



Germany: A Classical Music Journey

Berlin – Leipzig – Dresden

Hosted by the Sarasota Concert Association

May 26 - June 5, 2026



The **Sarasota Concert Association** invites you on a tailor-made, 11-day classical music journey through the cultural heart of Europe—Berlin, Leipzig, and Dresden. Follow in the footsteps of Bach, Haydn, Mozart, Schumann, Mendelssohn, and Mahler as we experience unforgettable performances including a night at the Berlin Philharmonic and the world-renowned Dresden Spring Festival. You will also enjoy a private concert in the historic home of Robert and Clara Schumann, and a performance in the very church where Bach spent 27 years composing his masterpieces.

With great music, rich history, and wonderful company, this is a one-of-a-kind experience. **Space is limited—reserve your spot today!**

TRIP AT A GLANCE

3 Nights Berlin
3 Nights Leipzig
3 Nights Dresden
1 Night Berlin



**EARTHBOUND
EXPEDITIONS**

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Tickets to the **Berlin Philharmonic** ❖ Tickets to the **Dresden Spring Music Festival** ❖ A concert inside the **Mendelssohn House** performed by acclaimed violinist **Michael Barenboim**, son of conductor **Daniel Barenboim** ❖ A piano recital in the home of **Robert and Clara Schumann** ❖ A total of five classical performances ❖ 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 ❖ Berlin – Europe's new Capital of Culture, including new world-class museums ❖ The romantic world of Royal Potsdam ❖ Tour of Meissen's world-famous porcelain factory ❖ Travel with like-minded friends who share your passion for classical music, history and art

INCLUDED

- Five glorious classical music events including: The Berlin Philharmonic, the Rotterdam Philharmonic with world-renowned pianist Martha Argerich, St. Thomas Church Bach organ and choir concert, and an exclusive concert in the home of Robert and Clara Schumann
- Hand selected centrally located, 4-star hotels throughout
- All breakfasts and ten additional meals featuring regional cuisine
- Entrance fees to museums, palaces, composer homes
- Daily walks with local historians
- Top tickets to the Dresden Spring Music Festival
- Airport transfers if arriving and departing on the tour days
- Fully guided by an Earthbound Expedition program director
- Gratuities for your guides and drivers
- Transportation by private, first-class motor coach



TRIP FACTS

11 Days/10 Nights (not including air travel)
\$7,995 per person double occupancy
\$1,995 single supplement
Trip begins: Berlin on May 26, 2026 at 6pm
Trip ends: Berlin on June 5 after breakfast

Left: You will attend a concert of the Rotterdam Philharmonic featuring renowned pianist Martha Argerich.



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Enjoy an evening at the Berlin Philharmonic!

Your Classical Journey Begins...

Day 0, May 25: Depart for Berlin no later than May 25, 2026.

Day 1: Tuesday, May 26 - Guten Morgen! Arrive in Berlin

Berlin, once devastated and divided, has spent the last two decades rebuilding into a cultural powerhouse. With thriving orchestras, newly reopened museums, and the revitalized Unter den Linden boulevard, the city is now Europe's cultural hub. **Enjoy a welcome dinner and orientation** with your Sarasota Concert Association hosts and Earthbound Expeditions guide. *Sleep in Berlin (B, D)*

Day 2: Wednesday, May 27 - Discover Berlin

Join an expert guide for a **full-day exploration of Berlin's** most significant historical landmarks. Our journey begins with a visit to the Holocaust Memorial, followed by the Bebelplatz, infamous for the Nazi book burnings on May 10, 1933. Delve deeper into 20th-century history as we visit a preserved section of the Berlin Wall and Checkpoint Charlie. **Enjoy a special lunch inside the iconic Reichstag building and a cruise on the Spree River to view Berlin's historic architecture from the water.** *Sleep in Berlin (B, L)*

Day 3: Thursday, May 28 - Berlin's Great Museums

Berlin is home to some of the world's finest art and archaeology collections, making it a must-visit for culture enthusiasts. This morning, we will explore the renowned **Pergamon Museum**, which houses ancient treasures like the Ishtar Gate and the Pergamon Altar. **A traditional multi-course lunch is included.** Then, the afternoon is yours to further explore the treasures of Berlin. This evening, attend the **Berlin Philharmonic with conductor Semyon Bychkov** leading the orchestra in Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5 and **pianist Vikingur Olafsson** performing Beethoven's "Emperor" Piano Concerto No. 5. *Sleep in Berlin (B, L)*



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Leipzig, City of Bach, Mahler, Mendelssohn and the Schumanns

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

Day 4: Friday, May 29 - Historic Potsdam and an Evening with Bach in Leipzig

This morning, we depart Berlin for Leipzig. Crossing the legendary “Bridge of Spies” we first visit **Potsdam Schloss Cecilienhof**, where Truman, Churchill, and Stalin shaped the future of post-war Europe.

