

Dear Friends,



I hope you'll join me next spring for a musical adventure to **Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden and Prague**, four of Europe's great musical capitals. What better way to celebrate our shared love of classical music than by exploring these remarkable cities together, walking in the footsteps of Bach, Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Schumann!

Together, we'll enjoy **six extraordinary musical performances** in unforgettable settings! Imagine hearing Bach's music in the Leipzig church where he worked for 27 years, a private recital in the former home of Robert and Clara Schumann, and **Lang Lang performing Beethoven with the Gewandhaus Orchestra**. In Dresden, we'll enjoy **Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*** at the magnificent Semperoper, followed by two wonderful evenings at Prague's celebrated Spring International Music Festival.

Beyond the concerts, we'll explore fascinating history, beautiful museums and architecture, savor delicious regional cuisine, and share the friendships that make traveling together so memorable. Here's to a spring filled with beautiful music, new discoveries, laughter and lasting memories.

Warmly,
Valerie Kahler / *Your Performance Today host*

EARTHBOUND EXPEDITIONS

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.
P.O. Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA
Tel: 206.842.9775
www.EarthboundExpeditions.com

TRIP AT A GLANCE

2 Nights Berlin
3 Nights Leipzig
2 Nights Dresden
3 Nights Prague

HIGHLIGHTS: 4 historic cities – 3 world-class music festivals!
Tickets to the Leipzig, Dresden and Prague Spring Music Festivals ❖ Attend concert by world- renowned pianist Lang Lang in Leipzig ❖ In-depth walking tours ❖ A concert in St. Thomas Church in Leipzig where Bach spent 27 years as music director ❖ Intimate tours of the composers' homes ❖ Multicourse dining ❖ Travel with like-minded friends who share your passion for classical music, history and art

IT'S INCLUDED

- With Performance Today host Valerie Kahler
- Fully guided by an Earthbound Expeditions program director
- Ten nights of accommodation in centrally located four-star hotels
- All breakfasts, plus ten additional multi-course meals.
- Transportation by private air-conditioned motor coach
- Experience six extraordinary classical music performances in some of Europe's most magnificent settings, from historic concert halls and grand opera houses to centuries-old churches and intimate recitals in the former homes of legendary composers. See full program on page #3
- Gratuities for local guides, waitstaff and transport coach drivers
- Entrances to museums, palaces, and composer homes
- Alumni appreciation discounts applied toward future journeys

TRIP FACTS

11 Days/10 Nights (not including air travel)
$7,950 per person, double occupancy
$1,995 single supplement (waived if a roommate match is confirmed)
Trip begins: Berlin on May 12, 2027, at 6 p.m.
Trip ends: Prague on May 22, 2027, after breakfast

Alumni always save $100
Save an additional $100 when you pay your final balance by check.



Dining in Central Europe — Lunch Takes Center Stage
In Germany and the Czech Republic, lunch is often the main meal of the day. Savor leisurely, multicourse lunches in charming historic settings, followed by lighter evenings that leave you relaxed, comfortable and ready to fully enjoy the concert.

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Your Performance Today

Classical Music Program

Berlin – Leipzig – Dresden – Prague

BERLIN

A Modern Classical Icon

Tour the Berlin Philharmonie

Built in 1963, the Berlin Philharmonie is one of the world's great concert halls, renowned for its striking design and extraordinary acoustics.

LEIPZIG

Home of Bach, Schumann, Mahler, Mendelssohn and Wagner

A true classical powerhouse, Leipzig has shaped the lives and works of some of music's greatest composers. Here, we will enjoy three extraordinary musical experiences:

- **St. Thomas Church**
  Bach Organ Recital in the very church where J. S. Bach worked for 27 years. Today, Bach is buried beneath the altar.
- **Beethoven Classical Music Festival**
  May 16 at 11:00 am
  Gewandhaus Orchestra | *Andris Nelsons, Conductor* | *Lang Lang, Piano*
  Ludwig van Beethoven
  - Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37
  - Symphony No. 3 in E-flat major, Op. 55 ("Eroica")
- **A Special Private Piano Recital**
  An intimate performance in the former home of Robert and Clara Schumann.

DRESDEN

A Baroque Jewel of Music and Art

- **Semperoper Dresden**
  May 18, 2027 at 7:00 pm
  Felix Mendelssohn's Symphony
  A Midsummer Night's Dream

PRAGUE

A Cultural Capital of Classical Music

- **Hruša & Bamberger Symphony**
  Beethoven: Symphonies No. 6 and No. 7
  May 19, 2027 at 8:00 pm | Rudolfinum, Dvořák Hall
- **Levit & Fischer with the Czech Philharmonic**
  May 21, 2027 at 8:00 pm | Rudolfinum, Dvořák Hall



Unter den Linden, Brandenburg Gate

Your Classical Journey Begins

Day 0: Depart for Germany
Make sure to depart the U.S. no later than May 11. You may wish to arrive a day or two early so that you are rested and acclimated to the current time zone. Recent visitors have been surprised by the kaleidoscope of things to see, hear and do in Germany's capital!

