



SPONSORED BY
 EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE CENTER OAKHURST
 43803 HIGHWAY 41
 OAKHURST, CA 93644

Please join us for our exciting **Opera at Oakhurst, 2018:** The Romantic Spirit in European Opera. As this is the 24th anniversary of the popular program, and reservations are on a first come, first served basis, we advise early registration. Please complete the form below and mail or fax it to 559/683-4971, or reserve online through our secure-server: <https://registration.eccoyosemite.org/>

Date _____

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

ACCOMMODATION DESIRED:

- \$651.00 Per Person- Double Occupancy
 Roommate: _____
- \$771.00 Per Person- Single Occupancy (limited availability)
- \$501.00 Per Person- Commuter (includes everything but lodging)

A \$100.00 per person non-refundable deposit is required to secure your reservation.

Check # _____
 MC/VISA/Discover Card# _____

Exp. Date _____ CVV # _____

(Signature required for all transactions)



Opera at Oakhurst

Revel in ECCO's simplicity and serenity.

Located 12 miles from the south entrance to Yosemite National Park and an hour north of Fresno, the Episcopal Conference Center Oakhurst sits at an elevation of 3,000 feet. We're high enough to escape the central valley fog yet low enough to enjoy a dusting of snow in the winter, along with a colorful four-season climate. ECCO's grounds encompass 160 acres forested with oak, incense cedar, manzanita and ponderosa. Our dining room overlooks an inviting pond on which our swan holds court.

Our comfortable lodge rooms are all private, each with ground level entry. Every room has at least 2 beds, with a variety of configurations. Handicapped rooms are available upon request.

The majority of our discussions take place in Sumner Walters Conference Center, which is just a few feet from our beautiful Lyles Dining hall.

Our expert kitchen team lovingly prepares superb meals for you, from our state-of-the-art kitchen. Meals are served buffet style and with a large variety of options.



ECCO's staff is committed providing you a home away from home.

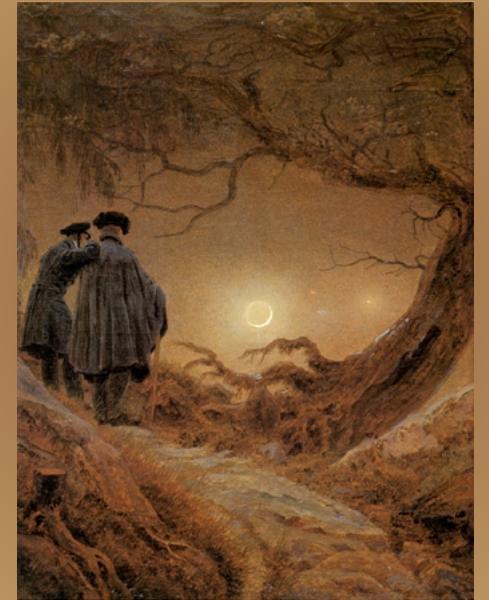
www.ECCOyosemite.org

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Opera at Oakhurst Presents:

The Romantic Spirit in European Opera



*Sponsored by
 Episcopal Conference
 Center Oakhurst*

*April 20-23,
 2018*

The Romantic Spirit in European Opera

The Romantic Movement that transformed European cultural life in the opening decades of the 19th century had an immense impact upon opera. Until that time, opera was performed largely in rudimentary public theatres to popular audiences and in well-equipped court theatres to aristocratic audiences. But the revolutionary ambience of the time led to the collapse of these distinctions and opera came to be seen by larger audiences, which were composed of a wide range of classes. Not only did Romanticism lead opera to find new and wider audiences, it revitalized it artistically. The majority of the repertoire that we see in opera houses today either originated in the Romantic period or, if written later, was strongly influenced by it.

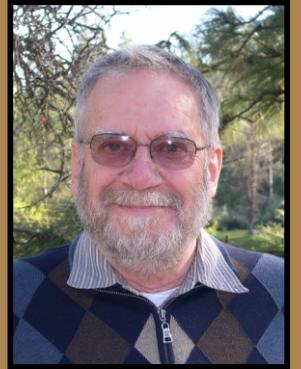
The 2018 Opera at Oakhurst weekend will explore how Romanticism changed European opera. We will initially examine the Romantic movement itself, identifying such important matters as the rise of individualism, the obsession with the Gothic, the spread of revolutionary ideology, the intoxication of Romantic love, the worship of nature, and the idealization of the Medieval world. We will then consider how these themes came to be incorporated into opera, which led to a transformation of the entire genre. Whereas most Opera at Oakhurst weekends have been composed largely of talks that survey a wide range of opera, the focus of this weekend will be upon the study of four Romantic operas that were keystone works in the development the modern operatic theater.

