



## The Dresden & Prague Music Festivals!

Berlin – Leipzig – Dresden – Prague  
with Minnesota Public Radio's Julie Amacher  
May 15 – 26, 2024



**You are invited!** Join MPR's Julie Amacher on this extraordinary classical journey to Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden and Prague where you will walk in the footsteps of Bach, Handel, Mendelsohn, Schumann, Mozart, Dvorak and Smetana! Attend the renowned **Dresden and Prague Spring Music Festivals**. 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. Travel to three world-class music festivals and four romantic music capitals with like-minded friends who share your passion for art, music, food and history. Immerse yourself in the beauty of Europe this spring. *Space is limited.*

### **YOUR JOURNEY:** 4 Historic Cities – 2 Wonderful Festivals

- 2 Nights Berlin, Germany's historic capital
- 3 Nights Leipzig, home of Bach, Schumann, Goethe
- 3 Nights Historic Dresden (*Spring Music Festival*)
- 3 Nights Extraordinary Prague (*79<sup>th</sup> Prague Spring Music Festival*)



**EARTHBOUND  
EXPEDITIONS**

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

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

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

Tickets to the 79<sup>th</sup> Prague Spring Music Festival ❖ Tickets to the Dresden Spring Music Festival ❖ In-depth daily walking tours ❖ Six classical performances ❖ A concert in St. Thomas Church in Leipzig where Bach spent 27 years as music director ❖ Private tour of the Semperoper Dresden ❖ 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

## INCLUDED

- Hosted by MPR's Julie Amacher
- Fully guided by an Earthbound Expedition program director
- Eleven 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
- Six glorious classical music events including: St. Thomas Church Bach organ concert, Dresden State Opera production, exclusive concert in the home of Robert and Clara Schumann
- Tickets to the Prague Spring Music Festival
- Tickets to the Dresden 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



12 Days/11 Nights (not including air travel)

\$6,595 per person double occupancy

\$1,950 single supplement (waived if a roommate match is confirmed)

Trip begins: Berlin on May 15, 2024 at 6pm

Trip ends: Prague on May 26, 2024 after breakfast

**SAVE \$300!** Pay your final balance by check and save \$100 \* Reserve your space by September 15, 2023 and save \$100 \* Travel alumni save \$100



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# The Music: What to Expect

~ Two World -Class Festivals - Four Romantic Cities ~  
(Full Program on Page 11)

## The Prague Spring International Music Festival

For 78 years, the Prague Spring International Music Festival has ranked among the top cultural events in the Czech Republic. This presentation of the world's best musicians, symphony orchestras and chamber music ensembles is somewhat of a phenomenon it has survived the political upheavals and dramatic cultural changes in the seven decades of its existence.

The origins of the Prague Spring Festival are connected with the first celebrations marking the end of World War II and since then it has been attracting fans of music and first-class performers. Leonard Bernstein, later to become a noted conductor, made his international debut at the Prague Festival in 1946 and 1947. **Tickets included.**

## The Renowned Dresden Music Festival

Over the course of its 40 years history, the Dresden Music Festival has established itself as a distinctive cultural institution in Dresden which attracts an audience far beyond Germany's borders. During three festival weeks renowned orchestras, top-class soloists and ensembles arrive in Dresden and perform at the most beautiful venues in its historic center and surroundings and fill the city with music. With more than 35 theatres, over 50 museums and as the home of renowned choirs and orchestras, Dresden is a world-class city of culture. Let yourself be enchanted! **Tickets included.**

## Legendary Leipzig

Scarcely any other German city can point to a musical tradition as rich and vibrant as that of Leipzig. The Schumann couple, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Johann Sebastian Bach, Richard Wagner, Edvard Grieg, Gustav Mahler and many more left behind a musical treasure, which is still ubiquitous today and expands from year to year.

## City of Music: Berlin

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 journey includes a tour of the Berlin Philharmonic. You may choose to purchase tickets for any available events.

Note: Concerts and timing may change.



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Unter den Linden, Brandenburg Gate

## Your Classical Journey Begin...

### Day 0, May 14: Depart for Germany

Make sure to depart the USA no later than today.



### Day 1, May 15: 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 host, Julie Amacher, and Earthbound Expeditions guide. *Sleep in Berlin (D)*

### Day 2, May 16: 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 in the evening of May 10, 1933. Our march through 20<sup>th</sup>-century history culminates with a visit to 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, May 17: 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, May 18: 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 only four 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, May 19: 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)*

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#### **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*

**Day 6, May 20: Leipzig to the Florence of the North: Dresden Music Fest**

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

**Day 7, May 21: A Day of Culture and Art in Dresden: Dresden Music Fest**

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 at the renowned Dresden Music Festival! *Sleep in Dresden (B, L)*

**Day 8, May 22: A Day of Leisure: Dresden Music Fest**

Relax and take a free day in lovely Dresden. Enjoy another included classical concert at the Dresden Music Festival! *Sleep in Dresden (B, L)*

**Day 9, May 23: South to Prague to 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. Then, enjoy a concert at the celebrated **Prague Spring Music Festival!** *Sleep in Prague (B, D)*



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*Immerse yourself in the music of the Prague Spring Music Festival!*

**Day 10, May 24: Exploring Prague: Spring Music Fest**

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)*

**Day 11, May 25: Prague's Castle District: Spring 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, May 26: 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!



