





The Grand Finale of Our 100th Anniversary Celebrations!

May 30, 2026 - 7:30pm | Old Auditorium







Simone Osborne | Soprano Gordon Bintner | Bass-Baritone Gordon Gerrard | Conductor Members of the Vancouver Opera Orchestra



UBCOPERA 2025-2026 SEASON

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UBCOPERA

presents

Die Zauberflöte

Opera in Two Acts Sung in German with English Surtitles

By Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) Libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder (1751-1812)

November 27, 28 29 at 7:30 PM | November 30 at 2:00 PM Performed at the Old Auditorium

> Conductor - Jacques Lacombe **Director - Nancy Hermiston** Lighting Design - Jeremy Baxter Set Design - Alessia Carpoca

UBC Opera Ensemble with members of the Vancouver Opera Orchestra

There will be a 20-minute intermission after Act One

This production is made possible by the David Spencer Endowment **Encouragement Fund**

We acknowledge that the University of British Columbia is situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people.





A Message from The Director



Die Zauberflöte is the cure for the winter blues and brings in the Holiday Season! We are delighted that you are joining us for this production chosen to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Old Auditorium and UBC's Point Grey Campus. On this 100th Anniversary I have chosen a work that is one of the most beloved operas of all time and one that offers such a rich learning and performance experience for our talented students – 18 solo roles and wonderful choruses in which they all join together in the glorious sounds of Mozart's genius.

Written just two months before his premature death, Mozart has left us with an opera which is not only an eternal favourite among audiences but is also one that is discussed, researched and questioned more than almost

any other opera in the history of music. It is indeed magic; a fairytale Singspiel with glorious melodies, brilliant coloratura passages, exquisite ensembles paired with spoken dialogue. This guides us through the plot as we follow the characters' magical journey, their passions and perils, guided by Mozart's magnificent orchestral soundscape. It is a comedy but also a heroic drama; it is said to contain the mysteries of Masonic rituals and those of ancient Egypt. Magic, mystery, heroic drama, comedy – whatever one sees in *Die Zauberflöte* – the fact remains that it has been a constant success and audience favourite for 234 years!

The UBC Opera Ensemble, our incredible production team, our wonderful children who have joined us for this production and I, have had the great pleasure of entering Mozart's magic world and bringing it to life for you! With us on this fascinating and challenging journey has been Maestro Jacques Lacombe and the Vancouver Opera Orchestra. We wish to thank them for sharing their expertise, time and talent with us for this very special occasion.

I hope that you will enjoy our talented casts of *Die Zauberflöte* and will join us in February for the continuation of our 100th Anniversary celebrations of the Old Auditorium with Leonard Bernstein's version of Voltaire's novelette, *Candide*, which takes its characters on a world mission to find 'the best of all possible worlds' and again in April where we will transport you to Egypt through Handel's action packed *Giulio Cesare* recreating the intrigues, betrayals, power struggles and passions of Giulio Cesare, Cleopatra, Tolomeo and Sesto.

Enjoy and thank you for your support of the UBC Opera Ensemble! Here is to another 100 years of performances in the Old Auditorium, the talented generations of singers of the UBC Opera Ensemble and of course, another 100 years of Mozart!

Nancy Hermister

Please consider making a donation to the UBC Opera Trust fund which enriches the education and growth of talented young students in UBC's renowned Opera Program.



give.ubc.ca/opera-fund

Cast*

	NOVEMBER 27 & 29	NOVEMBER 28 & 30
Tamino	Hexiang Wang	Wanshuai Yu
Papageno	Neil Hong	Denis Petrov
Queen of the Night	Olivia Howe	Magdalena How**
First Lady	Emily Brinco	Maria Deng
Second Lady	Paige Sargent	Noelle Carey
Third Lady	Briana Sutherland	Anna Gao
Pamina	Sarah Richardson	Tamar Simon**
Monostatos	Jonathon Chan	Kevin Liu
Papagena / Old Woman	Kaitlyn Tse	Jessica Pope
Sarastro	Jiru Wu	Liam Robertson
First Spirit	Sophia Maskine	Emerald Chen
Second Spirit	Zoe Lainchbury	Jake Apricity Hetherington**
Third Spirit	Olivia Carlson	Boa Jiang
First Man in Armour	Kiho Sohn	Millen Sandhu
Second Man in Armour	Obi Ifediora	Ezekiel Wang
First Priest	Kevin Liu	Jonathon Chan
Second Priest	Robert McDonald	Joshua Doody
Speaker of the Temple	Matthew Görlitz	Obi Ifediora
Monster	Robert McDonald, Joshua Doody	

