

The Spirit of Bach!

Dresden and the
Bach Festival in Leipzig
with WBJC



Dresden on the Elbe
below: St. Thomas Church, Leipzig

Postponed from 2020, WBJC takes you on an inspiring music-filled sojourn to the beautiful German state of Saxony next spring!

The highlight is the annual BachFest in Leipzig, where we will attend five concerts by renowned Bach interpreters. The annual Festival, first begun in 1904, takes place all over city in Baroque churches, impressive concert halls, and charming chamber venues. The tour features three major ensembles: the Gewandhaus Orchestra, once led by Mendelssohn and the oldest civic orchestra in Europe, performs Bach, and in a nod to the Romantic era, pianist Lang Lang plays Saint-Saens; Fabio Biondi and his fine early music ensemble, Europa Galante, plays Brandenburg Concerti and Vivaldi, and the famed Bach Collegium Japan closes the festival with the great choral masterwork, the B-Minor Mass, at the St. Thomas Church, Bach's principal music residence for 35 years. A daytrip to Weimar, once a great cultural capital, includes a visit to the museum of the Bauhaus, and a private concert at the baroque Ettersburg Castle, where Napoleon and the Tsar of Russia met and Goethe produced his plays. Another private concert takes place in Mendelssohn's last home.

Our journey begins in magnificent Dresden, often called "Florence on the Elbe," a city literally risen from the ashes of World War II devastation. At the Semper Oper, one of the most beautiful theatres in the world, we enjoy a production of Rossini's sparkling *La Cenerentola* (Cinderella), and hear a concert by the historic Staatskapelle Dresden. From Dresden, we'll make an excursion into "Saxon Switzerland" with a boat ride on the Elbe and tour the renowned Meissen porcelain factory. Throughout the trip, we will meet other titans of German culture such as Mendelssohn, Schumann, Wagner, Liszt, Martin Luther, Goethe, Schiller, and others.

Five-star accommodations, dining at top restaurants, all the outstanding music and Jonathan Palevsky's engaging commentary make this a superb journey through one of Europe's richest musical and literary landscapes!

June 9 – 19, 2023*

*Tour begins June 10 in Dresden

The *The Spirit of Bach* tour is organized exclusively for WBJC by
The Grand Tour Travel Company of Peterborough, NH.

91.5FM
WBJC



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Prime tickets to 7 major concerts at the Semper Opera in Dresden and Bach Festival in Leipzig
- Private concerts in Leipzig and Weimar, exclusive to the group
- Excursions to Weimar, the Meissen porcelain factory, Pillnitz Castle, and the mountains of Saxon Switzerland
- Private guided tours to major sites in both cities and elsewhere led by expert guides
- Deluxe accommodations in five-star hotels, and fine dining
- Commentary by WBJC program director Jonathan Palevsky throughout the trip
- Private air-conditioned motorcoach transportation for all activities on the tour
- Free time for further sight-seeing, shopping or relaxing

LIMITED TO
25 PARTICIPANTS





Daily Itinerary

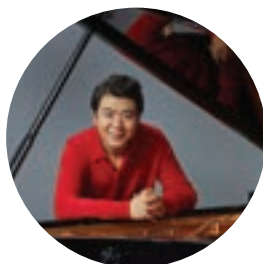
Dresden's Semper Oper

Friday, June 9

Flights depart the US, with arrival the following day.

Saturday, June 10 (Dresden) **Willkommen!**

Arrival in Dresden and check-in at the lovely Hotel Bülow Palais, a Relais & Chateaux property in the Baroque Neustadt district, little damaged from the war. Our **welcome dinner** is in the hotel's elegant Carroussel Restaurant.



Lang Lang

Sunday, June 11 (Dresden) **Dresden**

Breakfast daily at both hotels. A private tour of the beautiful city of Dresden, lying on the River Elbe, offers up many historic monuments virtually rebuilt as they were before the Allied bombing of February 1945. These include the remarkable, domed Frauenkirche and the New Green Vault of iconic treasures in Dresden Castle. **Lunch** is near the Frauenkirche. This evening at the beautiful Semper Oper, named for its architect, Rossini's witty take on Cinderella, *La Cenerentola*, charms us!

