Opus Mediterraneo
May 9 to 17, 2017

“Hearing wonderful music in these beautiful settings was divine.”
—Laurie Brown, Opus Mediterraneo, 2014
This thoroughly unique Mediterranean voyage aboard the deluxe yacht, *Le Ponant*, not only drops anchor at several major coastal cities and tiny, off-the-beaten-track ports up and down the west coast of Italy, but it also gives us the added pleasure of attending musical performances all along the way. As we explore charming ports and architecturally distinctive seaside villages as well as ancient and historic inland sites, Stanford professor of music Jonathan Berger will introduce us to a broad musical repertoire for us to savor and remember.
Jonathan Berger  
**Denning Family Provostial Professor in Music at Stanford University**

Described as “gripping” by both the *New York Times* and the *Chicago Tribune*, “poignant,” “richly evocative” (*San Francisco Chronicle*), “taut, and hauntingly beautiful” (*NY Times*), Jonathan Berger’s recent works deal with both consciousness and conscience. His chamber operas, *Theotokia* and *The War Reporter* explore hallucination and haunting memories, while his monodrama, *My Lai*, portrays the ethical dilemmas of an individual placed in an impossible situation.

Berger’s “dissonant but supple” (*NY Times*) compositions are often inspired by science and the human condition, including the adaptation of satellite imaging data to turn the dispersal of an oil spill into music (*Jiyeh*), spatial representation of brain activations of a schizophrenic hallucination (*Theotokia*), and sonic expression of the chemical spectroscopy of cancer (*Diameters*). His symphonic, chamber, vocal and electroacoustic works are performed throughout the world.

Thrice commissioned by The National Endowment for the Arts, Berger has also received major commissions from The Mellon and Rockefeller Foundations, Chamber Music America, and numerous chamber music societies and ensembles. His most recent commissions include *My Lai* (commissioned by The National Endowment, the Gerbode Foundation, and Harris Theatre for the Kronos Quartet, Rinde Eckert and Van Anh Vo), *Tango alla Zingarese* (commissioned by the 92nd Street Y), and *Swallow* (commissioned by the St. Lawrence String Quartet). He is about to commence work on a world premiere for soprano Julia Bullock and piano trio (co-commissioned by the Lincoln Center Chamber Society and the Harris Theatre).

A winner of the Rome Prize, Berger was composer-in-residence at Spoleto Festival USA. His violin concerto, *Jiyeh*, paired with that of Benjamin Britten, was recorded for Harmonia Mundi’s *Eloquentia* label by violinist Livia Sohn, who also recorded Berger’s *War Reporter Fantasy* for Naxos and solo works on *Miracles and Mud*, his acclaimed Naxos recording of music for solo violin and string quartet.

In addition to composition, Berger is an active researcher with over 60 publications in a wide range of fields relating to music, science and technology and has held research grants from DARPA, the Wallenberg Foundation and others.

Berger is the Denning Family Provostial Professor in Music at Stanford University, where he teaches composition, music theory and cognition at the Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics (CCRMA). He was the founding co-director of the Stanford Institute for Creativity and the Arts (SICA, now the Stanford Arts Institute) and founding director of Yale University’s Center for Studies in Music Technology.

Berger’s next projects, which will comprise his Guggenheim Fellowship, include a cantata based upon folk tales as told by refugees, migrants and the homeless, and a work based upon acoustic models that approximate and recreate the sounds of extinct species and lost habitats.
Itinerary

Tuesday & Wednesday, May 9 & 10
U.S. / Genoa, Italy / Savona / Embark
Arrive in Genoa and transfer to Savona, a port city that rivaled Genoa until the 16th century, where we embark Le Ponant. Sail in the late evening toward Porto Santo Stefano. LE PONANT (5/10: D)

Thursday, May 11
Porto Santo Stefano
This afternoon, Le Ponant sails into the medieval port town of Porto Santo Stefano in Tuscany. Disembark for an excursion to the Parrina Estate, an inn, restaurant, working farm that produces wine, cheese, olive oil, jams and jellies, and meats. Our visit will include a tour, winetasting and a chance to sample local products. Enjoy a welcome reception aboard ship this evening. LE PONANT (B,L,D)

