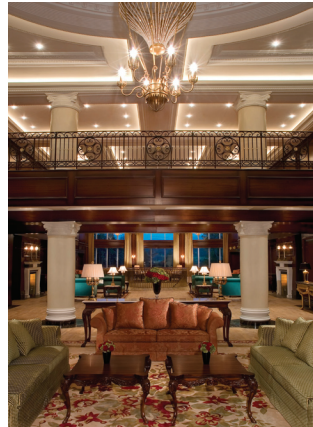
in beautiful County Wicklow, known as The Garden of Ireland, with a tour of Glendalough, a visit to Avoca, Avondale's Parnell House and the splendid Powerscourt Estate.

## HOTELS

The Shelbourne Hotel located in the heart of the city on St. Stephen's Green is within an easy stroll to the leading cultural, historical and leisure attractions. The 4 star Talbot Hotel, ideally located in the heart of Wexford close to the quay, is one of the best hotels in Wexford. Powerscourt Hotel is a 5 star luxury property on the Powerscourt Estate, close to the picturesque village of Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow.



Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin (courtesy Type17)



Powerscourt Hotel Lobby, Wexford

## ITINERARY

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

Independent departures from USA to Dublin.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23

Independent arrivals and check in at The Shelbourne Hotel, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin. Airport private sedan transfers can be arranged upon request and early check in may be requested but is not guaranteed.

The daytime is at leisure to rest and explore independently, with suggestions from Act 1 or the hotel concierges. This evening our Welcome Dinner is at the well-regarded restaurant nearby *One Pico*.

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 24

After a full Irish breakfast (included daily) meet and walk to nearby Trinity College, where we will visit the Long Library and view the Book of Kells. We then continue to the National Gallery of Ireland for a curated tour. Oscar Wilde's house is nearby (it currently belongs to The American College in Dublin) and a visit will be arranged for our party. Lunch is independent today. There are many choices in the vicinity and suggestions will be given. The rest of the day is at leisure. An evening theater performance will be included, subject to the announcement of plays held over after the Dublin Theatre Festival (may be alternated with Tuesday, depending upon scheduling).



Long Room, Old Library, Trinity College, Dublin (Photo by DAVID ILIFF. License-CC-BY-SA 3.0)

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25

This morning we take a private transfer to The Dublin Writers Museum and then to the Joyce Centre. We will tour both locations with a knowledgeable literature guide. A casual lunch together follows, either in a nearby pub or at the Writers Museum café. Before dispersing we pay a short visit to the Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane, Ireland's foremost collection of fine art.

In the evening we gather again for a cocktail reception in the hotel ahead of a free evening out in the city.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26

Check out and depart by private coach for Wexford. This morning we stop at the ancient monastic site of Glendalough, where a welcome orientation and guided tour is arranged. Some free time is included to become more fully immersed in this serene and spiritual enclave, before driving the short distance to the village of Laragh. Here we enjoy a private traditional lunch in the Writer's Room at The *Wicklow Heather* Restaurant. Over the years, the owners have gathered a very fine literary collection of first editions and original manuscripts and will welcome the party with a talk and viewing of the collection.



Wexford quay at night (courtesy Wexford Festival Opera)

By mid afternoon, we board the coach to continue to Wexford and, in the later afternoon check into rooms at the Talbot Wexford hotel with time to refresh and dress in style for the Opening Night dinner at the O'Reilly Theatre and 8:00pm *Herculanum*. After, we join the cast, company, Friends and benefactors for a festive conclusion to the evening at Greenacres Restaurant.

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27

Enjoy an independent morning to explore historic Wexford and the seafront at your own pace. We meet at 1:00pm for the RTE Quartet concert at St. Iberius Church and this is followed by a Friends lunch at Clayton Whites Hotel. At 3:30pm we stay in the hotel for the ShortWorks staging of *Il Campanello*.

This evening dinner is on your own with suggestions and table reservations held before the 8:00pm curtain on *Vanessa*, with champagne during the intermission. We enjoy a supper together as a group back at the Talbot Wexford.

