

June 23 – July 3, 2007

Opera Odyssey

TEN-NIGHT BALTIC SEA CRUISE

*Join Internationally-Renowned Soprano
Christine Brewer*

Along with F. Paul Driscoll and Craig Rutenberg

Imagine a place designed to satisfy your craving for opera — the music, the luminaries, the glamor, and the emotion. Now you can experience that place on Opera Odyssey, a cruise where the soothing rhythms of the Baltic Sea meet the passionate emotions of the vocal arts.

Join American soprano Christine Brewer, pianist Craig Rutenberg, and OPERA NEWS Editor-in-Chief F. Paul Driscoll in a program of recitals, lectures, and social events on Holland America's m.s. Veendam, sailing roundtrip Copenhagen June 23–July 3, 2007. Mr. Driscoll's lectures on Scandinavian divas and essential Russian singers will add a dimension to your knowledge of opera. Feed your "opera soul" with two exclusive on-board recitals (in an intimate performance venue) by Miss Brewer: a classical one, featuring **Wagner, Strauss, and Marx** lieder; and a glorious cabaret recital of works of **Harold Arlen, Ira Gershwin, and Cole Porter**. On two exclusive land-based adventures, you'll catch the essence of St. Petersburg with a private tour of the Hermitage, a luncheon, and a Mariinsky Theatre recital by members of its "Academy of Young Singers." In Helsinki, you'll tour the city, have a luncheon of regional specialties, and reflect on the voices of the Sibelius Academy's artists.

What could be better than savoring the Baltic's Midnight Sun, getting a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the opera realm, in the company of kindred spirits? Take a journey with The Metropolitan Opera Guild and Geek Cruises.



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The Metropolitan
Opera Guild

COPENHAGEN Saturday, June 23
Bon Voyage Cocktail Party (5:15pm)

AT SEA
Sunday, June 24

Ten Essential Scandinavian Divas
(1:30pm–3pm) Speaker: F. Paul Driscoll

We will take a look at ten of opera's brightest "Northern Stars," from **Jenny Lind**, the nineteenth century's first super-diva, to Wagnerian immortals **Kirsten Flagstad** and **Birgit Nilsson** and twenty-first-century dazzler **Karita Mattila**.

Private High Tea with Champagne
(3:15pm–4:15pm) Hosted by: F. Paul Driscoll

Classical Recital (8pm–9:30pm)
Christine Brewer and Craig Rutenberg

Is lieder relevant in the twenty-first century? Miss Brewer will offer clues in an exclusive recital as she takes you on a tour of lieder. Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder* convey the soul's longing to find its true home. Miss Brewer's Strauss lieder selections hint at the place of introspection in life, and her nuanced interpretation of Marx lieder will allude to the subtle pleasures and haunting emotions of life fully lived. In the *Seven Early Songs* of Berg we'll hear of solitude and fulfillment. Let Miss Brewer help you experience lieder as a twenty-first century touchstone.

TALLINN, ESTONIA
Monday, June 25 (8am–6pm)

Travelers may choose independent exploration, or they may sign up for one of Holland America's land tours, including:

- Highlights of Tallinn
- Panoramic Tallinn
- Medieval Rakvere & Tallinn
- Old Town & Rocca al Mare
- Romantic Haapsalu
- The Best of Tallinn
- Tallinn's Old Town — A Walking Tour
- The Spirit of Medieval Estonia
- Walk & Shop in Tallinn's Old Town

Ten Essential Russian Singers
(8pm–9:30pm) Speaker: F. Paul Driscoll

F. Paul Driscoll will set the scene for your exploration of St. Petersburg's cultural riches with a multi-media lecture that celebrates Russian singers — both divas and divos. The presentation begins with **Feodor Chaliapin**, the charismatic bass who first thrilled audiences in Tsarist Russia, and continues with a discussion of Soviet-era stars such as **Pavel Lisitsian**, **Ivan Kozlovsky**, and **Zara Dolukhanova** as well as today's brilliant Russian exports **Olga Borodina**, **Dmitri Hvorostovsky**, and **Anna Netrebko**.

Schedule is subject to change.

Cruise prices vary from \$1,849 for an Inside Stateroom to \$5,399 for a Full Suite, per person. (Cruise pricing is subject to change. Geek Cruises will generally match the cruise pricing offered at the Holland America website at the time of booking.) For those attending our Program, there is a \$1,475 fee. Taxes are \$353 per person.



ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA
Tuesday, June 26 — Day 1 (7am–overnight)

Hermitage Museum and Evening Performance (time TBA)

Ready for St. Petersburg to enthrall you? Your St. Petersburg shore experience comes at an ideal time, coinciding with the climax of the Mariinsky Theatre's renowned Stars of the White Nights Festival, under the aegis of Valery Gergiev, the director and creative genius of the Kirov Orchestra, Opera, and Ballet.

