



# MUSIC IN VENICE: ART, HISTORY, PERFORMANCE

with Royna McNamara  
and Kate Bolton-Porciatti

*Enjoy live performances and explore Venice's magnificent heritage, from the city's art and history to the lagoon and towns of the terraferma*

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Unpack your bags on this residential-style tour, with a long stay in a central hotel in Venice
- Enjoy two performances at the legendary La Fenice: *La Fabbrica Illuminata* and *Erwartung*, and *Carmina Burana*
- Delight in private performances and recitals at a selection of Venice's lesser-known venues, including Palazetto Bru Zane and Auditorium Lo Squero
- Soak up the atmosphere with a private recital in Venice's Villa Valmarana, surrounded by Tiepolo's frescoes
- Explore some of Venice's significant music-making sites, from its churches to confraternities and academies
- Discover the *terraferma* on excursions to Vicenza, Valdobbiadene and into the Venetian lagoon

## IN A NUTSHELL

**DATES:** 18 – 30 Sep 2024

**ITINERARY:**

Venice (12 nights)

**PRICE:** \$11,950pp twinshare

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:**

\$2,400 for sole use of a double room

**FITNESS:** Moderate

**GROUP SIZE:** max. 20 places



Limelight Arts Travel Pty Ltd  
Level 6, 84 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000  
(02) 8599 4201  
[www.limelight-arts-travel.com.au](http://www.limelight-arts-travel.com.au)

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## OVERVIEW

Over Venice's glorious 1600-year history, music has played a central role. Medieval processions of state were accompanied by fanfares and bands, church music was written specifically for St Mark's to glorify the Republic, opera developed as a form of public entertainment for Carnival, and Vivaldi and others offered subscription concerts for travellers on the Grand Tour. Because it was a centre for publishing, Venetian music became known throughout Europe. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, premieres by Verdi, Rossini, Bellini, Stravinsky, Prokofiev, Britten and others took place in Venice's theatres.

On this long-stay tour, unpack your bags and enjoy a deep dive into Venice's history, culture and art as seen through the lens of its music. A long stay in a family-run, centrally located hotel is interspersed with day trips to the *terraferma*, including Vicenza, a city firmly associated with Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio.

## TOUR LEADER

**Royna McNamara** is a conductor and music educator, with expertise in leading music tours to Western Europe. She has a Bachelor of Music (Music Education) from the Conservatorium of Music at the University of Sydney, and a Masters of Education. The Director of Music at Abbotsleigh for twenty years, she studied conducting with Jerry Nowak and has worked with highly-regarded musicians such as Joshua Tsai and Simon Tedeschi.

As a choral conductor, she has led ensembles in venues such as Paris' Notre Dame and Venice's St Mark's Basilica.

**Kate Bolton-Porciatti** is a specialist lecturer on this tour. She was a senior producer and broadcaster at BBC Arts and Classical Music in London before moving to Florence, Italy. She has an MPhil and lectures at the Istituto Lorenzo de' Medici, the British Institute, Florence and the Chigiana Music Academy in Siena. Kate has an international reputation for her online lectures and courses on Italy's cultural history.



*From top: Palazzo Ducale, Venice, seat of the government for 500 years; La Fenice, gloriously rebuilt after devastating fires; Vicenza's Teatro Olimpico, one of the few surviving Renaissance theatres; below, the hills of Valdobbiadene, a Prosecco-growing region on the Venetian mainland*



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## DETAILED ITINERARY

*\*\* Please note that this program is provisional only and that the days and order of our tour program may be modified to accommodate performances. \*\**

### WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER – ARRIVAL (D)

At 5.00pm we gather at the hotel for an aperitif and a brief orientation stroll of our neighbourhood. This is followed by dinner in a nearby restaurant.

### THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER – MUSIC AND THE STATE (B, L)

The maritime republic of Venice, *La Serenissima*, lasted more than 1,000 years. Along with painting and architecture, Venice used music to project a glorious, triumphal image of itself. Ceremonies, processions and religious celebrations, accompanied by fanfares and choirs, were a regular part of life. This morning's walking tour takes us to music history sites in Venice, including the Museum of Music in San Maurizio, and culminates with **St Mark's Square**, the focal point of civic celebrations. We continue to **San Zaccaria** and its celebrated altarpiece by Giovanni Bellini. Afterwards, we enjoy a welcome lunch. Returning to the hotel, there is time to relax before a pre-performance talk by Royna McNamara ahead of our first performance at La Fenice.