Chorus:

Soprano: Aleksandra Van Looy, Chantel Bennett, Daisy Cardich, Ella Jeon, Hanjia Zhang, Jennie Yang, Kaitlyn Tse, Lillian Davidson, Nelly Seif El Nasr, Rhianna McDonald, Saba Taghiakbari, Sara Hajduk, Sophia Maskine, Zoe Lainchbury

Mezzo-Soprano: Caroline Voltchok, Dorothea Unwin, Julia Dion, Keira Papageorge, Olivia Carlson, Qihang Lu, Rachael Currie, Sunshine Yu, Victoria Kazantseva

Tenor: Ben Lewandowski, Jonathon Chan, Kevin Liu, Kiho Sohn, Millen Sandhu **Baritone/Bass:** Ezekiel Wang, Jiru Wu, Joshua Doody, Matthew Görlitz, Obi Ifedora. Owen Glor. Robert McDonald

Priest Chorus: Ben Lewandowski, Ezekiel Wang, Jiru Wu, Jonathon Chan, Joshua Doody, Kevin Liu, Kiho Sohn, Matthew Görlitz, Millen Sandhu, Obi Ifedora, Owen Glor, Robert McDonald

Slaves Chorus: Ben Lewandowski, Joshua Doody, Millen Sandhu, Owen Glor, Robert McDonald

Bird Ladies Chorus: Caroline Voltchok, Jennie Yang, Olivia Carlson, Rachael Currie **Children and Teen Chorus:** Arya Yazgan, Edward Gootman, Emerald Chen, Irina Yao, Jake Apricity Hetherington**, Kona Cameron, Oliver Vidal Yang, Salome Ochoa, Tessa Petkau

^{*}All casting is subject to change

^{**}Appears with the permission of the Canadian Actors' Equity Associationn

Synopsis

The young Prince Tamino, fleeing for his life from a monster, faints in terror at the sight of the beast. Moments later, Three Ladies, attendants of the Queen of the Night, rush in to vanquish the creature, leaving the unconscious Tamino in (relative) safety. He awakens to the sound of pan pipes, belonging to the bird catcher, Papageno, who takes credit for saving Tamino's life. The Three Ladies don't appreciate his lies and reappear, locking Papageno's mouth shut. Before leaving once more, they give Tamino a portrait of Pamina, the Queen's daughter; at the sight of her picture, he instantly falls in love. The Queen herself then appears to Tamino, urging him - and a reluctant Papageno - to rescue Pamina from the wicked Sarastro, who is holding her captive. As a parting gift, Tamino receives a magic flute, and Papageno is given a set of magical bells, which are intended to keep them from danger. Three Spirits are then sent to watch over them during their quest.

In Sarastro's palace, Pamina fails in an attempt to escape. Monostatos, a servant of Sarastro, recaptures her. Papageno finds his way into the palace, where he comes face to face with Monostatos. Equally terrified by the sight of one another, they flee. Papageno returns, recognizes Pamina, and tells her that Tamino has been sent to rescue her.

Meanwhile, the Three Spirits lead Tamino into the temple, where he learns from the Speaker of the temple that Sarastro is not a tyrant, as the Queen has maintained, but a man of wisdom. Voices from the temple reassure Tamino that Pamina is alive. In joyful anticipation, Tamino plays the magic flute. Wild animals join him, attracted by the sound of the music.

Papageno and Pamina hear the flute and set off to find Tamino. Monostatos and his slaves try to recapture the fleeing pair, but Papageno remembers his magic bells. His playing sends their pursuers into such a hypnotized state that they dance away from them.

A fanfare announces the arrival of Sarastro. Pamina confesses to him that she was running away from Monostatos; Sarastro tells her that he's keeping her captive only so that her mother, the Queen, won't raise her to be wicked. Tamino is brought in as a captive by Monostatos. Pamina and Tamino recognize each other and embrace. Monostatos demands that Tamino and Papageno be punished, but Sarastro sends them away to be purified before undergoing trials of initiation and punishes Monostatos instead.