The first of these will be Gioachino Rossini's *Guillaume Tell*, the first major opera in which themes of political revolution were explicitly represented on stage. We will then turn our attention to Richard Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*, a music drama that embodies, more completely than any other stage work, the powers of Romantic love and, in so doing, changed for ever our understanding of opera and what it was capable of expressing. We will then discuss Giuseppe Verdi's epic *La forza del destino*, one of his most ambitious and tuneful operas, which incorporates an exhilaratingly wide range of Romantic themes in its sprawling action. The final opera we will be studying will be Richard Strauss's neoromantic masterpiece, *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, in which Romantic themes from the 19th century are given a modern, symbolic interpretation. To complete our inquiry into romantic opera, we will also be watching DVDs of two other major operas of 19th century Romanticism.

Everyone will be encouraged to listen to these operas prior to coming to Oakhurst. Not only will this make their experience of the weekend much more enjoyable and enlightening, it will also allow for much vigorous and informed discussion.

(Program details may be subject to change without notice)

As we enter our twenty-fourth year, Opera at Oakhurst is proud to welcome back Professor Simon Williams of the Department of Theater and Dance at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He has taught at universities on four continents, including the Universities of Regina and Alberta in Canada, at Cornell University, and, since 1984, at UC Santa Barbara. He has published widely in the fields of European continental theatre, the history of acting and Shakespearean performance, and in operatic history. His major publications include [German Actors of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries](#) (Greenwood, 1985), [Shakespeare on the German Stage, 1586-1914](#) (Cambridge, 1990), widely considered to be the definitive volume in its field, [Richard Wagner and Festival Theatre](#) (Greenwood, 1994), [Richard Wagner and the Romantic Hero](#) (Cambridge, 2004), and, as coeditor, [A History of German Theatre](#) (Cambridge, 2008). He has contributed numerous articles in his fields of specialty in leading periodicals and edited volumes, including [The Cambridge Companion to Grand Opera](#) (Cambridge, 2003), [The Cambridge Companion to Opera Studies](#) (2013) and [The Opera Handbook](#) (Oxford, 2014). He recently edited [The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Stage Actors and Acting](#) (2015) and is now engaged in co-editing its sequel, [The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Stage Directors and Directing](#). He reviews opera in Los Angeles and Santa Fe for [Opera News](#) and [Opern Welt](#) and has directed productions of spoken drama and opera at UCSB, most recently Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Pirandello's *Right You Are! (If You Think You Are)* and Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. An award-winning teacher, he has spoken regularly at opera leagues and guilds, including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington DC, Chicago, Seattle, Sydney, Melbourne, and in many places in Europe, including the Bayreuth Festival.



Our low price covers everything! In addition to lodging and Professor Williams' wonderful instructional seminars, our pricing includes all regular meals, from Friday's arrival social and dinner to Monday's departure lunch, with Saturday afternoon tea and the grand finale social and banquet on Sunday.

\$651.00 per person
Double occupancy

\$771.00 per person
Single occupancy (limited availability)

\$501.00 per person
Commuter (includes everything but lodging)

A \$100.00 per person non-refundable deposit is required to secure your reservation with the balance due no later than February 28. Cancellations between February 28 and March 31 incur a \$275.00 cancellation fee; After March 31 all fees are non-refundable.

We'd love for you to extend your weekend with us! You may make advanced reservations to arrive before the program, Thursday night, or stay with us the night the program ends, Monday night. Private rooms are \$100/night and double rooms are \$60/person. Additional meals are not available, however Oakhurst has many food and leisure options.

For more information, please contact:
ECCO

Phone: (559)683-8162 Fax:(559) 683-4971 E-mail: ecco5@sti.net Mailing Address: 43803 Highway 41, Oakhurst, CA 93644

