

Lingua Musica Tours

CELEBRATES

27th Annual European Tour

**A very appealing and unique 16 days,
at end of August 2015**





Roma Randles

Dip.; B.Mus.; Dip.Ed.
(University of Melbourne)

TOUR DIRECTOR

Music and travel have been the keystone of Roma's life, both professionally and personally. After graduating from Melbourne University, Roma and her husband took their young family to live in London. Roma continued her music studies and also found time to embark on many journeys of discovery throughout Europe. It was during these early years that the seeds of a lifelong love of Europe and the passion for new discoveries were sown.

On returning to Australia, Roma embarked fully on a successful professional career in music, ranging from performance and involvement in chamber music, to HSC music tuition and master classes, to presenting a series of educational lectures with music recitals by guest artists in her own home.

In 1988 UTA Frech Airlines invited her to bring a group of friends to Europe, and *Lingua Musica* was born. Every year since then, Roma has accompanied small groups, wishing to experience more out of travel, than simply visiting each different city. On tour, musical performances include orchestral and chamber concerts in the European music houses, and recitals by distinguished guest artists.

Roma herself also gives piano recitals and chamber music performances with talented string trios. ABC Radio personality Clive Stark, recalls one particular instance when Roma performed with Ruth Nye, our distinguished guest artist, in the hall of Grieg's house in Bergen, Norway. With the fjord seen through the glass wall behind the performers, it was a special highlight for him. Clive says: "The fact that Roma not only creates and leads these tours, but is also able to perform on occasion for us, is surely very special indeed. I cannot imagine it happening on any other tour."

Roma's success for more than twenty years, has been due to her combined passions of travel and music, and her commitment to providing quality European performances in diverse and interesting venues discovered many years ago, many still slightly off the beaten track.

“LA BELLE FRANCE”

Our 26th annual tour, “TWO FESTIVALS”, was an enormously happy and successful one, covering the great annual Bachfest in Leipzig, and the tenth anniversary of Angela Hewitt’s Trasimeno Festival in Umbria, on which a well balanced group of sixteen (couples and single travellers) blended well.

LINGUA MUSICA deliberately guards its status as a small boutique organisation offering a really personal approach and this is why many participants return again and again to travel with us. We are like a group of friends travelling and discovering together and these friendships last.

It is also why we are able to offer so much first class content at a more affordable rate than larger travel companies We hope to welcome you in 2015!

INCLUSIONS :

- Bed and breakfast in character hotels and chateaux throughout.
- Services of Tour Director and fluent French-speaking Assistant at all times.
- Guest lecturers and artists
- Twelve additional lunches or dinners.
- Eight Music Performances
- Private bus and driver for our exclusive use.
- A gourmet food demonstration in a Normandy chateau followed by dinner.
- Services of highly knowledgeable local guides .
- Many excursions in the chosen regions of our tour with paid entrances incl.
- Two first class TGV train trips.
- Excellently produced Tour Handbook containing all daily time schedules, information regarding all locations, program notes and much more.

OVERVIEW

Having been asked to create a totally French tour presents LINGUA MUSICA with some difficult choices. France is so large and there are so many different and splendid regions, we would need at least a month to begin to cover it all ! However for a group tour lasting the normal 15/16 days, we think you will love the selection of provinces we are able to offer, where you will experience enormous variety of scenic beauty, character, peoples, architecture , and customs. Variety is our aim. This will be an overall experience of the senses... beauty, gorgeous countryside, architecture, (both the quaint village variety and the splendid), the sea, great art, gastronomy, wine, gardens, literature... and of course, MUSIC! This will be a unique tour in every way.

Sometimes you will stay in very old, gracious manoirs and chateaux... typically French provincial... rather than the usual more modernised ones of our tours.