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

We have a gentle start to our final Wexford day and then proceed to the opera house for an 11:00am Dr. Tom Walsh lecture by John Julius Norwich and from there we leave by mini-coach for the very popular Lobster Pot and a traditional pub lunch, returning in time for the 3:30pm start of *Riders to the Sea*, again at Clayton Whites Hotel.

Pre-performance dining is included back at the Talbot and the finale is at 8:00pm, with *Maria de Rudenz*. We convene at the intermission to enjoy finger food desserts and a glass of champagne before bringing Wexford events to a conclusion.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

After a leisurely breakfast, check out and transfer to Avondale Estate, set in the rolling Co. Wicklow countryside and close to the picture-perfect village of Avoca. Continuing to Parnell House, we enjoy a casual lunch and a short tour of the Georgian house that will focus on Charles Stewart Parnell's important role in Irish history and his American associations. We then proceed to the Powerscourt Hotel Resort & Spa in the foothills of The Wicklow mountains, where we spend our last evening together at dinner.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

Powerscourt Hotel Resort & Spa has been selected as a lovely finishing point and also with transfer time to Dublin Airport in mind (on a Sunday morning journey time is comfortably less than one hour). A group transfer time will be arranged based on flight times and then on to Dublin city center for those choosing to extend. Independent transfers by limousine or local taxi services may be arranged.

#### INCLUSIONS

- Seven nights hotel accommodation
- Full breakfast daily
- Five lunches, four dinners, four champagne and cocktail canapés receptions
- Three operas with best available seating
- Two ShortWorks operas, one concert, a lecture
- Sightseeing and entrances as described
- Private coach for sightseeing and transfers between locations
- Hotel shuttle to and from the opera house each evening
- Gratuities for guides and drivers
- Act 1 Tours' principal throughout

#### COST OF TOUR (per person)

Double occupancy.....	\$6,750
Single occupancy.....	\$7,575
Extra night (Dublin), with breakfast.....	\$375
Airfare is not included	

#### PAYMENT

A deposit of \$2,000 per person non-refundable is due with the reservation. The balance is payable by August 22, 2016.

#### INSURANCE

We strongly advise purchasing trip insurance to avoid financial loss if the need arises to cancel. Some policies waive pre-existing medical conditions if taken out within 15 days of the initial deposit and if all non-refundable costs are covered. Act 1 Tours can arrange these policies on your behalf.

*Dress Code: Black Tie for Wexford Evenings*



Wexford National Opera House (courtesy Wexford Festival Opera)

## ACT 1 TOURS

DESTINATION OPERA

P.O. Box 1137 | New York, NY 10159-1137

Tel: 646.918.7401 | Fax: 646.478.9740

www.act1tours.com | finetravel@act1tours.com

**Patrons of Opera Philadelphia**  
**Visit to Wexford Festival Opera, Dublin & Co. Wicklow**  
**October 22-30, 2016**  
**Registration Form**  
**Registration Deadline June 30, 2016**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**\$ 6,750 per person, shared occupancy \$ 7,575 with single room occupancy**

**Contact Act 1 Tours 646.918.7401 or email: [finetravel@act1tours.com](mailto:finetravel@act1tours.com)**  
**for extra hotel nights, room upgrades and trip insurance**

**Deposit: \$ 2,000 p/p due with registration Balance by August 21, 2016**

**Payment:** \_\_\_\_\_ Deposit only (non-refundable) \_\_\_\_\_ Pay in full

\_\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card: MC Visa Amex Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Sec Code: \_\_\_\_\_

CC#: \_\_\_\_\_ Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cancellation Insurance: Act 1 Tours strongly recommends trip cancellation insurance**

\_\_\_\_\_ I am/we are interested in obtaining insurance, contact me/us with rates and details

Dates of birth: Traveler 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Traveler 2 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we decline cancellation insurance

I/we have read and accept the attached Trip Registration, Liability Release and Cancellation Terms.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Traveler 1

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Traveler 2

**Please return your completed form by mail, email or fax to:**  
**Act 1 Tours, P.O. Box 1137, New York NY 10159**  
**T. (646) 918-7401 F. (646) 478-9740 [finetravel@act1tours.com](mailto:finetravel@act1tours.com)**

**Patrons of Opera Philadelphia**  
**Visit to Wexford Festival Opera, Dublin & Co. Wicklow**  
**October 22-30, 2016**

**Trip Registration, Liability Release & Cancellation Terms**

Please read the following carefully as these are the terms and conditions associated with your travel program.