Day 1, Wednesday, May 12: Guten Morgen! Arrive in Berlin
Once devastated by war and divided for generations, Berlin has transformed itself into one of Europe's most dynamic cultural capitals. Today, world-class orchestras, renowned opera companies, beautifully restored museums, and the elegant boulevard Unter den Linden showcase the city's remarkable revival. This evening, gather for a festive welcome dinner and orientation with your host, Valerie Kahler, and your Earthbound Expeditions guide. *Overnight in Berlin (D)*

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*The year 2027 marks the **200th anniversary of the death of Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)**, one of history's most influential and beloved composers. Across Europe, this remarkable bicentennial will be commemorated with special concerts, festivals, and performances celebrating his extraordinary musical legacy. From Berlin and Leipzig to Dresden and Prague, we'll have the opportunity to experience this historic celebration in some of Europe's most distinguished musical cities.*



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Renowned pianist, Lang Lang performs Beethoven with the Gewandhaus Orchestra

Day 2, Thursday, May 13: Highlights of Berlin
This morning, discover Berlin's remarkable history as we visit a preserved section of the Berlin Wall and Checkpoint Charlie, powerful reminders of the city's divided past. Continue to historic Bebelplatz, site of the infamous Nazi book burnings in 1933, and the moving Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe. We then enjoy a special visit to the historic Reichstag, followed by lunch inside the German Parliament. This afternoon, pass by the striking Berlin Philharmonie, one of the world's great concert halls, renowned for its extraordinary acoustics. A guided tour is pending the performance schedule. *Overnight in Berlin (B, L)*

Day 3, Friday, May 14: Handel's Birthplace, Halle, and Bach's Leipzig
Today, explore the musical heritage of two celebrated German cities: Halle, birthplace of **George Frideric Handel,** and Leipzig, where Johann Sebastian Bach lived and worked for 27 years. Our day begins with a scenic drive to Halle and a visit to the Handel-Haus, home to an outstanding collection of historic musical instruments, followed by a traditional German lunch. Continue to Leipzig, one of Europe's great musical capitals and home to Bach, Mendelssohn, Clara and Robert Schumann, Wagner, Grieg, and Mahler. Today, the city remains renowned for its Gewandhaus Orchestra and nearly 800-year-old St. Thomas Boys Choir.

After settling into our hotel in Leipzig's charming Old Town, enjoy an evening concert featuring Bach's music at historic St. Thomas Church. *Overnight in Leipzig (B, L)*

"Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy."
Ludwig van Beethoven

Day 4, Saturday, May 15:
Enjoy a guided morning walk through Leipzig's beautifully preserved old town. Together, we'll enjoy a traditional lunch. This afternoon, we continue to the former home of Robert and Clara Schumann, where their extraordinary partnership of love, creativity and music comes vividly to life. Explore the home where they composed some of their greatest works before enjoying a special private piano recital, an unforgettable musical highlight. Enjoy a free evening in Leipzig *Overnight in Leipzig (B, L)*

Day 5, Sunday, May 16: Lang Lang in Leipzig
In the late morning, attend a **once-in-a-lifetime piano recital** by world-renowned pianist **Lang Lang** at the city's legendary **Gewandhaus Concert Hall**, featuring works by Beethoven as part of the prestigious Beethoven Festival.

Following the concert, enjoy lunch together before a free afternoon to explore Leipzig at your own pace. Visit the Mendelssohn House museum or stroll the merry streets of this historic city. As an added treat, the **Bach Museum** and **St. Thomas Church** will most likely be hosting afternoon and evening concerts, offering even more opportunities to experience this remarkable musical city *Overnight in Leipzig (B, L)*

A note About Clara Schumann: Clara Schumann spent the first 25 years of her life in Leipzig, where she blossomed into one of Europe's greatest pianists. At just nine years old, she made her acclaimed concert debut at the Gewandhaus, launching an extraordinary international career that took her to Paris, Vienna, Copenhagen and St. Petersburg. Leipzig was also where she married composer Robert Schumann and where, in 1878, the Gewandhaus honored her with a special celebration marking the 50th anniversary of her remarkable career as a concert artist.





