

*Music and Culture in Vienna and Leipzig
Tracing the music of the Baroque and Classical Eras*

Introduction

On behalf of S.C. Bach and the Carolina Music Museum, I am writing to invite you to join me next summer on a musical odyssey to Vienna, Dresden, and Leipzig. In Vienna, we will join the closing concerts of the Beethoven anniversary season. 2020 marks the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth. Celebrations center around his adopted home of Vienna.



From Vienna, we will travel by motor coach to Dresden where we bask in the city known as the "Florence on the Elbe." Completely rebuilt after WWII, we will visit palaces, gardens, museums, and cathedrals. The culmination of our stay in Dresden will be a concert by the Dresdner Staatskapelle.

From Dresden, we are on to Leipzig and the annual Bachfest. We will experience the opening days of this city-wide spectacular. The 10-day festival includes over 150 concerts, lectures, and other events in over 20 venues around the very walkable city center. Venues include the two main churches of Bach's employ, St. Thomas and St. Nicholas as well as outdoor events in the market square. Concert options in Leipzig include both the St. John and St. Matthew Passions performed in St. Thomas Church. We will hear the renowned Thomanerchor (the 800 year old choir of men and boys conducted by Bach from 1723-1750) and the historic Gewandhaus orchestra. Since the Beethoven anniversary year is a world-wide celebration, there is even an option for more Beethoven here. A performance of his Missa Solemnis is planned for the opera house. Additional sight-seeing possibilities include the wonderful interactive museum at the Mendelssohn house, the Schumann house, and the collection of historic musical instruments at the Grassi Museum.

My good friend, Herbert Mühlenbrink, is organizing concert tickets, sight-seeing, hotel, and our motor coach. He asked me to give you his contact information so that you might contact him directly with questions if you wished. www.leipziger-kulturgenuss.de/. email: herbert.muehlenbrink@leipziger-kulturgenuss.de Herbert has been in business for 9 years. His primary focus is bringing people to the many music festivals in Leipzig. He is very enthusiastic about our project is very much looking forward joining us on the trip as well.

With Herbert's help we have been working through itineraries and options and we have come up with a special two weeks worth of concerts, excursions and activities that we believe highlight the rich cultures of the cities of Vienna, Dresden, and Leipzig. We have designed a unique experience based on our desire to share the work of these two musical giants (Beethoven and Bach) and to explore their surroundings first hand. In the included itinerary and daily plan, you will find concerts and activities that make this a one-of-a-kind adventure.

As this is an individualized trip, there are options for you. I can tell you now that tickets will be secured for those who sign on and make a first deposit this fall. Herbert has made arrangements for a 49 passenger touring coach for us. That is our limit and people can join the group up until the end of February. However, concert tickets are not guaranteed for those who join in after the first initial time period.

As you look through this itinerary, I hope you will become as excited about the possibility as I am. I have included in the itinerary web sites for the hotels and many of the museums, etc. that are on the tour. I hope you will explore these to get more detail about these places. For those interested in extending stays at the Bachfest, I will be happy to send a complete schedule for the 10-day event. Help is also available for those wanted to secure tickets to these events.

Please know that this is a very flexible tour. You are welcome to join the entire trip, participate of a portion, or extend your stay. This is your vacation and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

David Rhyne
Artistic Director, SCBach
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in association with:
Leipziger Kulturgenuss
Herbert Mühlenbrink, director
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Itinerary and Options

Wednesday, June 3 – Vienna

Arrival in Vienna and check in to the Hotel Beethoven <https://www.hotel-beethoven.at/en/>. In the afternoon we will attend a salon concert of Beethoven's piano music at the hotel KREUTZER SONATE. The evening includes an informal walking tour and dinner together. The evening is free for a stroll through the historic center city and some much needed rest after traveling.

Thursday, June 4 – Vienna

10:00-1:00 Extensive guided city tour with lunch included.

Walking Tour "Viennese Classic"

Austria was ruled by the Habsburg family for more than 640 years. They were music lovers and talented musicians or even composers themselves. That is why the court of Vienna attracted the most gifted artists: Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven chose Vienna as their focal point of life and creativity. This creative spirit lives on and still today Vienna as a capital of music sets the tone. For the Viennese it is usual that they can choose between up to three opera productions and several concerts in splendid halls with excellent acoustic every evening. Let's stroll through the city centre on the traces of the great composers and pass by on their original homes and places of triumph.

