

Berkshire Bash!

Tanglewood, theatre, dance and art
in Western Mass with WBJC



Andris Nelsons at Tanglewood

Join WBJC for some of the finest summer music, theatre, and dance in the US, in the lovely Berkshires of western Massachusetts this summer.

WBJC's inimitable Program Director, Jonathan Palevsky, will be on board for this deluxe six-day tour to the festivals of Tanglewood, Jacob's Pillow, and Shakespeare & Company.

Through one of the most beautiful regions in the country, we'll tour a part of New England that lives up to every bit of its storybook image. The Berkshires boasts historic Gilded Age mansions and cultural events which attract thousands of visitors from all over the country. The world renowned Tanglewood Festival began in 1936 as the summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and we'll attend four concerts there, two by the BSO. Maestro Andris Nelsons leads a starry cast in a concert version of Puccini's *Tosca*; the great pianist Yuja Wang as piano soloist with the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra, legendary baritone Bryn Terfel sings Welsh songs, and brilliant pianist Seong-Jin Cho performs the complete piano music of Ravel in one evening.

You'll also be dazzled by Jacob's Pillow, the best dance festival in the country, with a performance by the fine Sarasota Ballet, and enjoy a performance of one of the Bard's most endearing love stories, *Romeo and Juliet*, outdoors, at Shakespeare & Company's summer season.

During the day we partake in many of the other fascinating attractions the region has to offer, such as a tour of the region's Gilded Age Mansions, including Edith Wharton's home and gardens, The Mount; the Norman Rockwell Museum with his studio intact; and the Bauhaus-inspired Frelinghuysen Morris House. To the north, we'll visit MassMOCA, the world's largest contemporary art museum and one of its very best, and the Sterling Clark Art Institute, a small gem. Our lodging is at the brand-new Elements by Westin, near the pretty village of Lenox, Mass.

91.5FM WBJC



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Prime tickets to four concerts at Tanglewood, two featuring the Boston Symphony Orchestra
- Shakespeare's brilliant "Romeo and Juliet" at Shakespeare & Company, under the stars!
- Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival performance by the Sarasota Ballet
- *Optional* performance of Lerner and Loewe's *Camelot* at Barrington Stage
- Guided tours of Gilded Age mansions, the Norman Rockwell Museum, Mass MOCA, Clark Art Institute, and other attractions
- Commentary by WBJC's own Jonathan Palevsky!
- Fine dining in some of the area's best restaurants

The Mount from the flower garden



LIMITED TO
25 PARTICIPANTS



Seong-Jin Cho

July 15 – 21, 2025

Daily Itinerary



Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival

Tuesday, July 15

Welcome to the Berkshires!

Upon arrival of flights at Hartford's Bradley Airport, our private motorcoach whisks you across to Lenox, and the new Elements by Westin, your home for the week. Our **welcome dinner** is nearby. After dinner, our first concert at Tanglewood features the great Welsh baritone Bryn Terfel performing songs from his native land, with harp accompaniment!

Wednesday, July 16

The Gilded Age

After your **breakfast daily** at the hotel, we're off on a guided introduction to the Berkshires and a tour of a couple of the area's Gilded Age mansions of the 19th century. Carole Owens, a prominent historian of the Berkshires and scholar of the period, introduces us first to Naumkeag, the richly furnished home of Joseph Choate designed by Stanford White. Then we travel on to The Mount, the home of author Edith Wharton (*Age of Innocence*, *The House of Mirth*), which she modeled after the Italian villas and gardens she loved. **Lunch** overlooking the splendid Italian gardens, follows a tour of the house. Your afternoon is free to relax, before we return to Ozawa Hall on the Tanglewood campus with a performance of the complete piano music of Maurice Ravel, in the 150th anniversary of his birth. The acclaimed Korean pianist Seong-Jin Cho has made a specialty of this program around the world.