We expect that most participants would wish to spend a little more pre-tour time in Paris than this extensive tour allows and we are able to arrange PRE-TOUR accommodation and suggested activities so long as requested at the time of booking. We have been advised that there is already much interest and intention regarding this unique French tour. Bookings will close definitely at the end of January 2015, but as places are confirmed strictly in order of receipt of completed booking form and deposit, should you wish to join us it would be advised to get in much earlier. We usually restrict LINGUA MUSICA numbers to sixteen and French accommodation during this high season must be arranged almost immediately.

Paris , Ile de France, Normandy, La Côte Fleurie, Val de Loire, Departement L'Indre, Bordeaux, Toulouse and finally Provence! The tour will finish in NICE where the second largest airport in France facilitates an easy return to Paris or a flight further afield.

ITINERARY

Day One: Friday August 28th: 19.00hrs:

First meeting over a cocktail in our character hotel before walking a few doors away for our Welcome Dinner at the famous **LE PROCOPE**, the oldest restaurant in Paris. Our **HOTEL LE REGENT**...not the usual anonymous modern one but a boutique genuine historical French residence of charm and comfort right in the middle of the lively Latin Quarter and close to the River Seine.

Day Two: Saturday, August 29th: 9.00hrs:

We stroll around the myriad of small streets and squares which make up this lively district, noting places of interest, and not forgetting the famous Ecole des Beaux Arts, before making a metro trip to the Hotel Biron for an important visit to the newly restored **MUSÉE RODIN**. A talk about the life and work of Rodin will precede sufficient time to wander through this so beautiful and interesting gallery of his works, both indoors and without. **AUGUSTE RODIN**, (1840 -1917) forever the supreme master of sculpture. Lunch in the charming **Restaurant Rodin** in the gardens and then you will make individual choices for the afternoon. We can assist in accessing the following suggestions: A Paris bus tour OR Visits to The Musée d'Orsay, The Marais, Musée Picasso, Notre Dame, Musée de Cluny, and other individual requests.

Some participants may prefer to make a leisurely return to our hotel.
19.00hrs: We depart our Hotel le Regent for an important **Parisian Music Performance** (may be Opera, Ballet or a concert) Too early for details.



Day Three, Sunday, August 30th : 8.30 hrs:

We meet our driver who will be with us for the next several days and set off in our private bus for the remarkable village of **BARBIZON**, which attracted many artists of the Impressionist Period. It is a beautiful place so full of interest where we will spend three hours, with a film, an exhibition and time for some lunch in one of the atmospheric little cafes along the main street. Off again, via nearby **Fontainebleu** (yes a stop will be made but no visit of the chateau will be included) and through the beautiful Foret de Fontainebleu towards **GIVERNY**, for a "MUST" visit to Monet's House and Garden...very busy on Sundays, but we will have advance entrée tickets which avoid the queues ! Around 16.30/17.00hrs, we rejoin our driver and a restful two and a half hours further into **NORMANDY** to reach our gracious 18c manoir, **Hotel La Bellefontaine**, in its extensive beautiful park, just outside historic **BAYEUX**. Dinner.

Normandy: A rolling picturesque area of charming towns and villages, green fields, apple orchards winding lanes, high hedges, and lovely seascapes, with a history which goes back to the Normans. William the Conqueror built many 11thc abbey churches and in Bayeux, the story of William's invasion of England is revealed in the famous tapestries there. And of course we must not forget a much more modern invasion...that of the D Day Landings of 1944.

Day Four, Monday August 31st : 9.00hrs:

With our trusty driver delivering us inside the old city, we spend this morning exploring **Bayeux** (not forgetting the incredible **Bayeux Tapestries**), the WW2 museum, the magnificent cathedral and time to wander the charming, twisting streets before driving for lunch at **Beuvron-en-Auge**, known as "the prettiest village in Normandy". Our afternoon plans, with our well informed E/S guide on board, will include the delightful **Côte Fleurie** and its main towns, like **Deauville**

and Trouville, various lovely gardens, quaint villages, half-timbered houses, apple orchards (calvados!) the lovely rolling green vistas which characterise Normandy, and the sea. If time also, a visit to the beaches of the WW2 landings. Our final destination today will be the pretty boat-filled port of **HONFLEUR**, where you will have time to walk and soak up the atmosphere before finding dinner in one of the many little restaurants and cafes along the water. Meeting up later, we return to La Bellefontaine. You will sleep well tonight after such a full day!

