



VIVA ESPAÑA

A CLASSICAL MUSIC JOURNEY

Barcelona – Valencia – Madrid

October 6–19, 2023 (14 days)



Kai Gleusteen & Catherine Ordronneau



Hemisfèric, Ciutat de les Arts,
València © Carquinyol



Parque Güell, Barcelona

CLASSICAL MUSIC TOUR SERIES

Join host artists Kai Gleusteen and Catherine Ordronneau on a cultural adventure through the country which they call their second home. They will present a great music program, paired with amazing visits to wonderful cities and sites.

Barcelona - Figueres - Cadaqués - Montserrat - Tarragona
Valencia - Alcalá de Henares - Madrid - Segovia - Toledo



SPECIAL TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL

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A WORD FROM SPECIAL TRAVEL



Dear Traveller(s),

After hosting our recent "Classical Italy" and "For the Love of Vienna" programs, the delightful duo of Kai Gleusteen and Catherine Ordronneau will set us on the glorious path of classical music in a vibrant and exciting country: Spain!

Barcelona, Valencia and Madrid will be the "base camps" for this great

program. Gaudí, Dalí, Goya, El Greco and Cervantes will accompany you as you explore Figueres, Tarragona, Segovia, Toledo and more.

Kai and Catherine have made Spain their home many years ago, and Kai's position as Concertmaster at the Liceu Opera Barcelona makes him the perfect host. Amongst other special music events, we will get to see him "work" at the Liceu, during the performance of *Eugene Onegin* by Tchaikovsky.

The combination of rich culture, spectacular sites and the finest music will offer an experience you will never forget. This is what makes our Classical Music Travel programs so special and unique; handcrafted itineraries combining memorable musical performances with the joy of experiencing other cultures and countries. We do it in comfort and style, with engaging travel companions who share your passion for both music and travel.

We look forward to having you join us!

Gery Valtiner

Program Director



GLEUSTEEN-ORDRONNEAU DUO

Since 1999 when they first began to work together, Kai Gleusteen and Catherine Ordronneau have established themselves as one of the most important European violin and piano duos. Having performed more than 100 recitals in Europe, Canada and the USA, they are praised for their unique partnership, "playing under the control of a single intelligence", and for the emotional power of their interpretations.

They participate actively in the Kaimeraata Festivals in Spain and Canada. Their repertoire encompasses most of the great sonatas for violin and piano – including complete Beethoven sonatas and Brahms sonatas – as well as a myriad of short pieces representing the countries where they perform. They have recorded extensively on the AVIE label.

NOTES FROM YOUR HOSTS

Our previous classical music tours with Special Travel International as musicians and hosts took us to Italy and Vienna. They were spectacular trips and we are dying to return. However, after having lived in Spain for more than 20 years, Catherine and I believe it is important to share with you our acquired experiences of this country. Hidden gems, entrances into private clubs, access to rehearsals, special local musicians, behind-the-scenes tours... all these things seem normal to us now, and we would like to share them with you.

We will take you to wonderful musical performances in Barcelona, Valencia and Madrid – operas, symphony concerts, chamber music. Catherine and I will perform for you along with other artists. We will have pre- and post-concert discussions. STI will have fascinating tours planned as they always do, with top-notch guides. And we'll add in some off-the-beaten-path extras, plus Spanish food and wine!

We tend to take it for granted but we can't forget to remind you how beautiful the weather is in October. The Mediterranean is still warm enough for swimming, the temperature is perfect, the busiest tourist season is over. There is a reason our home base is in Spain. On this trip, you will see why!

Kai Gleusteen & Catherine Ordronneau



The Gleusteen-Ordronneau Duo on stage

ITINERARY

Day 1 / Fri, Oct 6: DEPART CANADA

Depart for Spain.

Day 2 / Sat, Oct 7: ARRIVE BARCELONA

After arrival in **Barcelona**, transfer to your hotel. Join Kai Gleusteen and Catherine Ordroneau for a welcome dinner, during which your hosts will provide an introduction to the **Viva España Concert Series**. (D)

Day 3 / Sun, Oct 8: BARCELONA

Start your exploration of **Barcelona** with a driving tour to the top of Montjuic Hill, which offers glorious views of the city below. Continue along the waterfront to Las Ramblas, the bustling tree-lined pedestrian boulevard, and explore the Gothic Quarter in the medieval centre of the city. Afternoon at leisure until this evening's opera. (B,D)

