

TANGLEWOOD & THE BERKSHIRES: THE RED LION INN

Boston Symphony Orchestra; Williamstown Theatre Festival

Thursday, July 9th through Sunday, July 12th



Norman Rockwell's Stockbridge Main Street



Sondra Radvanovsky



Bryn Terfel

The Red Lion Inn: *"An Inn since 1773, the bustling Red Lion has hosted presidents, near-presidents, senators and celebrities... This is the authentic inn."* Fodor

Tanglewood: *"The United States of America is destined to have a great music and art center."*

Serge Koussevitzky, 1939

Bryn Terfel: *"The Welsh bass-baritone has been born to sing a lot of roles, Wagner's Wotan and Sondheim's Sweeney Todd among them... Mr. Terfel is a true bass-baritone, rolling out sonorous, ominous rivers of sound."*

NY Times

Sondra Radvanovsky: *"The American soprano must be the optimum choice for the role of Tosca in the big houses today. The voice sounds huge, and I'd like to hear her as Turandot."*

Opera, Sept. '14

"In a time of hubristic museum expansionism, the beloved Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute has managed something distinctly surprising. It has gotten bigger and better."

NY Times, July '14

Tanglewood and the rolling hills of the Berkshires in Western Massachusetts offer a plethora of superlative performing arts during the compact summer season. During the busy weekends of July and August, cultural aficionados are hard-pressed to choose between the glorious concerts of the **Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO)** in Tanglewood's open-air **Shed** and more intimate **Seiji Ozawa Hall** and several fine theatre festivals. The choice of a strategically located hotel puts all of these events within convenient striking-distance, but reservations for tickets and rooms must be made very early for the popular sold-out summer weekends. This year we are including a trio of **three**

Tanglewood concerts, beginning with one in Ozawa Hall and concluding with two in the Shed. Tanglewood's covered **Shed** has attracted music-lovers from all over the world for many years and was the original model which has spawned similar outdoor summer festivals throughout the country. The revered Boston Symphony Orchestra has always been the resident ensemble, under such acclaimed conductors as Serge Koussevitzky, Charles Munch, Leonard Bernstein, Seiji Ozawa, James Levine, and now the BSO's Latvian Music Director Andris Nelsons.

For our July weekend in 2015, opera enthusiasts will be gratified by the vocal highlights of our program – a solo **Recital** by the great Welsh bass-baritone **Bryn Terfel** (in the ideal setting of Ozawa Hall); and a BSO concert of **All-Italian arias and duets** including **Act One of Puccini's 'Tosca'**. The concert will feature soprano **Sondra Radvanovsky** and **Bryn Terfel** in the dramatic portrayals which have catapulted them to international stardom.

Our third evening at Tanglewood will be an orchestral program by the **BSO** under the baton of the French conductor **Stéphane Denève**. Samuel Barber's iconic *Adagio for Strings* will be followed by virtuoso works for the organ by Francis Poulenc (*Concerto for Organ, Strings & Timpani*) and Camille Saint-Saëns (*Symphony No. 3, 'Organ'*).

On our last day, we have planned an excursion to Williamstown to attend a Sunday matinee of the **Williamstown Theatre Festival**, which has long been regarded as one of the best repertory companies in the U.S. This will combine with a visit to the newly renovated and expanded **Clark Art Institute** in Williamstown, where we will view the priceless permanent collection as well as the highly anticipated exhibition of **Van Gogh and Nature**. The Clark received unanimous accolades when it was re-opened last summer.

Finally, literary and architecture aficionados will be grateful for our annual visit to **The Mount**, Edith Wharton's gracious 1902 mansion outside Lenox. The Italianate gardens are in full bloom in July.