- Intermission -

ACT TWO

Sarastro announces that Tamino wishes to join the ranks of the Priests. The gods have decreed that Pamina and Tamino are destined for each other, but first they must undergo a series of trials. To this end, two priests impose a vow of silence on Tamino and Papageno. The Three Ladies appear and try to lure them back to the Queen, but Tamino and Papageno resist, and the Ladies are banished by voices from within the Temple.

In Sarastro's palace, Monostatos finds Pamina sleeping. He desires to kiss her, but the Queen of the Night arrives before he gets a chance to do so. She gives Pamina a knife and orders her to kill Sarastro. Swearing vengeance, the Queen disappears. Monostatos, overhearing everything, offers to carry out the deed himself, for a price: Pamina must repay him with her love. When she rejects Monostatos, he tries to kill her, but Sarastro intervenes and comforts Pamina.

Still undergoing his trials, Papageno is confronted by a decrepit old woman who claims that she is his beloved – much to Papageno's dismay! She disappears and the Three Spirits arrive with the magic flute and bells which Monostatos had confiscated. They return them to Tamino and Papageno, as well as bringing them food and drink. When Tamino plays the flute Pamina hears him and rushes in. Remembering his vow of silence, Tamino refuses to speak to her. Pamina falls into despair and prepares to take her own life, fearing Tamino's silent rejection. Sarastro enters, taking Tamino away to proceed with his initiation. Griefstricken, Pamina tries to kill herself, but the Three Spirits appear and reassure her that Tamino's love is true.

A priest informs Papageno that he has been denied initiation. Papageno, content to drink and be merry, expresses no regret. He receives another visit from the old woman, and under threat of imprisonment, agrees to be faithful to her. At that moment she reveals herself to be the woman of his dreams: Papagena. Unfortunately, she is hurried away by a priest before Papageno can embrace her.

Two armed guards stand at the entrance to the trials. Tamino is at last joined by Pamina. She takes his hand, tells him to play the flute, and he leads them through the gates. Protected by the magic flute, they pass safely through trials of fire and water.

Papageno, lamenting the loss of Papagena, tests fate as he too prepares to kill himself in the name of denied love. The Three Spirits interrupt him and tell him that he can summon his beloved with his magic bells. He plays them, and just as the spirits told him, Papagena reappears.

Monostatos joins the Queen of the Night and the Three Ladies in a final attempt to undermine Sarastro. Their power, however, is broken, as thunder and lightning hurl them into darkness. Tamino and Pamina are welcomed into the Temple of the Sun, and the forces of good celebrate their triumph.

Nancy Hermiston, Director

Canadian-born lyric coloratura soprano Nancy Hermiston has performed throughout Europe and North America. Parallel to her extensive singing career, Ms. Hermiston worked as voice teacher, stage director, and Co-coordinator with the University of Toronto's Opera and Performance Divisions. In 1995, she joined the University of British Columbia's School of Music as the Head of the Voice and Opera Divisions, where she established the UBC Opera Ensemble.



Professor Hermiston is also a favourite guest for master classes throughout Canada, the United

States, China, and Germany. Her UBC Opera Ensemble tours regularly to the Czech Republic, Germany, Ontario, and throughout British Columbia. The Opera Ensemble gave their first performances in Beijing and Chengdu in May of 2009, and Shanghai in 2010 and 2011. Ms. Hermiston appeared as Stage Director with the Regina Opera for *The Barber of Seville* and *La Cenerentola* and with the Vancouver Opera twice for *Die Fledermaus*, then *La Traviata*, *La Bohème* and in 2016, directed their production of Verdi's *Rigoletto*, starring UBC Alumna and her former student, Simone Osborne.

In 2004, Professor Hermiston was named the UBC University Marshal, and in 2008, UBC awarded her the Dorothy Somerset Award for Performance and Development in the Visual and Performing Arts. She was also honoured with a Killam Teaching prize in 2010. In October 2011, she received an Opera Canada Rubie Award for her contributions to opera in Canada. Ms. Hermiston was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in December 2013. In 2017, she was awarded the Canadian Music Centre's BC Award of Excellence and in November 2017, Alumni UBC recognized Professor Hermiston with the Honorary Alumnus Award. In 2018, she received the Faculty of Arts 2017/18 Dean of Arts Award for her outstanding contributions to UBC's creative research, teaching, and service to the scholarly and broader community. In 2018 Ms. Hermiston was inducted into the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame.

