

ABOUT THE CLASS

The operas we will be attending are:
Thursday, March 29 - Der Freischütz (Weber)
Friday, March 30 - Das Rheingold (Wagner)
Saturday, March 31 - Lulu (Berg)
Wednesday, March 28 will be an open day.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings from 9 AM to noon, we will gather to watch DVD performances, listen to CDs and learn about that evening's opera. There will be time for discussion and questions. Vigorous class participation is encouraged! The class will be held in one of the hotel's very comfortable meeting rooms.

Der Freischütz begins at 7:30 PM at the Komische Oper, known for its fresh and thoughtful productions of old and new operas alike. At the Deutsche Staatsoper, we will see Das Rheingold, featuring Rene Pape in the role of Wotan, and Lulu, featuring Mojca Erdmann in the title role. Both productions will be conducted by Daniel Barenboim and begin at 7 PM. The Komische Oper is located in the heart of the city, between the Brandenburg Gate, the Museumsinsel and Checkpoint Charlie. It has in-seat translation for their productions. While their home undergoes extensive renovation, the Deutsche Staatsoper performs in the Schiller Theater, a beautiful newly renovated venue in the Charlottenburg neighborhood.

Useful Links:

City of Berlin tourism: www.visitberlin.de/en
Deutsche Staatsoper: www.staatsoper-berlin.de/en_EN/index
Komische Oper: www.komische-oper-berlin.de/en/
NH-Hotel Berlin Mitte: www.nh-hotels.com/

HOTEL AND AMENITIES

Our hotel will be the four-star NH Hotel Berlin Mitte. It is right in the heart of Germany's capital city and near historical sites such as Potsdamer Platz, Friedrichstraße and Checkpoint Charlie.

Each hotel room has a mini-bar, Satellite TV, safe, free coffee/tea machine, and wireless internet access. There is a sauna and steam-bath available in their well-being, fitness and relaxation area, all for free. There are also internet terminals in the hotel's business center for guest use. A concierge is available for any personal travel needs.

The hotel also has its own restaurant that serves breakfast, lunch and dinner.

ABOUT YOUR ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Arrival in Berlin will be on Tuesday, March 27. We will meet briefly late in the afternoon to greet one another and discuss the logistics of our stay.. Check out will be on April 1. Arrangements can be made directly with the hotel to arrive before the group or stay after we leave.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The afternoon four-hour Berlin city tour (included) will be on either March 29 or 30, depending on the desire of the group. (We will figure this out well before the trip.)

An optional day-long tour to Leipzig will be arranged for March 28. This cost will be \$115.00 per person, which will include second-class train fare to and from Leipzig and a full day tour of the city. The train trip takes 1 hr 15 min. Transportation to and from the Berlin main train station and lunch will be extra.

TRANSPORTATION TO THE OPERA

If you will be out and about for dinner, you may choose to get to the opera on your own. There is easy public transportation via U-bahn (subway) from the hotel to the theaters. Otherwise, taxis will be arranged from the hotel to and from the theater.

TRANSPORTATION TO/FROM TEGEL AIRPORT

The NH Hotel Berlin-Mitte is located 10 km from Tegel Airport. If you do not wish to take a taxi, it is possible to reach the hotel by bus and U-bahn. Directions are on the hotel's website.

FEE AND FEE SCHEDULE

Double occupancy will be \$1590 per person. Single occupancy will be \$1950. This includes: three opera tickets, five nights hotel stay, daily breakfast, one lunch, one dinner, and one city tour.

A 50% deposit (\$795 per person double, \$975 single) will hold your place. The balance will be due 45 days in advance (February 10, 2012).

Cancellation policy:

Before January 27, a full refund minus a \$25 administrative fee will be issued. Before February 28, a 50% refund will be issued. Before March 13, a 25% refund will be issued. Any cancellation later than March 13, no refund will be issued.

Not included: four dinners, four lunches, all air travel to Berlin, airport transfers.

WELCOME to a wonderful week of opera and fun in one of Europe's most exciting and vibrant cultural capitals!

It will be all-German fare at two different opera houses in this most German of cities. We will hear three pillars of operatic history - from the early Romantic (Weber's Der Freischütz), late Romantic (Wagner's Das Rheingold) and early Modern eras (Berg's Lulu). Der Freischütz will be presented at the Komische Oper. Das Rheingold and Lulu will be at the Deutsche Staatsoper.

ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Larry Axelrod has taught at the Music Center of the North Shore (now Music Institute of Chicago), different Elderhostel venues and Renasan. He taught many different classes over the course of fifteen years at Ghost Ranch Santa Fe, including an opera class. He currently teaches at Columbia College in Chicago.

Larry is a composer, pianist and conductor, whose musical activities have taken him around the United States and Europe. As a composer, Mr. Axelrod has had works done by CUBE Contemporary Chamber Ensemble, Pinotage, The Lincoln Trio, The Duo Ahlert/Schwab, the Ensemble JungeMusik Berlin and The Verdi String Quartet in recent seasons. In the dual capacities of pianist and composer, he presented many all-Mazurka programs around the United States and also in Europe and South Africa. His compositions have been performed on composers' festival concerts around the United States

For more information please call Larry at (773)680-8811 or email Larry223@aol.com.

PLEASE SIGN ME UP FOR SPRING OPERA IN BERLIN!

Name(s)

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

Email

Please indicate your choice:
single room

double room

sharing with (if submitting a separate form):

I prefer:
One king-size bed
Two queen-size beds

I require a handicap accessible room.
yes no

Special dietary considerations:

I am enclosing a deposit of:

\$795 per person (double) or \$975 (single)

I would also like the day-long tour of Leipzig at \$115 per person

Please make the check payable to Lawrence Axelrod and mail to:
Lawrence Axelrod
5111 N. Monticello Ave.
Chicago, IL 60625

SPRING OPERA IN BERLIN 2012
MARCH 27 - APRIL 1, 2012

WEBER - DER FREISCHÜTZ
WAGNER - DAS RHEINGOLD
BERG - LULU