



BERLIN – LEIPZIG – DRESDEN – PRAGUE

Dresden & Prague Spring Music Festivals!

May 23 – June 2, 2024



You are cordially invited! Join me, KHFM host, **Alexis Corbin**, and fellow travelers on KHFM's 10th classical journey with Earthbound Expeditions. On this extraordinary journey you'll discover Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden and Prague! Walk in the footsteps of Bach, Handel, Mendelsohn, Schumann, Mozart, Dvorak. Mahler, Wagner, Smetana and more! Enjoy an organ concert in the very church where Bach worked for 27 years and a private concert in the home of Robert and Clara Schumann. Tour the Prague Estates Opera

House where Mozart personally conducted *The Marriage of Figaro*! Four world-class musical capitals, ten classical composers, history, wine, food and a wonderful group of like-minded travel companions. It's a feast for your senses! Immerse yourself in the beauty of Europe with fellow public radio travelers. Space is limited. Hope to see you in Berlin!

TRIP AT A GLANCE: Two Classical Music Festivals

- 2 Nights Berlin, Germany's historic capital
- 3 Nights Leipzig, home of Bach, Schumann, Goethe
- 2 Nights Historic Dresden
- 3 Nights Extraordinary Prague



**EARTHBOUND
EXPEDITIONS**

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

P.O. Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

T. 800.723.8454 / T. 206.842.9775 / F. 206.238 .8480

www.EarthboundExpeditions.com

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS: 4 Historic Cities – 2 World Class Music Festivals!

In-depth daily walking tours ❖ Four outstanding classical performances ❖ A concert in St. Thomas Church in Leipzig where Bach spent 27 years as music director ❖ Private tours of the Semperoper Dresden, Berlin Philharmonic and Prague Estates Opera Houses ❖ Intimate tours of the composers' homes ❖ Multi-course dining ❖ Berlin – Europe's new Capital of Culture, including new world-class museums ❖ The romantic world of Royal Potsdam ❖ Travel with like-minded friends who share your passion for classical music, history and art

IT'S INCLUDED

- With KHFM host Alexis Corbin
- Fully guided by Earthbound Expedition program director
- Ten nights of accommodation in centrally located 4-star hotels
- All breakfasts and ten additional meals with regional cuisine and beverages
- Transportation by private air-conditioned motor coach
- Four glorious classical music events, including an organ concert at the St. Thomas Church where Bach lived, loved and performed
- Tickets to the Dvorak Music Festival in Dresden
- Tickets to the Prague Spring Music Festival
- Gratuities for your guides and drivers
- Entrance fees to museums, palaces, composer homes
- A river cruise on the Elbe (*weather and river levels permitting*)
- Daily walks with local historians
- Alumni appreciation discounts applied towards future journeys

TRIP FACTS



11 Days/10 Nights (not including air travel)
\$5,495 per person double occupancy (land)
\$1,495 single supplement (waived if a roommate match is confirmed)
Trip begins: Berlin on May 23, 2024
Trip ends: Prague on June 2, 2024

WAYS TO SAVE \$300: Pay your final balance by check and save \$100 * Reserve your space by January 15, 2024 and save \$100 * Earthbound or KHFM Travel alumni save \$100



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The Music: What to Expect

~ World Class Music - Four Romantic Cities ~

Berlin: City of Music

Germany's exciting capital has many world class venues. The Komische Oper, Berlin State Opera, Konzerthaus Berlin and Berlin Philharmonic (just to name a few). Your custom pre-tour journey includes a tour of the Berlin Philharmonic. You may choose to purchase tickets for any available events.

Leipzig's: The Legendary City of Bach, Wagner, Mendelssohn and the Schumanns

Leipzig is associated with several well-known composers such as Richard Wagner, Robert and Clara Schumann, Gustav Mahler and Felix Mendelssohn. But of all of the composers listed, the city is especially associated with Johann Sebastian Bach, who worked here as a Kapellmeister (music director) from 1723 until his death in 1750. Today, the Leipzig church also holds his remains. Martin Luther preached here in 1539.

The Renowned Dresden Opera House

Not only one of the most beautiful opera houses in the world, the Semperoper is renowned both here and abroad for the brilliant star-studded performances by Saxon State Opera as well as numerous international guest artists. This is the home of the Staatskapelle Dresden, an orchestra which looks back on 460 years of uninterrupted music-making. The house has strong ties to both Richard Wagner and Richard Strauss, nine of whose 15 operas were premiered in Dresden.

