



## *Introducing the Te Deum Travel Program* **Bach Cantatas at the Royal Opera Theatre Versailles (plus Paris), France June 9-14, 2025**

Would it sound like fun to travel to Europe, hear some great choral concerts, explore world-class museums, stay in an excellent well-placed hotel, and enjoy outstanding meals at fine restaurants? What if we told you that Matthew Christopher Shepard, Te Deum's terrific Artistic Director, would be coming along to give you special insights into the performances, and that a portion of your trip cost would be a tax deductible donation to Te Deum?

If that sounds intriguing, have we got a trip for you! We are announcing Te Deum's first international choral trip, to occur in June 2025 with Request Italy, a small locally-based arts-oriented tour company owned by Rob and Barbara Seaver. Here are the specifics:

***Sunday, June 8, 2025*** - You will fly from Kansas City to Paris, France, arriving early the next morning, June 9 (you will make your own air arrangements).

***Monday, June 9*** - This morning you arrive in Paris. You will transfer to Versailles just an hour from Paris (via train, taxi or ride share, or if the travelers' schedules work out, we'll provide a bus). You will check into our lovely hotel in Versailles, enjoy a brief walking tour of the historic city center and get your first glimpse of the spectacular Palace of Versailles. Take the rest of the afternoon to rest from your travels and recuperate. This evening you and our other travelers will enjoy a grand welcoming group dinner. Get a good rest on your first night in Versailles, because we will be busy for the next few days!

***Tuesday, June 10*** - After a healthy breakfast at the hotel (breakfast is included each morning), you will join us for a guided tour of the spectacular Palace of Versailles, built by King Louis XIV of France (the "Sun King," France's

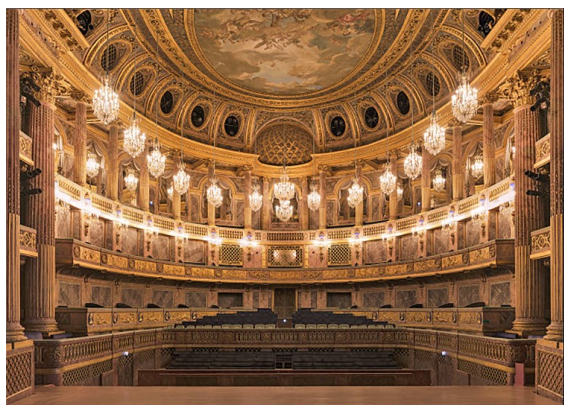


Palace of Versailles

greatest ruler), including its famous Hall of Mirrors and many fabulous works of art. The group will enjoy an excellent lunch at a restaurant housed within the Palace (French pastries for dessert?) and then have the rest of the afternoon free to either return to the Palace for a tour of the Palace artworks with our art expert guide, Rob Seaver, or return to the hotel for a rest.

This evening you will stroll with our group to the spectacular Royal Opera Theatre for a performance of three "Jubilate" Bach cantatas conducted by Sir John Eliot Gardiner, one of the world's pre-eminent choral conductors, and a fine hand-selected orchestra and chorus. Matthew will give us a special preview of this performance (and also the one tomorrow night).

Let's pause to learn a bit about the Royal Opera Theatre.  
King Louise



The Royal Opera Theatre



John Eliot Gardiner

XIV's original vision for the Palace of Versailles included his own private 700-seat theater as part of the north wing of the Palace. It wasn't completed during his lifetime, but it was finished during the rule of his successor, King Louis XV. The theater opened in 1770. It was actually in operation for only about 30 years before being closed as a result of the French Revolution. It sat dormant for more than 200 years. In 2007 it was fully renovated and reopened, and is now the venue for a few dozen exclusive orchestra concerts and recitals each year. Tickets are difficult to obtain, so you will be among a privileged few to see this spectacular theater and experience timeless music there.



The Louvre Museum in Paris

**Wednesday, June 11**- Today you and the group will enjoy a tour of the world-famous gardens of the Palace of Versailles, worth several hours by themselves alone. We will also tour the Grand Trianon, the famous museum associated with the Palace of Versailles, and enjoy a wonderful group lunch. This evening you will join us again in a stroll to the Royal Opera Theatre for the second of our two spectacular concerts of Bach cantatas (“Cantatas for the 16th Sunday”) conducted by Sir John Eliot Gardiner.

**Friday, June 12**- This morning we will depart

**Tour Cost:**

**Land Arrangements ..... \$5,250**

There is an added single supplement of \$600 if you want a single room at the hotel.

**Air fare is not included** as most of our travelers prefer to make their own air arrangements.

🎵 Your initial payment of **\$2,000 per person** will be due on **October 31, 2024**, along with your completed registration form (see next page). The remainder of your payment will be due January 1, 2025. We will invoice you prior to the final payment date.

🎵 If you have any questions about the arrangements please call our tour guide, Rob Seaver in Lawrence, Kansas at (203) 286-9542 or e-mail him at seaver1952@gmail.com.

Versailles for the one-hour bus ride to Paris where we will tour the famous Louvre Museum. Rob Seaver worked for many years at Christie's auction house and is familiar with all of Europe's great museums and fabulous artworks. You will be amazed at his knowledge of the art collection here (and elsewhere in Europe, if you join us on future trips). Lunch is on your own. In the afternoon you may join an optional tour of the “old” Paris Opera house, the famous Palais Garnier, the “Phantom of the Opera” opera house (yes, there really is a lake underneath). We will enjoy a delicious dinner of French specialties and then return to Versailles in the evening.

For those so wishing, there is an optional performance (ballet) at the Palais Garnier this evening (extra cost). You will be responsible for your own return to Versailles, although we will assist with a private car or van if enough people elect this option.

**Friday, June 13** - Today the group will return to Paris to visit another spectacular museum, the Musée d'Orsay, filled with many of the greatest masterpieces of Impressionist art. After another delicious group lunch there will be an optional boat ride along the Seine, to enjoy the spectacular views of Paris' greatest tourist attractions. These include the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral (just now finishing its reconstruction) and many others. Otherwise you will have the rest of the afternoon on your own. We will meet at the Opera Bastille, which is the “new” Paris opera house (opened in 1989) for our final performance of the trip, Rossini's delightful comic opera *The Barber of Seville (Il Barbiere di Siviglia)*. Afterwards we will take you back to Versailles.

**Saturday, June 14**- We will provide a bus back to the Paris airport as you depart France following a spectacular trip.

*We have a limit of 20 people on this trip*, so if you are interested please register soon (see form on last page). We hope you can join us!