

American Celebration of Music in Germany

With a visit to the Czech Republic

Standard Tour #3 (7 nights / 9 days)

Day 1

Departure via scheduled airline service to Berlin, Germany

Day 2

Berlin

(D)

Arrive in Berlin

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting motorcoach for a transfer into Berlin

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

Welcome Dinner

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)

Half-day guided tour of Berlin, including Unter den Linden, Kurfürstendamm, Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, the Berlin Dom (Cathedral), and entrance to the Reichstag, and the Imperial Parliament, a huge and elegantly proportioned Neo-Renaissance palace

Possible afternoon clinic/workshop

Day 4

Berlin

(B,D)

Morning sightseeing includes a visit to Charlottenburg Palace. With the Berlin Municipal Palace destroyed, Charlottenburg Palace is now Berlin's best example of the architectural passions and skills of the Prussian kings. The Palace and park are open to the public. See also the Historical Apartments, the Palace houses the Museum of Prehistory and the Gallery of Romanticism from the New National Gallery. Other features of interest in the park are the Schinkel Pavilion, the Belvedere and the Mausoleum

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Germany

Day 5

Berlin / Leipzig / Dresden

(B,D)

Transfer to Dresden via Leipzig

A guided tour of Leipzig includes the Former Town Hall, St. Nicholas Church, St. Thomas Church (famous because Bach was the organist and choirmaster here, and it is the home of the St. Thomas Boys Choir, one of the



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most famous in the world), the Bach Museum, Augustusplatz, and the Battle of the Nations Monument

Continue on to Dresden for dinner/overnight

Dresden - thanks to an exceptional artistic and architectural heritage (Dresden has been nicknamed the "Florence of the Elbe"), it has become one of the most popular and important tourist centers in Germany. It was originally a Slavic town, but Germanized in the 12th Century. The major development of the city took place during the first half of the 18th Century in the reigns of the Electors Augustus II and III. They built the magnificent Baroque Zwinger, the Japanese Palace, Hofkirche and assembled outstanding collections of paintings and objets d'art. Today, Dresden's museums, its opera (Semper-Oper), the Staatskapelle and the Staatsoper orchestras enjoy a worldwide reputation

Day 6 **Dresden** **(B,D)**

A guided tour of Dresden includes the world-famous Zwinger Palace with its Old Masters Gallery, the Cathedral, and the Neustadt Quarter

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Germany

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

Morning transfer to Prague via stop in 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 here by prisoners and also modern works such as *The Song of Terezin* by Waxman

Continue to Prague for dinner and overnight

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

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

A morning tour of Prague includes the Charles Bridge, Old Town Square which contains the Tyn Church and Astronomical Clock, the Jewish Quarter, and also visit Hradcany Castle and St. Vitus Cathedral

Afternoon at leisure in Prague

Conduct a midday concert

Evening farewell dinner in Prague

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

Transfer to Prague's International Airport for return flight

Return home in the evening of the same day

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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