

Otterbein University Alumni American Celebration of Music in Germany

December 11 – 20, 2017 (8 nights/10 days)

Day 1 Monday, December 11, 2017

Depart via scheduled air service to Frankfurt, Germany

Day 2 Tuesday, December 12 Frankfurt / Bonn / Schwelm (D)

Arrive in Frankfurt

Meet your MCI Tour Manager who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer to Bonn for a visit to the Beethoven's birthplace and Museum. The house at Bonngasse No. 20, in which Beethoven was born in 1770, is the family's only residence in Bonn which is still maintained and still in its original condition. Since 1893, it has been accommodating a museum presenting the biggest Beethoven collection in the world. Here you will discover new or little known facts about the famous composer.

Continue to Schwelm to check-in to your hotel

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 3 Wednesday, December 13 Schwelm / Köln (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Take a guided tour of Köln that includes viewing the Old Town and its Altes Rathaus (old city hall), and entrances to Wallraf-Richartz Museum and the famous Cathedral. The Cathedral, the heart of the City of Köln, is 144 meters long, 86 meters wide and with 157-meter-tall spires. It took a mere 632 years to build and has the largest facade of any church in the world - over 7000 sq meters!

Lunch, on own

Lunchtime recital in the Köln Cathedral*

Afternoon at leisure for sightseeing, shopping, and other activities

Concert as part of the American Celebration of Music in Germany*

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 4 Thursday, December 14 Schwelm / Leipzig (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

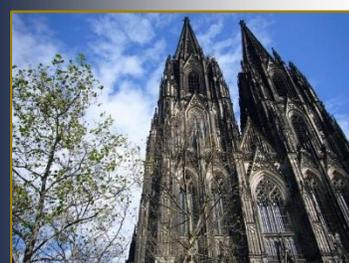
Transfer to Leipzig

Lunch, on own

Upon arrival, enjoy a guided tour of Leipzig includes entrance to the Bach Museum. The reconstructed Bose House stands in the shadow of the Thomaskirche. It was once the home of the Bach family and now contains the largest Bach archives in Germany, as well as many mementos of the composer

Evening dinner and overnight

Leipzig has musical associations with some of the greatest of all composers: Bach worked and lived here a big part of his life; Mendelssohn was born and lived here; Wagner was born here (but never lived here), and nearby Halle is the birthplace of Georg Frederick Händel



Day 5 Friday, December 15 Leipzig / Dresden (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel
Full-day excursion to Dresden. Guided tour of Dresden includes the world-famous Zwinger Palace with its Old Masters Gallery, the Cathedral, and the Neustadt Quarter
Lunch, on own
*Lunchtime recital in Frauenkirche**
Return to Leipzig
Evening dinner and overnight

Day 6 Saturday, December 16 Leipzig / Halle (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel
Half-day *In the Footsteps of Composers* tour including Schumann House, Wagner Memorial, Leipzig Opera House, St. Nicholas School, St. Nicholas Church, Old City Hall, and entrance to the Mendelssohn House
Lunch, on own
*Lunchtime recital in Thomaskirche**
Afternoon excursion to Halle to visit the birthplace of Händel. In addition to the composer's personal effects, the museum houses an exhibition of musical instruments and history of music in the region
*Concert as part of the American Celebration of Music in Germany**
Evening dinner and overnight

Day 7 Sunday, December 17 Leipzig / Berlin (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel
Transfer to Berlin via Potsdam. A few miles west of Berlin, Potsdam was chosen at the beginning of the 17th Century as the official residence of the Electors of Brandenburg. Under Friedrich Wilhelm, and his son, Frederick the Great, Potsdam became the "Prussian Versailles." Enjoy a tour of Potsdam including entrance to San-Souci Palace and Neues Palace
Lunch on own
Evening dinner and overnight

Berlin is a vibrant, multi-faceted city steeped in culture and history. Since the fall of the Wall and the reunification of the city, Berlin has been continuously reinventing itself as a political, business and cultural center. Superb museums, sophisticated architecture, and famous landmarks offer the Berlin visitor plenty to see and do

Day 8 Monday, December 18 Berlin (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel
Morning guided tour of Berlin, including Unter den Linden, Kurfürstendamm, Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, the Berlin Dom (Cathedral), etc. Also explore Berlin's magnificent architectural treasures and experience the city's amazing transformation by boat on a one-hour cruise on the River Spree
Lunch, on own
Afternoon at leisure for sightseeing, shopping, and other activities
*Concert as part of the American Celebration of Music in Germany**
Evening dinner and overnight

Day 9 Tuesday, December 19 Berlin (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel



Morning sightseeing includes a visit to Neues Museum. Exhibits include the Egyptian and Prehistory and Early History collections, as it did before the war. The artifacts it houses include the iconic bust of the Egyptian queen Nefertiti

Lunch, on own

Afternoon at leisure for sightseeing, shopping, and other activities

Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight

Day 10 Saturday, December 20 Depart for home (B)

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Berlin's International Airport for the return flight

**Subject to confirmation*

This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

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