#### **Performance #1**

**Venue:** La Fenice

**Program:** Luigi Nono, *The Illuminated Factory* and Arnold Schönberg, *Erwartung*

**Performers:** Jérémie Rohrer (conductor), Valentina Corò (Soprano) and Angela Meade (A woman)

### FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER – THE VENETIAN LAGOON (B, L)

Away from the city centre, the islands and waterways of the Venetian lagoon have a unique beauty. This morning a private boat takes us to **Torcello**, whose extraordinary cathedral and mosaics are testament to a once thriving settlement in the lagoon. After our visit to Torcello we continue to a restaurant on Mazzorbo, a less-visited island with a winery producing the lagoon's autochthonous wine. After lunch, we take a stroll on adjacent **Burano**, still a centre for hand-made lace, before returning to our hotel. The evening is at leisure.



## **SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER – ACCADEMIA AND SAN GIORGIO (B)**

This morning we visit the recently refurbished **Accademia galleries**, still the best place to get an overview of Venetian painting, from Bellini and Carpaccio to Veronese, Titian and Tiepolo. After lunch at leisure, we visit the **Island of San Giorgio Maggiore**, whose iconic church was designed by Andrea Palladio and quickly became one of the most frequently painted scenes of Venice. We visit the church, which contains recently-restored masterpieces by Tintoretto and whose *campanile* provides the finest view over Venice. Returning to the hotel, there is time for an early dinner before we attend a performance.

### **Performance #2**

Venue: Palazzetto Bru Zane

Program: TBA (currently under embargo)

Performers: The Quatuor Cambini-Paris and Marion Martineau (cello)

## **SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER – FRARI AND SAN ROCCO (B)**

Venice's unique character and astounding wealth is very much reflected in its visual arts. Venetian painters such as Giovanni and Gentile Bellini, Carpaccio, Giorgione, Titian, Veronese, Tintoretto and Tiepolo are rated among the greatest in Western art. This morning we see masterpieces by Titian, Bellini and Donatello at **Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari**, which is also the final resting place of Monteverdi. After a break for coffee in this charming neighbourhood of Venice, we visit the **Scuola Grande di San Rocco**, whose walls and ceilings were entirely painted by Tintoretto over the course of 25 years. The afternoon is at leisure, before an early evening talk in the hotel on Venice's musical history. In the evening we attend a performance.

### **Performance #3**

Venue: Sala Apollinee, La Fenice

Program: Franz Schubert, Piano Trio #2 in b-flat major, (1827); Dmitri Shostakovich, Trio #1 in d minor (1923)

Performers: Hesperos Trio

## **MONDAY 23 SEPTEMBER – EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY VENICE (B)**

It's often said that Venice went into a long period of decline in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, but this view is somewhat erroneous. This morning, we explore Venice in the age of Vivaldi, looking closely at the art and architecture of this period. Our first stop is at the recently reopened **Ca' Rezzonico**, Venice's museum of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, with an exceptional collection of paintings by Canaletto, Tiepolo and others. We then visit the church of **Santa Maria della Pietà**. Like St Mark's, this eighteenth-century church has specific architectural features relating to musical performance, and its female orphanage is where Venice's best-known composer, Antonio Vivaldi, worked for decades. In the later afternoon, we enjoy a private recital.

### **Performance #4**

Venue: TBA

Program: A selection of works by Vivaldi, Handel and Fago

Performers: Alexander Simpson (counter tenor) and accompanists on cello, violin & viola



## **TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER – RIALTO AND THE GHETTO (B, L)**

This morning we have a guided tour of the **Rialto**, the centre of Venice's once thriving commercial empire. We then cross the Grand Canal to visit the **Ghetto**, whose Jewish occupants were one of many groups attracted to Venice by its commercial potential. The four synagogues and multiple *scò/e* are testament to the diversity among Venice's Jewish population, whose ancestors had arrived in Venice from across the breadth of Europe. After our visit, we then enjoy lunch at a restaurant in Venice's vibrant Canareggio district, before visiting the recently renovated **Ca d'Oro**, a magnificent palace on the Grand Canal with a museum dedicated to Venetian art and life in the early Renaissance. Returning to the hotel, the evening is at leisure.

## **WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER – FORTUNY AND CONSERVATORIUM (B)**

This morning we visit the **Fortuny Museum**, which preserves the private collection of the family of Mariano Fortuny, the Spanish designer, artist and creator of modern stage lighting. After a guided tour of the four-floor palace and its collections, we have a break for lunch in the neighbourhood. In the afternoon we visit the **Conservatorio Benedetto Marcello**, Venice's conservatorium of music. After a private tour of the conservatorium, including its rooftop terraces with views across Venice, we enjoy a private recital. The later afternoon is at leisure, before we enjoy a performance at Palazetto Bru Zane.