The Albany (N.Y.) Airport is the closest terminal to our hotel in Stockbridge, a little more than an hour by car. Independent arrivals should be on Thursday, July 9th. Taxis are readily available at the Albany Airport (estimated \$100 one-way to Stockbridge, but we suggest you call **Abbott's Limousine** in Lee, Massachusetts (800 551-5509) to coordinate the least expensive transfer to the Red Lion Inn. Stockbridge is about three hours by car from New York City. *(Please see our concluding paragraph regarding our transfer from N.Y.)*

For the seventh consecutive year, we are grateful to return for **four nights** at the renowned **Red Lion Inn** in Stockbridge, which has long been considered the leading hotel in the Berkshires. The Red Lion has maintained its unique New England charm but has also been periodically renovated to keep pace with the requirements of the modern traveler, now including an **outdoor swimming pool**. The **Main Dining Room's** high standards have been consistently praised for its regional cuisine, and a variety of other less formal dining facilities includes **Widow Bingham's Tavern**, the **Al Fresco Courtyard** (under outdoor umbrellas), and the **Lion's Den Pub** (in the basement, with live evening entertainment). The quiet ambience of the Main Street location continues to attract visitors from throughout the world. We are confident that the Red Lion's celebrated standards will justify the hotel's premium price. For guests arriving by private car, the Red Lion has a free overnight parking lot. *(Many members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra reside at the Red Lion during the Tanglewood season. By the end of our visit, you will easily recognize a number of the musicians whom you will see on the premises and in the dining room.)*



Friday morning, July 10th, we will enjoy a guided visit through **The Mount**, the graceful and imposing country mansion designed and built in 1902 by Edith Wharton, the pre-eminent American novelist. In addition to her fame as the author of 'The House of Mirth', 'The Age of Innocence', 'Ethan Frome' and many other titles, Wharton was also an imaginative architect who fully expressed her design interests in this 'classical revival' house set in the woodlands outside Lenox. The principles she espoused in her influential book, 'The Decoration of Houses', are perhaps best appreciated in the restored interior of 'The Mount'. Our guided visit of the house will be followed by ample time to stroll through the Italianate gardens and to



Seiji Ozawa Hall

browse through the unusual bookshop. Restoration of both the house and gardens has been ongoing during the past decade, and The Mount is now one of the Berkshire sites which should not be missed. *(Salads and sandwiches are available on the porch overlooking Edith Wharton's favorite view of the area.)*

Friday afternoon and most of Saturday are left free for you to relax in Stockbridge. During our concise four-day schedule, there will be ample free time for you to browse independently around the historic town center. In particular, you may want to visit the 1886 **Naumkeag**

Early Thursday evening, July 9th, a **pre-theatre dinner** will be arranged to meet other members of the Tour. Our dinner will be in one of the Red Lion's informal dining rooms.

After dinner on Thursday, at 8:00 pm, our first performance at Tanglewood will be the eagerly anticipated **Recital** by **Bryn Terfel**. The charismatic Welsh bass-baritone has conquered the world's opera houses as Don Giovanni, Figaro, Wagner's Wotan, and Puccini's Scarpia. NY Philharmonic audiences have basked in his near-definitive portrayals ranging from Mendelssohn's Elijah to Sondheim's Sweeney Todd. He is also a consummate interpreter of the song literature of Schubert, Mahler, and such British composers as Elgar, George Butterworth and Britten. His rare Recital appearance in **Seiji Ozawa Hall** promises to be a cause for celebration. *(Program and accompanist To Be Announced.)*



Widow Bingham's Tavern, The Red Lion Inn



Stéphane Denève

House and Gardens; the **Berkshire Botanical Garden** (also open daily from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm); and the **Chesterwood** country home and studio of the American sculptor Daniel Chester French. Museum enthusiasts will be rewarded by a visit to the nearby **Norman Rockwell Museum**, housing the world's largest collection of Rockwell's American scenes. All four of these museums are located in Stockbridge. You will also be grateful for some leisure time in the Red Lion, as our evenings will run quite late due to congested Tanglewood traffic after the concerts. *(Taxis to any museums can be arranged with the Red Lion's front desk.)*

At 8:00 pm on Friday evening, we will return to Tanglewood for a concert by the **Boston Symphony Orchestra** in the **Shed**. The young French conductor, **Stéphane Denève**, currently Principal Guest Conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra, will lead the BSO in three brilliant works showcasing this revered instrumental ensemble. First will be Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings* – "The Pieta of music, a sound shrine to music's power to evoke emotion" (*The Saddest Music Ever Written, Thomas Larson*). Second will be Francis Poulenc's *Concerto for Organ, Strings & Timpani*, one of



Van Gogh's Green Wheatfields, Auvers in the exhibition "Van Gogh and Nature" at the Clark Institute

his finest orchestral achievements; and third will be Camille Saint-Saëns' rousing and popular *Symphony No. 3, 'Organ'*.

