



A Classical Opera Lovers' Journey to Bella Italia!

with Maestro Anthony Barrese and KHFM host Alexis Corbin

June 10 - 19, 2026

Join **Maestro Anthony Barrese** and **KHFM host Alexis Corbin** for an unforgettable journey through Italy's musical heart. Explore the legacies of Verdi, Vivaldi, Stradivarius, Rossini, Toscanini, and more in the cities that inspired their genius.

This exclusive KHFM tour features Donizetti's *Enrico di Borgogna* at Venice's famed La Fenice! And, Verdi's *La traviata* in Verona's historic Roman arena. In addition, you'll be treated to a recital in Verdi's hometown of Busseto and a performance in Cremona's renowned Stradivarius Museum.

Savor private tours of Italy's artistic and culinary treasures—from paintings and sculpture to balsamic vinegar, olive oil, and cheeses. Conclude your journey in Bologna, with its rich musical heritage, lively markets, and vibrant culture. Space is limited—don't miss this extraordinary adventure! vibrant cultural scene. Don't miss this extraordinary adventure—space is limited!

TRIP AT A GLANCE

3 Nights Vivaldi's Venice (*with tickets to the historic opera house, La Fenice!*)

2 Nights Verona (*with tickets to attend La traviata, at the Roman arena!*)

4 Nights Bologna, Emilia Romagna (*the home of Verdi, Pavarotti, Rossini and Toscanini*)



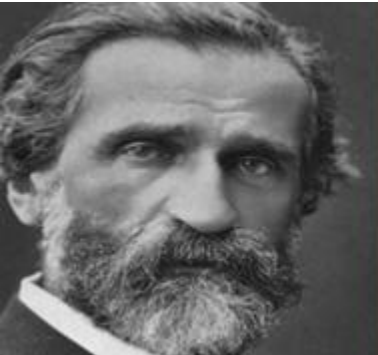
**EARTHBOUND
EXPEDITIONS**

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

P.O. Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

Tel: 206.842.9775

www.EarthboundExpeditions.com



"Give me a laundry-list and I'll set it to music."

Gioachino Rossini

IT'S INCLUDED

- * Hosted by KHFM's **Alexis Corbin** and Maestro **Anthony Barrese** of Opera Southwest
- * Guided by a savvy Earthbound Expeditions program director
- * Tickets to attend *La traviata* at the Roman Verona Arena Opera
- * Tickets to Donizetti's opera, *Enrico di Borgogna* at La Fenice!
- * A performance inside the renowned Stradivarius Museum!
- * An opera recital in Busseto, Verdi's birthplace!
- * Accommodations in hand-selected, centrally located four-star hotels
- * All breakfasts plus nine additional multi-course meals
- * Transport by private air-conditioned motor coach
- * Entrance to museums as listed
- * In-depth guided walks by local experts and historians
- * Pre-concert talks with hosts Maestro Anthony Barrese
- * Alumni discounts applied towards future adventures
- * Travel with like-minded guests who share your passion for music, history and food!

TRIP FACTS

10 Days/9 Nights (*not including air travel*)

\$7,595 per person double occupancy land

\$2,795 single supplement

Trip begins: June 10, 2026, in Venice at 6:00pm

Trip ends: June 19 in Bologna after breakfast

SAVE UP TO \$300

KHFM Travel and Earthbound alumni save \$100 * Pay your final balance by check and save \$100 * Reserve by February 1, 2026 and save \$100



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- Act 1 -

YOUR CLASSICAL JOURNEY BEGINS...

Day 0: Depart the USA

Be sure to depart the USA on or before June 9.

Day 1: Wednesday, June 10 - Arrive in Romantic Venice

Bursting with baroque cathedrals, palaces, outdoor markets, islands and piazzas, Venice is the perfect place for us to begin our musical journey of Italy. Home to Casanova, Vivaldi and Marco Polo, Venice was the single most powerful city state in 13th century Europe. With an economy equal to that of France it is no wonder Shakespeare located his “merchants” in Venice.

Upon arrival, we'll be met by our guide and escorted to our centrally located hotel. This evening, join hosts Maestro Anthony Barrese and KHFM's **Alexis Corbin**, your guide and fellow travelers for a welcome orientation and a Venetian feast fit for Casanova himself. *Sleep in the heart of Venice (D)*

Dining in Italy – A Culinary Note

Italian cuisine is all about rich flavors and joyful indulgence. After years of experience, we've found the best way to enjoy a traditional multi-course meal is to make lunch the star of the day.



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“Venice is like eating an entire box of chocolate liqueurs in one go.”

— Truman Capote

Day 2: Thursday, June 11 - In Vivaldi's Footsteps

This morning, we explore infinite alleyways, the Rialto market, and the Piazza San Marco with our local guide. These are the very streets where Vivaldi and Marco Polo used to stroll. Together we'll learn why Venice was one of the great centers for the arts in the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries.

