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 EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE CENTER
 OAKHURST
 43803 HIGHWAY 41
 OAKHURST, CA 93644

Please join us for our exciting Opera at Oakhurst, 2022: Opera and Religion. As this is the 26th 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 reserve online through our secure server:
<https://eccoyosemite.org/ecco-event-registration>

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

ACCOMMODATION DESIRED:

\$727.00 Per Person- Double Occupancy
 Roommate: _____

\$853.00 Per Person- Single Occupancy
 (limited availability)

\$562.00 Per Person- Commuter
 (includes everything but lodging)

A \$100.00 per person non-refundable deposit is required to secure your reservation. Final Payments are due by February 28th.

Credit Card reservations will have a 4% surcharge

Checks are preferred

MC/VISA/Discover Card# _____

Exp. Date _____ CVV # _____

(Signature required for all transactions)



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 3,100 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 not far 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](http://www.ECCOyosemite.org)

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 Episcopal Conference Center Oakhurst
 43803 Highway 41
 Oakhurst, CA 93644



Opera at Oakhurst Presents:

Opera and Religion

April 8-11, 2022



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Episcopal Conference Center

Oakhurst

Presented by

Simon Williams

OPERA AND RELIGION

Religion and opera have always been very closely aligned. The exalted states of mind that opera can help create in the members of its audiences are, for many, akin to the religious experience, while religion itself has, from the earliest years of opera at the beginning of the 17th century, been one of the most constant themes in the repertoire. At different times over the past 400 years, artistic affinities and beliefs have drawn together religious institutions and opera houses; likewise tensions have divided them. Above all, opera and religious ceremonies have offered humankind deep and abiding rituals that have greatly enriched personal lives and public forums. Opera at Oakhurst 2022 will explore the interrelationship of opera and religion. Four operas will be at the centre of the weekend. We will begin with an analysis of Mozart's **The Magic Flute**, one of the crowning masterpieces of the 18th century, in which the religious and secular values of the Enlightenment are dramatized in the journey of Prince Tamino and his consort Pamina toward an understanding of what it is to be human – and touched with divinity. This takes place against a background of ancient Egyptian religion, strongly influenced by Masonic philosophy. Egypt is also the setting for Verdi's **Aïda** in which the demands of politics and institutionalized religion threaten characters who stand not only for spiritual freedom, but for a sense of religion as a natural, universal force. We will continue our study with Wagner's final music drama, **Parsifal**, in which a concept of divine presence drawn from both Christian and Buddhist sources, as well as from the thought of Schopenhauer, provides the most searching examination of religious consciousness in opera. Finally, we will turn our attention to Francis Poulenc's thrilling dramatization, set during the French Revolution, of the power of religious faith to both prostrate and yet finally to strengthen those who are gripped by fear of both the outer and inner worlds – **Dialogues of the Carmelites**. In addition, we will explore the recent vogue in opera houses to stage the great oratorios of the past.



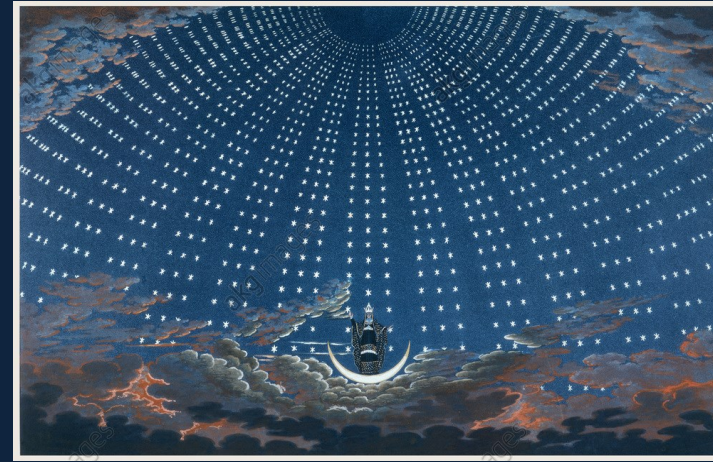
As always, Professor Williams's talks will include video and recorded extracts that will provide access to the fascinating and mysterious world that links opera and religion. Participants will greatly benefit from familiarizing themselves with the four operas that form the central study of the weekend. Suggestions for preparation, including a bibliography, will be sent to participants after they have registered.

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.

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

For more information, please contact ECCO: Phone: (559)683-8162 Fax:(559) 683-4971 E-mail: ecco@sti.net

Mailing Address: 43803 Highway 41, Oakhurst, CA 93644



As we enter our twenty-sixth year, Opera at Oakhurst is proud to welcome back Simon Williams, Professor Emeritus 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, 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 operatic history. His major publications include, *German Actors of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries* (Greenwood, 1985), *Shakespeare on the German Stage, 1586-1914* (Cambridge University Press, 1990), widely considered to be the definitive volume in its field, *Richard Wagner and Festival Theatre* (Greenwood, 1994) and *Wagner and the Romantic Hero* (Cambridge, 2004); he also coedited *A History of German Theatre* (Cambridge, 2008). He has contributed numerous articles in his fields of specialty in leading learned journals and edited collections, including *The Cambridge Companion to Grand Opera* (Cambridge, 2003), *The Cambridge Companion to Opera Studies* (2013) and *The Opera Handbook* (Oxford University Press, 2014). He recently edited *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Stage Actors and Acting* (2015) and is currently co-editing its sequel, *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Stage Directors and Directing*. He reviews opera in Los Angeles for *Opera News* and *Opernwelt* and has directed opera and spoken theatre at UCSB, including most recently, Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, Pirandello's *Right You Are If You Think So!*, Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and Brecht's *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. An award-winning teacher, he has spoken at opera leagues and guilds in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Honolulu, Chicago, Washington DC, Seattle, Boston, Sydney, and Melbourne, as well as at several cities in Europe, including the Bayreuth Festival.