— OPERA —

Eugene Onegin by Tchaikovsky at Gran Teatre del Liceu featuring Kai Gleusteen as Concertmaster

Day 4 / Mon, Oct 9: BARCELONA

Today is dedicated to **Barcelona**'s famous son, Antoni Gaudí. Discover some of his unique architectural works, including Parque Güell, Casa Milà (La Pedrera) and Casa Batlló — all exemplars of the Modernism style which reached its heights in Barcelona. Later in the afternoon, visit the beautiful Palau de la Música Catalana, a jewel of Catalan Art Nouveau. (B)

— MUSICAL PERFORMANCE —

Music event at the Palau de la Música Catalana, Gran Teatre del Liceu or similar

Day 5 / Tue, Oct 10: BARCELONA

Drive to **Figueres**, home of surrealist painter Salvador Dalí. Visit the extraordinary museum dedicated to and designed by the painter himself. After time for lunch on your own, drive out to the coastal town of **Cadaqués**, where Dalí used to live, find inspiration and host many artist friends. Return to Barcelona via the **Costa Brava**, with its scenic coves and picturesque villages. (B,D)

Day 6 / Wed, Oct 11: BARCELONA

Enjoy a special behind-the-scenes experience as you attend the rehearsal for a new opera production at the Gran Teatre del Liceu.

— OPERA REHEARSAL —

Opera rehearsal at the Gran Teatre del Liceu

Then, explore la **Sagrada Família**, Gaudí's magnum opus, an extraordinary basilica and UNESCO World Heritage Site that has been under construction for over a century. You may want to explore the Boqueria off the Ramblas, a magnificent comestibles market that is a real feast for the senses. Nearby, sun-dappled Gothic cloisters offer little oases of green serenity just off the busy thoroughfares. Enjoy dinner on your own before an evening music event. (B)

— MUSICAL PERFORMANCE —

Music event at the Palau de la Música Catalana, Gran Teatre del Liceu or similar

Day 7 / Thu, Oct 12: BARCELONA

Morning excursion to **Montserrat**, an impressive mountain range with an important mountaintop monastery. Then return to the city for an afternoon at leisure. You might wish to visit one of Barcelona's museums such as the Picasso Museum, or stroll through one of the other great markets of the city. At the end of the day, enjoy a farewell music event and dinner. (B,D)



— MUSICAL PERFORMANCE —

Music event at the Palau de la Música Catalana, Gran Teatre del Liceu or similar

Day 8 / Fri, Oct 13: BARCELONA – TARRAGONA – VALENCIA

Depart Barcelona for the port city of **Tarragona**, on the Costa Daurada by the Mediterranean. Enjoy an introductory tour showcasing the remnants of the city's Roman history, including the Murallas de Tarragona. After some time for lunch and a stroll, continue on to the magnificent city of **Valencia**. (B,D)

Day 9 / Sat, Oct 14: VALENCIA

Embark on a sightseeing tour of **Valencia** including the Plaza de la Virgen, the Cathedral where, according to legend, the Holy Grail is being kept, and the Carmen neighbourhood in the historic centre. Enjoy a special paella lunch at El Redoli, just south of the city. Afternoon at leisure to further explore Valencia on your own, until this evening's music event. (B,L)

— OPERA —

Pique Dame by Tchaikovsky
at Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia

Day 10 / Sun, Oct 15: VALENCIA – ALCALÁ DE HENARES – MADRID

Bid farewell to the Mediterranean and drive inland to **Alcalá de Henares**. In the afternoon, tour the University, considered one of the oldest in Europe, and visit the birthplace of Cervantes, famed author of *Don Quixote*. Continue on to **Madrid**. (B,D)

— MUSICAL PERFORMANCE —

Concert or opera at the Auditorio Nacional de Música, Teatro Real or similar

Day 11 / Mon, Oct 16: MADRID

In the morning, enjoy a guided tour of **Madrid**. As the largest city in Spain, the country's capital, seat of government and royal residence, Madrid is also the political, economic and cultural hub. The city is celebrated for its many historic districts and landmarks which include the Royal Palace (which you will tour), Buen Retiro Park, Plaza Mayor, and world-class art museums such as the Prado and the Centro de Arte Reina Sofia. Afternoon at leisure. (B,D)