Jacques Lacombe, Conductor

Music Director of the Vancouver Opera, Jacques Lacombe has previously been Music and Artistic Director of the Orchestre symphonique de Mulhouse in France from 2017 to 2021, Principal Conductor of the Bonn Opera in Germany from 2016 to 2018 and Music Director of the Orchestre symphonique de Trois-Rivières from 2006 until 2018. From 2010 to 2016, he was Music Director of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra and from 2002 to 2006, principal guest conductor of the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal after being music director of the Philharmonie de Lorraine in Metz, France.



In recent seasons, he has collaborated with

renowned soloists such as Emanuel Ax, Joshua Bell, Yefim Bronfman, Sarah Chang, Yo-Yo Ma, Branford Marsalis, Gil Shaham, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, André Watts, Diana Damrau, Joyce DiDonato, Renee Fleming, Angela Gheorghiu, Frederica von Stade, Roberto Alagna, José Cura, Juan Diego Flórez, Dmitri Hvorostovsky and Bryn Terfel.

In addition to his numerous collaborations with many orchestras in North America such as orchestras in Boston, Cincinnati, Dallas, Edmonton, Montréal, Quebec and Toronto, Jacques Lacombe has worked in Europe among others with the Orchestre National de France, the Orchestre Lamoureux and orchestras in Malaga, Monte-Carlo, Mulhouse, Nancy, Nice, Toulouse as well as many orchestras in Oceania and in Asia.

Recent highlights include all-star productions of *La Bohème* and *Tosca* at the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden, the world premiere of *Marius et Fanny* with the Opéra de Marseille with Roberto Alagna and Angela Gheorghiu, two frequent collaborators, and many productions at the Deutsche Oper Berlin where he has been a regular guest since 2006. Mr. Lacombe has conducted opera productions at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, Teatro Regio in Turin, Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich, Opéra de Monte-Carlo, Opéra national du Rhin in Strasbourg, Greek National Opera as well as opera houses in Avignon, Liège, Metz, Nantes and Angers and Philadelphia.

This season, Jacques Lacombe will make his debut at the Opera de Lausanne in Switzerland conducting *Dialogues des Carmélites* before returning to the Greek National Opera for a new production of *Anna Bolena*.

Born in Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Québec, Jacques Lacombe received his musical training at the Conservatoire de Musique de Montréal and at the Hochschule für Musik in Vienna. Member of the Order of Canada, one of the highest civilian honors in Canada, he is a Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Québec. In 2012, he also received the Oueen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

UBC Opera Ensemble

The University of British Columbia Opera Ensemble was founded by Canadian lyric coloratura, Nancy Hermiston, in 1995. Beginning with a core of seven performers. Ms. Hermiston has built the program to a 90-member company. The ensemble performs three main productions at UBC every season, and several Opera Tea Concerts. As well, the Ensemble has several engagements with local community partners such as the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Vancouver Opera, and Bard on the Beach. In addition, the Ensemble travels each year to Teplice, Czech Republic to gain valuable European performance experience with the European Music Academy, getting the opportunity to work with conductor Norbert Baxa and the North Czech Philharmonic at the Krusnohorske Theater. Frequently they appear in concert with the Plzen Opera Orchestra, at the Usti nad Labem North Bohemian Theater of Opera and Ballet and they are regular guests at the Nurnberg Opera House for their Musikalischen Damen Teas (founded by Prof Hermiston in 1985). The Ensemble has been told on several occasions that they are indeed Canada's best ambassadors. Our language was universal - music, our example - literal and symbolic harmony.

Our Ensemble consists of students from China, Korea, Colombia, Mexico. Guatemala, the Philippines, and as well as Canadian students of Indigenous, German, Russian, Scottish, Irish, British, Dutch, Ukrainian, Swedish and French heritage. The Ensemble's mission is to provide an outstanding performance and academic education for young, gifted opera singers, preparing them for international careers. Past mainstage productions have included Die Zauberflöte, Die Gärtnerin aus Liebe, La Bohème, The Bartered Bride, Manon, Eugene Onegin, Dreamhealer, Falstaff, Don Giovanni, Cendrillon, Albert Herring, the Western Canadian Premiere of Harry Somer's Louis Riel, The Crucible, Die Lustige Witwe (The Merry Widow), Così fan tutte, Dialogues des Carmélites, Carmen, The Tales of Hoffmann, The Florentine Straw Hat, La Traviata, A Night in Venice (Eine Nacht in Venedig), A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Consul, Orfeo ed Euridice, La Cenerentola, Il Trittico, Silent Night, Pasażerka, Il viaggio a Reims, Mansfield Park, Le nozze di Figaro, The Gondoliers, Shadow Catch, Rusalka, Hansel and Gretel and Street Scene.

