

Saxon Treasures!

Dresden and the Bach Festival in Leipzig

KUSC
CLASSICAL | fm 91.5



Dresden on the Elbe

Join Classical KUSC's inimitable host, Alan Chapman, for an inspiring music-filled sojourn in the beautiful eastern German state of Saxony this June! The highlight is the wonderful, city-wide BachFest in Leipzig, where you will attend five magnificent concerts by some of the world's most renowned Bach interpreters, including great choral masterworks, recitals by renowned pianist Sir András Schiff and violinist Isabelle Faust, and a concert by the Gewandhaus Orchestra, the oldest in Europe. In Dresden, you will attend performances at one of the most beautiful theatres in the world, the Semper Opera, including Verdi's powerful *Nabucco*, starring legendary Plácido Domingo in the title role, and Mozart's delicious *The Magic Flute*. And there are several private concerts exclusively for the group. A musical feast!

As a prelude, your journey begins in magnificent Dresden, often called "Florence on the Elbe," a city literally risen from the ashes of World War II devastation. From there, we'll make excursions to tour the renowned Meissen Porcelain factory, and travel into "Saxon Switzerland" with a private boat ride on the Elbe. Leipzig has been home to more major composers than any other city in Europe outside Vienna. We trace Bach's genius in sites around the city and also visit Mendelssohn's last home. A day trip to Weimar, where Bach lived eight years is led by that town's Bach Society president. All along the way we'll meet other titans of German culture such as Schumann, Wagner, Liszt, Martin Luther, Goethe, Schiller, and many others. Five-star accommodations, fine dining at top restaurants, all the outstanding music and Alan's commentary make this a glorious journey through the musical and historic landscapes of one of Europe's premier destinations!

June 10–20, 2019*



Alan Chapman

is a radio personality, educator, composer/lyricist, and performer. In addition to his weekday broadcasts, he is the host and producer of *Modern Times* on Saturday nights, and appropriate for this tour, host of Sunday morning's *A Musical Offering* highlighting the Baroque period. He is currently a member of the music theory faculty of the Colburn Conservatory, where he designed a music theory curriculum for the Master's Degree program. His songs have been performed and recorded by many artists around the world and have been honored by ASCAP, the Johnny Mercer Foundation and the Manhattan Association of Cabarets. His larger works include the children's opera *Les Moose: The Operatic Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle* and *Peter and Mr. Wolf*, the story of an eighth-grader's tribulations in finding a science project. He is much in demand as a creator of original musical material for special events. Alan frequently appears in concert with his wife, soprano Karen Benjamin.

Plácido Domingo as Nabucco

★★★★ Tour Highlights

- Prime tickets to 7 major performances at the Semper Oper in Dresden and BachFest in Leipzig
- Private concerts and recitals 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 guided tours to major sites in both cities and elsewhere led by expert guides, including an exclusive after-hours tour of the Historic Green Vault in Dresden
- Deluxe accommodations in five-star hotels, and fine dining
- Commentary by KUSC's Alan Chapman throughout the trip
- Private air-conditioned motorcoach transportation for all activities on the tour
- Free time for extra sight-seeing, shopping or relaxing



***Tour begins June 11 in Dresden**

Tour limited to 25 participants, or as space allows.

The *Saxon Treasures* tour is organized exclusively for KUSC by The Grand Tour Travel Company of Peterborough, NH.

Daily Itinerary



Proschwitz Castle, near Meissen

Day 0: Monday, June 10

Group flight on Lufthansa departs LAX with arrival the following day.

Day 1: Tuesday, June 11

Wilkommen!

Arrival in Dresden and check-in at the lovely Hotel Bülow Palais, a Relais & Chateaux property in the Baroque Neustadt district, little damaged from the war. Our **welcome dinner** is in the hotel's elegant, Michelin-starred, Caroussel Restaurant.

Day 2: Wednesday, June 12

Dresden

Breakfast daily at both hotels. This morning, we tour the beautiful city of Dresden lying on the River Elbe. Many of its historic monuments, shattered by the Allied bombing of February 1945, have been completely rebuilt virtually as they were. We'll visit the remarkable, domed Frauenkirche, and hear a private organ recital in the city's Cathedral. **Lunch** is at a fine restaurant on the Theaterplatz. Two private events grace this evening: first, a private after-hours tour of the magnificent Green Vault, filled with the most unique items from the largest collection of treasures in Europe; then a short distance away, the group will hear an exclusive private concert in the pretty, baroque Cosel Palais, built in 1765.