Day 12 / Tue, Oct 17: MADRID

Travel north to the historic city of **Segovia**, located high above the rivers Eresma and Clamores. Famous for its splendid aquaduct and its cathedral and Alcázar, Segovia has been a UNESCO protected site since 1985. Enjoy an introductory tour through the charming city followed by some time at leisure. Return to Madrid in the afternoon. Tonight, enjoy a special Flamenco evening – something so Spanish, it cannot be missed. (B)

— PERFORMANCE —

Flamenco show at a local venue

Day 13 / Wed, Oct 18: MADRID

The day is at leisure to enjoy the city at your own pace. You might wish to join a half day tour to **Toledo**, known as the "city of three cultures" for its medieval Arab, Jewish and Christian monuments. Toledo is the former home of Mannerist painter El Greco; visit the cathedral and other sites that feature the artist's unique work, before returning to the capital. Celebrate the conclusion of the tour with a farewell dinner and concert. (B,D)

— MUSICAL PERFORMANCE —

Private concert featuring Kai Gleusteen (violin) and Catherine Ordroneau (piano) at a local venue

Day 14 / Thu, Oct 19: DEPART MADRID – ARRIVE CANADA

Transfer to the airport for your flight(s) home. (B)



TOUR COSTS in CAD*

Per person, twin-share	\$8,680
Single supplement	\$2,490

*based on a max. group size of 20-25 travellers

AIR OPTIONS

Please contact our office for a quote.

You may also purchase your own flights (book on points etc.) and meet the group at the hotel.

INCLUDED

- Accommodation in well-appointed 4- and 5-star hotels
- Concerts and special music events as per itinerary
- Meals as per itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Private air-conditioned coach transportation
- Comprehensive sightseeing incl. local guides and admission fees as per itinerary
- Gratuities for drivers and guides
- Hotel portorage
- Local taxes and service charges

NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare
Canada – Barcelona; Madrid – Canada
- Travel insurance
(please contact our office for a quote)
- Drinks with meals
- Items of a personal nature

YOUR HOTELS

Barcelona – Hotel Catalonia Catedral****

Valencia – Only YOU Hotel Valencia****

Madrid – Hotel Catalonia Gran Vía****

TOUR PACE and FITNESS TO PARTICIPATE

This itinerary includes some walking through historic city centres and to/from the venues – easily accomplished if you are comfortable walking a few kilometres at a standard pace.

Travellers with restricted mobility are welcome but may be unable to enjoy all of the walking tour portions or may require taxis.

PERFORMANCES

Performance details are preliminary and subject to change; slight adjustments to our sightseeing program may have to be made once performance schedule is finalized.



RESERVATION FORM

VIVA ESPAÑA

October 6-19, 2023

Please complete this form and return it to us with your deposit of \$1,000.00 per person. Please write name(s) exactly as listed in passport (e.g.: William, not 'Bill'). Travel insurance is optional but strongly recommended.

	TRAVELLER #1	TRAVELLER #2 <small>(if different address/payment method than Traveller #1, please fill out a separate booking form)</small>
Title (Mr / Mrs / Ms etc.)		
First name		
Middle name(s)		
Last name		
Date of birth (dd/mmm/yyyy)		
City + country of birth		
Passport #		
Passport expiry (dd/mmm/yyyy)		
Passport issuing country		
Preferred first name (for name tag)		
Dietary restrictions		

ADDRESS

Street:	
City:	Province/State:
Postal code:	Country:
Cell #:	Home #:
Email:	

TRAVEL PREFERENCES

Accommodation: Single* Double Twin Sharing with:

*Please contact us if you would like to be paired up with another traveller and we will do our best to assist. If we are unable to arrange a twin-share, you will be accommodated in a single room and invoiced accordingly.

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Next of kin's name:	Next of kin's phone #:
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TRAVEL INSURANCE

I/we would like to receive a travel insurance quote. I/we have arranged my/our own travel insurance.

PAYMENT

<input type="checkbox"/> Please make cheques payable to:	SPECIAL TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> Send an e-transfer to:	sti@sticanada.com
<input type="checkbox"/> Visa / MasterCard / American Express	
Card #:	Expiry date:
Name on card:	Amount to be charged: \$

I/we acknowledge that I/we have read and agree to the terms and conditions outlined in the brochure.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT:

\$1,000 pp deposit due at time of booking
2nd installment of \$1,500 pp due by April 28, 2023
Balance due by August 4, 2023
Tour documents will be sent to you approximately 14 days prior to your trip departure, provided full payment has been received.