**Registration Process**

Complete the enclosed registration form, with signatures from each of the travelers, and mail with a check payable to Act 1 Tours or credit card authorization to the address on the Registration Form. On receipt of the completed form and deposit you will receive a confirmation letter from Act 1 Tours and request for further information. The latter should be completed and returned by mail or fax within 14 days of receipt. The balance is due by August 21, 2016 and you will be notified in good time by a Statement of Account.

**Trip Cancellation/Interruption and Medical Insurance**

Trip Cancellation/Interruption and Medical Insurance is strongly recommended and coverage by AIG is available at competitive rates through Act 1 Tours. A pre-existing medical condition waiver is included with some policies if purchased within 15 days of paying the initial deposit.

**Acknowledgement of Risk and Release from Liability**

As part of the reservation form each traveler is required to acknowledge, by signature, the following statement:

"During the trip in which I will participate, certain risks and dangers may arise. These include, but are not limited to, acts of God, the hazards of traveling under unsafe conditions by boat, automobile, train, ship, aircraft or other means, the forces of nature and accident or illness in locations without ready access to medical treatment, transportation or means of rapid evacuation. Act 1 Tours shall not be responsible for any injuries, damages or losses caused to me in connection with any of the above, nor as a result of terrorist action, social or labor unrest, mechanical or construction failures, fires, diseases, local laws, climatic conditions or any actions, omissions or conditions outside the control of Act 1 Tours. In consideration of the right to participate in the travel program and as part of the payment for the services arranged for me by Act 1 Tours, I do expressly agree to forever release, discharge, and hold harmless Act 1 Tours and their respective agents, employees, officers, directors, associates, affiliates and subcontractors against any and all liability, actions, debts, suits, claims, and demands of any kind which may hereafter arise out of, or in connection with the travel program arranged for me by Act 1 Tours. This shall serve as a complete release and express assumption of risk for myself, my heirs, assignees, administrators, executors, and all members of my family. I have read and fully understand the provisions and the legal consequences of this release and assumption of risk, and I hereby agree to all its conditions. I further agree that any legal dispute involving these travel services shall be heard only in the courts of the State of Delaware."

**Act 1 Tours' Responsibilities**

Act 1 Tours is responsible for providing the services offered in the descriptive material for each travel program. While information is, to the best of Act 1 Tours' knowledge, accurate at the time of publication, it is recognized that changes beyond Act 1 Tours' control do occur and the right is reserved to implement those changes that will preserve the overall quality of the travel program. The portion of the travel program that a client elects not to participate in is non-refundable. Act 1 Tours does not manage or control the various suppliers (e.g. hotels, restaurants, ground transportation, theaters, museums, etc.) that form part of the travel program but, should any part of the program not be provided to a reasonable standard, Act 1 Tours will compensate the traveler accordingly on receipt of a written notification within 25 days, but the compensation may not exceed 50% of the value of the program.

**Traveler's Responsibilities**

The traveler is responsible for following the registration process outlined. At the time of submitting a registration form you are confirming your acceptance of all the terms and conditions included in this statement.

**Cancellation**

Should it be necessary to cancel after the initial deposit has been processed, the deposit of \$2,000 per person is non-refundable. After full payment is received by August 21, 2016 the total cost is non-refundable unless the place(s) is (are) taken over by other members of the Opera Philadelphia party. Any cancellation notice should be in writing, by mail, fax or email.