**Julie Amacher's** desire to introduce others to great music is what led her to radio. She began her professional broadcast career at a station in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. She went from rock 'n' roll to the Rocky Mountains, where she found her niche in public radio at KUNC in Greeley, Colo. Julie spent 13 years at KUNC, where she managed the announcers and their eclectic music format. During that time, she earned four national awards for best announcer. She joined Minnesota Public Radio in 1997 as an on-air host and also produces New Classical Tracks, a weekly podcast critiquing a new release each week. Julie currently serves as the Program Director of YourClassical.



## Reservations & Questions

800 723 8454

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# ~ Concerts & Musical Activities ~

~ Two World -Class Festivals - Four Romantic Cities ~

**BERLIN:** Tour the legendary Berlin Symphony Hall

**LEIPZIG:** Home of Bach, Schumann, Mendelsohn, Mahler and Wagner

- May 18, at 11:00am - Schumann piano recital in the home of Robert & Clara Schumann
- May 18, at 3:00pm - Enjoy a special Bach concert in Bach's, St. Thomas Church
- May 19, at 9:30am - Concert in the St. Thomas Church (church service)
- May 19, at 10:00am - Concert at the historic St. Nikolas Church

Note: On the morning of May 19, there are two special services / concerts taking place at the same time while you are in Leipzig. You may choose to attend one or the other.

## DRESDEN SPRING MUSIC FESTIVAL

**May 20, at 7:30pm**

Hélène Grimaud pianist & the Salzburg Chamber Orchestra

### **Program:**

Ludwig van Beethoven Overture to Heinrich Joseph von Collin's tragedy »Coriolan« Op. 62

Robert Schumann Concerto for Piano and Orchestra in A minor Op. 54

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Symphony No. 1 in C minor Op. 11

## DRESDEN SPRING FESTIVAL

**May 22 at 7:30pm**

Pianist, Igor Levit!

### **Program:**

Gustav Mahler Adagio from the Symphony No. 10 (piano arrangement: Ronald Stevenson)

Paul Hindemith »1922«. Suite for Piano Op. 26

Ludwig van Beethoven Symphony No. 3 in E flat major Op. 55 »Eroica« (piano arrangement: Franz Liszt)

## PRAGUE SPRING FESTIVAL

**The May 24: A special concert with pianist, Seong-Jin Cho**

When the South Korean artist Seong-Jin Cho won the International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw in 2015, he suddenly found himself the center of attention, and the situation hasn't changed since then. Seong-Jin Cho will be performing works by Maurice Ravel and Franz Liszt

**May 25, The Zen Trio**

The musicians who make up the Z.E.N. Trio came together in 2015 as members of BBC Radio 3's New Generation Artists Scheme. They have performed in Europe, America and Asia. The celebrated Zen Trio will perform Brahms: Piano Trio No. 1 in B major Op. 8 and Dvořák's Piano Trio No. 3 in F minor Op. 65.



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# Know Before You Go!

**Reservations and Deposits:** Early reservations are essential to guarantee space on the date you wish to travel. A \$750 per person deposit is needed to confirm your space on this journey. You can make your secure credit card deposit online, by phone or by mail. Once the deposit is processed, a deposit packet is sent with pertinent journey details.

Deposits are refundable for 30 days from deposit or 90 days prior to departure, whichever comes first, minus a \$250 per person cancellation fee. Questions? Call our helpful travel staff at 800-723-8454.

**Health Matters:** It is the responsibility of each guest to be aware of their physical abilities or limitations, and to be in sufficient good health to undertake the trip. To make the most of your journey and participate in the various planned group activities, you should be able to be on your feet and walk unassisted for two to three hours (often over uneven cobblestones or pathways) with frequent standing. If you have questions about the physical requirements for your journey, please email or call our travel office.

**Hosted Journeys:** 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 expertise. The inability of a host to participate in a tour is not grounds for a full or partial refund.

**Concert and Schedule Notes:** Earthbound Expeditions is not responsible for any changes regarding the program, performers, times and/or dates which the concert organizers alter. If, for reasons a concert is changed or cancelled a substitute concert will be found. Opera houses and symphony halls generally release tickets first to season subscribers. Please note that our staff will make every effort to book the very best seats available.

**Terms & Conditions:** All guests must read the fine print. [Click here](#) to read the full terms and conditions.



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