Join Sherry Nelson of Davidson’s Friends of the Arts and WDAV radio host Rachel Stewart for a glorious four days of music, art and theatre in New York this fall! The music highlights are spectacular: a performance in the superb acoustics of Carnegie Hall by the Munich Philharmonic led by the Russian maestro Valery Gergiev, and Franco Zeffirelli’s lush production of Puccini’s last masterpiece Turandot at the Metropolitan Opera, with a first-rate cast. You’ll shine on Broadway with the highly acclaimed adaptation of Harper Lee’s classic novel, To Kill a Mockingbird.

And that’s not all. We’ll tour a few of New York’s great museums, including a private morning tour of the Neue Galerie; the new Whitney Museum, designed by Renzo Piano; the serene Cloisters, the Met’s museum of medieval art; and the Metropolitan Museum. We will savor fine dining at classic international restaurants, and enjoy deluxe accommodations at the Park Lane Hotel where your room overlooks Central Park.

New York is a great place to visit (you know the rest) anytime, but as Ella sings, there’s no time like the fall. The temperature is mild, Central Park may still sparkle with color, and the season is underway! All this plus the commentary of Rachel Stewart makes this a trip not to be missed. Space is strictly limited.

Tour Highlights

- Prime tickets for the following performances:
  - Concert by the Munich Philharmonic, Valery Gergiev conducting
  - Turandot at the Metropolitan Opera, featuring the great soprano Christine Goerke in the title role
  - To Kill a Mockingbird on Broadway, nominated for 9 Tony Awards
- Tours of major museums & galleries in New York with expert guides, including pre-hours tours of Neue Galerie
- Tour of the High Line on the west side of Manhattan with expert guide
- Accommodations at the Park Lane Hotel, all overlooking Central Park
- Tour cost includes breakfast daily, 2 lunches and 2 dinners, plus a welcome reception
- Private motor coach transportation for all excursions in the itinerary
- Music commentary by WDAV’s Rachel Stewart

Tour Cost: $2,480, ground only; single supplement $545. Group limited to 25 participants or as hotel space allows.

The Classic New York tour is an exclusive presentation of Davidson College Friends of the Arts and WDAV and is organized by The Grand Tour, Peterborough, New Hampshire.
Tonight, Valery Gergiev brings his excellent orchestra the Munich Philharmonic to Carnegie Hall for a program featuring Tchaikovsky’s stunning 1st Piano Concerto with Russian pianist Behzod Abduraimov as soloist, and Bruckner’s monumental 7th Symphony. One of the world’s great concert halls, Carnegie Hall came close to the wrecking ball in 1960 only to be returned to its original splendor in 1986.

Saturday, October 26

The Two Mets

One of New York’s newest gems, the Neue Galerie, was founded by Ronald Lauder to house his outstanding collection of Austrian and German art. Buoyed by its acquisition of Gustav Klimt’s stunning 1907 portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer (pictured), the museum has quickly risen to one of the city’s primary art destinations. Then it is a short walk to the Metropolitan Museum, a veritable encyclopedia of art from around the globe. We’ll have a special guided tour from an art historian to seek out some of its most interesting departments.

Dinner tonight is at Gabriel’s, a fine Italian restaurant. Puccini’s last opera, Turandot, is filled with glorious arias like the famous “Nessun dorma” and epic choral singing. Franco Zeffirelli’s sumptuous sets and costumes have rarely been equaled at the Met. Christine Goercke, one of the great sopranos in the world and currently singing Brunnhilde in the Met’s Ring cycle takes on the title role.

Sunday, October 27

Unicorn Tapestries and Hamilton

This morning we traverse the northern Manhattan island once covered in farmlands. First, we find the Cloisters, the Metropolitan Museum’s branch devoted to the medieval art of Europe with a stunning collection of works from the 12th through 15th centuries. Serenely overlooking the Hudson, the museum is made up of five medieval cloisters from southern France which provide a serene oasis in this nook of the city. Lunch follows before we head over to the home of Alexander Hamilton, still standing after 200 years! The man on the $10 bill, soldier, statesman, and economic visionary, Hamilton Grange shows off the meticulous behavior of George Washington’s famed cohort.

The tour ends in the afternoon, and flights home.

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

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Dreamers with empty hands
They sigh for exotic lands
It’s autumn in New York
It’s good to live it again!