

# The Metropolitan Opera, The Music Man and Fred Plotkin

April 29 – May 4, 2022  
6 days, 5 nights







## Curtains Up

After the soul-depleting effects of the global pandemic that shuttered arts institutions the world over, capitals of culture are rising from their slumber, relighting their theaters and welcoming happy audiences to performances with outstanding casts. Fred Plotkin, world-famous opera expert and gastronome, has curated a visit to his home town that will include three operas (*Turandot*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Madama Butterfly*) at the Met with major stars including Anna Netrebko, Ermonela Jaho, Ferruccio Furlanetto, Nadine Sierra, Javier Camarena, Eleonora Burrato and Brian Jagde. In addition, you will attend the finals of the prestigious Metropolitan Opera National Council competition and discover who will be the top stars of tomorrow.

Broadway is reopening and the hottest ticket in town is *The Music Man* starring Hugh Jackman and Sutton Foster. We have secured tickets!

Anyone who has traveled with Fred Plotkin knows that one eats very well with menus he creates and wines he selects in classic restaurants. There will be discussions of the performances we attend and opportunities to exchange ideas with your fellow arts lovers. And, if possible, we will be joined at some point by performers in the operas you attend.

## Fred Plotkin

Fred Plotkin is one of the world's foremost opera experts, noted for the depth and breadth of his knowledge and for the joy and ease with which he shares it. He is the author of *Opera 101: A Complete Guide to Learning and Loving Opera*, the best-selling standard text in America for opera education. He is the author of six books on Italian food and wine. He has lectured, taught, consulted and held managerial or artistic roles at some of the top opera companies, including La Scala; the Metropolitan Opera; the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden; and the Lyric Opera of Chicago. He led opera and food symposia for *New York Times Journeys* and, since April 24, 2020, has hosted Fred Plotkin on Fridays, a weekly program of cultured conversations seen worldwide on [Idagio.com](http://Idagio.com).





## Highlights

- Attend four performances in first-class seats at the met, featuring the world's best conductors
- Attend Broadway's hottest show, The Music Man, in the best available orchestra seats
- Learn about the history of New York's opera culture with Fred Plotkin
- Dine at top restaurants with menus chosen by Fred Plotkin (Yes, he's an opera food expert)

## Trip Details

**Dates** April 29 – May 4, 2022

**Duration** 6 days, 5 nights

### Prices Per Person

\$6,395 double occupancy

\$8,220 single occupancy

**Deposit** \$750 per person

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## Itinerary

### Day 1: Welcome to New York!

Arrive in New York and check in to the hotel. Meet in the hotel lobby and walk to a nearby restaurant for a welcoming dinner. Get to know your culture-loving fellow travelers. (D)

### Day 2: Madama Butterfly & Music Man!

Morning at leisure, perhaps visit the shops, galleries, old and new landmarks and distinctive neighborhoods in Manhattan and the other boroughs. Fred Plotkin can provide you with suggestions to suit your interests. Walk to Lincoln Center for a matinee performance of Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* at the Metropolitan Opera starring Eleonora Burrato, Elizabeth DeShong, Brian Jagde, with Alexander Soddy conducting the beloved Anthony Minghella staging. Then head to dinner in a classic theater district restaurant before taking your side or rear orchestra seat for Meredith Willson's *The Music Man* at the Winter Garden Theater. (D)





### **Day 3: Discover the Opera Stars of Tomorrow!**

After breakfast on your own, meet Fred Plotkin and your new friends at noon to discuss the previous day's performances and today's special event. Then depart for Lincoln Center and the Metropolitan Opera National Finals Competition, conducted by Marco Armiliato. This is Opera's "American Idol" in which thousands of aspiring opera stars are whittled down to a handful of finalists who compete for five prizes. Many of your favorite stars, including Renée Fleming and Deborah Voigt, saw their careers launched by the Met Finals. Then go to dinner at an elegant nearby restaurant and discuss whether the judges made the right choices! (D)



### **Day 4: Lucia di Lammermoor: New Production of a Bel Canto Classic**

After breakfast on your own, meet with Fred for a late morning lecture and conversation about this evening's opera as well as other cultural topics. Then enjoy lunch with the group at a restaurant near the hotel, followed by the afternoon on your own to shop, visit a museum or relax. In the evening, head to the Met for a 7:30 pm curtain of Simon Stone's new production of Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* starring Nadine Sierra and Javier Camarena, conducted by Riccardo Frizza. (D)  
Photo by Christian Michelides



### **Day 5: Anna Netrebko Takes on Turandot**

After breakfast on your own, meet with Fred for a late morning lecture and conversation, followed by a farewell luncheon at one of New York's top restaurants. Enjoy the afternoon on your own before heading to the Met for the 8 pm curtain of Puccini's *Turandot* starring Anna Netrebko, Ermonela Jaho, Yonghoon Lee and the legendary Ferruccio Furlanetto in the historic Franco Zeffirelli production, conducted by Marco Armiliato. (L)

### **Day 6: Farewell Until Next Time**

After breakfast on your own, and nourished by music and all kinds of cultural and social stimulation that is part of time spent in New York, return home renewed. (no meals)



## Accommodations

### Hotel Central Park

New boutique property located close to Central Park. There is plenty of greenery throughout the property and a living green façade greets guests on arrival. The emphasis on greenery and the use of natural materials create a calming retreat from the city bustle outside. All guest rooms include organic bedding, filtered water taps, free wifi and a nespresso coffee machine, hepa air filters, five-minute shower timer and digital newspapers. There is a limited number of rooms with two beds. There are several farm-to-fork dining options in the hotel including in-room dining and a market stand in the lobby with fresh seasonal fruit; imperfect in appearance these fruits would otherwise have been discarded by local grocers but are tasty and available to hotel guests.



## What's Included

- All accommodations and meals with drinks as outlined in the itinerary All ground transportation within the itinerary unless otherwise indicated
- All sightseeing as specified in the itinerary
- Comprehensive educational program by professional on-site guides
- Entrance fees
- Gratuities to porters, guides, drivers, wait staff in restaurants during group meals, housekeeping at group hotels
- The assistance of an ATA tour manager
- The assistance of an ATA professional travel team to assist with pre-trip questions, travel arrangements, including flights, extra hotel nights and other services
- Comprehensive pre-departure mailings and materials with information about the destination and what to expect on tour, including a suggested reading list.
- Emergency evacuation insurance
- Fully vetted program that meets COVID-19 health and safety protocols

