

British Flair!

A week in London with KMFA 89.5

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Saint Paul's Cathedral

Come along with KMFA for a week of great music, marvelous museums, and fine dining in London next spring.

You will hear two of London's premier orchestras, take in the Royal Ballet's new *Swan Lake* at Covent Garden, hear a private concert at Handel's house (and tour the apartment of Jimi Hendrix next door!) and take an excursion into the gorgeous countryside to the world-renowned Glyndebourne Festival for a performance of Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*! KMFA's Director of Broadcasting and Content, Anthony McSpadden, will be your host.

A week in London would not be complete without visiting some of its world-class museums. You will enjoy a visit to the British Library to view their incredible literary treasures, the inimitable Victoria & Albert Museum with the world's finest collection of the decorative arts, the Tate Gallery for its magnificent Turners, and two incomparable private house collections. Four-star accommodations in the bustling West End, great restaurants, a "royalty" tour of Parliament, afternoon tea at the Ritz, and much more await you on this splendid cultural journey!

***Tour begins May 18 in London**



Glyndebourne

May 17 - 25, 2018*



Anthony McSpadden

A multi-faceted programmer, producer and announcer now in his third decade in radio, Anthony McSpadden became KMFA's Director of Broadcasting and Content in June 2016. He is a native Texan whose career began at WRR in Dallas, where he served as the station's music director. Anthony then went on to create the world's first classical music satellite radio channel—Maestro—after moving to Washington, DC. Following his work in satellite radio, he worked for several years for both WHRO-FM, and its sister NPR affiliate WHRV in Norfolk, VA. In addition to his lifelong love of classical music, Anthony has a strong commitment to the arts and has often lent his voice for documentaries and museum audio tours. In his spare time, Anthony enjoys the cinema, reading history, playing with his Whippet, George, traveling, and of course—listening to old favorites, and discovering new music.

Turner's *Peace-Burial at Sea*, Tate Gallery



Tour Highlights

- Prime tickets to 3 major musical performances in London by the London Symphony, the Philharmonia Orchestra, and the Royal Ballet at Covent Garden
- Excursion to the famed Glyndebourne Festival to attend Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*
- Private concert at Handel's home in London
- Tours of major sites in London including the Houses of Parliament, Tate Gallery, Victoria & Albert Museum, and others
- Afternoon tea at the Ritz, the best in London
- Private cruise and reception on the Thames
- Four-star accommodations in the West End and fine dining at top restaurants in London
- Commentary by KMFA's Anthony McSpadden throughout the trip
- Private motorcoach transportation for all activities on the tour
- Free time for extra sight-seeing, shopping or relaxing



Tour Cost: \$5,985, double occupancy, ground only. Tour limited to 25 participants, or as space allows.

The London tour is organized exclusively for KMFA by The Grand Tour Travel Company of Peterborough, NH.

Daily Itinerary

Thursday, May 17

KMFA's group flight on British Airways departs from Austin, non-stop to London, with arrival the following day.

Day 1: Friday, May 18

A LONDON HOW DO!

Flight arrivals at Heathrow transfer to the group's four-star lodging in the West End, London's theatre district. A private boat cruise down the Thames River provides an introduction to the great capital, followed by our **welcome dinner** at Simpson's-in-the-Strand, a historic London eatery.

Day 2: Saturday, May 19

PARLIAMENT & SWAN LAKE

Breakfast daily at the hotel. On our first morning we'll take a private tour of both Houses of Parliament, focusing on the upper House of Lords and the superb art found throughout the chambers. A glass of champagne completes a special visit. Next we visit Westminster Abbey, begun in 1245 and the resting place of seventeen monarchs and its fascinating Poet's Corner, where many of England's greatest literary figures are buried. Our private **lunch** takes place in the posh St. James quarter. Tonight the Royal Ballet at Covent Garden presents a new production of Tchaikovsky's magnificent classical ballet, *Swan Lake*, with additional choreography by Frederick Ashton and Liam Scarlett.