Day Five, Tuesday, September 1st:

Following a lazy breakfast outdoors, you may just enjoy a restful morning here or take a gentle 15 minute stroll into Bayeux for further independent discoveries. (Our driver always on hand if preferred). In the afternoon we drive to a small country chateau where our host will demonstrate his preparations of a gourmet dinner (remember, cooking is one of the great arts too!) and no doubt we will all make notes before enjoying the delicious results over conversation in his delightful garden, or inside if cool.

******During our time in Normandy we are hoping also for a performance from well known Australian international musicians who live just closeby. But they may be touring at this time. TBA******

Day Six, Wednesday, September 2nd

An early departure this morning as we wend our way through Basse Normandy and into the famed **Val de Loire**, where we will spend the rest of this day. One would need to spend a week in the Loire Valley to come to know it, but we will do our best for the remainder of this day to give you a delightful experience of chateaux, beautiful river banks, interesting towns and villages, gardens, with a great lunch somewhere atmospheric thrown in. We end our day's exploration in the beautiful town of **AMBOISE** where we will fit in a visit to lovely "**Clos de Luce**", Leonardo da Vinci's house, before a light-filled summer's evening drive to **Chateauroux** and its environs. We are now in the Departement de L'Indre ! **TENDU...** where our home for the next three days will be a significant chateau... hopefully the splendid **Chateau de Mazières**.



Day Seven, Thursday, September 3rd :

This beautiful restful region of Central France along the gentle River Indre was very attractive to Parisian artists and writers such as **Eugene Delacroix, Honore de Balzac, Gustave Flaubert, Turgenev and the composer, Franz Liszt**, who would come down for weekends and longer sojourns where animated intellectual discussions enlivened their restful breaks. It is of even more importance to us as being the location of the home of the famous nineteenth century woman writer **George Sand and her lover, Frédéric Chopin**.

The MAISON GEORGE SAND at pretty NOHANT nearby will be an undeniable attraction. We will enjoy a guided visit here, a literary presentation, and a short distance away, experience a recital of **Chopin and Liszt** to be given by a distinguished young French pianist. Today though, a morning coffee riverside picnic and time to explore the extensive grounds of the chateau, before we take a short tour through nearby villages en route to Chateauroux, a small city of much interest, and then return for dinner in the chateau's excellent restaurant.



Day Eight, Friday September 4th:

After breakfast a little drive to **Saint-Benoit-du-Sault**, a Roman medieval village set on a turn of the river and recognised as being “une plus beau village” in the French listings. Lunch at nearby **La Chatre**, in the pretty “Old Mill... Auberge de Moulin Bureau” and some time to wander in this very pretty town and then our arrival at the charming **Chateau de George Sand in NOHANT**. A guided tour of the house and time to explore the lovely historic gardens, preserved by the French Ministry of Culture. Late in the afternoon we arrive at the **Château de la Vallée Bleu** (actually once the home of George Sand's physician, Dr Pestel) for a wonderful **piano recital of Chopin and Liszt**, to be given by the brilliant French pianist, **EMMANUEL DESPAX**, followed by champagne and canapés, before returning to our hotel.

NB. The logistics of the above three days may alter, depending on times notified. But the content will remain the same.

CHATEAU DE GEORGE SAND (NOHANT) : *This historic house actually predates the 15thc when it underwent major reconstruction in 1450, and again to its present form in 1767. Aurore Dupin, aged four, came here to live with her grandmother after the accidental*

death of her father, an officer in the French army. The grandmother, Madame Dupin de Francueil, illegitimate daughter of war hero, Maurice de Saxe, and granddaughter of the King of Poland, laid out the gardens and built the main stairway here. After being away at school, upon the death of her grandmother, Aurore returned to inherit the house she loved.