You're then free to take in as many of the 125 islands of Venice as you can. Glass lovers will want to hop a ferry to nearby Murano. Other options include the Doge's Palace, an exploration of the Basilica San Marco or an ascent of the towering *Campanile* (bell tower) for a bird's eye view of the famous Piazza San Marco. *Sleep in Venice (B)*

Day 3: Friday, June 12 - World Class Art and La Fenice!

Today you'll be accompanied by a local historian for an exploration of one of Europe's greatest museums. The Accademia Museum collection includes stunning works by Renaissance masters Titian, Tintoretto, Da Vinci and Piero della Francesca.

Enjoy a traditional Venetian lunch together. Spend the afternoon exploring Venice before meeting your hosts for a pre-concert talk about Donizetti's *Enrico di Borgogna*, to be performed at the historic **La Fenice Opera House**. Enjoy an independent dinner in Venice this evening. *Sleep in Venice (B, L)*

About Teatro La Fenice

Founded in 1792, Teatro La Fenice is one of the most renowned landmarks in the history of Italian theatre and opera. Especially in the 19th century, La Fenice became the site of many famous operatic premieres at which the works of several of the four major bel canto era composers—Rossini, Bellini, Donizetti, and Verdi were performed including Verdi's *La traviata*!



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ARENA DI VERONA

LA TRAVIATA

GIUSEPPE VERDI

- Act II -

DAY 4: Saturday, June 13 - Romantic Verona and Verdi's Celebrated, *La traviata*

After breakfast, we depart Venice. Our first stop will be a delightful wine estate where we can enjoy a tasting and a traditional lunch. Then, in the late afternoon, we will arrive in Verona. In time to relax before attending this evening's performance Verdi's *La traviata* at the ancient Roman Arena. *Sleep in Verona (D)*

DAY 5: Sunday, June 14 - Discover Romantic Verona

This morning we'll meet with an informative local guide and set out to explore the heart of Verona. Our walking tour will include the Roman Arena where you'll see one great opera, and a visit to Fondazione Arena di Verona's Museum (AMO). Strolling through thirty rooms, the museum introduces one of the arts that makes Verona world-famous: opera. The AMO unveils the creative process which brings an opera to the stage. Librettos, photographs, letters, scores, sketches, set design and costume designs display the striking work of the elements which lead to the genesis of an opera.

Our guided tour continues to the Piazza delle Erbe. Enjoy a multi-course lunch together featuring regional specialties. The rest of day is dedicated to *La Dolce Far Niente*, which means the "sweetness of doing nothing." Or you may wish to visit Padre Filippini church, where Maria Callas was married in 1949. *Sleep in Verona (B, L)*

About Verona's Roman Arena: After the Colosseum in Rome and the amphitheater in Capua, the Roman arena in Verona is the third largest. With its gigantic dimensions of 140 meters in length and 110 meters in width it dominates the Piazza Brà from the north. Its great acoustics and unique location make the Roman arena the ideal location for an evening opera performance.



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- Act III -

"Everything you see I owe to spaghetti."
Sophia Loren

DAY 6: Monday, June 15 - In Pursuit of Stradivarius and Monteverdi

Upon our arrival in Cremona, we set out to explore the life and times of Monteverdi. We'll tour a violin workshop to learn how these beautiful instruments are crafted and then walk over to the museum. Along the way, we'll pay our respects to the world's first opera composer, Monteverdi.

Enjoy lunch in Cremona before setting off for Italy's culinary capital, Bologna!
Sleep in Bologna (B, L)

DAY 7: Tuesday, June 16 - Colorful Markets and Ancient Instruments

Begin the day in Bologna with a local guide who will lead you through the city's hidden gems: historic architecture, lively student neighborhoods, and artisanal food spots. Sample regional specialties from historic *bottegas* and explore the medieval market, where you'll see (and taste) mortadella, ciccioli, sausages, and handcrafted chocolates.

After lunch, visit the Civico Museo Bibliografico Musicale, home to one of the world's top collections of musical instruments and manuscripts. Highlights include Rossini's *Barber of Seville*, Mozart's failed Bologna exam, and portraits of Vivaldi and Farinelli. End the day with a private concert after the museum closes to the public.
Sleep in Bologna (B, L)



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Day 8: Wednesday, June 17 - In the footsteps of Verdi, Toscanini and Pavarotti
After breakfast we set out to learn about three of Emilia Romagna's sons, Verdi, Pavarotti and Toscanini.

Our musical journey north begins in Busseto, birthplace of Verdi. There we'll have lunch in a restaurant frequented by Luciano Pavarotti. After, enjoy a stunning opera recital in the very room where Verdi studied, and a tour of Verdi's cottage birthplace.

