

Weekend Courses 2023-24**From violent Expressionism to Neo-Romantic sunset: the operas of Richard Strauss****Start date:** 12 July 2024 **End date:** 14 July 2024**Venue:** Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge
CB23 8AQ**Tutor:** Dr Robert Letellier **Course Code:** 2324NRX043

Tutor biography

Robert Ignatius Letellier is a lecturer and author and has presented some 30 courses in music, literature and cultural history at ICE since 2002. Educated in Grahamstown, Salzburg, Rome and Jerusalem, he is a member of Trinity College (Cambridge), the Meyerbeer Institute Schloss Thurmau (University of Bayreuth), the Salzburg Centre for Research in the Early English Novel (University of Salzburg) and the Maryvale Institute (Birmingham) as well as a panel tutor at ICE.

Lectures given by Robert include copious audio-visual examples, utilising CD, DVD and PowerPoint. He encourages the exchange of ideas among the participants, with as much interaction and discussion as possible.

Robert's publications number over 100 items, including books and articles on the late 17th, 18th and early 19th century novel (particularly the Gothic Novel and Sir Walter Scott), the Bible, and European culture. He has specialised in the Romantic opera, especially the work of Giacomo Meyerbeer (a four-volume English edition of his diaries, critical studies, and two analyses of the operas), the opera-comique and Daniel-François-Esprit Auber, Operetta, the Romantic Ballet and Ludwig Minkus. He has also worked with the BBC, the Royal Opera House, Naxos International and Marston Records, in the researching and preparation of productions.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the Terrace Bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	The operatic milieu in the late 19th century
22:00	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
09:00 – 10:30	Expressionism: <i>Salome & Elektra</i>
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Viennese comedy: <i>Der Rosenkavalier</i>
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free time
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Mixing genres: <i>Ariadne auf Naxos</i>
18:00 – 18:30	Free time
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Mythology re-invented: <i>Die Frau ohne Schatten</i>
21:30	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
09:00 – 10:30	Nostalgia: <i>Arabella</i>
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Late works: <i>Daphne & Capriccio</i>
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

The course will allow you to:

- appreciate the evolution of opera in the late 19th and 20th centuries
- better understand operatic writing and its variety of genres
- consider Richard Strauss's contribution to opera

Summary of content:

The course will consider the rise of Wagnerism, Realism, Naturalism and Expressionism in the late 19th century and Strauss's development as an opera composer, his decisive relationship with Hugo von Hofmannsthal and his later reactions to various genres.

Presentation of the course:

No requirements are necessary, but some knowledge of opera and Richard Strauss in particular would help deepen appreciation. The course will be presented as lectures with musical and iconographical illustrations. There will be opportunity for discussion.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, you should be able to:

- place opera in wider cultural context
- appreciate more of the German and Austrian artistic heritage
- grow in the knowledge of operatic genre
- value the variety and depth of Richard Strauss as a composer of opera

Reading and resources list

There are no compulsory readings for this course. However, you may find the below recommended reading list of interest to supplement your course.

Del Mar, Norman, *Richard Strauss, A Critical Commentary on His Life and Works*, 3 vols. London (1962-72)

Kennedy, M, *Richard Strauss*, London (1976)

Osborne, Charles, *The Complete Operas of Strauss*, London: Gollancz (1988, 1992)

Sadie, Stanley, *The Grove Dictionary of Opera*, 4 vols. London: Macmillan (1992)

Note: Institute of Continuing Education (ICE) students are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current ICE course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

(Information correct as of 15 May 2023)