



My Kind of Town, Chicago is!

Music, Food & Architecture in The Windy City with WBJC

Riccardo Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Join WBJC's inimitable Program Director Jonathan Palevsky and new General Manager Richard Miles as we celebrate the great city of Chicago on a near week-long visit to The Windy City this spring.

The music highlights are spectacular: Riccardo Muti, one of the preeminent conductors in the world, leads his Chicago Symphony Orchestra, one of the great orchestras in the world, in two subscription programs; and the dynamic pianist Yuja Wang entralls us with a recital of music by Bach and Beethoven. Chicago Lyric Opera's production of Terence Blanchard's *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* made history at the Met. You will also enjoy a performance at the Goodman Theatre of Doug Wright's *Good Night, Oscar* based on a wild appearance by the eccentric gadfly and pianist Oscar Levant on the old *Tonight* show with Jack Paar.

Chicago is justly famed for its architecture and its food. The Chicago Architecture Center takes us on two special tours: a coach trip across the city and a walking tour downtown. We will also ride out to Oak Park to view the work of Frank Lloyd Wright and his Prairie-style architecture, born here in Chicago. Fine dining at some of the city's best restaurants and a unique "dine-around" to different neighborhoods to sample a variety of ethnic foods pay homage to Chicago's fabulous food.

Our home for six nights is the opulent Palmer House, the city's longtime jewel and the country's longest continually operating hotel, rebuilt only two years after the Chicago Fire of 1871. The commentary of WBJC's Jonathan Palevsky throughout the trip and free time to explore more of the city—and shop the "Mag Mile"—complete our discovery of one of the country's truly great cities in style. As Frank used to sing: "Chicago is/One town that won't let you down/It's my kind of town!"

NB: The Grand Tour will require that all participants provide proof of full vaccination for the COVID-19 virus as defined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) by February 1, 2022.

April 5–11, 2022

91.5FM
WBJC



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Prime tickets to five major performances: two concerts by the Chicago Symphony, a recital by Yuja Wang, Terence Blanchard's historic opera *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*, and a new play at the Goodman Theatre
- Private coach tour of Chicago with architectural highlights of the city
- Private excursion to Oak Park to view major buildings designed by Frank Lloyd Wright
- Private guided tour of the Art Institute of Chicago
- Exclusive food tour of Chicago sampling different cuisines
- Deluxe accommodations at the grand Palmer House
- Commentary by WBJC's Jonathan Palevsky on all the music you'll hear
- Free time to shop the Magnificent Mile or take in other Chicago sites

TOUR LIMITED TO
25 PARTICIPANTS

Anish Kapoor's *Cloud Gate*





Daily Itinerary

Downtown Chicago

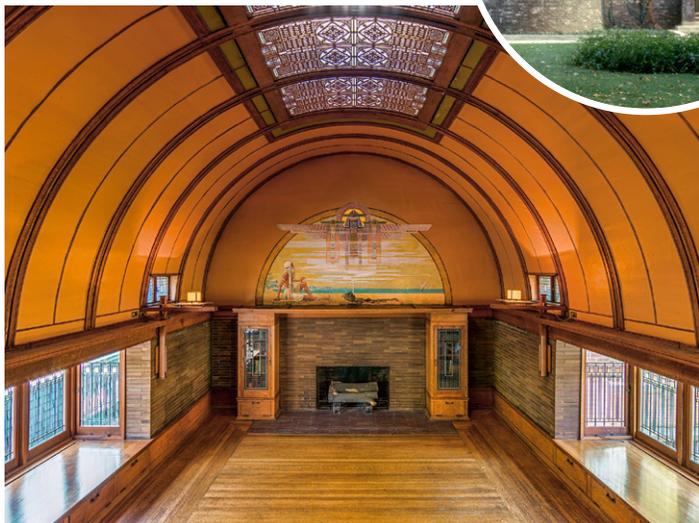
Tuesday, April 5 Welcome!

After the optional group flight from BWI to Chicago, get settled in at the magnificent Palmer House and have a break before our **welcome reception** and **dinner** near the hotel and then music! On to Orchestra Hall, where the 80-year old maestro Riccardo Muti leads his Chicago Symphony in a world premiere by prominent American composer Missy Mazzoli, Mahler's poignant song cycle, the Rückert Lieder, sung by the great mezzo-soprano Elīna Garanča, and Bruckner's 2nd Symphony.

Wednesday, April 6 The Windy City

After our **breakfast daily** at the hotel, this morning explore architectural highlights of the Windy City by coach with a local expert. **Lunch** will be at a classic Chicago steakhouse. The afternoon will be free for you to explore Chicago: peruse the over 450 shops on Magnificent Mile, meander the University of Chicago where Enrico Fermi led the Manhattan project, or bike along Lake Michigan. This evening, Sean Hayes of *Will and Grace* fame plays the eccentric actor and pianist Oscar Levant as

Frank Lloyd Wright's home and studio



Sean Hayes



he upends the late-night and live *Tonight* show in a famous episode of 1958. Doug Wright's play takes place at Chicago's historic Goodman Theatre.

