



Tour for Music Friends – Hamburg and Northern Germany

Music lovers need to add Hamburg to their hotlist of great music destinations around the world. The new Elbphilharmonie Concert Hall, a 2,100-capacity venue, has given the city a new focal point for classical music. The city of world-famous composers was once described by the composer Georg Philipp Telemann as a place “where music seems, as it were, to have its homeland”. In Hamburg, the many-faceted Baroque composer was municipal Director of Music for 46 years. Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, the “Hamburg Bach” and Telemann’s godson, succeeded him in 1768. He was celebrated by his

contemporaries as an “original genius” and lived in the city up to his death in 1788. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, the immensely musically gifted siblings Fanny and Felix Mendelssohn were born in Hamburg. Johannes Brahms, born in the Gängeviertel, made his debut as a pianist and composer here. In 1891 Gustav Mahler came to Hamburg to take up a position as First Conductor at the Hamburg Stadt-Theater. He brought operatic and concert music here to new, unparalleled heights of excellence.

Day 1: Arrive Hamburg airport. Private coach transfer to your hotel. Afternoon guided walking tour of the „Old Hamburg“. Stroll along the old city to see the fortification Hammaburg and the beginnings of Hamburg, Hamburg’s oldest church, the St.-Petri-Church, the impressive Rathaus (city hall) and the Hamburger Börse - the Hamburg Exchange founded in 1558. Learn about the history of Germany’s oldest and most versatile exchange. The Hamburg Exchange is characterised by the preservation of timeless values, such as the reliability of the business handshake. Welcome dinner at your hotel.

Day 2: After breakfast explore the „Modern Hamburg“. Guided tour of the Hafencity, currently Europe’s largest inner-city development project. Follow the smell of tea, coffee and cacao to the Speicherstadt, which is the world’s largest complex of warehouses. It was built into the Elbe river between 1883 and the late 1920s on thousands of oak poles as a free economic zone in Hamburg’s port. With its unique buildings and winding network of streets, canals and bridges it is an extraordinary example of representing one or more eras of human history. Enjoy a cruise getting a unique view of this UNESCO World Heritage. Afterwards free time for individual sightseeing. Concert at Elbphilharmonie Hamburg.

Day 3: After breakfast depart by private coach to *Ludwigslust Palace* for a guided walking tour of the Baroque residential palace built between 1772-1776, by Johann Joachim Busch for the Dukes of Mecklenburg. The palace is located in the middle of the palace garden created in English style, with canals, fountains and artificial cascades. The rooms of the castle with their historic furnishing give an impression of courtly art and living culture in 18th/19th century. The works of the former court composers are often played in summer concerts in the Golden Hall and in the Church. Continue to *Schwerin*. Optional lunch at the Orangerie of Schwerin Castle Gardens. It is a delicate construction made of cast iron and glass, a unique example of 19th century architecture. Afterwards stroll along the Castle gardens, considered as one of the most impressive baroque gardens in Northern Germany. Guided visit of the Staatliches Museum Schwerin (State Museum Schwerin). It reflects the history of the Federal State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern going back more than 1,000 years, with treasures of





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international renown from antiquity to the present day on display. The heart of stock of paintings consists of an exquisite collection of Dutch and Flemish works from the so-called "Golden Age". Free time for individual sightseeing in Schwerin's old city town to see the famous Cathedral. The tallest of all churches in Mecklenburg is a masterpiece of the northern gothic architecture. Late afternoon return to your hotel in Hamburg. Meeting with local artists or local art society members to learn about their activities.

Day 4: After breakfast guided walking tour of „Hamburg – Music Town“. Visit St. Michael's – the most important baroque church in Northern Germany. With its unmistakable copper roof, the church tower is Hamburg's iconic landmark. You will attend a private morning recital and have the chance to learn about the St. Michael's organs. From the crypt to the loft, organs can be found throughout St. Michael's, with six instruments delivering a unique sound experience. That makes them part of a grand tradition, as the church has had extraordinary instruments since the 18th century. Your visit will end prior to a midday prayer service at 12 p.m. (20 min organ music). Continue to the KomponistenQuartier in Peterstraße. Discover Georg Philipp Telemann, Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, Johann Adolf Hasse, Fanny & Felix Mendelssohn, Johannes Brahms and Gustav Mahler in an appealing, lively and educational venue. The town houses of wealthy Hamburg burghers, rebuilt in historical style in the Peterstraße, are the ideal location to recreate the musical history of Hamburg. Visit one of the composer's museums. Optional lunch at a typical local restaurant in the KomponistenQuartier, e.g. Kleinhuis' Cafe & Weinstube. Afternoon guided visit of the permanent collection of the Hamburger Kunsthalle which reflects art from eight centuries and ranks among the most substantial public art collections in Germany. Concert at Hamburgische Staatsoper (Hamburg Opera House).

Day 5: After breakfast depart by private bus to UNESCO World Heritage town *Lübeck*. Lübeck was founded in 1143 as the first western city on the Baltic Sea coast and is a shining example of the character of the Hanseatic League members in the Baltic region. Its distinct and unique city skyline with the seven church towers, its systematically constructed city layout and the original historic buildings in the Old Town were reason enough for the UNESCO committee to grant the historic island with its status as a UNESCO world heritage site in 1987. The rich substance of valuable historic buildings from the different ages can still be admired. The Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and Classical buildings, the alleys, churches, monasteries and fortifications all blend together to create a uniquely uniform image - nestling in a bed of water and green. Guided walking tour to the city's sights on the island of the old town. You will visit the world famous medieval buildings from Lubeck's great times as queen of the Hanseatic League – the Holsten Gate, the church of St. Mary's, the Buddenbrookhouse, the historical town hall with its magnificent Audience Hall. Optional lunch at the famous local restaurant Schiffergesellschaft, founded 500 years. It's historical big hall hasn't changed since it was built. Guided visit of St. Anne's Museum which is regarded as one of Germany's most beautiful museums. It is located in the former St. Anne's Priory, which was founded in 1502 as a residence for the unmarried daughters of Lübeck's wealthy merchants. Nowhere else is there such a harmony of late Gothic monastic architecture side by side a unique collection of sacred art from the 13th to the early 16th century. Afternoon return to your hotel in Hamburg. Free time for individual sightseeing in Hamburg. Farewell dinner.

Day 6: After breakfast check out of your hotel and get transferred to Hamburg Airport for your return flight.

****All services subject to availability at the time of booking. Program can be adapted to your wishes.*

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