Prague: City of Mozart, Smetana and Dvorak

Tour the Estates Opera House where Mozart personally conducted the *Marriage of Figaro* and *Don Giovanni* premiered. Enjoy a classical concert at the legendary Prague Philharmonic Hall. And attend a second concert in the Klementinum mirror chapel. In addition, you'll visit the Dvorak Villa Museum and the Vysehrad Cemetery where Smetana and Dvorak are buried.



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Unter den Linden, Brandenburg Gate

Your Classical Journey Begins...

Day 0: Wednesday, May 22 - Depart for Germany

Remember, you'll need to depart the USA no later than May 22.

Day 1: Thursday, May 23 - Guten Morgen! Arrive in Berlin



Devastated, then divided for two generations, Berlin has been rebuilding for a mere two decades. The results are stunning and have catapulted the city back to the first rank. Top-notch orchestras and opera companies thrive, several world-class museums have recently reopened over the last few years, and the boulevard of Unter den Linden has been re-laid. Recent visitors have been overwhelmed by the

kaleidoscope of things to see, hear and do in what has become Europe's cultural mecca. Enjoy a welcome feast and orientation with your Earthbound Expeditions program director. *Sleep in Berlin (D)*

Day 2: Friday, May 24 - Highlights of Berlin

This morning we tour The Reichstag building in the historical heart of Berlin. Constructed to house the Imperial Diet of the German Empire, the Reichstag opened in 1894 and housed the Diet until 1933, when it was severely damaged by arson. Our tour of Berlin continues as we see the home of the Berlin Philharmonic. Not far away is the Holocaust Memorial and the The Bebelplatz, known as the site of one of the infamous Nazi book burning ceremonies held on May 10, 1933. Our march through 20th-century history culminates with a stretch of the Berlin Wall and check-point Charlie.

Sleep in Berlin (L)



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"I should be sorry if I only entertained them, I wish to make them better."
- George Frideric Handel

Day 3: Saturday, May 25 - Historic Potsdam and Leipzig

Today we'll visit historic Potsdam and tour the Schloss Cecilienhof where Harry Truman, Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin outlined their plans for a post-war Europe. Many years earlier, J.S. Bach paid a short visit to Potsdam in May 1747 where he met King Friedrich II. Enjoy a lunch in Potsdam before returning to Berlin. En-route we will cross the famous "Bridge of Spies."

After lunch our journey continues to Leipzig. Enroute we'll pass the city of Halle, birthplace of Handel.

While Bach lived in Leipzig the population was just 30,000. The city was the second largest in Saxony, the center of the German printing and publishing industries (many of Beethoven's works were first printed here), an important European trading center, and site of a progressive and famous university. One of Leipzig's most important features was its international commerce. When the Leipzig Trade Fair was in progress, the respectable town was transformed into a show-ground, mixing business with pleasure, and was popular with members of the Royal Court of Dresden. Many connections were established between nations on these occasions and this, in turn, had a beneficial effect on the civic economy and culture as well as the international variety of its music.

Among the many great names in musical history who lived and worked in the city were Johann Sebastian Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Clara and Robert Schumann, Richard Wagner, Edvard Grieg, Albert Lortzing, Gustav Mahler and Hanns Eisler. In addition, Leipzig's rich musical heritage includes the Gewandhaus Orchestra and the world-famous St. Thomas Boys Choir which looks back on a proud tradition of almost 800 years.

Over the course of the next three days, we'll walk in the footsteps of the great composers and learn firsthand how this city of high culture and trade impacted their works.

