



Imperial Treasures

Budapest and Vienna with WBJC!

Hofburg Palace

WBJC invites you to join the indefatigable Jonathan Palevsky on a fabulous musical tour of Vienna and Budapest this November!

Join your friends and fans of WBJC for exciting concerts in both cities, including performances by four major orchestras, operas in two of the most beautiful opera houses in Europe, and a private concert exclusively for the group in the house where Schubert was born.

Vienna and Budapest have long been united by a passion for music.

A succession of Habsburg rulers linked them politically, and provided a cultural milieu where the nurturing of musicians and of new music established important musical traditions that endure to this day. On our journey we will walk in the footsteps of the great composers; enjoy a private visit to the Bartok Archives; and visit palaces, theatres, and concert halls where music has played a significant role for centuries. We will also sample the fine food and wine for which Austria and Hungary are noted, and feast our eyes on outstanding landscapes and city views.

Jonathan's commentary on the music you'll hear, expert private guides who lead us through major sites, deluxe five-star hotels in both cities, fine dining, delightful cafés, and free time for additional sight-seeing —Lipizzaner horses anyone?— shopping or relaxing, make this a cultural experience not to be missed!

above: Ivan Fischer

November 12 – 22, 2024*

**Tour begins November 13 in Budapest*

91.5FM WBJC



★ ★ ★ ★ ★
TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Musikverein, Vienna

- Prime tickets to four major orchestral concerts by the Budapest Festival Orchestra, Staatskapelle Dresden, Mahler Chamber Orchestra with Yuja Wang, and Vienna Symphony in the Musikverein
- Performances at the historic Vienna State Opera and Hungarian State Opera
- Private lieder recital at Schubert's Birth House
- Private tours of principal sites in Vienna and Budapest with expert guides
- Special visit to the Bela Bartok Archives in Budapest
- Deluxe five-star accommodations in both cities
- Welcome reception on a private cruise on the Danube
- Fine dining in some of the region's best restaurants: breakfast daily, 6 lunches and 3 dinners



Itinerary

Baden bei Wien

Tuesday, November 12

Flights from US, with arrival the following day.

Wednesday, Nov. 13 Budapest

Arrivals in Budapest, and transfer on your own to the Verno House, charming 5-star boutique hotel in a quiet part of Pest, near the grand Parliament square. Our trip begins with a private cruise on the Danube and a **Welcome reception**, followed by a **Welcome Dinner** nearby.

Thursday, Nov. 14 Budapest

Breakfast daily at both hotels. The Buda hills rise above the river and enclose the oldest part of the city extant. We'll walk some of the quiet streets of the old town and have a private visit to the Bartok Archives. Along with Franz Liszt, the most prominent of Hungarian composers lived in Budapest most of his life (though dying in New York), and his research into Hungarian folk music was seminal. **Lunch** is at a pleasant bistro nearby. Tonight, at Bela Bartok Hall, the eminent Budapest Festival Orchestra, led by its maestro, Ivan Fischer, performs an all-Brahms program with Kirill Gerstein, piano soloist.

Friday, Nov. 15 Budapest

The other side of the river, Pest, is dominated by the majestic spires of Parliament, Heroes' Square, the spectacular Hungarian State Opera, the city's main synagogue the Dohany, the Central Market, the so-called "Terror Museum" — formerly the headquarters of the Stasi — and many more highlights. **Lunch** is at one of Budapest's characteristic cafés. We return to Bartok Hall to hear a prominent guest, the historic Staatskapelle Dresden, conducted by Daniele Gatti, with Franz Peter Zimmermann, violin, in a program featuring Schumann's Violin Concerto and 3rd Symphony "Rhenish".

Saturday, Nov. 16 Budapest

The Franz Liszt Memorial Museum formerly belonged to the Academy of Music, where Liszt taught, and he lived in an apartment there for the last five years of his life. After a tour of the museum which includes his piano, we will enjoy a concert by recent winners of the Grottammare Liszt Piano Competition. The rest of your day is free before an early **dinner** near the Hungarian State Opera. There we will attend a performance of Verdi's final opera, the sparkling comedy, *Falstaff*.

