

Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra American Celebration of Music in Germany & the Czech Republic

Custom Tour #11 (7 nights/9 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service to Berlin, Germany

Day 2

Berlin

(D)

Arrive in Berlin

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach

Take a panoramic introductory tour of Berlin's highlights and a Spree River Cruise (explore Berlin's magnificent architectural treasures and experience the city's amazing transformation by boat on a one-hour cruise on the River Spree) en route

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner included, and overnight

Berlin, for so long a symbol of the world's division into two opposing camps, owes its economic and cultural dynamism today to the fact that both the Federal Republic and what used to be called East Germany had for thirty years been determined to use the city as a shop window for their respective ways of life. Berlin became truly important under the reign of Friedrich-Wilhelm of Brandenburg. He welcomed the influx of French Huguenot craftsmen, theologians, doctors and scholars who helped transform the city and strengthen its influence on its neighbors

Day 3

Berlin

(B,D)

Breakfast included at the hotel

Half-day sightseeing of the eastern sector of Berlin with its famous Unter den Linden Strasse, (iconic boulevard of linden trees), the Russian War Memorial, what remains of "the wall," and "Checkpoint Charley" as we pass into the western sector to experience Kurfurstendamm Strasse, home to some of Berlin's most luxurious stores. Also see Neues Museum, Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, Berlin Dom, Reichstag, etc.

Lunch, on own

Afternoon visit to the Pergamon Museum. The Pergamon Museum houses monumental buildings such as the Pergamon Altar, the Ishtar Gate of Babylon, the Market Gate of Miletus reconstructed from the ruins found in Anatolia, as well as the Mshatta Façade. The Museum is subdivided into the antiquity collections, the Middle East Museum, and the Museum of Islamic Art

*Afternoon Rehearsal**

*Performance at Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church in Berlin as part of the American Celebration of Music in Germany**

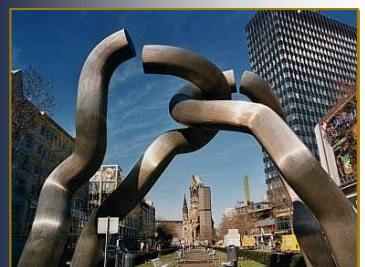
Evening dinner included, and overnight

Day 4

Halle / Leipzig

(B,D)

Breakfast included at the hotel, followed by check-out



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Morning transfer to Leipzig via Halle
Excursion to Halle, birthplace of George Friderich Handel. The tour includes *Händel House*, built in 1558 and now a museum housing a collection of historic music instruments and an exhibition about the composer's life
Lunch, on own
Continue on to Leipzig with an orientation tour of the city upon arrival
Evening dinner included, and overnight

Leipzig has musical associations with some of the greatest of all composers: Bach worked and lived here a big part of his life; Mendelssohn was born and lived here; Wagner was born here (but never lived here), and Halle is the birthplace of Georg Frederick Händel

Day 5 **Leipzig** **(B,D)**

Breakfast included at the hotel
Enjoy a guided tour of Leipzig including entrance to the Mendelssohn Museum, the St. Thomas Church (famous because Bach was the organist and choirmaster here, which is the home of the St. Thomas Boys Choir, one of the most famous in the world). Also visit the Bach Museum. The reconstructed Bose House was once the home of the Bach family and now contains the largest Bach archives in Germany
Lunch, on own
Afternoon time at leisure for shopping and sightseeing (*with Coach and Tour Manager at groups disposal*)
Rehearsal*
Performance at St. Nikolai Church in Leipzig as part of the American Celebration of Music in Germany*
Evening dinner included, and overnight

Day 6 **Terezin / Prague** **(B,D)**

Breakfast included at the hotel, followed by check-out
Transfer to Prague via Terezin
Excursion to Terezin (former fortress and Nazi Concentration Camp for children), including entrance to the fortress and Museum of the Ghetto. Terezin offers poignant insights for musicians because of the music written there by prisoners
Lunch, on own
Continue on to Prague with an orientation tour of the city upon arrival
Evening dinner included, and overnight

Prague achieved much of its present glory in the 14th century, during the long reign of Charles IV. During the Middle Ages, Prague enjoyed a golden age - a time when Prague was larger than Paris or London! The Hapsburgs also left their artistic and architectural mark. Today, Prague is universally declared one of the most beautiful cities in Europe

Day 7 **Prague** **(B,D)**

Breakfast included at the hotel
Morning guided tour of Prague that includes seeing the Charles Bridge, Old Town Square, the Tyn Church, the Astronomical Clock, and the Jewish Quarter. Also visit the Castle District, where entrance is included to Hradcany Castle, St. Vitus Cathedral, the Old Royal Palace, the Golden Lane, and Daliborka Tower
Lunch, on own



*Performance at Dvorak Hall in Prague as part of the American Celebration of Music in the Czech Republic**

Evening dinner included, and overnight

Day 8 **Prague** **(B,D)**

Breakfast included at the hotel

Half-day guided tour of *Musical Prague* including entrance to the Dvorak Museum in Prague. The Museum focuses on collecting, maintaining and displaying documents concerning the Maestro's life and work. Also visit Lobkowitz Palace with its large music archive containing works by over five hundred composers and musicians. The Music Archive is most celebrated for its collection of works by Handel, Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven

Lunch, on own

Afternoon time at leisure for shopping and sightseeing (*with Coach and Tour Manager at groups disposal*)

Evening Farewell Dinner included, and overnight

Day 9 **Depart for home** **(B,D)**

Breakfast included at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to the Prague Airport for return flight home

**Subject to confirmation*

This is a very flexible itinerary. *Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.*

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