Friday, May 12
Naples / Teatro San Carlo
Our afternoon and evening in Naples begins with a choice of tours: we can explore the National Archaeological Museum of Naples, home to a rich collection of mosaics, many from the nearby sites of Pompeii and Herculaneum, or we can visit the famed Teatro San Carlo, founded in 1737 and one of the oldest continuously active opera houses in the world. This evening we attend a performance from the San Carlo Winds Quintet at the “jewel box” Teatro di Corte di Palazzo Reale. LE PONANT (B,L,D)

Saturday, May 13
Anzio / Abbey of Fossanova
Today we explore Anzio, a seaside resort since ancient Roman times and the birthplace of Nero. In the morning, visit the Museum of the Landings, whose exhibits illustrate the dramatic days of the Allies’ famous landings there in 1944, and in Nettuno stop at the American War Cemetery and explore the town’s medieval section, which is dominated by a fortress built in 1496. In the afternoon, drive to the Cistercian Abbey of Fossanova, whose origins date to the 11th century. The Abbey, with its well-preserved monastic buildings, is set in a beautiful spot amid luxuriant plants. LE PONANT (B,L,D)

Sunday, May 14
Civitavecchia / Viterbo
From the port of Civitavecchia, drive to Viterbo, an ancient Etruscan settlement that became prominent in the Middle Ages, when it rivaled Rome in importance. Explore the wall-enclosed old town, whose medieval buildings line its winding narrow streets. Visit the mid-13th-century Palace of the Popes with its elegant Gothic architectural details; the 12th-century church of Santa Maria Nuova, one of Viterbo’s finest and where St. Thomas Aquinas preached; and the church of Santa Maria della Verità, also dating back to the 12th century and whose lovely convent houses the Civic Museum, exhibiting 16th-century painting masterpieces, among other artifacts. After lunch at a trattoria, continue to the nearby quaint town of Bagnaia to visit the famed Villa Lante, site of what is thought by many to be the most beautiful formal garden in Italy, created in 1566. LE PONANT (B,L,D)

Monday, May 15
Livorno / Lucca / Torre del Lago Puccini
From the port of Livorno, visit Lucca, the birthplace of Giacomo Puccini. Surrounded by beautifully preserved 16th- and 17th-century ramparts, Lucca is home to one of the finest collections of Romanesque churches and old palaces. The tree-lined broad avenues, enclosed within the city’s walls, provide a lovely venue for delightful walks. From Lucca, continue to Torre del Lago Puccini, where Puccini lived from 1891 to 1921 in a villa that is today the Villa Museo Puccini, owned and operated by his granddaughter. Enjoy a private recital celebrating the legacy operatic masterpieces Puccini left us before returning to our ship. **LE PONANT (B,L,D)**

**Tuesday, May 16**

**Nice, France**

This morning, we arrive in Nice, from where our excursion takes us to the nearby Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild in Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat. Built in the early 20th century for Baroness Béatrice de Rothschild, the villa is home to an extraordinary collection of antiques and Old Masters. It is also world famous for its gardens – nine differently themed parks (a French garden, a Spanish garden, a Japanese garden and so on) – which descend from the villa to the sea. An afternoon at leisure is followed by an evening performance of *Rigoletto* at the Opera Nice Cote d’Azur. **LE PONANT (B,L,D)**

**Wednesday, May 17**

**Nice / Disembark / U.S.**

Disembark and transfer to the airport for the return flight to the U.S. (B)

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**Pre-trip Extension to Milan**

**Saturday & Sunday, May 6 & 7**

**U.S. / Milan, Italy**

Depart the U.S. and arrive in Milan on Sunday and transfer to Hotel De La Ville, our accommodations for the next three nights. Meet fellow travel companions at a welcome wine reception this evening. **HOTEL DE LA VILLE (R)**

**Monday, May 8**

**Milan / Bergamo / Milan**

Today’s excursion visits the hilltop town of Bergamo. Explore the medieval part of the city or *Citta Alta*, enclosed by defensive walls built by the Venetians from the 15th-17th centuries. At the heart is the elegant Piazza Vecchia, surrounded by historic buildings including the Palazzo della Ragione, a Romanesque building from the 12th century and one of Italy’s oldest civic palaces. Walk to the Piazza del Duomo and visit Santa Maria Maggiore Basilica, housing several outstanding Florentine and Flemish Tapestries, and the opulent Colleoni Chapel. Also see the Teatro Donizetti in the lower city, built in the early 18th century and later dedicated to the composer, who was born in Bergamo. **HOTEL DE LA VILLE (B,L)**