Sunday, Nov. 17 Vienna

We bid farewell to Budapest but partake more of Hungary. Heading for Vienna, we stop first in the ancient city of Győr, famed for its Benedictine Abbey, and **lunch**. Then we reach Eisenstadt and take a tour of the Esterhazy Palace, where Joseph Haydn famously led the court orchestra and composed many of his most renowned works. We arrive the late afternoon in Vienna and check-in at the 5-star Hotel Bristol, ideally located on the iconic Ringstrasse and across the street from the Vienna State Opera. *Evening free.*



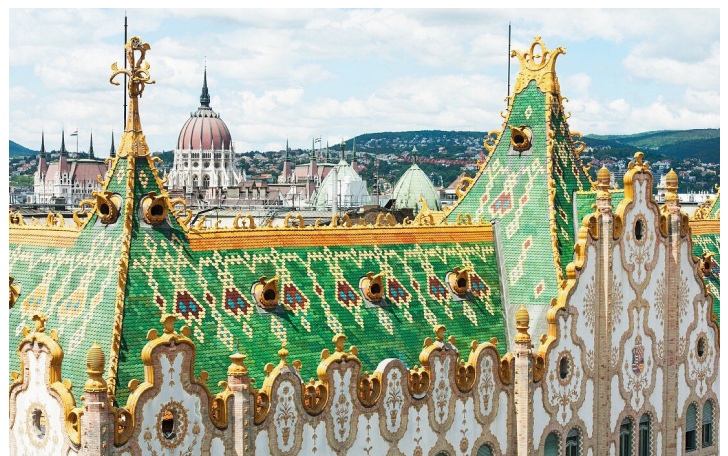
Monday, Nov. 18 Vienna

Following a coach tour around the Ringstrasse where several characteristic Jugendstil (Art Nouveau) sites stand out, we visit palaces where the Habsburgs lived and reigned. At the Hofburg, the Treasure Chamber exhibits the splendor of their righteous, Catholic empire as propaganda. After **lunch**, the opulent Schönbrunn Palace and its gorgeous gardens show off their summer residence. Tonight, we cross the plaza for a performance of Donizetti's wonderful comedy, *Don Pasquale*, with the star soprano Pretty Yende, and bass-baritone Erwin Schrott in the title role.

above: Yuja Wang

below: Franz Schubert House, Vienna

bottom: Art nouveau architecture by Oedoen Lechner, Budapest





Vienna State Opera House



Palace of Arts, Budapest

Tuesday, Nov. 19 **Vienna**

Our guide, Inge Schüller, takes us around the old city center this morning, with visits to a small, little-known theatre where Mozart performed while living in the building; St. Stephen's Cathedral where Mozart was married and Bruckner played the organ; and the Haus der Musik, a modern, interactive museum exploring the world of music. **Lunch** follows. Tonight you will attend a concert at arguably the greatest of all concert halls, the Musikverein, where the Vienna Symphony, led by the fast-rising French conductor Marie Jacquot, performs an eclectic program of music by Bruckner, Bruch and Brahms.

Wednesday, Nov. 20 **Vienna**

We board our coach to the south of the city today, passing by the historic Vienna Woods, traveling along the Wine Road, before arriving in the town of Baden. This year is the 200th anniversary of Beethoven's 9th Symphony, and we will visit the house where the veritably deaf composer wrote much of the work between 1822 and 1824, his last symphony. We'll also visit St. Stephen's, where Mozart performed his *Ave Verum*, walk through the lovely Kurpark, and passing Mayerling, head for the Cistercian Monastery of Heiligenkreuz for **lunch** and a visit to the cloisters. Upon our return to Vienna, we'll enjoy a tour and private concert of lieder (art songs) at the modest house where Franz Schubert was born in 1797. *Evening free.*

Thursday, Nov. 21 **Vienna**

Your day is free in Vienna, where there are many options to take in, including the Morning Exercise of the Lipizzaner horses at the Spanish Riding School. Our gala **Farewell Dinner** is at the Bristol and its fine restaurant, followed by a performance by the Mahler Chamber Orchestra at the Konzerthaus, another great hall in the city. The inimitable Yuja Wang conducts and is piano soloist in music by Stravinsky, Ravel and a "Jazz Suite" by Alexander Tsfasman.

Friday, Nov. 22

The tour ends after breakfast, and flights back to the US.
Auf Wiedersehn!

Itinerary subject to change.

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

TOUR REGISTRATION

Tour Cost: \$7,450, ground only, based on double occupancy

Single Supplement: \$1,080

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

Registration deadline: Friday, October 4, 2024

To reserve your place, send the registration form with check or credit card information for the deposit amount to: WBJC Treasures Tour, The Grand Tour, PO Box 274, Peterborough, NH 03458.

The tour is limited to 25 participants, or as hotel space allows.

Questions? Contact The Grand Tour at 603.532.6265 / 800.727.2995 or info@thegrandtour.com.

The Imperial Treasures Tour is an exclusive presentation by WBJC and is organized by The Grand Tour Travel Company, Peterborough, New Hampshire

Chain Bridge, Budapest