Monday, June 12 (Dresden) **Saxon Switzerland**

The lush gardens of the 18th-century Pillnitz Castle, the summer home of Saxony's Electors, illustrate a nearly complete history of landscape gardening. From there, it is up into the sandstone mountains called "Saxon Switzerland", and fabulous views. Returning downstream, we board the local ferry and float down the Elbe enjoying a buffet **lunch**. Evening free.

Tuesday, June 13 (Dresden) **Palaces and Paintings**

Your day is free in Dresden, with an optional visit in the morning to the outstanding collection of paintings at the Alte Meister Gallery in the baroque Zwinger Palace. After **dinner** on the Theaterplatz, maestro Myung-Whun Chang conducts the fine Staatskapelle Dresden at the Semper in music of Ravel and Mussorgsky.

Wednesday, June 14 (Leipzig) **Meissen and Bach**

On our way northeast we tour the factory in Meissen, where the eponymous fine, delicate porcelain, the most famous in the world, is still fabricated in the traditional handmade process. Upon arrival in Leipzig, we check in to the 5-star Hotel Westin Leipzig in the city center. **Dinner** precedes a gorgeous concert of Bach cantatas in beautiful St. Nicholas Church, where Bach often performed.

Thursday, June 15 (Leipzig) **Champion of Bach**

Felix Mendelssohn's early advocacy for the music of Johann Sebastian Bach propelled the latter to fame throughout Europe. His house in Leipzig, where the composer lived the last four years of his life, hosts us for a tour and private concert of his *lieder* and piano music. **Lunch** is nearby. Europa Galante plays Bach and Vivaldi in the late afternoon leaving your evening free.

Friday, June 16 (Leipzig)

Leipzig and the Gewandhaus

A tour of the historic center of Leipzig takes us to the old town hall, Auerbachs Keller made famous by Goethe in *Faust* and the superb Bach Museum.

Lunch is nearby. Tonight, Andris Nelsons, one of the preeminent conductors in classical music today, conducts the Gewandhaus, founded in 1781, in a program of Bach transcriptions, while superstar pianist Lang Lang is soloist in the Saint-Saens Piano Concerto No. 2.



Meissen Porcelain

Saturday, June 17 (Leipzig) **Weimar**

Weimar and its rich cultural heritage—the city of the German Enlightenment led by Johann Wolfgang Goethe and Friedrich Schiller, a center of music inspired by Franz Liszt, the founding of the Bauhaus movement in art and architecture, the place where Germany's first democratic constitution was signed—and where Johann Sebastian Bach was court organist from 1708 to 1717. Our tour in the composer's footsteps ends at the Bauhaus Museum. Ettersburg Castle is our destination for **lunch** and another private chamber concert. Late afternoon return to Leipzig and evening free.

Sunday, June 18 (Leipzig) **A Grand Finale!**

Your morning and early afternoon in Leipzig is free before two outstanding concerts: the Windsbacher Boys Choir at St. Nicholas, and the Bach Collegium Japan under Masaaki Suzuki which concludes the Bach Festival with the great B-Minor Mass at the Thomaskirche. Our **Farewell Dinner** is at one of Leipzig's finest restaurants.

Monday, June 19 **Aufwiedersehen!**

The tour ends after breakfast and hotel check-out.



*Itinerary is subject to change. Meals in **bold** are included in the price of the tour.*

left: Andris Nelsons
below: St. Nicholas Church, Leipzig



Tour Registration

Tour Cost: \$5,935 per person, ground only, double occupancy.

Single supplement: \$720.

Deposit: \$1,000 per person first come, first served.

Balance deadline: April 10, 2023. After that date, call for availability.

Tour limited to 25 participants or as space allows.

Contact The Grand Tour to reserve your place on the tour with a credit card deposit, or send a check made payable to The Grand Tour for the deposit amount to: WBJC Germany Tour, The Grand Tour, PO Box 274, Peterborough, NH 03458. Registration materials can be downloaded from **www.wbjc.com**

Questions? Contact The Grand Tour at 800-727-2995 or info@thegrandtour.com