TOUR PRICES:

All tour prices for land arrangements are based on rates effective at the time of printing and are expected to be in effect at the time of departure. Should these rates change, it may be necessary to surcharge the price of your vacation. Should the tour price increase by more than 10%, the passenger shall have the right to cancel within seven days of notification without penalty.

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS:

Notice of cancellation must be made in writing. The effective cancellation date is the date when written notification is received by Special Travel International (hereafter called STI). **Deposits are non-refundable.** The following scale of charges will apply when cancellation is received prior to departure:

Until April 27, 2023	\$1,000
April 28 – Aug 3, 2023	\$2,500
From Aug 4, 2023	100%

NB: different payment/cancellation policies apply to airline tickets; you will be advised at time of booking.

TRAVEL INSURANCE:

STI strongly recommends that each tour participant has health, cancellation, interruption, accident and baggage insurance for the duration of his/her travels.

RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY:

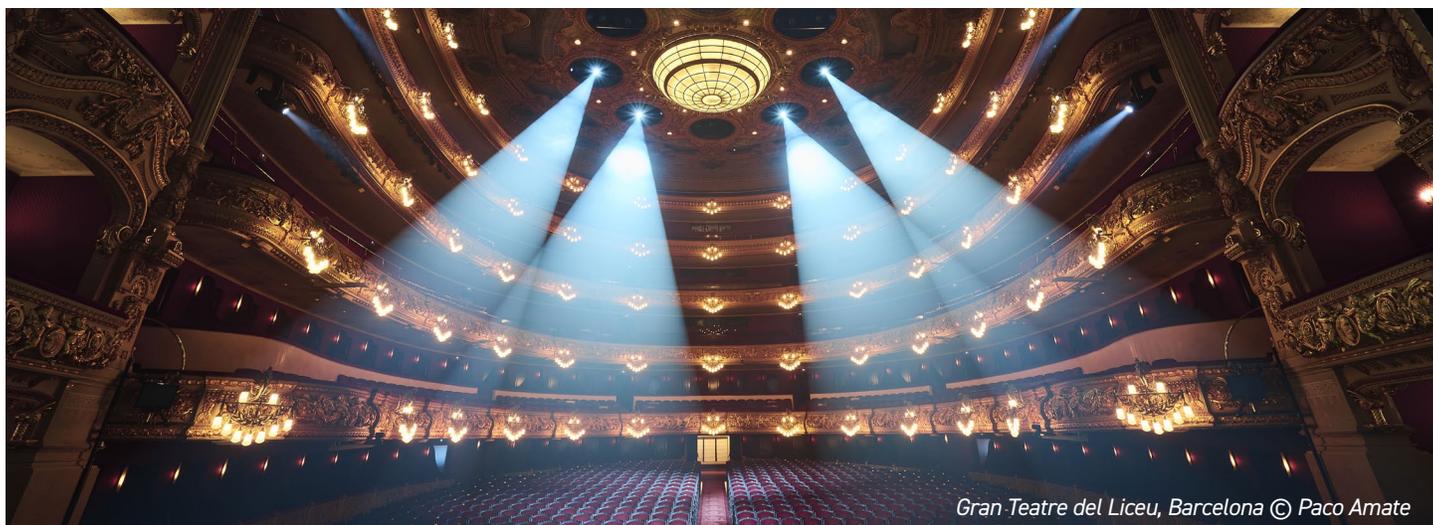
STI acts only as an agent in securing all services related to the tours described in this brochure, including transportation, sightseeing and accommodation. STI shall not be responsible or liable for any loss, cost, damage, injury, delay or expense arising from the use of any conveyance, accommodation or service or from acts of God, strikes, weather, quarantine, accidents, sickness, government regulations, insufficient documents and any loss expense resulting from the above contingencies shall be borne by the tour member. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort of the passenger, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the operators. Additional expense, if any, shall be borne by the passenger. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, and also to decline to accept or retain any passenger as a member of the tour. In such instances, full or equitable amounts will be refunded.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, VISAS AND VACCINES:

It is entirely the passenger's responsibility to possess whatever documents, visas and vaccines are required by the law of the countries visited on the tour.

AIRLINE RESPONSIBILITY:

Any air carrier providing transportation in connection with these tours is not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the passenger is not on board its planes. The passenger contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the purchase of these tours and/or passenger. Similar responsibility as noted applies to all types of carriers, including car rental companies.



Gran Teatre del Liceu, Barcelona © Paco Amate



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