**Tuesday, May 9**

**Milan**

Explore Milan this morning on a walking tour that includes a visit to the city’s Gothic Cathedral and a behind-the-scenes tour of the renowned Teatro alla Scala. (Note: in the event the tour of La Scala is not possible due to rehearsal schedules, an alternate visit will be made). In the afternoon visit the Ansaldo workshops and witness firsthand the creation of La Scala’s stage sets and costumes. Also visit the Refectory at Santa Maria delle Grazie to view Leonardo da Vinci’s renowned mural *Last Supper*. Today’s highlight is an evening performance of Mozart’s *Don Giovanni*, starring Thomas Hampson, at the Teatro La Scala. **HOTEL DE LA VILLE (B)**
Wednesday, May 10

**Milan / Savona / Embark**

Enjoy a morning at leisure to explore Milan on your own. This afternoon transfer to Savona and embark on *Le Ponant*, our home for the next seven nights. (B)

Pricing for pre-trip extension will be sent to confirmed travelers.

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**What to Expect**

We consider this program to be moderately active. Most of our touring is done on foot. Daily excursions involve one to three miles of walking on city streets, which are, in some cases, uneven or cobblestoned. In several instances, such as museums, archaeological sites or castles, guided tours require climbing up and down several flights of stairs and standing in one place for 20 to 30 minutes at a time. Stairs may not have handrails, and buildings may not have elevators. Our ship, *Le Ponant*, does not have an elevator onboard. Participants will have ample opportunity to take in the beautiful coastal scenery from the comfort of our ship. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.
Information

Dates
May 9 to 17, 2017 (9 days)

Size
This program can accommodate 56 participants. Single accommodations are extremely limited; please call for availability.

Cost*
Rates are per person, based on double or single occupancy, as specified.

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<tr>
<th>Category C</th>
<th>Double</th>
<th>Single</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cabin on the Marie-Galante Deck with a porthole window and a queen bed or twin beds, 116 to 121 sq. ft.</td>
<td>$8,995</td>
<td>$12,495</td>
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<th>Category B</th>
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<th>Single</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cabin on the Marie-Galante Deck with a porthole window and a queen bed, 135 to 145 sq. ft.</td>
<td>$9,295</td>
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<th>Category A</th>
<th>Double</th>
<th>Single</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cabin on the Antigua Deck with a picture window and a queen bed, 132 to 164 sq. ft.</td>
<td>$9,595</td>
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*Stanford Alumni Association nonmembers add $300 per person.
Included

- 7-night cruise aboard *Le Ponant*
- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 7 dinners
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions
- Open bar throughout the cruise, including select wines with lunch and dinner
- Gratuities to guides, drivers and ship crew for all group activities
- All tours and shore excursions as described in the itinerary
- Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
- Port fees and embarkation taxes
- Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
- Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

Not Included

- International and U.S. domestic airfare
- Passport and visa fees
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Independent and private transfers
- Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

Air Arrangements

International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on Lufthansa from San Francisco to Genoa, Italy, and return from Nice, France, is approximately $1,500 as of November 2016 and is subject to change without notice. Information on recommended flight itineraries will be sent by our designated agent.

Terms and Conditions

Deposit and Final Payment

A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold space on this program. An additional $1,000-per-person deposit is required for each optional extension. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?opus2017 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations and Refunds

Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Stanford Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the member’s price. A person traveling as a guest paid for by a current member will not be charged the nonmember fee. Call (650) 725-0692 or visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership for more information or to purchase a membership.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motor coach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket connected with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in October 2016 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50

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Contact Information

Visit us online to reserve space:
http://alumni.stanford.edu/trip?opus2017

Questions? Call us at (650) 725-1093 or email us at travelstudy@alumni.stanford.edu

Stanford Alumni Association
Stanford Travel/Study
Frances C. Arrillaga Alumni Center
326 Galvez Street
Stanford, CA 94305