3:00 In the afternoon we travel by coach to the Wien Museum in Heiligenstadt. www.wienmuseum.at/de/standorte/beethoven-museum.html

Summer Holidays with Beethoven

In the early nineteenth century Heiligenstadt (today in Vienna's 19th district) was an independent wine growing village. Tourists were attracted by the wine taverns and the public baths supplied by a mineral-rich spring. Also Ludwig van Beethoven trusted in the healing qualities of the local water and hoped to cure his worsening deafness. Here in 1802 he wrote the "Heiligenstädter Testament", the letter addressed to his brother but never sent, in which Beethoven expressed his despair over his illness. At the same time, he worked on some of his most important works, among them the first sketches for the Third Symphony ("Eroica").

We will visit the Beethoven Museum in his former summer home, follow one of his favourite walks along the Schreiberbach and finally taste some local wine in a typical Viennese wine tavern.

According to tradition, the house in Probusgasse 6 is associated with a shattering testimony of Beethoven. Here, in 1802, he wrote the "Heiligenstädter Testament" – the letter addressed to his brothers, but never dispatched, in which he expressed his despair over his progressive deafness. At the same time he worked in Probusgasse on some of his most important works, including the so-called "Sturm" Sonata, op. 31, no. 2, the "Prometheus" Variations, op. 35, and first sketches for the later Third Symphony ("Eroica").

Friday, June 5 – Vienna

10:00-12:00 Today we visit the Mozart House (Domgasse 5). <https://www.mozarthausvienna.at/en/>, take a guided tour and view the special exhibitions of Mozart, Beethoven and Haydn – and a small Piano MOZART recital

Tonight we attend an opera at the Staatsoper Wien **Figaro's Wedding**

Saturday, June 6 – Vienna

This morning we take a guided tour through the Haydn House <https://www.wienmuseum.at/en/locations/haydnhaus.html> with the possibility of listening to a chamber concert from Haydn.

3:00-5:00 **Visit of Schubert's birth house**, by own bus, Vienna, Nußdorfstr. 54

Sunday, June 7 – Vienna/Dresden

At **11:00**, we will close the Vienna Visit with a big concert in the Wiener Musikverein with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra under Andris Nelsons for which tickets for middle price classes were very difficult to buy in the 250th anniversary year of Beethoven :

Ludwig van Beethoven **Symphonie Nr. 8 F-Dur, op. 93** — Pause — Ludwig van **Beethoven Symphonie Nr. 9** d-Moll, op. 125

Wiener Musikverein

Following the concert, we depart via motor coach to Dresden. Lunch included. We arrive in Dresden and enjoy dinner and stay at the Westin Bellevue <https://www.westin-dresden.de/en/> with it's famous view of the old Baroque city skyline, and after dinner, perhaps take an evening stroll through the old city.

Monday, June 8 – Dresden

10:00-3:00 This morning we take an extensive guided tour through the sites of the old city. These include many buildings re-built after WWII. We'll see the Frauenkirche, the Zwinger museum, the palace of the kings of Poland, and the Semper Opera House among other sites. Known as the Florence on the Elbe, we will see that Dresden truly lives up to this moniker. At 8:00 PM we will attend a concert in the famous Semper Opera House. We will hear one of the great symphony orchestras of Europe, the Dresden Staatskapelle. On the program will be **Tschaikowsky's Piano concerto #1** and **Dvořák's Symphony #8**, Seong-Jin Cho, piano, Myung-Whun Chung, principal guest conductor.



Tuesday, June 9 – Dresden

Today we take a leisurely steamer on the River Elbe to Moritzburg or to the picturesque sandstone mountains of the Saxon Switzerland region. After a week of travel, this will be a welcome day to relax through the picturesque river valley while enjoying vistas along the way. The evening is free to take in last minute sights of Dresden.

Wednesday, June 10 – Dresden/Leipzig

Following breakfast we travel by motorcoach to Leipzig and the annual Bachfest.

