



GRAND PHILHARMONIC CHOIR EUROPEAN TOUR

June 30-July 12, 2010

Wednesday, June 30

5:20pm – departure from Pearson International Airport (Toronto) Terminal 1, Lufthansa Airlines LH#471. You are required to be at the airport 3 hours prior to departure time.

Thursday, July 1

1:10 pm - Arrival in Prague via Lufthansa flight #3260 to Prague. Transfer to 4 star PARKHOTEL. Hotel is situated in the center of the city. Veletržni 1502/20, 170 00 Prague, Tel: +420 296 797 111, www.parkhotel-praha.cz. Possible participation in Canada Day celebrations at the Canadian Embassy in the afternoon. Dinner provided.



Friday, July 2

9:00am - Sightseeing of Prague in the morning. Prague is situated on the seven hills flanking the banks of the Vltava (Moldau) River. The most outstanding views being from Prague Castle. Sometimes is called Prague the Golden, sometimes Prague, the city of 100 Spires, it is often compared with Florence and Rome for its beauty. Thomas Mann said it was one of the world's most magical cities. Goethe called it the prettiest gem in the stone crown of the world. Today it is frequently referred to as the Paris of Eastern Europe. It has been at the centre of continental wars, and yet has been miraculously spared. Prague was founded in the late 9th century, and soon became the seat of Bohemian kings, some of whom ruled as emperors of the Holy Roman Empire. The city thrived under the rule of Charles IV, who ordered the building of the New Town in the 14th century - many of the city's most important attractions date back to that age. The city also came under Hapsburg rule and became the capital of a province of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In 1918, after World War I, the city became the capital of Czechoslovakia. After the communist regime ended in 1989 many foreigners, especially young people, moved to Prague. In 1992, its historic centre was included on the UNESCO World Heritage List.



Sightseeing starts at Prague Castle with St. Vitus Cathedral, a gothic pearl of Europe. As we walk down to the Lesser Town Square, we encounter the most beautiful Baroque Church north of Rome - St. Nicholas. We cross the Vltava River on the famous Charles Bridge to the Old Town Square and Town Hall with its unique clock with the Twelve Apostles.

1 pm - lunch provided in the city free afternoon and evening. Saturday, July 3

Saturday, July 3

11:30am - 1:00pm - Choir and organist rehearse in the church of St. Simon and Juda free afternoon 7:30pm - Concert in the Church of St. Simon and Juda. 10:00pm - river cruise and festive dinner following the concert



Sunday, July 4

10am departure for Brno, Accommodation in the hotel CONTINENTAL, Kounicova 6, 602 00 Brno, Tel: +420 541 519 111, www.continentalbrno.cz,

Sightseeing in Brno. Brno, the capital of the southern Moravian region, is the Czech Republic's second largest city. Brno is considered to be Moravia's cultural and geographical center. Brno has a thousand-year-old history. It has a beautiful historic center with historic sights from the 11th century, a large number of Baroque and Renaissance buildings, and it is famous for its Functionalist architecture. It is also the city where Leos Janacek, one of the greatest Czech composers of the 20th century, lived and worked.

6:00-7:00pm - Rehearsal in the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul (to be confirmed). 7.30pm - Concert in the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul Post-concert festive dinner party.

Monday, July 5

9.30am - Departure for Budapest. 1:00pm - Check in to the hotel NOVELETTE BUDAPEST DANUBE, Ben Rakpart 33-34, Tel: +36 1 458 49 00, www.novotel-bud-danube.hu Lunch provided in the hotel. Free afternoon and evening in the center of the city

Budapest is the capital city of Hungary and one of Europe's most delightful and vivacious cities. Consisting of two very different cities, Buda on the west bank of the Danube River and Pest on the east bank, Budapest (pronounced "BOO-dah-pesht") offers travelers Viennese romanticism at an affordable price. However, Budapest is unique in its own right. Hungarians are proud of what this ancient capital has to offer and its contributions to European culture, especially in the field of music.

Budapest is charming both by day and by night. The food and wine are excellent, inexpensive and abundant, and the nightlife is hot! Indeed, in recent years, Budapest has taken on the role of the region's party town, especially in the warmer months when outdoor entertainment areas called kertek (literally 'gardens') throb to the rhythm of the magyars beat.

Tuesday, July 6

9:00am - Guided sightseeing tour of Budapest. Free afternoon. 5:00-6.30pm - Rehearsal in the Szent Mihály Templom (St. Michael's Church). 7.30pm - Concert in the Szent Mihály Templom. Post-concert dinner provided in a restaurant.

