



Bach statue, Leipzig

The Spirit of Bach!

Dresden and the Bach Festival in Leipzig with Classical KING

Join the inimitable Dave Beck and fellow Classical KING listeners on an inspiring music-filled sojourn to the beautiful German state of Saxony!

The highlight is the annual BachFest in Leipzig, where we will attend five concerts by renowned Bach interpreters. The annual Festival, first begun in 1904, takes place all over the city in Baroque churches—two in which Johann Sebastian Bach himself held sway—impressive concert halls, and charming chamber venues. The tour features four major ensembles, including the Gewandhaus Orchestra—the oldest civic orchestra in Europe, once led by Mendelssohn—as well as



the great pianist Sir András Schiff (*left*) performing the Well-Tempered Clavier, and the splendid Jean-Guihen Queyras playing all six Cello Suites, some of Bach's most sublime works.

A daytrip to Weimar, once a great cultural capital, includes a visit to the museum of the Bauhaus, the still-influential, modernist architectural movement, and a private concert. Another private concert takes place in Mendelssohn's last home.

Your journey begins in magnificent Dresden, often called "Florence on the Elbe," a city literally risen from the ashes of World War II devastation. At the Semper Opera House, one of the most beautiful theatres in the world, we enjoy a production of Puccini's great last opera, *Turandot*, and hear a private concert in the historic Royal Palace, first resurrected in the 18th century. From Dresden, we'll make an excursion into "Saxon Switzerland" aboard our own private boat on the Elbe and tour the renowned Meissen Porcelain factory. On our journey, we trace the steps of titans of German culture such as Mendelssohn, Schumann, Wagner, Liszt, Martin Luther, Goethe, Schiller, and others.

Along the way, you will revel in five-star accommodations, dine at top restaurants, and enjoy all the outstanding music accompanied by Dave Beck's engaging commentary which make this a glorious journey through the musical and historic landscapes of one of Europe's premier destinations.

June 12 – 23, 2025*

*Tour begins June 13 in Dresden

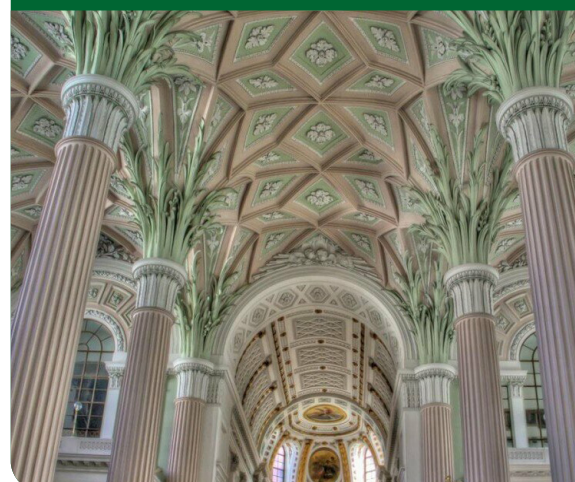
Tour limited to 25 participants or as hotel space allows; priority access for Performance Circle supporters.



performance
CIRCLE

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Prime tickets to at least 6 major performances at the BachFest in Leipzig and Semper Opera in Dresden
- Private concerts in Dresden, Leipzig and Weimar, exclusive to the group
- Excursions to Weimar, the Meissen porcelain factory, Pillnitz Castle, and the mountains of Saxon Switzerland
- Private boat ride and lunch on the Elbe River
- Private guided tours to major sites in both cities and elsewhere led by expert guides
- Deluxe accommodations in five-star hotels in both cities
- Breakfast daily; 6 lunches and 4 dinners, all with wine
- Commentary by Classical KING host Dave Beck throughout the trip
- Private air-conditioned motorcoach transportation for all activities on the tour
- Free time for further sight-seeing, shopping or relaxing



St. Nicholas Church, Leipzig

The Spirit of Bach tour is organized exclusively for Classical KING by The Grand Tour Travel Company of Peterborough, NH.



St. Thomas Church, Leipzig

Daily Itinerary

Thursday, June 12

Flights depart the US, with arrival the following day.

Friday, June 13 (Dresden)

Willkommen!

Arrival in Dresden and check-in at the lovely Hotel Taschenberg Palace, ideally located in the baroque city center. Our **Welcome Dinner** is nearby.

Saturday, June 14 (Dresden)

Dresden

Breakfast daily at both hotels. A private tour of the beautiful city of Dresden, lying on the River Elbe, highlights many historic monuments virtually rebuilt as they were before the Allied bombing of February 1945. These include the remarkable, domed Frauenkirche (Church of Our Lady), the Semper Opera House and several fine museums. **Lunch** is near the Frauenkirche. This evening at the beautiful Semper—famously named for its architect—Puccini's Asian-inflected masterpiece, *Turandot*, beguiles us—*Nessun dorma*, No one sleeps!

