

South Coast Youth Symphony Orchestra American Celebration of Music in Germany, the Czech Republic, and Austria

December 28, 2025 – January 4, 2026 (6 nights/8 days)

Day 1 Sunday, December 28, 2025

Depart via scheduled air service to Berlin, Germany

Day 2 Monday, December 29 Berlin / Leipzig (D)

Arrive in Berlin

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach

Half-day sightseeing of the eastern sector of Berlin with its famous Unter den Linden Strasse, (iconic boulevard of linden trees), the Russian War Memorial, what remains of “the wall,” and “Checkpoint Charley” as we pass into the western sector to experience Kurfurstendamm Strasse, home to some of Berlin's most luxurious stores. Also see Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, Berlin Dom, Reichstag, etc.

Transfer to Leipzig for late afternoon hotel check-in

Welcome Dinner included, and overnight

Berlin, for so long a symbol of the world's division into two opposing camps, owes its economic and cultural dynamism today to the fact that both the Federal Republic and what used to be called East Germany had for thirty years been determined to use the city as a shop window for their respective ways of life. Berlin became truly important under the reign of Friedrich-Wilhelm of Brandenburg. He welcomed the influx of French Huguenot craftsmen, theologians, doctors and scholars who helped transform the city and strengthen its influence on its neighbors

Day 3 Tuesday, December 30 Leipzig (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

A guided tour of Leipzig includes entrance to St. Thomas Church (Bach was the organist and choirmaster here, and it is the home of the St. Thomas Boys Choir). Also visit 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. In the Bach Museum You'll find manuscripts and artifacts from his life, along with his final resting place

Lunch, on own

Afternoon entrance to the Mendelssohn Museum. The Museum was the residence of composer Felix Mendelssohn from 1845 till his untimely death in 1847 at the age of 38. Today, the Museum has a collection about the life and work of the composer

Performance at St. Peter's Church in Leipzig as part of the American Celebration of Music in Germany*

Dinner included, 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



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born here (but never lived here), and the nearby town of Halle is the birthplace of Georg Frederick Händel

Day 4 Wednesday, December 31 Dresden / Prague (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out
Morning transfer to Prague via Dresden
Excursion to Dresden for guided tour of the city. See the famous domed Frauenkirche, and the world-famous Zwinger Palace with its Old Masters Gallery. There are few cities more striking than Dresden and its classic view from the Elbe's northern bank that takes in spires, towers and domes belonging to palaces, churches and stately buildings. It's hard to believe that the city was all but wiped off the map by Allied bombings in 1945
Lunch, on own
Continue to Prague. Enjoy a panoramic tour of Prague's highlights including a gorgeous overview of the city from Hradcany Castle Hill
New Year's Eve Dinner included, followed by New Year's Celebrations
Return to the hotel for overnight

Prague achieved much of its present glory in the 14th century, during the long reign of Charles IV, king of Bohemia and Moravia and Holy Roman Emperor. During the Middle Ages, Prague enjoyed a golden age - a time when Prague was larger than Paris or London! The Hapsburgs also left their artistic and architectural mark. Today, Prague is universally declared one of the most beautiful cities in Europe

Day 5 Thursday, January 1, 2026 Prague (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel
Enjoy a guided tour of Prague. Visit the Castle District, where entrance is included to Hradcany Castle, St. Vitus Cathedral, the Old Royal Palace, the Golden Lane, and Daliborka Tower. Also visit Lobkowitz Palace with its large music archive containing works by over five hundred composers and musicians. The Music Archive is most celebrated for its collection of works by Handel, Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven
Lunch, on own
Performance at Simon and Judah Concert Hall in Prague as part of the American Celebration of Music in Czech Republic*
Dinner included, and overnight

Day 6 Friday, January 2 Vienna (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out
Transfer to Vienna
Lunch, on own
Stop at Vienna's Central Cemetery to visit the grave sites of Beethoven, Brahms, Schubert, Strauß, and to see the Mozart Memorial
Dinner included, and overnight

Vienna is still considered the music capital of the world. It is a city of refined tastes, grace, style and unmatched artistic accomplishments. For a thousand years, Vienna was the capital of the far-flung Holy Roman and Hapsburg empires. Though its people and ways have changed, Vienna has retained its imperial monuments, not as reminders of past glories, but as living symbols of its present freedom



Day 7 Saturday, January 3 Vienna (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Half-day guided tour of *Historical Vienna* includes the Ringstraße, Imperial Palace, State Opera, Town Hall, Burgkapelle (home of the Vienna Boys Choir), Palace Stables, Strauß Monument, and entrance to Schönbrunn Palace, built by the Hapsburgs in imitation of Versailles

Lunch, on own

Visit Kahlenberg to see the scenic Vienna Woods (a location that Beethoven often visited for musical inspiration). Also visit Beethoven's Heiligenstadt apartment, where he composed his Symphony No. 9 – which is now a museum dedicated to the composer. It is also in this apartment that Beethoven wrote his "Heiligenstadt Testament" (it's now housed in this museum) – the 1802 letter to his brothers in which he revealed his deafness and proclaimed his despair and depression. The letter also details his continued desire to overcome his physical and emotional ailments to complete his artistic destiny

*Performance at Minoritenkirche in Vienna as part of the American Celebration of Music in Austria**

Farewell Dinner included, and overnight

Day 8 Sunday, January 4 Depart for home (B)

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to the Vienna Airport for return flight home

**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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