Following a free day on Saturday, July 11th, our evening performance in Tanglewood's **Shed** will be the program of **All-Italian Arias & Duets**, concluding with **Act One of Puccini's Tosca**. The British conductor **Bramwell Tovey** will lead the BSO and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, and the soloists will be the American soprano **Sondra Radvanovsky** and bass-baritone **Bryn Terfel**. Ms. Radvanovsky has been acclaimed as a superlative Verdi soprano at the MET in recent years, and last season marked her sensational Norma (at both the MET and in San Francisco) and her astonishing portrayal of Queen Elizabeth in Donizetti's 'Roberto Devereux' at Toronto's Canadian Opera Co. Together at Covent Garden last summer, Radvanovsky and Terfel sparked a thrilling revival of Tosca to completely sold-out audiences. (*Full program TBA.*)

Sunday morning, July 12th, we will drive about 40 minutes north of Stockbridge to the idyllic small town of Williamstown. The **Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute** re-opened last summer following major renovation and expansion. Our appointment will introduce you to the museum's priceless collection, which attracts art connoisseurs from all over the world. The painting galleries contain masterpieces by Piero della Francesca, Renoir, Monet, Degas, Winslow Homer and John Singer Sargent. The serene new Clark Center designed by Japanese architect Tadao Ando is an optimum space for major exhibitions. This summer's exhibition is entitled **Van Gogh and Nature**, offering "53 works, mostly paintings, from museums and private collections around the world – Holland's Van Gogh Mu-



seum and Kröller Müller Museum, the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, London's National Gallery, the MET and MOMA." (*NY Times*). **Lunch** is included today in the museum's **Café 7**, located on the lower level of the new Clark Center.

On Sunday afternoon, we will attend a matinee performance by the **Williamstown Theatre Festival**, which has earned an enviable reputation for their superlative summer season. The company's repertory in recent years has ranged from the American playwrights Arthur Miller and Tennessee Williams to the classics of Shakespeare, Ibsen and Checkov – featuring such stars as Blythe Danner, Gwyneth Paltrow, Olympia Dukakis, Justin Theroux, and soprano Renée Fleming in her first non-singing role last year. Our play this year will be **Off the Main Road** by Pulitzer-Prize-winner **William Inge**, the iconic 1950's playwright who gave us 'Come Back, Little Sheba', 'Picnic', 'Bus Stop', 'The Dark at the Top of the Stairs', and the film 'Splendor in the Grass'. Golden Globe and Emmy Award-winner **Kyra Sedgwick** makes her Williamstown debut in this lost work which was found and introduced by the Inge Estate in 2008. The director will be **Evan Cabnet**.

Independent departures should be on Monday, July 13th. As per arrival, please arrange your transfer with **Abbott's Limousine** in Lee.

IMPORTANT: *During the past several years, we have learned that by far the easiest transfer from the New York area is by bus from the West Side Port Authority to Williamstown. The Peter Pan Bus Line stops directly at the Red Lion Inn. The bus will depart from the Port Authority (8th Avenue at 42nd Street) at 9:00 am on the morning of the 9th, arriving at the Red Lion at 1:00 pm, and will depart on the 13th at 11:00 am for a 3:00 pm return to the Port Authority. You should indicate NOW if you wish to use the round-trip bus transfer, which will cost approximately \$130 per person. We will give you further instructions in the Final Itinerary a month prior to our departure, and we will invoice you then for this additional cost.*



Kyra Sedgwick

Tanglewood:

Price per person, based on double occupancy	\$ 2,880
Single supplement	\$ 650

Airfare NOT included.

The Tanglewood Shed