Sleep in Leipzig (B, L)



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Day 4: Sunday, May 26 - In Bach's Footsteps

After breakfast, meet your local guide for a glimpse into the world of Bach. Leipzig is where Johann Sebastian Bach spent 27 of his most productive years. A new Bach Museum opened a few years ago – and it's been brilliantly done. You can even just relax while listening to the catalogue of his music. With a bit of luck, they might even be playing the organ at St. Thomas Church just across the street. Bach worked at St. Thomas as a cantor for 27 years, and today, his remains are buried below the altar. Since 1212, St. Thomas Church has also been home to the famous St. Thomas Boys Choir. *Sleep in Leipzig (B, L)*

Day 5: Monday, May 27 - A Day with Mendelssohn and Robert and Clara Schumann

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy was a major influence on European musical history – and he in turn was influenced by his experience of Leipzig. Under his musical direction, the Gewandhaus Orchestra became a first-class orchestra. Moreover, Mendelssohn is renowned for his rediscovery of Bach. The performance of the *St. Matthew Passion* under his musical direction in 1829 initiated “the Bach Renaissance”. He is also credited for the foundation of the Conservatory of Music in 1843, Germany's oldest music academy, which bears his name today. Mendelssohn's home became a meeting place for famous contemporaries such as Robert and Clara Schumann and Richard Wagner. It is the composer's last remaining private residence and today accommodates the Mendelssohn Museum.

Just a few blocks away you'll find the charming home of Robert and Clara Schumann. Here you'll learn about their lifelong love for each other and be treated to a special piano recital. *Sleep in Leipzig (B, L)*

About Clara Schumann:



Clara Schumann spent the first 25 years of her life in Leipzig. At the age of nine, she made her successful concert debut at the Leipzig Gewandhaus. As an acclaimed artist, she performed successful concerts in Paris, Vienna, Copenhagen and St. Petersburg, among others, during the Leipzig period and married Robert Schumann here. In 1878, on the occasion of her 50th anniversary as an artist, she was honored at the Leipzig Gewandhaus.



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Spend three nights in historic Dresden: The Florence of the North

“I play the notes as they are written, but it is God who makes the music.”
— Johann Sebastian Bach

Day 6: Tuesday, May 28 - Leipzig to Dresden: Porcelain and Vineyards

This morning we make our way east to a city, known as “the Florence of the North.” Our journey will take us to the banks of the beautiful Elbe River and past quaint villages and medieval castles. En-route we’ll tour Germany’s smallest wine-producing region. The Saxon Wine Route offers a wonderful blend of picturesque vineyards and local architecture. This part of Saxony enjoys a particularly favorable climate. Grapes have been grown here for over 850 years, and the local porcelain manufacturing tradition dates back almost 300 years. It was wine and porcelain, together with rich silver deposits, that brought fame and fortune to Saxony.

After meeting the producer and having lunch, we head to Dresden, our home for the next two nights. Dresden was for many years the capital of Saxony and was on an important trade route. It was here that musical giants such as Handel, Bach and Wagner lived and worked. After checking into our centrally located hotel, we’ll set out to explore the historic core of this once cultural capital. *Sleep in Dresden (B, L)*



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Day 7: Wednesday, May 29 - A Day of Culture and Art in Dresden

Today we set out to discover the artistic masterpieces of Dresden. Art lovers will fall in love with the impressive old masters' collection housed in the Zwinger Museum. August the Strong, elector of Saxony (also king of Poland), built this Baroque masterpiece, modeled after Versailles, in 1719. Here he staged tournaments and kept dozens of concubines. Today, this artfully symmetrical complex of buildings holds a collection of museums. The damage caused by the British air raid in 1945 was so devastating that some locals feared the Zwinger would remain a ruin forever. However, it's been restored and it's back in business, welcoming new generations of art lovers.

The most important museum in the complex is the Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister (Old Masters Picture Gallery). This gallery, one of the best on the Continent, has as its showpiece Raphael's *Sistine Madonna*. You'll also find Giorgione's *Sleeping Venus*, Antonello da Messina's *The Martyrdom of St. Sebastian*, Titian's *Tribute Money*, and many famous works by Veronese, Tintoretto, Correggio, and Carracci. You'll also see Flemish, Dutch, and German paintings by Van Dyck, Vermeer, Dürer, and Rembrandt. The Rubens collection includes his spectacular *Neptune*, full of rearing horses, and an exquisite St. Jerome.

Enjoy an included lunch and a free afternoon. This evening you'll be treated to a classical music event! *Sleep in Dresden (B, L)*

Day 8: Thursday, May 30 - South to Prague, the city of Mozart, Smetana and Dvořák

After breakfast, we make our way South towards the soaring spires of Prague. We stop to explore the beautiful Vysehrad Cemetery. More than just a normal, quiet cemetery, this is the final resting place of the most honored Czech composers, artists, sculptors, writers, scientists and politicians. Here are the graves of Smetana, Dvořák and the 19th century Moravian-Czech artist, Mucha. Prague is the birthplace of Franz Kafka and the city Mozart loved best. For our first evening in Prague, let's enjoy a Bohemian feast.

