The Bard Music Festival: King Arthur

Wednesday, July 29

Please note there will be two pick up locations: the first at the Springfield Museums’ State Street parking, Springfield, MA and at the second at Emanuel Synagogue parking lot, 160 Mohegan Dr, West Hartford, CT.

7:45 am – Arrive at the Springfield Museums’ State Street parking lot located directly across the street from the Springfield City Library. Park in the lot and board the bus at the curbside. **Depart at 8 am sharp.**

Or

8:45 am – Meet and board the bus at the Emanuel Synagogue parking lot. **Depart at 9 am sharp.**

En route, Michael Cascia, opera aficionado and instructor, will provide an informative presentation on the music and artistry of the *King Arthur* opera by Ernest Chausson.

11:30 am – Terrapin Restaurant, Rhinebeck, NY. Enjoy a lovely group lunch at the Terrapin Restaurant, in Rhinebeck, NY, voted “Best Farm-to-Table Restaurant and Best Bistro” of the Hudson Valley.

1:15 pm – Depart for the **Bard Music Festival, Fisher Center at Bard College** for the performance of Ernest Chausson’s opera *King Arthur*.

Idealism and treachery, honor and betrayal collide in this rich lyrical opera by French romantic composer Ernest Chausson. First premiered in 1903, this opulently scored work lays bare the tragedy of King Arthur’s betrayal at the hands of his queen Guinevere and his trusted knight Lancelot. Ernest Chausson’s musical style for his only opera was heavily influenced by the works of Richard Wagner, particularly Tristan und Isolde and Parsifal. Leon Botstein, the Bard College President and Conductor, explains that Ernest Chausson's opera, King Arthur, is “Very French in its orchestration and rhetoric, but very indebted to Wagner.”

Directed by Mary Birnbaum, this production of King Arthur takes us to a world in the midst of upheaval where longstanding codes of honor and loyalty no longer hold sway. Leon Botstein conducts The American Symphony Orchestra for this performance at the Fisher Center located on the campus of Bard College in New York’s Hudson Valley. Designed by architect Frank Gehry, the Fisher Center opened in April 2003; it took three years to build, at a cost of more than $62 million. The Bard Music Festival is one of the most highly anticipated performing arts festivals in the country.

**What to bring:** Dress in layers for variable temperatures on the bus, restaurant and Fisher Center. Wine, cheese & crackers, as well as bottled water are provided for the return home.