Spend two 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, Monday, May 17: Meissen, Saxon Wine Country and Dresden
This morning, we journey to the magnificent city of Dresden, the "Florence of the North." Along the way, we'll stop in Meissen, home to Europe's first porcelain manufactory, founded in 1710, for a guided tour and a delightful lunch. We then visit Saxony, Germany's smallest wine region, where we'll meet a local winemaker and enjoy a tasting before continuing to Dresden, our home for the next two nights. Once the splendid capital of Saxony, Dresden attracted musical giants including Handel, Bach and Wagner, and today hosts the internationally acclaimed **Dresden Music Festival.** Settle into our centrally located four-star hotel before enjoying a free evening in Dresden. *Overnight in Dresden (B, L)*

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Attend at least six moving classical performances

Day 7, Tuesday, May 18: Art and Culture in Dresden
Today we discover the artistic treasures of magnificent Dresden. Our morning is devoted to the spectacular Zwinger Palace, a Baroque masterpiece commissioned by Augustus the Strong in 1719. Beautifully restored after World War II, it is now home to one of Europe's finest museum collections.

We visit the renowned Old Masters Picture Gallery, where you'll encounter Raphael's *Sistine Madonna*, Giorgione's *Sleeping Venus*, Titian's *Tribute Money* and masterpieces by Vermeer, Rembrandt, Rubens, Dürer, Tintoretto and Veronese.

Enjoy a leisurely afternoon exploring Dresden. This evening attend a performance at the magnificent **Semperoper**. Tonight's program features Felix Mendelssohn's enchanting *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. *Overnight in Dresden (B, L)*

Day 8, Wednesday, May 19: Prague and the Prague Spring Festival
After breakfast, we journey south to the enchanting city of Prague, the beloved home of Mozart, Smetana and Dvořák. En route, we visit the beautiful Vyšehrad Cemetery, the final resting place of many of the Czech Republic's greatest composers, artists, writers, scientists and statesmen, including Smetana, Dvořák, and Alfons Mucha. Enjoy an included lunch before settling into our centrally located hotel. This evening you will be treated to a performance at the world-renowned **Prague Spring International Music Festival**. *Overnight in Prague (B, L)*



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

Day 9, Thursday, May 20: Exploring Prague
Prague is one of Europe's most enchanting capitals. Under King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV, it blossomed into a city of soaring cathedrals, grand palaces and timeless squares. Our guided walking tour begins in the magnificent Old Town Square and continues to the historic Estates Theatre, where Mozart personally conducted the world premiere of his celebrated opera *Don Giovanni* in 1787. We then explore Prague's historic Jewish Quarter, including the Old-New Synagogue, which has welcomed worshippers for more than 700 years. *Overnight in Prague (B, L)*

Day 10, Friday, May 21: Prague Castle and the Prague Spring Festival
This morning, stroll across Prague's iconic Charles Bridge before exploring the magnificent Prague Castle District, home to centuries of Czech kings, emperors and presidents. Following a festive farewell lunch, enjoy a free afternoon to wander Prague's charming streets, browse its cafés and shops, or simply soak up the city's magical atmosphere. This evening, we celebrate our journey together with a memorable classical performance at the world-renowned Prague Spring International Music Festival—a fitting finale to our celebration of Europe's rich musical heritage. *Overnight in Prague (B, L)*

Day 11, Saturday, May 22: Tour Concludes
After breakfast, your unforgettable classical journey comes to an end. You may also extend your stay to enjoy additional performances at the Prague Spring International Music Festival before returning home with a lifetime of wonderful memories. *(B)*

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Meet Your Host!



Valerie Kahler grew up in a musical family and started playing cello and piano in third grade. She began her radio career in 1989 as a volunteer at KNAU (now Arizona Public Radio) in Flagstaff, Arizona. She worked there as a classical host and music director for more than a decade before moving to Minnesota to work for MPR. In 2025, she became the host of Performance Today, America's most popular classical music radio program. In addition to classical music, other passions include sewing, singing and cooking. She shares her life with her partner, John, an artist.

LIFE-CHANGING ADVENTURES Est. 1997

Reservations & Questions

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Know Before You Go!

Reservations and Deposits: A $1,000 per person deposit is needed to confirm your space on this journey. You can make a credit card deposit online or by phone. Deposits are refundable, minus a $250 per person cancellation fee, for 60 days from the processing date or 90 days prior to departure, whichever comes first. Deposits made within 90 days of departure are nonrefundable. Final payment is also non-refundable, which is why we strongly urge guests to purchase travel insurance.

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: 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. Click here to read "Is an Earthbound trip right for you?" or call the Earthbound office for more details.

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 canceled for any reason, another event will be included in its place. This is not grounds 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. Please note, Itinerary is Subject to Change.

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