



# CLASSICAL POLAND & PRAGUE

A Classical Music Adventure  
with Classical MPR host Julie Amacher  
featuring the Prague Spring International Music Festival!  
May 6 - 16, 2022



Join friends of Minnesota Public Radio and fellow classical music lovers to celebrate the lives of **Chopin, Dvorak, Smetana** and **Mozart!** On this eleven-day classical music pursuit, you'll walk in Chopin's footsteps and relive his extraordinary life. Visit the very places where Frederic lived, loved and worked: the family home where he was born, the village church where he was baptized and the Frederic Chopin University of Music in Warsaw. Discover Poland's stunning cultural capital, Krakow. Visit the cathedral where the kings of this ancient land are buried, stroll the campus of the University of Copernicus and marvel at one of Europe's largest medieval squares. Our musical quest culminates in the Czech Republic, where we'll walk in the footsteps of the Czech Republic's greatest composers, Smetana and Dvorak! And to top things off, you'll attend the legendary **Prague Spring International Music Festival**. Don't miss out on this extraordinary musical adventure!

## TRIP AT A GLANCE

3 Nights Warsaw, Poland  
3 Nights Krakow, Poland  
1 Night Olomouc, Czech Republic  
3 Nights Prague, Czech Republic



**EARTHBOUND  
EXPEDITIONS**

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

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

1.800.723.8454 / T. 206.842.9775 / F. 206.238.8480

[www.EarthboundExpeditions.com](http://www.EarthboundExpeditions.com)

## JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

Hosted by Classical MPR host Julie Amacher ♦ Numerous concerts highlighting the works of Chopin, Mozart, Dvořák and Smetana ♦ Special visits to the homes, symphony halls and museums of the great composers ♦ Tickets to the Prague Spring International Music Festival ♦ A visit to Olomouc, a Moravian Village ♦ A tour of the historic Warsaw Ghetto ♦ Three magical nights each in Warsaw, Krakow, Prague ♦ Walks led by local experts in the historic city centers ♦ A traditional Klezmer dinner concert in Krakow's Jewish quarter ♦ A group of Minnesota Public Radio friends!

## IT'S INCLUDED!

- ♪ With Classical MPR host Julie Amacher
- ♪ Pre-trip dinner with Julie Amacher at MPR headquarters in St. Paul, Minnesota
- ♪ Fully guided by an expert Earthbound Expeditions program manager
- ♪ All breakfasts plus eleven additional multi-course meals
- ♪ Ten nights of accommodation in charming, centrally located 4-star hotels
- ♪ Fascinating city walking tours with expert local guides
- ♪ All entrances to museums, castles, cathedrals and palaces as listed in itinerary
- ♪ An evening dinner concert in Krakow featuring traditional Jewish Klezmer music
- ♪ Five outstanding classical concerts: See final page of itinerary for program.
- ♪ All transportation on an air-conditioned motor coach
- ♪ Gratuities for your driver, local guides and Earthbound Expeditions program manager
- ♪ Fun introductory language lessons given en route by your guide
- ♪ An interesting group of like-minded classical public radio listeners

## TRIP FACTS

11 Days/10 Nights (land)  
\$4,995 per person double occupancy  
\$995 Single Supplement (waived if a roommate is found)  
Optional group flight departs the USA on May 5, 2022  
Trip begins in Warsaw: May 6, 2022  
Trip ends in Prague: May 16, 2022



## OPTIONAL GROUP AIR

Details coming soon!

## WAYS TO SAVE \$250

- ✓ MPR and Earthbound Expeditions travel alumni save \$100 per person
- ✓ Pay your final balance by check and save \$100 per person
- ✓ Reserve by January 7, 2022 and save \$50



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*Old Town Square, Krakow*

## **YOUR CLASSICAL ADVENTURE BEGINS...**

### **Day 0: Wednesday, May 5 – Depart home city for Warsaw, Poland**

Remember, you must depart the U.S. no later than today. An optional group flight will be offered.

### **Day 1: Thursday, May 6 - Arrive in Poland**

Dzien dobry! (Good day!) Your musical journey through Eastern Europe begins as you land at Frederic Chopin International Airport in Warsaw, Poland. Guess arriving in conjunction with the group flight may join the complimentary transfer to the hotel. Enjoy a casual introductory walking tour of the old city center before meeting your Minnesota Public Radio host and Earthbound Expeditions guide for an orientation and welcome dinner.  
*Sleep in Warsaw (D)*

### **Day 2: Friday, May 7 - Discover Warsaw**

Warsaw is a fascinating city steeped in history, culture and, of course, memories of Chopin. For an overall impression of Poland's bustling capital city, we'll set off on a morning tour highlighting the city's most famous landmarks. We'll see the Royal Route with its aristocratic residences, historic churches and famous statues. In addition, we'll visit the Ghetto Memorial, the Monument of the Warsaw Uprising, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Grand Theatre, Chopin's monument, the Belvedere Palace and the Old Town.

