



History of Western Music - Germany, Austria, Hungary

Performance tour to cultural cities in the footsteps of the most famous Western composers. Explore the main sights and perform at local venues. Meet with local musicians for musical exchanges.

Bonn (3 nights): Arrive at the airport in Frankfurt and meet your tour manager and bus driver. Travel along the picturesque **Romantic Rhine Valley** with optional stops, e.g. to see the famous Loreley. **Bonn** is birthplace of the famous composer Ludwig van Beethoven and last residence of Robert Schumann. Enjoy a guided walking tour including visits to the Beethoven House and the Schumann House. Excursion to **Cologne**. Cologne has been at the very center of German history ever since it

was founded by the Romans two thousand years ago. The Roman-Germanic Museum houses many relicts of the Roman colonization of Germany. The most important sight is the Cathedral, one of the world's great Gothic churches. Perform at a local venue and meet with young local musicians for musical exchanges.

Leipzig (3 nights): Continue to **Leipzig** which enjoys a fine reputation in the music world, thanks to the Choir of Thomas Church (Thomanerchor), the Gewandhaus Orchestra, and the Mendelssohn-Bartholdy National College of Music. Johann Sebastian Bach was cantor of the Thomas Church (Thomaskirche) for 27 years and is buried in Leipzig. En route lunch stop in **Eisenach**. On the top of the city you will find the well known castle of the Wartburg. This castle was the residence of Luther during the time he translated the bible from Hebrew and Greek into German. Visit the Bach House in Eisenach and the Georgenkirche, where Bach was christened. Georg Philipp Telemann was concert and court conductor in Eisenach. Guided city tour to learn about the life and works of Bach, Mendelssohn and Schumann in Leipzig. Chamber concert visit. Day excursion to **Weimar** where Bach lived and worked and where you will visit the Franz Liszt Museum. Weimar gained cultural importance when in 1775 the Duke of Saxe-Weimar called Johann Wolfgang von Goethe to be his councillor and minister. In 1799 Friedrich von Schiller moved to Weimar, too.

Berlin (3 nights): Continue to Berlin with stop in **Halle**, Georg Friedrich Händel's native town. Enjoy a 3 hours guided sightseeing tour featuring some of the highlights of the German capital including a visit to Berlin Philharmonie, the concert hall of the famous Berliner Philharmoniker and learn about the orchestra and its famous conductors. Day excursion to **Potsdam** including a visit to Sanssouci Palace (or New Palace) and the expansive castle gardens. Concert visit to a summer music festival which takes place in the castles and gardens in and around Berlin and Potsdam. Take part in a school music lesson and exchange with local students.

Dresden (1 night): **Dresden**, once called "Florence on the Elbe" because of its numerous baroque buildings still offers a lot to the visitor. The Zwinger, the old palace is the main attraction followed by the Hofkirche (court church) and the Semper Opera. Music enthusiasts all over the world are familiar

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with Dresden. This is due not least to the guest performances by the **Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra** and the **Sächsische Staatskapelle** working at the famous **Semper Opera House**, the **Dresdner Kreuzchor** and **Dresdner Kapellknaben** choirs. Enjoy a 3 hours guided tour of Dresden (with local guide): Visit the Semperoper (opera house) and the Zwinger palace. See the Silbermann organ at the Hofkirche cathedral. Open-air concerts and musical evenings can be enjoyed in the Baroque atmosphere of the old town and in Dresden's palaces and parks.

Salzburg (2 nights): Proceed to **Salzburg** via **Bayreuth**. Guided walking tour of Bayreuth to learn about Franz Liszt and Richard Wagner. If any city can claim to be the capital of music, it is the Mozart town Salzburg – many renowned composers contribute to the Salzburg Music Festival. Guided walking tour of the city including the beautiful Mirabell Gardens, St. Peter's Church, the Residence, and the 11th Century Hohensalzburg Fortress which dominates the city from its hilltop location. Visit Mozart's birth place, the Mozart House. Performance and friendly get together with locals afterwards in the countryside.

Vienna (2 nights): Continue to **Vienna** with stop en route to visit **Melk** Abbey. Vienna, the city of the waltz and home of many famous composers – Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms, Bruckner, Mahler and Johann Strauss are the most celebrated. In Vienna, Lehar and his contemporaries created the sparkling genre of the operetta; and Schönberg, Berg and Webern went far beyond traditional structures in their twelve-tone creations. In Vienna there is always a wide choice of performances to attend and music to hear: from the State Opera and the Philharmonic to operetta and musical, from waltzes and the songs of the wine gardens to jazz and pop. Half day guided city tour of Vienna . Visit the Haus der Musik (House of Music), the interactive sound museum. Enjoy a classical concert.

Budapest (2 nights): Half day guided tour of the city to see both, the **Pest** and **Buda** embankments of the Danube stretching from the Liberty Bridge all the way up to the Margaret Bridge, the area encompassed by the Chain Bridge and some of the buildings belonging to the Technical University, the Gellért Bath, the Gellért Hill with the Statue of Liberty and the Citadel, the Castle of Buda, the Baroque churches and Turkish baths of the so-called Water Town. Visit the Castle District where the historical old town district is situated, with countless venues from where the beautiful panorama of Budapest may be admired and where the doorways of the Baroque residential homes hide historical Roman stones and beautifully carved sediles from the times of knights. The works of renowned composers such as Béla Bartók, Zoltán Kodály or Ferenc Liszt make the Hungarian classical and folk music famous all around the world. Visit the Liszt Museum in Budapest which is a reconstruction of Liszt's last Budapest flat on the first floor of the old Academy of Music, where the composer lived between 1881 and 1886, and the Béla Bartók Memorial Museum. Enjoy a concert at one of the many theatres or concert halls.

Return to Vienna (1 night): En route visit **Bratislava**. Take a stroll through the traffic-free old town, and breathe in the atmosphere of its centuries-old streets, squares and buildings. You will see the oldest and most beautiful parts of Bratislava: Primatial Square – Old Town Hall – Main Square – Franciscan's Square – Michael's Gate – Ventúrska Street – Panská Street – St. Martin's Cathedral. Flight departure from Vienna airport.

***** Program can be adapted to your wishes. Good will concerts for amateur music groups, workshops, and festival participations can be arranged. All services are subject to availability at the time of booking.*

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