Thursday, April 7 Art and the South Side

The famed Art Institute of Chicago is the second largest art museum in the country and most famous for its Impressionist, Post-impressionist, and American paintings. With our expert guide, learn about some of the museum's most famous masterpieces including Seurat's *Sunday in the Park*, Hopper's *Nighthawks*, and Grant Wood's *American Gothic*.

Lunch will be at the museum's Terzo Piano restaurant, aptly named for the architect of the Art Institute's new wing, Renzo Piano. The afternoon has two options: a performance at Chicago Lyric Opera of Puccini's "shocker" *Tosca*, conducted by Eun Sun Kim, San Francisco Opera's new music director; or you can take a comfortable walking tour downtown with a CAC guide. Evening free.

Friday, April 8 Frank Lloyd Wright and Chicago

This morning, we travel to the suburb of Oak Park to visit Frank Lloyd Wright's home and studio where he began his career that led to him being recognized as one of the great architects of the twentieth century. We will take a walk down Forest Avenue lined with his Prairie-style homes and end at Unity Temple, a rare example of a Wright-designed church. His structures were inspired by the belief that beautifully designed buildings make a palpable difference in our lives.

Lunch is nearby.

Terence Blanchard's jazz-infused opera, *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*, based on a memoir by New York Times columnist Charles M. Blow, made for a history-making opening to the Metropolitan Opera season this year, the first ever opera by a Black composer at the house. This co-production at Chicago Lyric Opera, features Daniela Candillari on the podium with a cast of fine American singing actors such as Will Liverman and Latonia Moore, reprising their Met roles.

Saturday, April 9 A Gastronomic Adventure

Chicago is known as a great place to eat. Today we explore its wide variety of culinary delights with a guided tour of ethnic eateries and specialty food shops. Call it **lunch** hopping!. This evening, we reconvene for another outstanding concert directed by Riccardo Muti of the Chicago Symphony. Maestro Muti leads the orchestra in an Interlude to Richard Strauss's opera *Intermezzo*, Benjamin Britten's bravura Piano Concerto from 1938, with the brilliant Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes as soloist, and Schumann's passionate 4th Symphony.

Sunday, April 10 Yuja!

Our trip concludes with a free morning in Chicago to complete your shopping, explore other sites or simply relax. This afternoon, the dynamic and always radiantly-accoutered pianist Yuja Wang plays music by Bach, Beethoven and Schoenberg at Orchestra Hall. After the concert, join your fellow travelers and reminisce over the week's events at our **gala farewell dinner**.

Monday, April 11

The tour ends after breakfast, and we transfer to O'Hare for the group flight return to Baltimore.

YOUR HOSTS



Jonathan Palevsky has been a presence on WBJC-FM airwaves for over three decades! He joined the staff as a part time announcer in 1986 and has been Program

Director since 1990. Originally from Montreal, Jonathan came to Baltimore in 1982 to pursue a Master's degree in classical guitar performance and the Peabody Conservatory. He has hosted just about every conceivable time slot at WBJC, but can regularly be heard hosting the WBJC Opera Preview, Face the Music, Music in Maryland and Word on Wine. Jonathan has been accompanying musical tours since the late 1990's and always looks forward to adventures with WBJC's intrepid travelers.



Richard Miles was named general manager of WBJC in 2021 after a nationwide search. Miles brings over 30 years of management experience in public radio, serving most

recently as the general manager of WBAA Public Radio at Purdue University. He also served on the board of Public Radio in Mid America (PRIMA) and was the chair of the Indiana Public Broadcasting Stations (IPBS). Additionally, Miles held senior leadership positions at WFYI, Indianapolis public radio, including vice president of interactive media and content strategy and vice president of audio services and TV programming. Richard is married with two adult daughters. His wife also works in public media and the two of them have traveled and lived overseas.

Tour Registration



Tour Cost: \$4,375 per person, ground only, double occupancy. Single supplement: \$835. Optional group flight: \$450, economy on American, non-stop from BWI.

Deposit: \$900 per person first come, first served.

Balance deadline: February 4, 2022.
After that date, call for availability.

Tour limited to 25 participants or as space allows.

Contact The Grand Tour to reserve your place on the tour with a credit card deposit, or send a check made payable to The Grand Tour for the deposit amount to: WBJC Chicago Tour, The Grand Tour, PO Box 274, Peterborough, NH 03458. Registration materials can be downloaded from www.wbjc.com

Questions? Contact The Grand Tour at 800-727-2995 or info@thegrandtour.com

above: Lyric Opera's Fire Shut Up in My Bones
below: Yuja Wang



Itinerary is subject to change.

*Meals in **bold** are included in the price of the tour.*