After a delicious lunch, we are off to the Chopin Parlor. The parlor was part of the apartment where Chopin spent some years before leaving Poland. Today, it contains furniture and instruments from his time there, including a 19<sup>th</sup> century Buchholtz piano. The exhibition is complemented by portraits including those of Chopin's parents and their children, as well as graphics depicting Warsaw in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

*Sleep in Warsaw (B, L, D)*



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*Charles Bridge, Prague*

### **Day 3: Saturday, May 8 - In Pursuit of Chopin**

Frederic Chopin is undoubtedly the best-known resident of Warsaw. He spent the first 20 years of his life in the city studying music, learning the manners of proper society and giving his first concerts. All the Warsaw newspapers wrote about the child prodigy. Walking the streets of Warsaw, you will pass many buildings where he lived, loved and worked.

Our day begins at Ostrogski Castle, which houses both the Frederic Chopin Museum and the Chopin Society. The museum contains the world's largest collection of Chopin memorabilia, comprising of various souvenirs indirectly or directly connected with Chopin or his work as a composer. The manuscripts, commemorative prints, portraits, posters, books, magazines, notes and a recording library (analogue and digital disc and tapes) and visuals library (negatives, positives, microfilms) come from domestic and foreign purchases, gifts and donations.

Next, we visit the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music, which is among the oldest and largest schools of music in Europe. Between the years 1826 and 1829, Chopin studied at the Main School of Music.

In the afternoon, we drive 30 miles west of Warsaw to the village of Zelazowa Wola, the birth place of Chopin in 1810. His house, once a thatched cottage, now resembles a romantic manor surrounded by a picturesque park full of a wide variety of plants. In 1931, Chopin's house became the Chopin Birthplace Museum, complete with a rich collection of memorabilia associated with the great composer. *Sleep in Warsaw (B, L)*



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"All the same it is being said everywhere that I played too softly, or rather, too delicately for people used to the piano-pounding of the artists here."  
Chopin

#### **Day 4: Sunday, May 9 - South to Historic Krakow**

After a hearty breakfast, we drive south to Krakow, one of Poland's most beautiful cities. A true survivor of war, Krakow is a colossus of art and architecture and Poland's best-preserved city. The Kings of Poland resided here, making the city the cultural and scientific center of the entire territory. *Sleep in Krakow (B, D)* \*Depending on museum times and availability, we may stop at Auschwitz today en route to Krakow. Some may choose to sit in a café if you prefer not to join this moving, emotional tour.

#### **Day 5: Monday, May 10 - Imperial Krakow**

This morning, we'll join an engaging local guide for a walk back in time. We'll visit Central Europe's largest medieval market place at Rynek Glowny and continue to Wawel Castle, where generations of Polish kings were crowned and buried. The afternoon and evening are yours to further explore this breathtaking city at your own pace. We suggest enjoying a special dinner out and perhaps even a concert. *Sleep in Krakow (B, L)*

#### **Day 6: Tuesday, May 11 - Historic district of Kazimierz, Krakow**

Krakow itself had been a hub of Jewish civilization in Europe for several centuries, a situation aided by the tolerant mindset of Poland's Renaissance elite. The relationship between Poles and Jews was not always harmonious, but the greatest storm was brought by outside invaders in 1939.

Before World War II, the historic district of Kazimierz had been the heart of Jewish Krakow. Few Jewish families survived the conflict, and the trickle of families that returned in 1945 was too small to be called a community. For several decades, crumbling graveyards, synagogues and houses were the only palpable remains of six centuries of Jewish history in Krakow - Kazimierz was a realm of ghosts. When democratic changes came to Poland in 1989, much of Krakow was falling apart. Kazimierz, the heart of the old Jewish city, was in especially bad shape. However, the district has seen a revival in recent years, with artists and musicians opening up shops in once abandoned buildings.

After lunch, the afternoon is free to further explore the medieval quarter of Krakow. Tonight, we've planned an evening of traditional Jewish music and a festive kosher feast in the heart of Krakow's Jewish quarter, where we attend an entertaining Klezmer concert. *Sleep in Krakow (B, D)*



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### **Day 7: Wednesday, May 12 - West to Mozart's Moravia, Czech Republic**

This morning we make a pilgrimage to the infamous concentration camp of Auschwitz in order to fully understand the origins of the suffering that took place at the hands of the Nazis. *\*Note: Your guide will offer suggestions and options for those who do not wish to take part in this emotional visit.*

After, we drive east to the province of Moravia, Czech Republic. The wine-loving Moravians considered themselves somewhat separate from their beer-producing brothers in Bohemia. Our destination - Olomouc - is rich in history, architectural beauty, and is a prominent university town. It also contains several large and richly decorated squares and, most famously, the Holy Trinity Column. At 115 feet high, the column is an astonishing example of the Moravian Baroque style, and is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Olomouc is also famous for its collection of colorful mosaics, the most unusual being the glockenspiel, which is strangely decorated with 1950 style communist motifs and figures. Before dinner, we'll enjoy a walking tour. Dinner tonight includes Moravian delicacies and regional wines. *Sleep in Olomouc (B, D)*

**Note:** The work of **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**, the brilliant Austrian composer and pianist, is also connected with Olomouc. At eleven, Mozart composed Symphony No. 6 in F major during his stay in the Hauenschild's Palace.

