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## Cultural Tour for Music Friends: Berlin – Beethoven - Bonn

### Beethoven Festival August 2021

*Thursday 12 August 2021:* Arrive **Berlin** Tegel. Take an orientation tour by coach: the New Embassy quarter, Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate, Pariser Platz and Unter den Linden. Dinner in the hotel.

*Friday 13 August 2021:* Visit **Charlottenburg** - Charlottenburg castle, the earliest major building in Berlin, is an outstanding Baroque and Rococo palace with splendid interiors. The Berggruen Collection of Picasso and classic modern art is also displayed. Guided visit of the production and store room of the Staatliche Gipsformerei (Replica Workshop) which is the largest institution of its kind in the world. High-quality art replicas of works mainly from the collections of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, but also from other European museums, have been produced here for almost 200 years. Evening concert performance tba.

*Saturday 14 August 2021:* Walk through the oldest part of the city to 'Museums Island', a group of major museum buildings. Visit the Neues Museum, the stunning new home to the Egyptian Museum, restored and recreated by British architect David Chipperfield and the Pergamonmuseum, which is world famous for its archeological holdings like the Pergamon Altar, and the imposing bright blue glazed-brick Ishtar Gate of Babylon. Some free time for individual sightseeing.

*Sunday 15 August 2021:* Europe's greatest building project in the 1990s, Potsdamer Platz showcases an international array of architects (Piano, Isozaki, Rogers, Moneo). Scattered around the nearby 'Kulturforum' are museums, the State Library and the Philharmonie concert hall (Hans Scharoun 1956–63). Free afternoon, an opportunity to visit the Museum of Musical Instruments or the Gemäldegalerie which houses one of Europe's major collections of Old Masters.

*Monday 16 August 2021:* **Potsdam** - Excursion to Potsdam which in the 18th century developed into Brandenburg-Prussia's second capital and acquired fine buildings, parks and gardens. Sanssouci, created as a retreat from the affairs of state by

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Frederick the Great, is among the finest 18th-century complexes of gardens, palaces and pavilions to be found anywhere. Visit his single-storey palace atop terraces of fruit trees, the Chinese Tea House and the orangery, and see the city centre with its Dutch Quarter and Neo-Classical buildings. Return to Berlin.

*Tuesday 17 August 2021:* Explore Berlin Mitte - Private collection and gallery visits and a visit to a studio of a local artist. Stroll around the Scheunenviertel (Old Jewish quarter) to the Hacksche Höfe and explore the Berlin of the 1920s and the Jewish life in Berlin. Attend a jazz concert night or visit Clärchens Ballhaus – Berlin’s most legendary dance hall, opened in 1913, when there was that mad hipe about tango, it has survived two world wars, communist spies and even a Quentin Tarantino movie production.

*Wednesday 18 August 2021:* Check out and continue to **Dresden**. Once called “Florence on the Elbe” because of its numerous baroque buildings Dresden still offers a lot to the visitor. Music enthusiasts all over the world are familiar 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 and visit the Semperoper and the Zwinger palace. See the Silbermann organ at the Hofkirche (court church). Open-air concerts and musical evenings can be enjoyed in the Baroque atmosphere of the old town and in Dresden’s palaces and parks. Overnight in Dresden.

*Thursday 19 August 2021:* Check out and continue to Bonn. 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. Late afternoon arrive in **Bonn**.

*Friday 20 August 2021:* Morning excursion to **Cologne** to visit Cologne Cathedral. The Gothic cathedral houses the remains of the Three Wise Men, which Archbishop Rainald von Dassel had brought to Cologne from Milan after the latter city was conquered in 1164. Because of these relics, the cathedral became one of the most important places of pilgrimage in Europe. Its two massive towers have dominated the city’s skyline since their completion in 1880. Afterwards guided walking tour of the old town. Highlights include the Dionysus Mosaic, Roemerstrasse, Gulichplatz, Farina-House (birthplace of Eau de Cologne), the Jewish Quarter, Old Market Square, Town Hall, Great St. Martin Church. Lunch in traditional brewery restaurant Cologne. In 1778 Beethoven’s first known public performance took place in Cologne. His father

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advertised his age as six years, although he was in fact seven, probably to draw favourable comparisons with the child prodigy Mozart. He played various clavier concertos and trios. Return to Bonn with stop en route in **Brühl** to visit Palaces Augustusburg and Falkenlust with their extensive gardens and park grounds. Evening attend **The Ninth** Program Ludwig van Beethoven Symphony no. 9 in D minor, op. 125, with the final chorus about Friedrich Schiller's ode 'To Joy' (1822–24) to celebrate Beethoven's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday.

*Saturday 21 August 2021:* Morning excursion to the **Ahr Valley** with stop en route to visit Drachenburg Castle in **Königswinter**. Take the Drachenfels Railway up the mountain and take in the splendid view of the **Rhine**. Rhine cruise from Königswinter to Remagen and transfer to the romantic wine village **Ahrweiler**, embedded in vineyards, and surrounded by the mediavial town walls. The Ahr region is considered to be the „German red wine paradise“ and famous for the pinot noir and pinot madeleine. Wine tasting in the world's oldest winegrowers' cooperative before yo return to Bonn to enjoy **The First & The Third** Program Ludwig van Beethoven Symphony no. 1 in C major, op. 21 (1799/1800) version for piano by Franz Liszt, S. 464/1, Ludwig van Beethoven Symphony no. 3 in E-flat major, op. 55 ('Eroica') (1802–04) version for piano by Franz Liszt, S. 464/3 as part of the Beethoven festival.

*Sunday 22 August 2021:* Morning guided visit of the Beethoven House Bonn and walking tour of the city centre. Ludwig van Beethoven's birthplace is of great importance for people throughout the world and the main attraction in the musical city of Bonn. The museum presents the largest Beethoven collection in the world. Its impressive authentic documents combined with new media bear witness to Beethoven's life and compositions. Some free time before you enjoy **Freedom, idiosyncrasy - revolution** ORF Radio-Symphonieorchester Wien Michael Boder conductor, Works by Ludwig van Beethoven and Gerhard E. Winkler as part of the Beethoven festival.

*Monday 23 August 2021:* After breakfast check out and get transferred to Cologne airport for your return flight.

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

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