Sunday, June 15 (Dresden)

Palaces and Paintings

Your day is free in Dresden, with an optional visit in the morning to the outstanding collection of paintings at the Alte Meister Gallery in the baroque Zwinger Palace. In the evening, we visit the sumptuous Royal Palace (Residenzschloss) for a private tour of the Green Vault, precious treasures primarily from the collection amassed by the Saxon prince, Augustus the Strong, in the 18th century.

Following the tour, we repair to the Palace's small ballroom for a private chamber music performance, exclusive to the group.

Dinner is nearby in Theater Square.

Monday, June 16 (Dresden)

Saxon Switzerland

The lush gardens of the 18th century Pillnitz Castle, the summer home of Saxony's Electors, illustrate a nearly complete history of landscape gardening. Our coach takes us from there up into the sandstone mountains called "Saxon Switzerland," and the fabulous views from Bastei. Returning downstream, we board our private boat and float down the Elbe enjoying a buffet **lunch**.

Evening free.

Tuesday, June 17 (Leipzig)

Meissen and Bach

We bid *aufwiedersehen* to Dresden and move on to Leipzig. On our way northeast we tour the factory in Meissen, where the eponymous fine, delicate porcelain, the most famous in the world, is still fabricated in the traditional handmade process (*photo, right*). Upon arrival in Leipzig, we check in to the 5-star Grandhotel Handelshof Leipzig in the city center. **Dinner** precedes our first concert of the BachFest in St. Thomas Church, where Bach was Kapellmeister for nearly 35 years. The fine French cellist, Jean-Guihen Queyras, plays all six solo Cello Suites, a veritable feast for the soul!



Wednesday, June 18 (Leipzig)

Leipzig

Our introduction to the historic center of Leipzig takes us among other places to the old town hall, Auerbachs Keller made famous by Goethe in *Faust* and, in the afternoon, the superb Bach Museum. **Lunch** is nearby. Your evening is free.



Semper Opera, Dresden

Thursday, June 19 (Leipzig)

Mendelssohn, Champion of Bach

Felix Mendelssohn's early advocacy for the music of Johann Sebastian Bach—in particular his famous 1829 performance in Berlin of the St. Matthew Passion—propelled the latter to fame throughout Europe. And for 12 years, he was the music director of the prestigious Gewandhaus Orchestra. His house in Leipzig, where the composer lived the last four years of his life, hosts us for a tour and private concert of his lieder and piano music. **Lunch** is nearby. Tonight, rising maestro Jakub Hrůša conducts the very Gewandhaus itself, founded in 1781, in a program of Bach, Honegger's rarely heard 2nd Symphony, which features a trumpet solo, and the august 4th Symphony by Brahms.

Friday, June 20 (Leipzig)

Weimar

Weimar—city of German Enlightenment under Goethe and Schiller, center of music inspired by Franz Liszt, and birthplace of the Bauhaus movement in art and architecture—was where Germany's first democratic constitution was signed. And it was in Weimar, from 1708 to 1717, that Johann Sebastian Bach served as court organist. Our tour in the composer's footsteps ends at the Bauhaus Museum. Another private concert, featuring members of the Weimar Bach Society, is followed by **lunch**. Back in Leipzig, Diego Fasolis leads I Barocchisti, based in Lugano, Switzerland, in a program of Bach cantatas for Ash Wednesday in lovely St. Nicholas Church, where Bach often performed.

Saturday, June 21 (Leipzig)

Schumann and Schiff

Robert Schumann also has a Leipzig connection: he and wife Clara, a fine composer and musician in her own right, lived in the city for the first four years of their marriage. In the house we visit, they entertained the likes of Mendelssohn, Liszt and Berlioz, and Robert composed his Spring Symphony and other works. **Lunch** is nearby. In the evening, the great pianist Sir András Schiff performs part II of Bach's masterpiece of teaching "exercises," the Well-Tempered Clavier, preludes and fugues in major and minor keys sequentially.

Sunday, June 22 (Leipzig)

A Grand Finale

Your morning and early afternoon in Leipzig is free before a gala final evening. The outstanding Amsterdam Baroque under the baton of the eminent baroque specialist and current president of the Bach-Archive, Ton Koopman, concludes the Bach Festival with the composer's great B-Minor Mass at the Thomaskirche. Our **Farewell Dinner** is at one of Leipzig's finest restaurants nearby.



Market Square, Leipzig



Mendelssohn House, Leipzig

Monday, June 23

Aufwiedersehen!

The tour ends after breakfast and hotel check-out.

Itinerary subject to change.

*Meals in **bold** included in the price of the tour.*

TOUR REGISTRATION

Tour cost: \$7,985 per person, ground only, double occupancy.

Single supplement: \$1,140

Deposit: \$1,000 per person first come, first served

Balance deadline: Friday, April 11, 2025

After that date, call for availability

Contact The Grand Tour to reserve your place on the tour with a credit card deposit, or send a check made payable to The Grand Tour for the deposit amount to: KING Germany Tour, The Grand Tour, PO Box 274, Peterborough, NH 03458. Registration materials can be downloaded from classicalking.org/travel.

Questions? Contact The Grand Tour at 800.727.2995 / info@thegrandtour.com or Classical KING at performancecircle@king.org or 206.691.2981.