



Haydn International Choral Festival

With finale performance in the Konzerthaus in Vienna
with an extension to Budapest, Hungary
Dr. Eph Ehly – Artistic Director

Standard Tour #3 (7 nights / 9 days)

Sunday July 5, 2009

Depart from USA via scheduled air service, including full meal, beverage service and in-flight entertainment. The destination is Vienna, Austria.



Monday July 6th Vienna

Arrive in Vienna. Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who assists the group to the awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer to the hotel. En route, stop at Vienna's Central Cemetery to visit the grave sites of major composers with a wreath-laying. Then enjoy a panoramic tour of Vienna's highlights (lunch on own in the city center). Late afternoon hotel check-in. Welcome Dinner in the Grand Ballroom of the Parkhotel Schönbrunn.



Vienna is still considered the music capital of the world. It is a city of refined tastes, grace, style and unmatched artistic accomplishments. For a thousand years, Vienna was the capital of the far-flung Holy Roman and Hapsburg empires. Though its people and ways have changed, Vienna has retained its imperial monuments, not as reminders of past glories, but as living symbols of its present freedom.

Tuesday July 7th Vienna

Take a tour of Historical Vienna that includes the Ringstraße, Imperial Palace, State Opera, Town Hall, Burgkapelle (venue for the Vienna Boys Choir), Palace Stables, Strauß Monument, and Schönbrunn Palace, built by the Habsburgs in imitation of Versailles. *Afternoon and evening rehearsals.*



Wednesday July 8th Vienna / Eisenstadt

Excursion to Eisenstadt. Everything in Eisenstadt reminds one of the brilliant composer Haydn. Entrances are included to Esterhazy Palace with its Haydn'saal, where many of Haydn's works were premiered, to Haydn's House (now a museum), and to Haydn's church (where he is buried). *Possible short recital in the Haydn'saal as part of the 2009 Commemoration of the 200th year since this great composer's death.* Return to Vienna. *Afternoon and evening rehearsals.*



Thursday July 9th Vienna

Mid-morning dress rehearsal with the orchestra in the Konzerthaus. Half-day guided tour of Musical Vienna, including entrance to Mozart "Figaro" House and the Haus der Musik (House of Music), a modern interactive sound museum located in the historic city center. This tour also includes the Museum of the Vienna Philharmonic. Dinner on own. *Arrive at 6:30 pm at the Konzerthaus in concert dress for sound check and evening finale festival performance.*



Friday July 10th Vienna / Budapest, Hungary

Transfer to Budapest, stopping in Szentendre, a romantic little town in the Danube Bend region of Hungary, with a flourishing artists' colony. With its profusion of enchanting church steeples, colorful baroque houses and winding, narrow cobblestone streets, its appeal and charm attract many visitors. Enjoy shopping and relaxation here in Szentendre. Continue on to Budapest for dinner and overnight.



Budapest, the modern combination of Pest (the larger city, sprawling on the Great Hungarian Plain) and Buda (Castle Hill) is considered one of Europe's greatest cities. Two opera houses, five concert halls, numerous theaters are only the beginning of the dazzling entertainment in this beautiful city.



Saturday July 11th Budapest

Half-day sightseeing includes entrance to Bela Bartok Memorial House, the Liszt Memorial Museum at the Academy of Music and the Museum of Music History. The exhibits at the Museum of Music History consists of 1,000 musical instruments from the 18th to the 20th C. Rare violins, folk, military band and other instruments are displayed. Afternoon at leisure for additional sightseeing, museum visits, shopping or other planned activities. Dinner on own. **Evening concert in Budapest.**

Optional activity (additional cost): Full-day excursion to the Hungarian Puszta, the great Hungarian plain stretching from the Danube to the country's eastern border, including a welcome drink and typical Hungarian Gypsy lunch, horse riding shows, and carriage ride. Return to Budapest. Dinner on own. Evening concert.



Sunday July 12th Budapest

A morning guided tour of Budapest includes the Parliament, Chain Bridge, Royal Castle Hill (for an incredible view of the city), St. Stephen's Cathedral, Matthias Church, entrance to the Fisherman's Bastion (which occupies the site of Buda's old defensive walls and a medieval square where fish was once sold) and the National Gallery. Walk the grounds of Vajdahunyad Castle, built for the World Exhibition in the late 1800's, and visit the picturesque streets of Táncsis Mihály utca, Uri utca and Fortuna utca which feature splendid examples of medieval houses and Baroque mansions. Enjoy an evening farewell dinner cruise on the Danube.



Monday July 13th Depart for home

Transfer to Budapest's International Airport for return flight to USA. Arrive home in the evening of the same day.