### **Day 8: Thursday, May 13 - In the Footsteps of Dvořák and Smetana: West to Prague!**

After breakfast, we make our way west towards the soaring spires of Prague. We stop to explore beautiful Vysehrad Cemetery, 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. It's also the home of the *Prague International Music Festival!* For our first evening in Prague, let's enjoy a Bohemian feast together followed by a classical concert. *Sleep in Prague (B, D)*



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**Day 9: Friday, May 14 – The Prague Spring Int’l 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 at the Prague Spring Music Festival.

*Sleep in Prague (B, L)*



**Day 10: Saturday, May 15 - Prague’s Castle District and Evening**

**Concert:** We start the day with a stroll to Prague’s most famous landmark - Charles Bridge- after which we’ll visit the historic castle district. Then, enjoy a farewell lunch with your Minnesota Public Radio host. The afternoon and evening are yours to further explore this city’s charming streets. Perhaps you’ll want to take in a Bohemian market, a world class museum or simply wander the wondrously preserved historic old town. Enjoy one last concert at the Prague Spring Music Festival. *Sleep in Prague (B, L)*

*\*Note: Flights normally depart Prague quite early. You may wish to have an early night this evening in preparation for your trip home.*

**Day 11: Sunday, May 16 - Return home with a lifetime of memories**

A complimentary airport transfer will be offered to those on the group flight.

~ Trip Itinerary Details & Concerts Are Subject to Change ~

**QUESTIONS AND RESERVATIONS**

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### **YOUR CLASSICAL MPR HOST – JULIE AMACHER**

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, Wis. 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 introducing listeners to new classical releases each week. Julie is the program director for Classical Minnesota Public Radio, and she is the new host for APM's nationally distributed concert program SymphonyCast.

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## **KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**

**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.

**Concerts, Festivals and Events:** If (for any reason) the organizers of a scheduled concert, festival or event cancel or postpone a planned activity with little or no notice, Earthbound Expeditions will do its utmost to secure a similar event or secure another concert(s). Strikes, unscheduled delays, lack of funds and acts of God are beyond the control of Earthbound Expeditions. Cancellation of an event, festival or concert is not cause for refund.

**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 refund.

**RESERVATIONS:** A \$500 deposit is required to secure your space. An additional \$200 deposit is requested if opting for the group flight. To make a reservation or questions please call our travel staff at 800-723-8454. Read the full terms & conditions [here](#).



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## **CONCERTS: What You Can Expect**

### **Warsaw Suburbs - Zelazowa Wola (morning)**

Piano performance at Chopin's Birthplace

### **Warsaw: A Private Chopin concert in an exclusive, historic setting**

### **Krakov Klezmer Dinner Concert**

Traditional Klezmer music concert and dinner in the heart of the historic Jewish Quarter

### **Prague Spring International Music Festival**

Enjoy three outstanding performances while in Prague! Program TBA

### **About the Prague Spring International Music Festival**

For more than 70 years, the Prague Spring International Music Festival has ranked among the top cultural events in the Czech Republic and in Europe. This presentation of the world's best musicians, symphony orchestras and chamber music ensembles is somewhat of a phenomenon, as it has survived the political upheavals and dramatic cultural changes in the seven decades of its existence. This is mostly thanks to its audience, who always appreciated and today still appreciates the true artistic quality on display.



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*Proud Partners Since 2008*

Earthbound Expeditions offers customized overseas adventures for universities, museums, garden clubs, and numerous public radio stations. Earthbound Expeditions is committed to supporting environmental education, local small businesses and providing guests with a one-of-a-kind, authentic travel experience. Whenever possible, Earthbound reserves locally-owned hotels, utilizes the talents of local lecturers, and dines in family-owned establishments. Earthbound also supports projects like the Children's Eternal Rain Forest of Monteverde, Costa Rica, the Soweto Youth and Development Project of South Africa, the *Mama Rosie Orphanage in Cape Town and is assisting families and projects in Cambodia and the USA.*

#### **Environmental Commitment**

Through Earthbound Expeditions' proud partnership with the Carbonfund.org, Earthbound Expeditions makes annual donations so as to help offset a guest's carbon footprint. For every guest who signs up on an Earthbound Expedition, a donation will be sent to the Carbonfund.

The Carbonfund.org motto, "Reduce what you can; offset what you can't" fits perfectly with Earthbound Expeditions' long established philosophy of supporting locally-owned businesses, promoting education and embracing the concept of "slow" travel.

Click [here](#) to learn more!



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