Stops along the short trip is the old city of Meissen with its famous porcelain factory <https://www.meissen.com/en/>, cathedral high above the Elbe river, and the Albrechtsburg Palace. This afternoon we check into our hotel, “Felix im lebendigen Haus Leipzig”, <https://dein-felix.de/leipzig> and get acquainted with the old city of Leipzig. Our leisurely walk will feature the Gewandhaus Orchestra Hall and the Opera House just outside our hotel on Augustusplatz and perhaps a couple of tips on good Leipziger pastry.

Thursday, June 11 – Leipzig

10-noon Guided tour of the Bach Museum and Archives.

5:00 PM We attend the opening festival concert of the annual Bachfest at St. Thomas Church. Music presented by the Gewandhaus Orchestra and the Thomanerchor.

The Bachfest includes over 150 concerts, lectures, and tours over the next 10 days: <https://leipziger-kulturgenuss.de/contao/preview.php>

Options are many and tickets for additional events can be purchased in advance or in Leipzig at the festival tent located near St. Thomas Church. Anyone interested in tickets to extra concerts or suggestions for tours (Mendelssohn or Schumann House, Grassi Museum, Leipzig Zoo, etc.) just has to ask and I and/or Herbert will be happy to steer you in the right direction. Leipzig is a welcoming and manageable city. You will quickly become familiar with the lay of the land and help is available. In addition to Leipzig, the cities of Halle, Wittenberg, Thorgau, Naumburg, among others are a short train rides away. Each are wonderful locations for an easy day trip while based in Leipzig.



Here are the concerts for which we have first-tier tickets to attend.

Friday, June 12 – Tuesday, June 16

Friday, June 12: Beethoven, *Missa Solemnis*, Leipzig Opera House, Gewandhaus Orchestra

Saturday, June 13: *Früchte Bachs I*, J.S. Bach and C.P.E. Bach Magnificats at St. Thomas Church

Sunday, June 14: Morning worship services with special choral, orchestra and organ music are available throughout the city. Options include, St. Thomas, St. Nicholas, Leipzig's Catholic Church, as well as others in walking distance to the old city.

Monday, June 15: 8:00 PM *St. John Passion*

Tuesday, June 16: 8:00 PM *St. Matthew Passion*

All are welcomed to extend their stay and hear more of the festival, transfer to other cities for extended vacation or to return to the states at any time. The Leipzig/Halle regional airport (LEJ) can provide connecting flights to many major hubs for travel home. These might include Frankfurt (FRA), Munich (MUC), or Berlin Tegel (TXL).



In Cooperation with LEIPZIGER KULTURGENUSS * herbert.muehlenbrink@leipziger-kulturgenuss.de*Tel.+49(0)341 230.741.91

BROSCHURE for SOUTH CAROLINA'S BACH SOCIETY (06/03-06/17 2020) latest program 12/20/2019			20 pers. desired	On 12/20/2019: 12 persons are participants
			Vienna	Vienna
		TIME	WEDNESDAY 3rd	TIME THURSDAY 4th
		Depending on the arrival of the group in Vienna	Our bus brings us to our Hotel Beethoven, Vienna https://www.hotel-beethoven.at	9.00-12.00 Lunch break Intensive City Guiding, s. extra paper /Mrs Hauer, our English guide Resting possible in hotel without much time loss
		16.00h	Concert in our Hotel: Kreutzer Sonate/ L.v.Beethoven	15-17.00 https://www.wienmuseum.at/de/standorte/beethoven-museum.html by bus walking along Beeth.'s walks along
				the <i>Schreiberbach</i> , dinner in one of his favourite Viennese wine taverns "Heurigen"
		18.00	Walk to the Naschmarkt round the corner for Evening Dinner	
			free evening for own pursuits	
	Vienna		Vienna	Vienna
TIME	FRIDAY 5th	TIME	SATURDAY 6th	TIME SUNDAY 7th
10-12 h	MOZART HOUSE Domgasse 5 Guiding and special exhibition of Mozart, Beethoven, Haydn Reservation	9.15 10-11.00 11.00-12.00	Bus tour to HAYDN HOUSE incl. guiding Haydn-gasse 19 1060 Wien guidance Haydn concert	11.00 h Ludwig van Beethoven Symphonie Nr. 8 F-Dur, op. 93 — Pause — Ludwig van Beethoven Symphonie Nr. 9 d-Moll, op. 125 Wiener Musikverein
		15-17.00 h	Visit and guiding in Franz Schubert's birthhouse,, Vienna, Nußdorferstr. 54 by own bus	14.00 Bustour to Dresden incl. Lunch package (extra service Hotel)
20.00 h	W.A.Mozart Figaro's Wedding Wiener Staatsoper		free evening for own pursuits	Arrival in Dresden
				19.00h Halfboard Luch Hotel(extra) Walk round the City Centre