The day begins with an insider's privileged early access to the fabled State Hermitage Museum and a tour of its highlights, guided by senior art historians. Enjoy a festive luncheon and a private recital by soloists from the Mariinsky's internationally-recognized "Academy of Young Singers," performing selections from the company's repertoire of Russian opera. We'll share a unique experience as we absorb the performance of young artists destined for renown, presented in the setting where their in-depth and intense studies take place.

Subject to the Mariinsky Theatre's programming, the evening will feature an optional opera, music, or dance performance in one of St. Petersburg's lovely theaters. Performance details will be announced in Spring 2007.

ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA
Wednesday, June 27 — Day 2 (depart 6pm)

Travelers may choose independent exploration, or they may sign up for one of Holland America's land tours, including:

- Catherine's Palace at Pushkin & Pavlovsk
- Church on the Spilled Blood & the Russian Museum
- Grand St. Petersburg
- Evening Folkloric Spectacular
- Glories of St. Petersburg
- Peterhof
- Highlights of St. Petersburg
- Imperial St. Petersburg
- Murder on the Moika River
- Pushkin: Catherine's Palace
- Splendors of St. Petersburg
- St. Petersburg Panoramic Drive
- St. Petersburg with Peter & Paul Fortress
- The Hermitage Museum at the Winter Palace

Maytime: Pre-Movie Presentation (8pm)
Speaker: F. Paul Driscoll

After exploring the cultural abundance of St. Petersburg, settle in for a night of classic cinema, as F. Paul Driscoll gives you a brief introduction to *Maytime*, starring Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy. This classic film has all the twists and turns of a great opera, a love triangle, jealousy and more — not to mention that the leading characters are two young opera singers.

Maytime: Movie Showing (8:15pm–10pm)

HELSINKI, FINLAND
Thursday, June 28 (6am–5pm)

Your day in Finland's beautiful capital begins with a coach tour of the city escorted by a music specialist. We'll view the spectacular National Opera House in Töölö, the vibrant cultural center of Helsinki, then visit the noted Sibelius Academy, home of many international competition winners. At midday, we'll nourish body and soul with a luncheon in one of Helsinki's characteristic restaurants (think Russian cuisine with a wild North Country flair) and a private vocal recital.

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN
Friday, June 29 (8am–6pm)

Travelers may choose independent exploration, or they may sign up for one of Holland America's land tours, including:

- Old Town & City Hall
- Old Town & Millesgarden
- Panoramic Stockholm
- Panoramic Stockholm & Vasa Museum
- Royal Palace & Old Town
- Stockholm Overview, Mariefred & Gripsholm
- The Best of Stockholm
- Vikings & the Gold Room
- Waterways of Stockholm

Interview and Q&A with Christine Brewer (8pm) Moderator: F. Paul Driscoll

Q&A will be followed by a private Cocktail Party (9pm–10pm)

AT SEA
Saturday, June 30

Meeting Venus: Pre-Movie Presentation (10am) Speaker: F. Paul Driscoll

During his introduction, F. Paul Driscoll will lead you through the inner workings of this satirical and witty commentary on the state of opera in the "modern" united Europe. Emmy Award-winning actress and Oscar nominee Glenn Close stars as a temperamental diva in this 1991 film. Viewers will also enjoy hearing the voices of opera stars **Kiri Te Kanawa**, **Waltraud Meier**, **Kim Begley**, **Håkan Hagegård** and **René Kollo** in excerpts from Wagner's *Tannhäuser*, the opera central to the film's plot.

Meeting Venus: Movie Showing (10:15am–Noon)

Private High Tea with Champagne (3:15p–4:15pm) Hosted by: Christine Brewer

ÅRHUS, DENMARK
Sunday, July 1 (8am–3pm)

Travelers may choose independent exploration, or they may sign up for one of Holland America's land tours, including:

- Djursland Half-Day Tour
- Hans Christian Andersen & Funen Village
- Legoland Full-Day Tour
- Off the Beaten Track: Fyrkat Viking Fortress
- Silkeborg & the Highland Lakes of Denmark
- Vintage Train Ride

Cabaret Recital (8pm–9:30pm)
Christine Brewer and Craig Rutenberg

Ever wonder where a diva draws her "diva-ness" from? Discover one of our diva's sources, as she immerses herself in the glamorous world of cabaret. Miss Brewer will treat us to a glimpse of her heart, soul, and roots as she defines **Harold Arlen's** "St. Louis Woman" in an exclusive performance. We'll witness Miss Brewer embodying **Cole Porter's** style, energy, and wit and hear her color and enliven **Ira Gershwin's** smart wordplay. Join us as a diva lets her inner resources come out and play — Cabaret!

OSLO, NORWAY
Monday, July 2 (8am–3pm)

Travelers may choose independent exploration, or they may sign up for one of Holland America's land tours, including:

- Historic Tour of Oslo
- Panoramic Oslo
- Off the Beaten Track: Norse Mythology & the Trolls of Sylling
- Oslo By Air
- Oslo City Tour & Viking Ships
- Scenic Oslofjord by Vintage Sailing Ship
- Viking Ship Museum & Hadeland Glassworks

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