After an included **lunch**, we continue to Leipzig, long celebrated as a center of music and culture. The city has inspired great composers including Bach, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Robert and Clara Schumann, Wagner, and Mahler. This evening, experience a **concert featuring the 90-member St. Thomas Boy Choir** at St. Thomas Church, where Johann Sebastian Bach once served as cantor. *Sleep in Leipzig (B, L)*



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Spend three magical nights in Leipzig

Day 5: Saturday, May 30 - 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** recently opened and it's been brilliantly done. Bach worked at St. Thomas Church as a cantor and his remains are buried below the altar. Enjoy excerpts from **Bach's B-minor Mass at St. Thomas Church** this evening. *Sleep in Leipzig (B, L)*

Day 6: Sunday, May 31 – A Day with Mendelssohn and Robert and Clara Schumann

Begin the day with a special visit to the former home of Felix Mendelssohn, now a museum devoted to his life, music, and legacy. Enjoy a guided tour and brief lecture, followed by a performance featuring works by **M. Pilati, L. Berio, F. Busoni, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, and Fanny Hensel**, performed by acclaimed violinist and violist Michael Barenboim, son of conductor **Daniel Barenboim**.

After a shared lunch, continue to the Robert and Clara Schumann House for an in-depth look at their remarkable lives and artistic partnership, **concluding with a private piano recital honoring their music**. Overnight in Leipzig (B, L).



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Enjoy a cruise on the Elbe River

Day 7: Monday, June 1 - Leipzig to Dresden

This morning, travel east to Dresden, often called “the Florence of the North.” Journey along the scenic Elbe River, passing picturesque villages and medieval castles. En route, stop in Meissen, world-renowned for its fine porcelain. Enjoy a guided tour of the **Porcelain Museum** and a **multi-course lunch**.

Continue to Dresden, your home for the next three nights. Once the capital of Saxony and a crossroads of European trade, Dresden has long been a center of art and music and was home to Handel, Bach, and Wagner. After checking into your centrally located hotel, enjoy a leisurely **walking tour of the historic Old Town**, where the city’s rich cultural legacy comes to life. *Sleep in Dresden (B, L)*

Day 8: Tuesday, June 2 - A Day of Art and Music in Dresden

This morning, in the company of a local art expert, immerse yourself in Dresden’s world of masterpieces. Within the graceful **Zwinger Palace**, the Old Masters Gallery unveils centuries of brilliance—Raphael’s luminous *Sistine Madonna*, Giorgione’s serene *Sleeping Venus*, and works by Titian, Vermeer, Dürer, Rembrandt, and Rubens. Each gallery reveals the soul of Europe’s artistic past, preserved in this Baroque jewel of a city.



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Savor a refined **luncheon** before a leisurely afternoon—perhaps to wander along the Elbe, linger in a café, or explore Dresden’s elegant boulevards and quiet courtyards. This evening you’ll attend a concert by the **Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra**, with conductor **Lahav Shani** leading the orchestra as pianist **Martha Argerich** performs Schumann’s Piano Concerto, followed by Brahms’s Symphony No. 2.

Sleep in Dresden (B, L)

Day 9: Wednesday, June 3 - A Day of Leisure in Dresden

Enjoy a relaxed morning in beautiful Dresden, visiting a favorite museum, or simply savoring a coffee in one of the city’s elegant cafés. Gather with fellow travelers for a delightful **lunch**, then **embark on a scenic afternoon river cruise**, taking in Dresden’s skyline and the gentle countryside beyond. This evening, experience a **recital by International Chopin Piano Competition winner Seong-Jin Cho**, performing works by Bach, Schumann and Chopin, a perfect finale to your time in this city of art and harmony.

Sleep in Dresden (B, L)

Day 10: Thursday, June 4 - Return to Berlin

After a leisurely morning we return to Berlin by private coach. Enjoy a farewell lunch together in a nearby **Saxon winery** before returning to Berlin for the evening.

Sleep in Berlin (B, L)

Day 11: Friday, June 5 - Return home with a lifetime of memories!

Your journey concludes after breakfast. Airport transfers are included if departing today. Happy and Safe travels! (B)

If you have extra time and love classical music, consider extending your journey to the city that Mozart loved best! Prague is just a 4.5 hour train or bus ride from Berlin.



About the Sarasota Concert Association

The Sarasota Concert Association (SCA) is a nonprofit organization that fosters greater appreciation for world-class classical music by offering the community two engaging concert series. Now in its 81st season, the Great Performers Series features world-renowned orchestras, recitalists, and chamber ensembles; Music Matinees engage outstanding regional artists to perform in free community concerts as well as in educational outreach activities. For more information about SCA, visit www.SCAarasota.org.



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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 \$500 per person cancellation fee, for 60 days from the processing date or February 25, 2026, whichever comes first. Deposits made after February 25, 2026 are not refundable. Final payment is also non-refundable, which is why we strongly urge guests to purchase travel insurance.

A portion of the trip cost supports the Sarasota Concert Association.

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: 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.

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

About Earthbound Expeditions: earthboundexpeditions.com/about

QUESTIONS & RESERVATIONS

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