She married and had two children (Maurice and Solange) but later left her husband and moved to Paris with a lover and here became famous after writing her first novels under the pseudonym of George Sand. Her fame grew and she used to spend long summers each year writing at Nohant and entertaining the most prestigious personalities in the world of the arts. Later, her most famous lover, **Frédéric Chopin**, lived and worked with her here for almost ten years, during which time he wrote many of his most famous compositions. The house is preserved exactly as it was... now a classified National Monument of France.

One is able to imagine the lives of these two, the strange hours of work and play (different for each) and the stimulating dinner party conversations, music and amusements (Chopin was a brilliant raconteur and mimic) as well as the attractions of Nature all around them. The story of **Chopin and George Sand** is a long and fascinating one about which you will discover much more on this tour.

Day Nine, Saturday, September 5th:

This morning we set off early to **BORDEAUX**. Did you know that the city itself is classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site? We will be welcomed by an old friend who lives in Bordeaux, and after lunch and settling into our centrally situated hotel (yes...now a modern city one!) where your luggage will be stored, she will accompany us on a three hour guided tour so as to see as many of the protected

buildings as possible, especially in **Ville Bordeaux**, which has retained so much charm and character over time. A "must" also will be a visit to the spectacular Grand Theatre, whose architect was **Garnier** of Paris Opera fame. As night falls, we will walk across the lovely Pont de Pierre, from where



the view of the lights on the river and the city is spectacular. **ORCHESTRAL CONCERT IN BORDEAUX** TBA. Dinner before or after in a special location on the River Garonne. (You will need to unpack only your smaller bag for this one night stay. Main cases will be kept in the hotel baggage room).

Day Ten, Sunday, September 6th:

A morning visit to one of the great Bordeaux wineries and then to La Gare St Jean to take our 15.30hrs TGV express to **TOULOUSE** and settle in for three nights at the famous **Hotel de L'Opera**. Time for a walk in the vicinity and Dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Day Eleven. Monday, September 7th:

After such a busy few days, you will need some time off! So today will be a totally free day for independent exploration, but armed with much printed information . You may opt for one of the many guided tours, a short cruise on the **Canal du Midi**, or bicycle along the lovely banks of the Canal, and/or many other options. We are here for two performances of the highly regarded annual Festival **PIANO AUX JACOBINS**. Too early for 2015 details. TBA



TOULOUSE : Capital of the Haute-Garonne, it is the fourth largest city in France. Enjoys several actual UNESCO listings ! As well as being a very cultural university city with so much going on in the world of art and music ,it is also the headquarters of the French aeronautical industry. The delightful Old Town is often referred to as the Rose City, with its rose coloured bricks..." pink at dawn, red at noon and mauve at dusk". **LES JACOBINS**: This church was begun in 1229 and completed over the next two centuries. The Jacobin Convent became the founding building of the university, always a location for artistic enterprises and over the past years the setting for a great annual September Piano Festival featuring renowned international artists.

Day Twelve , Tuesday September 8th:

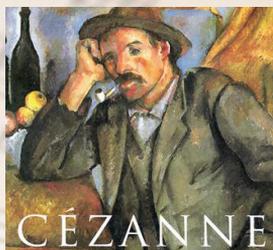
After a morning guided tour of the great Opera House, an excursion this day to fabled **CARCASSONNE**, stopping for an al fresco lunch en route at the medieval village of **Mirepoix**. Parking in so called 'New Carcassonne' the energetic may do the 20 minute walk up to the ramparts of this over-the-top restored tiny vaulted town (yes, there is also a small bus), which despite criticisms of "too perfect" renovation, is claimed to be the second most visited place in France ! It truly is quite a marvel in all its ancient features. Later, time to wander among the small pleasant streets of the lower less ancient city and find dinner in one of many inviting cafes /restaurants there before returning to our Toulouse hotel. If there is a festival concert scheduled this evening we will return much earlier to Toulouse.