Triple Self-Portrait at the Norman Rockwell Museum

Thursday, July 17

American Values

Norman Rockwell was famous for his extraordinary, iconic images of American life, with a remarkable ability in mood and detail to focus on underlying social issues of his time. We'll explore the work of this underrated artist at the Norman Rockwell Museum which includes his studio intact. **Lunch** is in the nearby picturesque village of Stockbridge, with a talk by BSO historian and radio producer Brian Bell. This afternoon, we're off to a performance at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, founded in 1933 by Ted Shawn, and now a National Historic Landmark. The Sarasota Ballet is renowned for their expertise in the work of famed British choreographer Sir Frederick Ashton, as well as that of their Artist-in-Residence, Jessica Lang, and their mixed program today features the work of both. Tonight, you have the option of attending a performance of Lerner and Loewe's rousing 1960 musical, *Camelot*, at the Barrington Stage in Pittsfield.

Friday, July 18

Classically Contemporary

Today, an excursion to the north brings us to MassMOCA in North Adams. Created from an old electric foundry, the museum spearheaded the quintessential revival of an old New England manufacturing town into a center of art and artists. At the cutting edge of new art, the Museum's galleries are always filled with interesting work, including a major 25-year installation of murals by the late Sol LeWitt. **Lunch** is in pretty Williamstown. After lunch we'll peek into the fine Clark Art Institute with its superb collection of French Impressionists and English masterpieces. Shakespeare & Company was founded in 1978 by Tina Packer and is now the premier summer theatre in the Berkshires with four theatres on its campus in Lenox. This evening, we are under the stars for a performance of the Bard's timeless love story, *Romeo and Juliet*.



MassMOCA



Yuja Wang

Saturday, July 19

Modernism and Music

This morning we delve back in time into the fascinating early Modernist period of art at the unusual home of American Abstract artists George L.K. Morris and Suzy Frelinghuysen. The couple's grandson takes us through the house filled with works by such as Picasso, Braque, Leger, and Juan Gris, and shares anecdotes about their interactions with European and American art circles of the period. Tonight, we are back at Tanglewood, under The Shed, for a gala concert performance of *Tosca* by the Boston Symphony Orchestra under their esteemed Music Director, Andris Nelsons. Puccini's "shabby little shocker" is performed with an all-star cast headed by Kristine Opolais in the title role and Bryn Terfel as Scarpia. A special treat is the Prelude concert at 6:00 pm by Tanglewood Music Center fellows in music by Puccini and Tchaikovsky.

Sunday, July 20

Yuja!

Your morning is free, before we return to Tanglewood for an afternoon of music with Yuja Wang, Maestro Nelsons, and the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra. The ever effervescent Ms. Wang is soloist in the 2nd Piano Concerto of Prokofiev and Nelsons leads the orchestra in the great *Symphonie Fantastique* by Hector Berlioz. Our gala **farewell dinner** closes out a formidable week of music, art and theatre!

Monday, July 21

The tour ends after breakfast and a coach back to Bradley Airport for flights home.

*Itinerary subject to change. Meals in **bold** included in the price of the tour.*



above: Sol LeWitt mural, MassMOCA
below: Frelinghuysen Morris House



Tour Registration

Tour cost: \$4,985 per person, ground only, double occupancy.

Single supplement: \$965

Deposit: \$1000 per person, first come, first served.

Balance deadline is Friday, May 30, 2025.

After that date, call for availability.

To reserve your place, send the registration form with check or credit card information for the deposit amount to: WBJC Berkshires Tour, The Grand Tour, PO Box 274, Peterborough, NH 03458; or call The Grand Tour at 800.727.2995, or write info@thegrandtour.com. The tour is limited to 25 participants, or as hotel space allows.

QUESTIONS? Contact The Grand Tour at 603.532.6265, 800.727.2995 or info@thegrandtour.com; or Richard Miles at WBJC: 410.580.5801, rmiles@bcc.edu

Bryn Terfel