Day 3: Sunday, May 20

A NOBLE COLLECTION & BEETHOVEN

The Wallace Collection is housed in the former residence of the Marquesses of Hertford, with 25 rooms filled with one of the best collections of French 18th century paintings, porcelain and furniture in the world. After our tour there, a pleasant Sunday **brunch** is nearby. In the evening, the London Symphony Orchestra, arguably Britain's best, is led by Michael Tilson Thomas, the longtime preeminent conductor of the San Francisco Symphony, in Beethoven's mighty choral masterpiece, *Missa Solemnis*, one of his last great works.

Day 4: Monday, May 21

THE V&A AND TURNER

The Victoria & Albert Museum is one of the glories of the city, the largest museum of decorative arts and design in the world. The collections, originally in applied art and science, now span 5000 years of history in 145 galleries. There is a surprise around every corner!



Afterwards, we're on to the superb museum, the Tate Britain, home of British art from 1500 to the present. After **lunch** at their award-winning restaurant, we'll focus on the works of J.M.W. Turner, the great painter of history, landscape and marine subjects whom Ruskin called "the father of modern art". This evening, we'll enjoy a private concert exclusively for the group at the Handel Hendrix House. George Frederic Handel lived in this Mayfair house for 36 years and composed many of his most famous works, including *Messiah*. Next door, none other than Jimi Hendrix lived for one year, in 1968 (and he was a Handel fan!).

Day 5: Tuesday, May 22

LIBRARIES OF LONDON

This morning we visit the magnificent British Library to have a viewing of many of their iconic treasures, including one of their five First Folios of 1623, the primary source for at least 20 of Shakespeare's plays, the Magna Carta, handwritten lyrics by the Beatles, Jane Austen's notebooks, and many more. Then Library curators will give us an exclusive, private viewing of some of the important musical manuscripts in the collection. Then we visit another outstanding personal collection. Sir John Soane, a leading British architect of the 19th century, rebuilt three adjoining houses and crammed them with art and antiques in clever ways. The house remains as he left it, and our visit will be private. Lunch is on your own. Later in the afternoon, you'll enjoy the sumptuous, traditional **afternoon tea** at the Ritz, considered by many the best in London. Your evening is free.

Day 6: Wednesday, May 23

GLYNDEBOURNE

Now considered one of the top opera festivals in the world, the Glyndebourne Festival was founded by John Christie in 1934 at his country manor in beautiful East Sussex, and is still run today by his grandson Gus. Set in the rolling hills of the South Downs—sheep grazing nearby—the gorgeous setting of the manor has traditionally been an occasion to dress in formal wear and enjoy an elegant afternoon and evening. Puccini's tragic romance *Madama Butterfly* makes its debut at the Festival in a new production by Annilese Miskimmon. During the first intermission, we bow to Glyndebourne tradition with a splendid picnic **dinner** on the lawn!

Day 7: Thursday, May 24

AN ITALIAN FAREWELL

Today is a free day in London with no scheduled activities, a perfect day for additional sight-



top center: London Symphony Orchestra,
right: Houses of Parliament

seeing, shopping or just plain relaxing. Our **farewell dinner** at Margot, with a classic Italian cuisine, precedes a performance by the historic Philharmonia Orchestra at Royal Festival Hall. Italian maestro Daniele Gatti conducts a program including Mendelssohn's vibrant "Italian" Symphony and Brahms' rousing 2nd Symphony.

Day 8: Friday, May 25

The tour ends after breakfast and hotel check-out. The group flight returns to Austin non-stop on British Airways arriving later in the day.

*Itinerary is subject to change. Meals in **bold** are included in the price of the tour.*

Royal Opera House at Covent Garden



Tour Registration

Tour Cost: \$5,985 per person, ground only, double occupancy. Single supplement: \$970
Optional group flight: \$1,325, economy class on British Air (spaces limited)

Deposit: \$1,000 per person first come, first served.

Balance Deadline: Friday, March 16, 2018.
After that date, call for availability.

Contact The Grand Tour to reserve your place on the tour with a credit card deposit, or send a check made payable to The Grand Tour for the deposit amount to: KMFA London Tour, The Grand Tour, PO Box 274, Peterborough, NH 03458. Registration materials can be downloaded from www.kmfa.org

Questions? Contact The Grand Tour at 800-727-2995 / info@thegrandtour.com or Virginia Alvarez of KMFA at 512-615-6902 / valvarez@kmfa.org