### **Performance #5**

Venue: Palazetto Bru Zane

Program: TBA (currently under embargo)

Performers: Quatuor Dutilleux and Victor Julien-Lafferrière (cello)

## **THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER – VICENZA AND PALLADIAN VILLAS (B, L)**

Vicenza is an elegant provincial town and world famous for its Renaissance architecture. We begin our time in the area with a private visit of the **Villa Valmarana ai Nani**, a suburban villa on a hill overlooking Vicenza. The villa is famous for its cycle of frescoes, painted by Giambattista Tiepolo in 1754 at the height of his powers and international celebrity. We have a **private lunch and recital** at the villa from the Quartetto di Vicenza, the organisers behind the city's very active musical life. Afterwards, we explore Palladio's architecture in Vicenza, including a tour of his **Teatro Olimpico**, one of the only surviving theatres of the Italian Renaissance.

### **Performance #6**

Venue: Villa Valmarana ai Nani

Program: Works by Vivaldi, Mozart, Tartini, Rota, Morricone and J.S. Bach

Performers: Chamber musicians of the Quartetto di Vicenza



## **FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER – CA' PESARO (B)**

This morning, we visit **Ca' Pesaro**, Venice's museum of modern art. The museum was created by Duchess Felicità Bevilacqua La Masa in the 1890s as both Italy's first museum dedicated to modern art and as a studio space for a generation of young artists who would define modern art in Italy in the early twentieth century. The afternoon is at leisure, and you may wish to explore the quieter neighbourhood around Ca Pesaro, with its excellent restaurants and museums.

## **SATURDAY 28 SEPTEMBER – THE VILLA EMO AND THE VALDOBIADDENE (B, L)**

A leisurely excursion today takes us to the mainland to admire a fine example of a Renaissance era villa designed by Andrea Palladio. (Please note: the Villa Emo is currently under restoration and we will advise of a substitute villa.) After our private recital, an exploration of the music commissioned for wind instruments by Venetian doges, we travel to **Valdobbiadene**, in the heart of Italy's prosecco-producing region, for lunch at an excellent restaurant amid rolling hills and vineyards. Returning to Venice, the evening is at leisure.

### **Performance #7**

Venue: A villa in the Veneto

Program: *Titian's Soundscape in Venice*

Performers: I Pifari del Doge (ensemble of historic wind instruments)

## **SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER – AT LEISURE & CARMINA BURANA (B, L)**

This morning is at leisure in Venice, and you may wish to attend mass for the music at St Mark's Basilica, explore one of Venice's other museums or simply relax. We meet for lunch at an excellent Venetian restaurant, after which we have a pre-performance talk in the hotel. In the evening, we attend *Carmino Burana* at La Fenice, the final performance in our program.

### **Performance #8**

Venue: La Fenice

Program: Carl Orff, *Carmina Burana*

Performers: Alfonso Caiani (Chorus Master), Choir of Teatro La Fenice

## **MONDAY 30 SEPTEMBER – DEPARTURE (B)**

The tour ends at the hotel after breakfast this morning.





## INCLUSIONS

- 12 nights' accommodation at a central 4\* hotel, including breakfast
- Best available seats to 8 performances, including 2 at La Fenice, orchestral music and chamber concerts
- 7 lunches or dinners, including drinks
- All ground transport and entrance fees to sites as mentioned in the itinerary, including unlimited use of the public water bus for the duration of the tour
- Commentary by and expertise of an expert Australian tour leader throughout
- Commentary and lectures by an Italian-based, early music specialist
- Services of an Italian-speaking tour manager throughout

## HOTELS

### Hotel Al Codega 4\*, Venice, 12 nights

<https://www.hotelalcodega.com>

The four-star Hotel Al Codega is ideal for a long stay in Venice. It is a family-run establishment with just 21 rooms, meaning our group will occupy most of the hotel. Located in a hidden courtyard between St Mark's and the Rialto, it is both quiet and central. Its breakfast, with pastries and other tempting delights, still made in-house, is legendary.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

By booking on this tour, you accept our terms and conditions, which can be found on our website:

<https://www.limelight-arts-travel.com.au/terms-and-conditions-tours>

## TOUR DETAILS

### DATES

18 – 30 September 2023

### TOUR LEADER

Royna McNamara, with guest lecturer Kate Bolton-Porciatti

### ITINERARY

Venice – 12 nights

### PRICE

\$11,950pp twinshare

### SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

\$2,400 for sole use of a double room

### FITNESS

Moderate: use of public transport, walking tours in Venice

### GROUP SIZE

Maximum 20 places

### DEPOSIT

\$1,000pp at the time of booking

### SECOND DEPOSIT

\$2,000pp due 21 May 2024

### FINAL PAYMENT DUE

5 July 2024