TIME	MONDAY 8th	TIME	TUESDAY 9th	TIME	WEDNESDAY 10th
Hotel	The Westin Bellevue Dresden https://www.westin-dresden.de Grand Deluxe rooms incl. the world famous "Canaletto.View"	10.00h	Steamer on the River Elbe Moritzburg/Sandsteingeb. Free evening		After breakfast: moving to Leipzig by our rented motorcoach Stopover Meißen: Staatliche Porzellan-Manufaktur Meissen GmbH Erlebnisswelt HAUS MEISSEN Castle/Albrechtsburg
10.00-13.00	Guided sightseeing of DRESDEN				
20.00	Concert Semper Opera				
	Myung-Whun Chung Conductor Seong-Jin Cho Piano Pjotr I. Tschaikowsky Klavierkonzert Nr. 1 b-Moll op. 23 Antonin DvořákSymphonie Nr. 8 G-Dur op. 88				
	LEIPZIG		LEIPZIG		LEIPZIG
TIME	THURSDAY 11th	TIME	FRIDAY 12th	TIME	SATURDAY 13th
Hotel	https://dein-felix.de				
10-12	Bach Museum/guiding				
17.00	Bachfestival: Opening Concert	20:00 h	MISSA SOLEMNIS Opera Leipzig	20.00 h	Früchte Bachs I MAGNIFICAT DOPPELT Thomaskirche
	LEIPZIG		LEIPZIG		LEIPZIG
TIME	SUNDAY 14 th	TIME	MONDAY 15 th	TIME	TUESDAY 14 th
at the morning	Whorshipping on the market place	20.00 h	St. John Passion	20:00 h	St. Matthew Passion

Head of organizing:

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Financial details

If you have taken group tours before, you have probably experience a payment plan that begins with a small non-refundable deposit and graduated payments along the way. Because we are locking in so many concert tickets early, it is necessary to ask for a higher first payment in order to secure the best seats possible. The main churches in Leipzig for the Bachfest (St. Thomas and St. Nicholas) are medieval structures with many columns throughout the nave. We have to move quickly to get the best seats with un-obstructed views. Believe me, it makes a difference and is very much worth it.

Given that rationale, here are the details:

Total cost (land only) Double = 3,200 euro/person

Total cost (land only) Single = 4,200 euro/person

This is the maximum price. Depending on final costs of tickets, the final cost may actually be less.

Included:

Motor coach throughout tour.

Hotels in Vienna, Dresden, and Leipzig throughout the tour.

Breakfast each day.

German/English speaking tour guide throughout and English speaking city guides.

All concert tickets mentioned in the itinerary.

All sight seeing excursions mentioned in the itinerary.

Not Included:

Transportation to Vienna and from Leipzig

Meals outside of breakfast.

Payment schedule

First payment: starting date - 1,250 euro

Final payment: Due March 1, 2020.

Because we are working with Herbert's company in Germany, all prices are in Euro. Right now the exchange rate is right at \$1.10 per euro. This is very good for us. Last summer it hovered between \$1.15 and \$1.20.

Payment in euro also presents bit of a challenge. Therefore, here are a couple of ways to handle this.

1) Make a payment directly to leipziger-kulturgenuss for the amount above. You can mail or wire the check directly or you can get it to me to send for you.

2) Make the payment to me and I will transfer the dollars to euro and send to Herbert.

Whichever way you feel most comfortable, you should do. If you decide for me to handle it for you, I will check on the exact exchange rate at the time and give you a specific total in dollars.