Wednesday, July 7

9.30am - Departure for Vienna, Check in to the hotel FAVORITA, Laxenburgerstrasse 8-10, 1100 Vienna, Tel: +43 1 601 460, www.austria-trend.at Lunch provided in the hotel, 3:00pm - Guided sightseeing tour of Vienna. Free evening.

Vienna, is by far the largest city in Austria, as well as its capital and cultural, economic, and political center. As the former home of the Hapsburg court and its far-flung empires, the city still has the trappings of the imperial capital as it once was. Vienna hosted the **Hapsburg court** for several centuries, first as the Imperial seat of the Holy Roman Empire, then the capital of the Austrian Empire, and later of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which finally fell in 1918 with the abdication of the last Emperor Karl I. The court exerted a profound influence on all aspects of Viennese culture, the effects of which are evident even today: Vienna's residents are often overly formal, with small doses of courtliness, polite forms of address, and formal dress attire. One of the many paradoxes of this quirky yet charming city is that its residents can be both modern and progressive as well as quite old-fashioned.

Vienna is also famous for its **coffee culture**. "Let's have a coffee" is a very commonly heard phrase. Despite incursions by Starbucks and Italian-style espresso bars, the Kaffeehauskultur is still the traditional way to drink a cup of coffee, read the newspaper, meet friends, or fall in love. For visitors, the city has a very convenient layout: The 'old town' or city centre, is the **first district**, with the Stephansdom and Stephansplatz at the very centre. It is encircled by the Ringstraße (Ring Road), a grand boulevard constructed along the old city walls, which were torn down at the end of the 19th century. Along the Ringstraße are many famous and grand buildings, including the Rathaus [City Hall], the Austrian Parliament, the Hofburg Palace, the Natural History Museum, the Museum of Art History (Kunsthistorisches Museum), and the State Opera House.

Thursday, July 8

Free morning in Vienna. 1:15 - 2:15pm - Rehearsal of the choir and organist in the church. Free afternoon. 7.30pm - Concert. Post-concert dinner provided in a restaurant.





Friday, July 9

9.30am - Departure for Salzburg. Check in to the hotel NEUTOR, Neutorstrasse 8A, 5020 Salzburg, Tel: +43 562 844 1540, www.neutor.at Lunch provided in the hotel. 2:00pm - Guided sightseeing tour of Salzburg. Free evening.

Salzburg means “salt castle”, a reference to its fortress which dominates the city, and to the ‘white gold’ (salt) from the mountains in the South. It is the capital of the federal Austrian province also known as Salzburg. It is widely regarded as Austria’s most beautiful and picturesque city. Salzburg’s magnificent Baroque town centre is rated as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site, and can easily be explored by foot. Several internationally-renowned music festivals, the city’s most famous son **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**, the late conductor Herbert von Karajan, and the heart-warming musical “The Sound of Music” have forever assured the area’s fame and popularity with music enthusiasts all over the world.



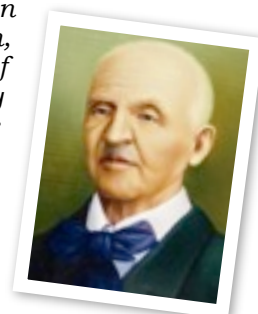
Saturday, July 10

Free day in Salzburg. Dinner provided in a restaurant

Sunday, July 11

11:00am - We sing at the morning mass in the legendary Salzburg Cathedral. Afternoon departure for Vienna. Along the way, we will visit the St. Florian monastery near Linz. This is one of Austria’s most beautiful monasteries, and the acoustics of the church are sensational. The town of Sankt Florian is the home of St. Florian's Priory, named after Saint Florian, and one of the oldest operational monasteries in the world following the Rule of St. Augustine. The composer **Anton Bruckner** (1842-96), who was a choirboy and later organist here, is buried in the crypt directly beneath the organ in the monastic church.

Check in to ARION airport hotel, Muhlgasse 30, 2320 Schwechat, Tel: +43 1 706 52 00 www.arion-hotels.com, Dinner provided at the hotel.



Monday, July 12

Early departure for Vienna International Airport. 6:15am - Depart Vienna-Toronto via Duesseldorf – Austrian Airlines flight #151. 2:30pm – Arrival at Pearson International Airport (Toronto). Welcome home!