

Bach Cantata Choir

American Celebration of Music in Germany

June 16-26, 2018 (9 nights/11 days)

Day 1 June 16 (Saturday)

Depart via scheduled air service to Frankfurt, Germany

Day 2 June 17 (Sunday) Frankfurt / Erfurt (D)

Arrive in Frankfurt

Meet your MCI Tour Manager who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer to Erfurt

Enjoy an orientation tour of Erfurt's highlights upon arrival

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

Erfurt is nicknamed "Thuringian Rome" because of its many churches, chapels and monasteries. Erfurt played a significant role in the life of Martin Luther—it is here he spent six years studying at the University then living as a monk in the Augustinian Monastery

Day 3 June 18 (Monday) Erfurt / Eisenach / Mühlhausen (B)

Breakfast at the hotel

Excursion to Eisenach. Drive up a steep forested slope to one of the best-preserved medieval castles in Germany, Wartburg Castle, which was founded in 1067 and which looms over the city of Eisenach. It was at Wartburg Castle that Martin Luther translated the New Testament into German. Eisenach was also the birthplace of Johann Sebastian Bach. We will visit the *Bachhaus*, the first worldwide museum to be dedicated to the life and work of Johann Sebastian Bach

Lunch on own

Continue to Mühlhausen to visit the Blasii Church. Bach was the organist here in 1707 and 1708. The new organ built in 1959 followed Bach's organ arrangements. Enjoy an organ recital with a short presentation by the church organist

Return to Erfurt

Evening dinner on own and overnight

Day 4 June 19 (Tuesday) Erfurt (B)

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a tour through Erfurt, a richly beautiful, medieval city, to explore some unforgettable sites including entrance to St. Mary's Cathedral and Prediger Church (where Bach was organist). We will also see Merchant's Bridge, Erfurt Cathedral, etc.

Lunch on own

Afternoon at leisure for sightseeing, shopping or other activities

*Concert in Augustinian Abbey Church as part of the American Celebration of Music in Germany**

Evening dinner on own and overnight



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Day 5 June 20 (Wednesday) Erfurt / Weimar / Leipzig (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Weimar, where Bach worked from 1708 to 1717, for a guided tour. Weimar's place in European history rests unshakably on an extraordinary flowering of intellectual talent which has grown steadily over the centuries. The authors Goethe and Schiller, and the German philosopher Nietzsche lived in this city, as did Franz Liszt. Bach was Director of Music at the Duke's Court in Weimar. The tour includes a visit to St. Peter and St. Paul Church where Bach was the organist, where two of Bach's sons were baptized, and where several of Bach's Cantatas were premiered

Lunch on own

Afternoon at leisure for sightseeing, shopping or other activities

Dinner at a local restaurant

*Concert in St. Peter and St. Paul Church as part of the American Celebration of Music in Germany**

Continue to Leipzig for dinner and overnight



Day 6 June 21 (Thursday) Leipzig (B)

Breakfast at the hotel

Half-day guided tour of Leipzig includes entrance to the Bach Museum. The museum was once the home of the Bach family and now contains the largest Bach archives in Germany, as well as many mementos of the composer

Lunch on own

*Recital in Thomaskirche** (famous because Bach was the organist and choirmaster here, and it is the home of the St. Thomas Boys Choir, one of the most famous in the world)

*Concert in St. Nikolai Church as part of the American Celebration of Music in Germany**

Evening dinner on own and overnight



Day 7 June 22 (Friday) Leipzig / Halle / Köthen (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Excursion to Halle for a guided tour. Enjoy a visit to the birthplace of Händel. In addition to the composer's personal effects, the museum houses an exhibition of musical instruments and history of music in the region

Lunch on own

Continue to Köthen for a guided Bach tour including seeing the Bachhaus and entrances to the Bach Memorial and Museum inside the castle (where Bach was Kapellmeister), St. Jacob Church (where Bach performed the Cantata BWV 244a), and St. Agnes Church (where Bach worshipped)

Return to Leipzig for dinner and overnight



Day 8 June 23 (Saturday) Leipzig / Meissen / Dresden (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Half-day *In the Footsteps of Composers* tour including Schumann House, Wagner Memorial, Leipzig Opera House, St. Nicholas School, St. Nicholas Church, Old City Hall, and entrance to the Mendelssohn House, home of Felix Mendelssohn (the only residence of Mendelssohn that still exists)

Lunch on own

Transfer to Dresden via stop in Meissen for a visit to a porcelain factory. With a history going back more than 1,000 years, Meissen has many fine old buildings but is chiefly famed for its porcelain manufactory

Evening dinner and overnight



There are few city silhouettes more striking than Dresden's. The classic view from the Elbe's northern bank takes in spires, towers and domes belonging to palaces, churches and stately buildings, and indeed it's hard to believe that the city was all but wiped off the map by Allied bombings in 1945

Day 9 June 24 (Sunday) Dresden (B)

Breakfast at the hotel

A morning guided tour of Dresden includes Frauenkirche, Neustadt Quarter, and entrances to the world-famous Zwinger Palace with its Old Masters Gallery and Semperoper. One of Germany's most famous opera houses, the Semperoper opened in 1841 and has hosted premieres of famous works by Richard Strauss, Carl Maria von Weber and Richard Wagner

Lunch on own

Sing a recital in Frauenkirche*

Afternoon at leisure for sightseeing, shopping or other activities

Concert in Kreuzkirche as part of the American Celebration of Music in Germany*

Evening dinner on own and overnight

Day 10 June 25 (Monday) Dresden / Frankfurt (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning at leisure for sightseeing, shopping or other activities

Lunch on own

Afternoon transfer to Frankfurt

Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight

Day 11 June 26 (Tuesday) Depart for home (B)

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Frankfurt's airport for return flight

****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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