In May 2025, the Opera Ensemble toured to nine cities in China with Lei Yu (Thunderstorm) by two Canadian-Chinese composers. This was the Ensemble's first time performing an opera in Mandarin in China. The tour was well received and lasting friendships were made.

Vancouver Opera Orchestra

Vancouver Opera is fortunate to have one of only two professional opera orchestras in Canada. The Vancouver Opera Orchestra was established in 1977, replacing an orchestra made up of members of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. Comprised of the region's leading freelance players, the VO Orchestra has developed into a fine ensemble that has taken the specialized and demanding art of pit performance to a very high level. Several of the current roster of musicians were in the pit for the orchestra's inaugural performances, in 1977, of Massenet's Le Roi de Lahore, starring Joan Sutherland and conducted by founding Music Director Richard Bonynge. There have since been three music directors: David Agler (1992-1999), Jonathan Darlington (2002-2018, Emeritus thereafter) and Jacques Lacombe (since 2023).

VIOLIN I VIOLONCELLO Rebecca Ruthven Rebeca Wenham (Concertmaster) (Principal) Angela Cavadas YuYu Liu (Associate Concertmaster)

Evelyn Creaser

(Assistant Concertmaster)

Lawrie Hill Joyce Lee

VIOLIN II

Heilwig von Koenigsloew

(Principal 2nd) Julia Lim

(Assistant Principal 2nd)

Ji In Kim Toni Stanick

VIOLA

Emilie Grimes (Principal)

MC Brunet

(Assistant Principal)

Barb Irschick

(Assistant Principal)

BASS

Maggie Hasspacher

(Principal)

FLUTE Brenda Fedoruk (Principal)

Anne-Elise Keefer (2nd Flute and Piccolo)

OBOE

Emma Ringrose (Principal)

Erin Marks

CLARINET

Christopher Lee (Principal)

Liam Hockley (2nd Clarinet)

BASSOON

Ingrid Chiang (Principal)

Allan Thorpe (2nd Bassoon) HORN

Laurel Spencer (Principal) Nick Anderson (2nd Horn and Orchestra Manager)

TRUMPET

Katherine Evans (Principal)

Nikolai Hansen (2nd Trumpet)

TROMBONE

Jeremy Berkman (Principal)

TIMPANI

Philip Crewe (Principal)

Production Team

CONDUCTOR

Jacques Lacombe

DIRECTOR

Nancy Hermiston

SET DESIGN

Alessia Carpoca

LIGHTING DESIGN

Jeremy Baxter

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Keith Smith

LIGHTING OPERATOR

Ryan Yee

COSTUME DESIGN/ HEAD OF COSTUMES

Parvin Mirhady

OPERA COACHES

Andrea Grant Eunice Park

STAGE MANAGER

Haley Power

ASSISTANT
STAGE MANAGERS

Kiho Sohn

Robert McDonald

HAIRDRESSING & WIGS

Tammy Greggain

MAKEUP

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PROGRAMME DESIGN & DESIGNER FOR UBC OPERA

Miles Linklater

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Francesca Corrado

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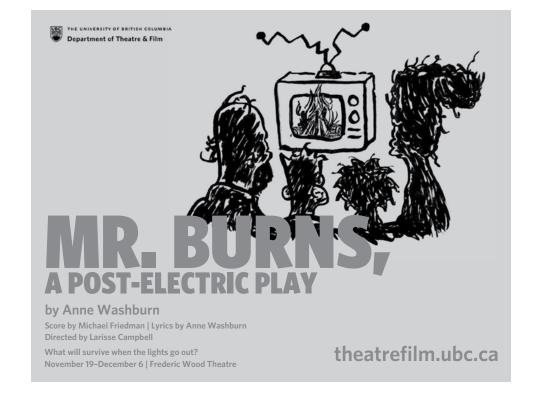
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Special Thanks

David Spencer Endowment Fund Sonya and Charlotte Wall Arts Fund Mohammed Faris and Faris Family Vancouver Opera Guild Robert Dales Martha Lou Henley Charitable Foundation Judith and Graham Forst Parvin Mirhady Alessia Carpoca Xiaodong Zhang



PHOTO: SHARON STE



Music in Southern Germany

Performances in historic towns | May 9 - 20, 2026 | 12 Days

This will be a 12-day tour taking place between May 9 and 20, 2026.

