

# *A Celebration of* **MUSIC & CULTURE**



## **Classical Germany, Leipzig, Dresden & Prague** **with Performance Today host Valerie Kahler** **May 12 – 22, 2027**



Please join me, **Performance Today** host **Val Kahler**, for an unforgettable spring journey through Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden, and Prague—four of Europe's great musical capitals. Walk in the footsteps of Bach, Handel, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Mozart, Dvořák, Smetana, and Beethoven and discover the places that inspired some of history's greatest composers. Along the way, you'll attend three of Europe's most celebrated classical music festivals: the renowned Prague Spring International Music Festival, the acclaimed Dresden Music Festival, and the prestigious Beethoven Festival in Leipzig, featuring a special festival performance by internationally acclaimed pianist **Lang Lang**. Enjoy unforgettable musical experiences, including an organ recital in the very church where J.S. Bach served for 27 years and a private concert in the former home of Robert and Clara Schumann. Savor outstanding cuisine, fascinating history, magnificent architecture, and world-class art as you travel with fellow music lovers on a journey celebrating the enduring beauty and power of classical music. Space is limited.

I hope you'll join us in Europe this spring.

Val Kahler, Your classical Performance Today host



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EXPEDITIONS**

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.  
P.O. Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA  
Tel: 206.842.9775  
[www.EarthboundExpeditions.com](http://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 Classical Music Festivals!

Tickets to the Dresden & Prague Spring Music Festival ❖ 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 ❖ Multi-course dining ❖ Travel with like-minded friends who share your passion for classical music, history and art

## 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 seven additional lunches and two additional dinners.
- Transportation by private air-conditioned motor coach
- Tickets to world-renowned pianist Lang Lang at Leipzig's Gewandhaus
- An exclusive concert in the home of Robert and Clara Schumann
- A concert featuring works by Bach in Leipzig
- 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 land  
\$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 save \$100 always  
Save an additional \$100 when you pay your final balance by check.

### A Note About Dining in Central Europe: Lunch Takes Center Stage

In Germany and the Czech Republic, lunch is often the main meal of the day. Enjoy leisurely, multi-course lunches in charming historic settings, then keep your evenings lighter leaving you relaxed, comfortable, and ready to fully enjoy the evening's concert.



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*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)

### **Day 2, Thursday, May 13: Highlights of Berlin**

This morning, discover the remarkable story of Berlin as we visit a preserved section of the Berlin Wall and Checkpoint Charlie, powerful reminders of the city's divided past. Continue through the historic center to Bebelplatz, where the infamous Nazi book burnings took place on May 10, 1933. Our journey through Germany's turbulent 20th-century history concludes at the moving Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, adjacent to the German Parliament. We then enjoy a special visit to the historic Reichstag, followed by lunch inside the German Parliament. This afternoon, pass by the striking home of the Berlin Philharmonic, one of the world's great concert halls. A tour of the Berlin Philharmonic is pending the performance schedule. Overnight in Berlin. (L)



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*Attend a classical performance inside the St. Thomas Church where Bach worked for 27 years*



**Day 3 – Friday, May 14: Handel’s birthplace Halle & Bach’s Leipzig**

Today we explore the rich musical heritage of two of Germany's most celebrated cultural cities—**Halle**, the 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 to visit the **Handel-Haus**, home to an outstanding collection of historic musical instruments, followed by a leisurely traditional German lunch. We then continue to Leipzig, one of Europe's great musical capitals.

For centuries, Leipzig has been a center of music, learning, and culture. It was home to Bach, Mendelssohn, Clara and Robert Schumann, Wagner, Grieg, and Mahler, and today is still renowned for the **Gewandhaus Orchestra** and the nearly 800-year-old **St. Thomas Boys Choir**.

After checking into our hotel in Leipzig's charming Old Town, attend an evening concert at **St. Thomas Church**, featuring works by Bach. **Overnight in Leipzig.** (B, L)



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#### Day 4, Saturday, May 15: Lang Lang in Leipzig

Enjoy a guided morning walk through Leipzig's beautifully preserved Old Town before attending 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. As an added treat, the **Bach Museum** and **St. Thomas Church** will likely be hosting afternoon and evening concerts, offering even more opportunities to experience this remarkable musical city. **Overnight in Leipzig.** (B, L)



#### Day 5, Sunday, May 16: Mendelssohn, Robert & Clara Schumann

This morning we visit the beautifully preserved home of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, one of the great figures of 19th-century music. As conductor of the Gewandhaus Orchestra, Mendelssohn helped establish Leipzig as one of Europe's leading musical capitals, revived interest in the music of J.S. Bach, and founded Germany's oldest conservatory, which still bears his name. Enjoy a late-morning chamber concert in this intimate setting before lunch at a nearby local restaurant.

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. **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.



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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, Monday, May 17: Meissen, Saxon Wine Country & 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 three 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 the evening at leisure. Overnight in Dresden. (B, L)



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*Attend no less than six moving classical performances*

### **Day 7 – Tuesday, May 18: Art & 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 free afternoon and evening to stroll, dine, or attend a performance during the **Dresden Music Festival**. Overnight in Dresden. (B)

### **Day 8 – Wednesday, May 19: Prague & 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.

After settling into our hotel, enjoy a traditional Bohemian dinner before attending an evening performance at the world-renowned Prague Spring International Music Festival—our third and final festival of the journey. Overnight in Prague. (B, D)



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*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 Estates Theatre, where Mozart conducted *The Marriage of Figaro* 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 & 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 conclude our journey 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. Or, extend your stay to enjoy additional performances at the Prague Spring International Music Festival before returning home with a lifetime of wonderful memories.



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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.



## Reservations & Questions

206-842-9775

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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 90 days prior to a trip departing are not refundable. Final payment is also nonrefundable, 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 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.

- Itinerary Subject to Change -



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