Day Thirteen, Wednesday September 9th:

Sorry.... BUT! This morning we will be up early in order to catch our marvellous TGV train trip departing Toulouse at 7.06! Breakfast on the train. This will be a lovely journey and will have us in **AIX-EN-PROVENCE** by 10.52.... in plenty of time for our guided tour of this amazing small city, while our cases are being safely delivered to our first class hotel... the **Grand Hotel Roi Rene**. Lunch will be served at 13.30hrs in an historic restaurant along the Cours Mirabeau... one we have enjoyed many times. An afternoon visit to the atelier of **PAUL CEZANNE** (the painter most associated with this delightful city) and more. The annual Festival Lyrique of Aix-en-P takes place much earlier in the year but there is always music here and during our three day stay we will definitely enjoy one. When we return to our hotel you will find your luggage already in your rooms .

Day Fourteen, Thursday, September 10th:

Today you will enjoy a full day excursion into **PROVENCE** visiting **Avignon**, and many famous villages and vistas which exude the very essence of what Provence is all about...culturally and visually. Fields of lavender, for example, will remain in your memory forever. Some of the inclusions will take you to **St. Remy** (where **Vincent Van Gogh** produced 150 works), **Les Baux, Orange** and its Roman Theatre, **Fontaine-de-Vaucluse** and if time, a guided visit within **AVIGNON's** Palais des Papes. Stops for coffees and light lunch will be made in places of charm and a group dinner will end this memorable day, the location of which will depend on our chosen route.



Day Fifteen, Friday, September 11th:

Option this morning to join another public excursion to a different area of Provence **OR** just to relax around our chosen small city, where the streets, squares, monuments, and many other attractions beckon. Ensure it is a lovely and restful day because tomorrow will be busy!

Day Sixteen, Saturday, September 12th:

The last day of our wonderful tour and we intend to make it very special. **8.30hrs:** We will set off towards the coast... Cannes and environs... and the day will be planned to include lunch in the beautifully sited elevated walled village of **ST.PAUL De VENCE**. If opening hours permit, a visit to the **Fondation Maeght** followed by a visit to **Matisse's Chapel du Rosaire** at Vence itself, a slow drive along the Côte d'Azur via Juan les Pins, Antibes, and finally arriving at the splendid **HOTEL WESTMINSTER** on the Promenade Des Anglais, **NICE**. Enjoy a cocktail on the terrace looking across at the blue waters of the Med before our **FAREWELL DINNER**.

Day Seventeen, Sunday, September 13th:

This extraordinary tour through so many contrasting provinces of France ends after breakfast. It is very easy to access the Aeroport Côte d'Azur (second largest in the country) only 15 mins away, in order to return to Paris or to continue your journey to other locations. Should you wish to spend a few more days in Nice and its famous Mediterranean environs, of course we can arrange this for you; but it needs to be requested at the time of booking on this tour. This is a very busy month on the Côte d'Azur and reservations need to be made months ahead.

SO ENDS ANOTHER MARVELLOUS LINGUA MUSICA TOUR!

BOOKING DETAILS

TOUR PRICE: \$ 10,250 pp/ twin – share

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$ 1,600

DEPOSIT: \$ 1,000, BY January 25th, 2015.

(FINAL BOOKING CLOSURE DATE)

BALANCE Of FEES: JUNE 11th, 2015



TRASIMENO FESTIVAL 2015

An opportunity exists for a very small group of six.

Dates: July 2nd - 12th

Staying in first class Hotel Brufani, PERUGIA, the package will include six festival concerts, excursions to Sienna, Spoleto, and others.

Ending with two days in Rome.

Details available December 2014.

Enquiries by email

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