

**Seattle Chamber Music Society
Patron Visit to Minneapolis
April 25-29, 2019**



Join SCMS Executive Director Connie Cooper on a spring visit to the city of Minneapolis, the largest business and cultural center between Seattle and Chicago, located on the Mississippi and twinned with Saint Paul. The city is noted for its very strong music and arts and is home of the Minnesota Orchestra, Minnesota Opera and Guthrie Theater, among other performing arts organizations. The Walker Art Center, The Minneapolis Institute of Art and The Weisman Art Museum form the backbone of a vibrant visual arts scene and we will be including visits to some of these during the days we are there.

We have selected the Kimpton Grand Hotel, located downtown at 615 Second Avenue South, for its location, warm mid-western hospitality and elegant sophistication.

The musical program includes two Minnesota Orchestra performances, the first led by Music Director Maestro Osmo Vänskä, with works by Beethoven, Gordon (the US Premiere), Tómasson and Sibelius, “as Nordic forest spirits meet Greek gods in a performance that combines ethereal expressiveness and glittering romanticism”. The second takes selected members of the Orchestra’s string and wind sections in a varied chamber music program that includes an aria for English Horn and String Quartet by Neal Desby, a Quartet for Four Basses by Schuller and a Brahms Clarinet Quintet. The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra concert performance includes Mozart’s Fifth Violin Concerto, the second movement of Haydn’s 63rd Symphony and 20th century works by composers Bohuslav Martinů and George Walker.

The three concerts in the Twin Cities feature musicians who were part of our 2018 Summer Festival, and we will have opportunities to meet some of them during our visit.

Thursday, April 25



Independent arrival and check in at Kimpton Grand Hotel in downtown Minneapolis.

We meet in the early evening for welcome drinks and nibbles at the hotel followed by a transfer by coach to the renowned Guthrie Theater located on the Mississippi riverside. Dinner will be at the nearby *Sea Change* Restaurant featuring Chef Tim McKee's innovative menu based on sustainable sea food. We attend tonight's performance of *Metamorphoses*: a visually stunning masterpiece written and directed by Mary Zimmerman and

based on the myths of Ovid translated by David R. Slavitt.

Friday, April 26

After breakfast (included daily) we meet for a guided City Tour by coach, ending at the Walker Arts Center, where we receive an introduction to the center and a private tour of highlights of the collections. After a coffee break at The Walker, we continue with a guided visit to the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, focusing on a selection of the more than forty Walker artworks.

We board the coach for the downtown financial district and lunch at *McKinney Roe* one of the city's lively, stylish restaurants.

The remainder of the afternoon and dinner is independent. The hotel includes a complimentary wine reception each evening and the lounge menu at The Six15 Room is suitable for a light dinner.

In the early evening we transfer across the river to Ordway Concert Hall in downtown Saint Paul and an 8:00pm concert. The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and Associate Concertmaster Ruggero Alliffranchini takes center stage for Mozart's fifth and final violin concerto and the 2nd movement of Haydn's 63rd Symphony, entitled *La Roxelane*. The program is rounded out with 20th century chamber works by Czech composer Bohuslav Martinů and American composer George Walker, the first African American composer to win the Pulitzer Prize for Music.



We plan to include a post-performance gathering with artists for drinks in a nearby neighborhood before returning to the hotel together.

Saturday, April 27

Depart by coach for MIA, Minnesota Institute of Art where we will tour selected works from the Permanent Collection, allowing some time for independent viewing. The next stop is another Minneapolis must-see; Midtown Global Market located in a former Sears building. Immerse yourself in an internationally themed cultural experience with foods to match. Lunch will be on your own, affording the opportunity to try delicious specialties from all corners of the globe.

We gather again and move on to the Somali Museum for an hour before public visiting times. Our Somali guide will tour the museum which was founded in 2011 and is the only Somali Museum in the world. Minnesota is home to one of the world's largest Somali diaspora populations, and the museum is a vehicle for youth and elders to preserve, celebrate, and cultivate a new future for Somali culture worldwide. Return to the hotel by mid- afternoon with time to rest. Dinner plans to be determined.

Evening coach departure for the Orchestra Hall and 8:00pm Minnesota Orchestra performance. Beethoven's Overture to *The Creatures of Prometheus*. Gordon's *Prometheus*, part of Minnesota Orchestra's season-long celebration of American music, Tómasson's Piano Concert No.2 and Sibelius' *Tapiola*. Intermission drinks will be included this evening as will a post-performance backstage visit.



Sunday, April 28

The morning and brunch/lunch is independent. We then meet in the hotel to transfer to the stunning Frank Gehry designed Weisman Art Museum located on the University of Minnesota campus. We will have an hour long tour and some free time before driving to Orchestra Hall once more for the 4:30pm chamber music concert in the Atrium Room. Program: Desby's Aria for English Horn and string Quartet, Schuller's Quartet for Four Basses and the Brahms Clarinet

Quintet. We drive to attractive Loring Park area for a festive closing dinner with invited guests at *Bar Lounge Lurcat*. Following dinner, we return to the hotel and close out our time together in the Twin Cities.

Monday, April 29

Independent departures. Private car service to the airport may be reserved through the concierge.

INCLUSIONS:

Four nights Kimpton Grand Hotel

Breakfast each day

Three concerts and one stage play, with best seating

Four lunches/dinners and post-performance reception

Guided sightseeing as described

Coach transfers as required by the itinerary

Gratuities for drivers/guides/restaurants

\$400 per person remit to the SCMS

Surprise inclusions!

Connie Cooper, SCMS Executive Director, will accompany throughout

Services of Annie Sale, Act 1 Tours' partner, throughout

Rate:

\$3,650 per person

Extra hotel nights: \$190 double or single

Not included:

Airfares and airport transfers

Personal items not specifically included in the published itinerary

Payment:

A non-refundable deposit of \$1000 per person at registration

The balance is due by February 25, 2019 and at that point the total amount is non-refundable

Insurance:

Trip cancellation insurance is recommended to mitigate financial losses should the need to cancel arise for insurable reasons. Act 1 Tours can arrange coverage on your behalf through AIG Travel Guard on request. Certain policies will waive pre-existing medical conditions if purchased within 15 days of your initial deposit.