

American Celebration of Music in Austria

with performances in Budapest & Prague

“The Three Capitals Tour”

Standard Tour #4 (8 nights / 10 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service, including full meal, beverage service and in-flight entertainment. The destination is Budapest, Hungary.

Day 2 Budapest, Hungary

Arrive in Budapest. Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting motorcoach for the transfer into Budapest. Although a different language is spoken here, Hungary was for centuries a part of the Habsburg Empire and the trappings and influence of the monarchy are still here. The old and new have blended to create one of Europe's most beautiful cities. Liszt, Bartok and von Weber are among Hungary's famous musicians. Welcome Dinner.

Budapest is the modern combination of three cities: Obuda, Buda and Pest. Linked by eight bridges, these cities have retained their own distinctive characteristics, but their combination has created one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. Two opera houses, five concert halls and numerous theatres are only the beginning of the dazzling entertainment in this captivating city.

Day 3 Budapest

Morning guided tour of Budapest to include the Parliament, Chain Bridge, Royal Castle Hill (for an incredible view of the city), St. Stephen's Cathedral, Matthias Church, Fisherman's Bastion, and the picturesque streets of Tánccsis Mihály utca, Uri utca and Fortuna utca which feature splendid examples of medieval houses and Baroque mansions. *Afternoon/evening performance in Budapest.*

Day 4 Budapest / Vienna, Austria

Travel along the Danube to Vienna, stopping en route in Eisenstadt. Everything in Eisenstadt reminds one of the brilliant composer Franz Joseph Haydn. Entrance is included to Esterhazy Palace with its Haydnsaal, where many of Haydn's works were premiered, and *where choirs may sing a short recital*, Haydn Church to see his mausoleum, and also to Haydn's House, which is now a museum. Continue to Vienna, stopping at the Vienna City Cemetery to visit the graves of Beethoven, Strauss, Brahms, Schubert and the Mozart Memorial. Dinner/overnight in hotel.

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.



Music Celebrations International

Concert Tours With Integrity

Day 5 Vienna

Half-day guided tour of *Historical Vienna* 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. *Performance in Vienna as part of the American Celebration of Music in Austria.*



Day 6 Vienna

Half-day guided tour of *Musical Vienna* includes entrance to either the Mozart "Figaro" House or a Beethoven house, and also 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. *Possible afternoon workshop or clinic.*



Day 7 Vienna / Prague, Czech, Republic

Full-day transfer by bus to Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic. Prague is one of the most enchanting cities in Europe. It was under Charles IV during the 14th century that Prague briefly became the seat of the Holy Roman Empire (virtually the capital of Western Europe) and acquired its distinctive Gothic imprint. Prague escaped serious wartime damage and is considered one of the most beautiful cities in Europe today. Mozart claimed that no one understood him better than the citizens of Prague, and he was only one of several great masters who lived or lingered here.



Prague's position at the crossroads of Europe has made it a magnet for foreign traders since before recorded history. By the early 10th century it had developed into a thriving town. Prince Wenceslas, Charles IV (Holy Roman Emperor), Jan Hus (Reformer), the Hapsburg Emperors all contributed to Prague being center stage in the Middle Ages. At one time Prague was Europe's most magnificent city - larger than Paris or London. Today, Prague is on the threshold of a new era, following the "Velvet Revolution" of 1989. It is again becoming one of the most beautiful and popular cities in all of Europe and is regarded as the "Paris of Eastern Europe".



Day 8 Prague

A morning guided tour of Prague includes the Charles Bridge, St. Nicholas Church, Old Town Square, Municipal House, St. Agnes Convent, the Jewish Quarter and Hradcany Castle, including St. Vitus Cathedral. *Afternoon/evening performance in Prague.*



Day 9 Prague

Day at leisure in Prague for additional sightseeing, shopping, or other planned activities. Alternatively participate in a six-hour guided tour of Terezin (former fortress and Nazi Concentration Camp for children), including entrance to the fortress and Museum of the Ghetto. Return to Prague in the late afternoon for additional sightseeing, excursions, shopping or museum visits. Terezin offers poignant insights for musicians because of the music written here by prisoners and also modern works such as *The Song of Terezin* by Waxman. Farewell Dinner.



Day 10 Depart for home

Transfer to Prague's international airport for the return flight. Arrive home in the evening of the same day.