Then we continue through the Po River Valley to Modena. Gastronomy is of such importance here that the region is called "Food Valley" and gourmet travelers arrive like gastro-pilgrims to the region. Before returning to Bologna we'll stop to pay our respects to Toscanini! *Sleep in Bologna (B, L)*

DAY 9: Thursday, June 18 - East to the World Heritage site of Ravenna

This morning we depart for Ravenna, one of the most unusual towns in Italy. As the capital of the Western Roman Empire, the Visigoth Empire, and the Byzantine Empire under Emperor Justinian and Empress Theodora, Ravenna became one of the greatest cities on the Mediterranean. The city achieved its cultural peak as part of the Byzantine Empire between the 6th and 8th centuries, and it is known for its many well-preserved mosaics created during that time - the finest in all of Western art and the most splendid outside Istanbul. Although it now looks much like any other Italian city, the low Byzantine domes of Ravenna's churches still evoke its Eastern past. Enjoy a tour of the richly decorated Basilica di San Vitale and the Mausoleum di Galla Placidia with an expert local guide.

A traditional multi-course lunch is included today. Before departing let's stop to pay our respects to Italy's greatest poet and author, Dante, by visiting his mausoleum. We'll return to Bologna in time for an independent dinner. *Sleep in Bologna (B, L)*

DAY 10: Friday, June 19 - Return home with a lifetime of memories!

Your classical music adventure concludes this morning after breakfast.

QUESTIONS & RESERVATIONS

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MEET YOUR CLASSICAL HOSTS



Maestro Anthony Barrese has earned accolades as both a composer and a conductor. He is the recipient of the 2007 Georg Solti Foundation U.S. award for young conductors. His original works have won numerous awards, and he is regularly engaged by opera companies in North America and Italy. As Artistic Director of Opera Southwest he has performed Rossini's *Otello* with the American staged premiere of the finale lieto, and in 2014 he lead the new World Premiere of *Amleto*, not heard anywhere since 1871. The Opera Southwest's 2016-17 season includes Rossini's rarely performed *William Tell*, Bellini's *Norma* and a World Premiere production based on Rodolfo Anaya's bestselling novel, *Bless Me, Ultima*. Learn more about your host Maestro Anthony Barrese at: <http://anthonybarrese.com/biography/>

Alexis Corbin, KHFM's Executive Director, is well known to New Mexico audiences. She performs with diverse ensembles throughout New Mexico including Santa Fe Symphony, Opera Southwest, New Mexico Philharmonic, Links! Percussion Ensemble, Vespus Marimba Band, and steel pan ensemble Sol Calypso. Past performances include engagements with the New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players, Bill Evans Dance Company, and Kawambe-Omowale African Drum and Dance Theater. An advocate for childhood music education, Alexis was the founding Program Director of the New Mexico Philharmonic's Young Musician Initiative (the first and only El Sistema USA program in New Mexico). She is a former member of the Santa Fe Opera Youth Programming Advisory board, and a current member of the Governing Council of the Public Academy for Performing Arts.



About Earthbound Expeditions

Founded in 1997 by Matthew and Danna Brumley, Earthbound Expeditions lovingly creates tailor-made journeys that inspire curiosity and discovery. Led by expert local guides, travelers explore history, art, food, gardens, and culture in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Each trip encourages deep learning and engagement, turning every destination into a classroom of wonder. Guests return not just with memories, but with insights, appreciation, and a renewed sense of curiosity for the world.



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Know Before You Go!

Reservations and Deposits: A \$1,000 per person deposit is needed to confirm your space on this journey. You can make a credit card deposit online or by phone. Deposits are refundable, minus a \$250 per person cancellation fee, for 30 days from the processing date or 90 days prior to departure, whichever comes first. Deposits made 90 days prior to a trip departing are not refundable. A progress payment of \$1500 per person is due five months before departure. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and is non-refundable, which is why we strongly urge guests to purchase travel insurance.

Not Included: International airline tickets, alcoholic beverages, room service and gratuities for hotel staff, gratuities for ship crew (if applicable), travel insurance, meals not listed in brochure, and any activities or items not listed in your itinerary.

Physical Requirements: It is the responsibility of each guest to be aware of their physical abilities or limitations and to be in sufficient good health to undertake the trip. [Click here](#) to read "Is an Earthbound trip right for you?" or call the Earthbound office for more details.

Travel Insurance: Earthbound Expeditions strongly encourages the purchase of travel insurance coverage. We include information on trip insurance in your deposit information.

Events and Hosted Journeys: If a planned event is cancelled for any reason, another event will be included in its place. This is not cause for refund. Events are subject to change. Also, if a host or special guest is unable to attend as planned, Earthbound Expeditions will do its utmost to find another host who has similar interests, talents, and expertise. The inability of a host to participate in a tour is not grounds for a full or partial refund.

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