Sleep in Prague (B, D)

Day 9: Friday, May 31 - Exploring Prague: Prague Spring Music Festival

From its mythological inception to the present, benefactors have placed Prague on the cusp of the divine. King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor Karl IV refashioned Prague into a city of soaring cathedrals and lavish palaces. Our historic walking tour of Prague will start at its medieval center, the Old Town Square. We'll cover some of Prague's most interesting sights including the Estates Opera house where Mozart himself conducted the *Marriage of Figaro* in 1787. Our tour will continue to Prague's stirring medieval Jewish quarter. We'll take time to savor this culturally-rich neighborhood and stop by the Old Synagogue, which has been a place of worship for over 700 years. You'll have a free afternoon before meeting to enjoy a concert this evening. *Sleep in Prague (B, L)*



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Immerse yourself in the world of Dvorak and Smetana in Prague!

Day 10: Saturday, June 1 - Prague's Castle District and Dvořák Music Fest

We start the day with a stroll to Prague's most famous landmark - Charles Bridge, after which we'll visit the historic castle district. Enjoy a farewell lunch this afternoon. The rest of the day is yours to further explore this city's charming streets. Perhaps you'll want to take in a Bohemian market, another classical concert, a world-class museum or simply wander the wondrously preserved historic old town. *Sleep in Prague (B, L)*

Day 12: Sunday, June 2 - Return home with a lifetime of memories!

Your classical music adventure concludes this morning after breakfast. Why not spend a few extra nights in Prague at the end of your journey?

-Itinerary Subject to Change-



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Meet Your Host!



Executive Director Alexis Corbin has been an on-air host at KHFM since 2019. A longtime member of the classical music community in New Mexico, she previously held the positions of Education Manager for the Santa Fe Symphony and Director of Education and Outreach for the New Mexico Philharmonic. She is a former member of the Santa Fe Opera Youth Advisory Board, as well as the Governing Council of the Public Academy for the Performing Arts. Alexis is a professional percussionist who performs with symphonies and chamber groups across the state, often alongside her husband, fellow percussionist/multi-instrumentalist Hovey Corbin. She looks forward to sharing this musical adventure with you!

Reservations & Questions!

800 723 8454

info@earthboundexpeditions.com



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Know Before You Go!



Reservations and Deposits: A \$750 per person deposit is needed to confirm your space on this journey. You can make a credit card deposit online or by phone. Once the deposit is processed, a deposit packet is emailed with pertinent journey details. Deposits are refundable for 30 days from the processing date or 90 days prior to departure, whichever comes first, minus a \$250 per person cancellation fee. Deposits made 90 days prior to a trip departing are not refundable. Final payment is also non-refundable which is why we strongly urge guests to purchase travel insurance. Questions? Call our helpful travel staff at 800-723-8454.

Not Included: International airline tickets, Alcoholic beverages, room service and gratuities for hotel staff, travel insurance, meals not listed in brochure, and any activities or items not listed in your itinerary.

Physical Requirements: In order to make the most of your custom journey and join all included activities, you should be able to walk at a moderate pace, independently for two to three miles, often over uneven cobblestones and be able to stand for a period of time during walking or museum tours or visits to other sights. Naturally, you may always choose to opt out of an activity and enjoy the sites while sipping a tea or coffee in a café or, hire a taxi, at your own expense to get you to the next attraction. Some museums may not have an elevator which means that to participate, you'll need to climb a few stairs. Remember, you'll also need to be able to maneuver your luggage through the airport. Please call our staff with any questions.

Travel Insurance: Earthbound Expeditions strongly encourages the purchase of travel insurance coverage. We include information on trip insurance in your deposit information.

Events and Hosted Journeys: If a planned event is cancelled for any reason, another event will be included in its place. This is not cause for refund. Events are subject to change. Also, if a host or special guest is unable to attend as planned, Earthbound Expeditions will do its utmost to find another host who has similar interests, talents and expertise. The inability of a host to participate in a tour is not grounds for a full or partial refund.

Terms & Conditions: Click [here](#) to read the full terms and conditions.



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