Contact Megan to book: megan@worldwidequest.com

Join Nancy Hermiston for this richly curated journey through the musical and cultural heart of Germany. Designed for discerning travellers with a passion for classical music and cultural heritage, this exclusive tour combines expertly guided explorations with world-class opera performances and Nancy Hermiston's insightful presentations.

Moving at a comfortable pace, we'll explore Munich, Regensburg, Baden-Baden, and Frankfurt with an extended stay in Nürnberg, where Nancy Hermiston will share her professional experiences with the Nürnberg Opera and the Meistersinger Konservatorium. Throughout, you'll enjoy exceptional access, thoughtful commentary, and the company of fellow enthusiasts.

Study Leader

A seasoned and engaging storyteller, UBC Opera Ensemble Director **Nancy Hermiston**'s operatic career has taken her throughout Canada, the United States and Europe. Her New York debut took place in Carnegie Hall with Marilyn Horne and Mario Bernardi. Her European début led to a permanent engagement with the prestigious Nürnberg Opera. She has held numerous appointments as voice teacher, and as stage director at the Meistersinger Konservatorium, Nürnberg, and the University of Toronto Opera and Performance Divisions. She was appointed to the UBC faculty in 1995 as Coordinator of the Voice and Opera Division. In 2013 she received the honour of being awarded the Order of Canada for her work as a performer and educator in opera.

Note: Nancy will begin each of the five performance days with a presentation on the music and the artists of the evening's performance.

TOUR DETAILS

Tour Cost: Approx. C\$9895 per person (**Includes 5 Performance Tickets**)

Includes all taxes and gratuities.

Single Supplement: Approx. C\$1695

If you are travelling alone and would like to share, we will attempt to match you up with an appropriate roommate. If we cannot, a single supplement will apply. This will be collected 90 days prior to departure.

Group Size: 12 - 16 guests

What's Included:

- Accommodations based on double occupancy in hotels listed or similar
- All ground transportation by private vehicle
- All activities as described in the detailed itinerary
- Five performance tickets
- Entrance fees to all sites visited with the group
- Services of English-speaking specialized guides
- Meals as specified in itinerary
- Gratuities for guides, driver, and included meals
- All taxe
- Services of your Study Leader, Nancy Hermiston
- Fully escorted by our Tour Director

Not Included:

- Return airfare from your home to join the tour
- Transfers between airport and hotel on arrival and departure
- Fuel surcharge (if applicable)
- Visa for fee for Germany (not currently required for Canadian or USA passport holders)
- Travel insurance
- Beverages with meals
- Items of a personal nature
- Additional transportation required due to any emergency or other situation
- Any item not mentioned in "What's Included"

Level of Activity: Moderate

Please note that we will be walking extensively as we explore the old city centres with walks of up to 60 – 90 minutes over cobblestone streets. You will best enjoy this trip if you have unimpaired mobility and can cope with everyday walking and stair climbing without difficulty.

Accommodation

We are staying in hotels at the four-star level selected for location, charm, and service. All rooms have private facilities and all hotels have WI-FI. Hotels will be confirmed once final dates are set.

Transportation

We are travelling by comfortable air-conditioned coach.

Weather

We expect pleasant weather with high temperatures of 20°C and lows of 10°C. Be prepared for the possibility of light rain.





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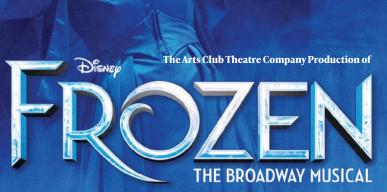






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Music and Lyrics by Kristen Anderson-Lopez & Robert Lopez Book by Jennifer Lee Originally directed on Broadway by Michael Grandage Based on the Disney film written by Jennifer Lee and directed by Chris Buck & Jennifer Lee Originally produced on Broadway by Disney Theatrical Group

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