

# American Celebration of Music in Poland

Standard Tour #4 (8 nights / 10 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 transfer to the hotel

En route, take a panoramic tour of Berlin's highlights. Also, explore Berlin's magnificent architectural treasures and experience the city's amazing transformation by boat on a 1-hour cruise on the River Spree. Float from Berlin's historic city center, the Nikolai District, past the Berlin Dom and the Museum Island, all the way to the brand new Chancellery, the seat of the German government, and the House of Culture

Check into your hotel

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 roof terrace and glass cupola of the Reichstag, the Imperial Parliament, a huge and elegantly proportioned Neo-Renaissance palace

Afternoon at leisure in Berlin. Motorcoach and Tour Manager are at the group's disposal for additional sightseeing, excursions, museum visits or shopping

***Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Germany***

## Day 4

### Leipzig

(B,D)

Transfer to 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 also the home of the St. Thomas Boys Choir, one of the most famous in the world), the Bach Museum, Augustusplatz, and the Battle of the Nations Monument

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*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 nearby Halle is the birthplace of Georg Frederick Händel*



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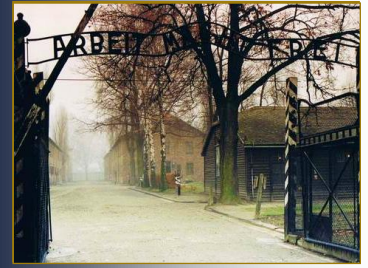
**Day 5****Dresden / Wroclaw, Poland****(B,D)**

Transfer to Wroclaw

Stop en route in Dresden for a guided tour of this "Florence on the Elbe" that includes the world-famous Zwinger Palace with its Old Masters Gallery, the Cathedral, and the Neustadt Quarter

Continue on to Wroclaw for dinner and overnight

*Wroclaw (formerly Breslau, belonging to Germany) is the capital of Silesia and Poland's fourth largest city. It is a city with a fascinating and complex history. It dates to the 10th century, when the Ostrow Tumski islet on the Odra became a fortified Slaw settlement. There are now some 100 bridges spanning the city's 90-kilometer network of slow-moving canals and tributaries, giving Wroclaw its particular charm. Indeed, after Venice and St. Petersburg, Wroclaw is the city with the third-largest number of bridges in Europe. Wroclaw's greatest architectural attractions are its many brick Gothic churches*

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

Half-day sightseeing in Wroclaw includes the breathtaking Aula Leopoldina at Wroclaw University, Old Town Square, Piasek Island (with its Church of St. Mary on Piasek, the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, and the Church of the Holy Cross)

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**Day 7****Auschwitz / Krakow****(B,D)**

Transfer to Krakow by way of Auschwitz to take a tour of the famous Nazi camp. The death camp at Oswiecim, known as Konzentrationslager Auschwitz, was in fact a complex of camps, the largest Nazi death factory, where four million people, mostly Jews, perished. Auschwitz consisted of several units, including the largest one at Brzezinka [Birkenau]. Of the millions of people brought there in the period between 1940 and 1944, only 60 to 70 thousand utterly emaciated victims were alive at the time of liberation of the camp. At present, the National Museum of Oswiecim is situated on the site of the former camp

Continue on to Krakow for dinner and overnight

*Krakow (Cracow), seat of Poland's oldest university and once the nation's capital (before relinquishing the honor to Warsaw in 1611) is one of the few Polish cities that escaped devastation during World War II. Today Krakow's fine towers, facades, and churches illustrating seven centuries of Polish architecture, make it a major attraction for visitors. Listed by UNESCO in 1978 as one of the 12 great historic cities of the world, Krakow represents a great repository of Polish history, art and architecture*

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

A guided sightseeing tour of this ancient capital of Poland, a royal city on the Vistula, lying at the foot of Wawel, a limestone hill on whose peak rises a splendid royal palace and the Cathedral of Sts. Stanislaw and Waclaw. Start with the Royal Castle and Cathedral on the Wawel Hill, which was remodeled according to the new Renaissance taste in the beginning of the 16th century. It is the place where Polish kings were crowned and buried. Afterwards, drive to the Old Town with the Main Market Square and its magnificent houses and palaces. In the middle of the square is the Cloth Hall, built before 1349 but altered in the 16th century, with many shopping stalls inside. Also visit the Church of St. Mary, located right on the Main Market Square

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**Day 9**

**Krakow / Wieliczka**

**(B,D)**

Excursion to Wieliczka to see the underground world of the oldest Salt Mine in Europe. Admire the gorgeous underground world of salt lakes, galleries and chapels created by many generations of Polish miners. See up to 20 excavated chambers on 3 levels, full of beautiful statues carved from salt as well as the Salt Works Museum

***For choirs only: sing a recital in the Saint Kinga Chapel***

Return to Krakow for an afternoon at your leisure in the Old Market Square  
Farewell Dinner

**Day 10**

**Depart for home**

**(B)**

Transfer to Krakow's International Airport for return flight  
Arrive 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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