

SACHERTORTE AND PAPRIKASH
Musical meanderings along the Blue Danube
September 27 – October 7, 2011



There must be something in the Viennese pastry. How can one medium size city keep producing so many composers and conductors of note? Willkommen to Vienna, the world's music capital! More renowned composers have lived here than in any other city – Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms, Strauss Jr., Bruckner, Mahler and Schoenberg all found inspiration for their music here. Nowhere else on earth are there more first class musical performances in a concentrated city core than in Vienna.

And Üdvözlök to Hungary, which has made many contributions to the fields of folk, popular and classical music. Hungarian folk music is a prominent part of the national identity and continues to play a major part in Hungarian music. Considered one of the most beautiful cities in the world, straddling both sides of the Danube, Budapest today is a thriving metropolis, rich in history, tradition and culture. The Kodaly Method of musical education creates a high level of musical literacy throughout the country. In addition to Franz Liszt, Zoltan Kodaly and Béla Bartók, the fiery and virtuosic Romany Csárdás are heard everywhere.

In Vienna and Budapest we will soak up the music, from world-class performances in concert halls to strolling violinists in restaurants to street musicians. Rick Phillips will provide commentary as we go and share his favourite haunts for fabulous food, art and more.

LEADERS

Rick Phillips is a busy writer, critic, broadcaster, teacher, consultant, concert host and tour guide in the classical music field. He has led many music seminars at Classical Pursuits in Toronto. For 14 years he was the host and producer of SOUND ADVICE on CBC Radio and is the author of The Essential Classical Recordings – 101 CDs.

Ann Kirkland is the founder of Classical Pursuits

PERFORMANCES

Our Tentative schedule in Vienna includes:
Musikverein: Orchestra Mozart / Abbado
Staatsoper: Handel's Alcina
Musikverein: Vienna Symphony / Boreyko

FEES

Tour Cost: Euro2995 pp, from Vienna
Deposit: C\$500

Fees include accommodation, transportation, two meals per day, daily lectures, tours, excursions and admissions.

Concert tickets are available for purchase for a limited time in the spring for approximately Euro 500.

This tour is limited to 25 participants.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK THIS TRIP, PLEASE CONTACT:

Laurielle Penny at the Worldwide Quest office

1.800.387.1483 / 416.633.5666

travel@worldwidequest.com

OUR ITINERARY

Tuesday, Sep. 27 Arrive Vienna

Vienna is an extraordinary city; archways, street corners and cobbled alleys offer glimpses and tableaux of buildings and rooftops that, you feel, would still be familiar to Mozart. After settling into our Vienna hotel for our five-night stay we'll join our local guide for a walking tour around part of the Ring, the perfect introduction to Vienna's major sights.

Overnight: Vienna D

Wednesday, Sep. 28 Vienna

Rick will give a lecture every morning after breakfast, followed by a visit to a carefully edited selection of favourite places. Afternoons are free for you to explore on your own or rest up prior to our evening concerts. We start with an historical overview at the Musical Instruments Museum in the Imperial Palace, housing a vast collection of ancient and modern musical instruments and the only original recording of the Johann Strauss Orchestra in the world.

Overnight: Vienna B, L

Thursday, Sep. 29 Vienna

Vienna's newest, slickest, most hi-tech museum, the Haus der Musik, is a revelation. It starts with a computerized introduction to the sounds of music and music of sounds and ends in a futuristic playground of sonic massages and sound morphing. You can even conduct the Vienna Philharmonic courtesy of a computer program masterminded by the University of Linz.

Overnight: Vienna B

Friday, Sep. 30 Vienna

The Mozart Memorial Museum is housed in a 17th century building where Mozart resided from 1784 – 1787, a relatively happy period during which he composed *The Marriage of Figaro*. It was here that he often played chamber-music concerts with Haydn. We'll visit there and the Leopold Museum housing mainly art from the Secessionist period. This evening we'll travel out to nearby Grinzing to enjoy dinner in a traditional *heurige* wine bar.

Overnight: Vienna B, D

Saturday, Oct. 1 Vienna

Today we head outside the centre to the huge Baroque palace of Schloss Schonbrunn, completed in 1700. Here we'll take a tour of the spectacular rococo interiors of Empress Maria Theresa's favourite residence. It was here, at the age of 6, that Mozart performed in the Hall of Mirrors before Maria Theresa and her court.

Overnight: Vienna B, L

Sunday, Oct. 2 To Budapest

Budapest beckons and we head off along the Danube. We'll stop about half way along in the city of Gyor. It's a lovely little town with a fine

Baroque centre and we may have a chance to hear music in one of the churches or at the town's Liszt Academy. We'll arrive in Budapest in the early afternoon and get a taste of the city as we stroll this afternoon and admire the spectacular panorama from the Fisherman's Bastion.

Overnight: Budapest B, D

Monday, Oct. 3 Budapest

The Palace of Arts is the new cultural hub of the city. We'll take in a performance here and visit the 92 register pipe organ – a fascinating inside look at the complex process involved in its construction, its inner functions and its incredible range of sound.

Overnight: Budapest B, D

Tuesday, Oct. 4 Budapest

We'll visit the Liszt Academy of Music where the curator will show us around the and explain the ongoing projects. We'll travel by underground (constructed in 1896 and the first in Europe!) to the Opera House for a look at backstage activities. For lunch today, we'll dive into the grand food market; there are hundreds of food stalls on three levels, and the place is packed with shoppers and snackers downing beers and sausage sandwiches.

Overnight: Budapest B, L

Wednesday, Oct. 5 Kecskemet

The old town of Kecskemet is three times blessed; for its dizzyingly colourful Art Nouveau buildings; as the birthplace of Zoltán Kodály and for its many varieties of barack Palinka (apricot brandy). We'll sample a little bit of each as we stroll in the town. We'll have a special visit to the music school bearing Kodaly's name and learn more about his teaching methods. For lunch today, we're hosted at a country *czardas* where gypsy violinists share their musical heritage.

Overnight: Budapest B, L

Thursday, Oct. Budapest

High in the Buda Hills is Béla Bartók's final Hungarian home. Our stay here would not be complete without a peak at this delightful museum which exhibits artifacts from Bartók's career as well as some of the composer's original furniture. We hope to time our visit to coincide with a chamber music performance. We'll celebrate our stay with an evening boat ride along the Danube, enjoying the magic of the illuminated city.

Overnight: Budapest B, D

Friday, Oct. 7 Depart Budapest

Independent transfer to airport for departure flights.

Itinerary subject to change