Green Vault, Dresden

Day 3: Thursday, June 13

Meissen and Saxon Wines

Meissen, a name synonymous with fine, delicate porcelain, the most famous in the world. Today we travel to the eponymous town and tour the factory where it is still fabricated in the traditional handmade process. They will even show off the sounds of an organ made of porcelain! Outside of the town, Proschwitz Castle built in 1704 hosts the group for **lunch** and a tasting some of their fine wines. Returning to Dresden, we hope to catch the Staatskapelle Dresden, the city's great orchestra, as they play impromptu in the pubs around the Neustadt, in our neighborhood.

Day 4: Friday, June 14

Saxon Switzerland

The 18th century Pillnitz Castle was the home of Saxony's Electors, principally Augustus the Strong. Resting on the Elbe upstream from Dresden, its lush gardens illustrate a nearly complete history of landscape gardening. From there, our coach takes us 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** all the while. Tonight, the Semper Oper, one of the most beautiful opera houses in Europe where many important works of Richard Strauss and Richard Wagner were premiered, presents Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, his Masonic-themed masterpiece, in a production by Achim Freyer, the director of LA Opera's recent controversial *Ring* cycle.



top and below right: Semper Oper
below left: Meissen porcelain

Day 5: Saturday, June 15

Plácido!

Your day is free in Dresden. After an early **dinner** at the Restaurant Alte Meister, the great Plácido Domingo, General Director of Los Angeles Opera, sings the baritone title role in Verdi's inspiring drama, *Nabucco*, which features the timeless and popular choral hymn "Va, Pensiero" at the Semper.

Day 6: Sunday, June 16

Mendelssohn in Leipzig

We bid *aufwiedersehen* to Dresden and move on to Leipzig, where we check in to the deluxe Hotel Fürstenhof. The annual Leipzig BachFest, first begun in 1904, takes place all over city in Baroque churches, impressive concert halls, and charming chamber venues. Today is devoted to Felix Mendelssohn, who more than anyone else fueled the resurgence of Bach's music in the 19th century. We visit the Mendelssohn Haus, where the composer lived the last four years of his life, for a tour and private concert. This evening the outstanding Gewandhaus Orchestra, with which the composer held the post of music director, and the oldest civic orchestra in the world, performs Mendelssohn's stirring "Scottish" Symphony led by the eminent Swedish maestro Herbert Blomstedt, the former music director of the San Francisco Symphony (1985-1995) and its current Conductor Laureate. The fine violinist Vilde Frang is soloist in two of Bach's violin concerti.



Leipzig Town Hall

Day 7: Monday, June 17

Bach—and Vivaldi

A tour of the historic center of Leipzig takes us to the old town hall, Auerbachs Keller made famous by Goethe in *Faust*, and the superb Bach Museum. The Museum and Bach Archive is housed in the Bose House, built by affluent merchants and friends of the composer on St. Thomas Square. After our tour there, **lunch** is nearby. Tonight, Bach meets Vivaldi in a concert by the La Cetra Baroque Orchestra from Basel, in the fabled Thomaskirche, Bach's musical home for 27 years.



top: Thomaskirche, Leipzig

below: Bach memorial outside the church

Day 8: Tuesday, June 18

Weimar and Bach on the Violin

Weimar and its rich cultural heritage—the city of the German Enlightenment led by Johann Wolfgang Goethe and Friedrich Schiller, a center of music inspired by Franz Liszt, the founding of the Bauhaus movement in art and architecture, the place where Germany's first democratic constitution was signed—and where Johann Sebastian Bach was court organist from 1708 to 1717. Our tour in the composer's footsteps is guided by Dr. Myriam Eichberger, the President of the Bach House Weimar Society. The climax of

our walk is a private concert in the Jakobskirche, another Bach landmark. On our return to Leipzig, **lunch** is at the Fürstenhof's admired restaurant, Villers. Just a short walk behind the hotel, renowned violinist Isabelle Faust and the BachFest's artist-in-residence, the harpsichordist Kristian Bezuidenhout, perform Bach's masterful Violin Sonatas and Partitas at the Kongresshalle. Your evening is free.

Day 9: Wednesday, June 19

Grand Finale!

Your morning and early afternoon in Leipzig is free before a great double-header of music. Pianist András Schiff, one of the great Bach interpreters of our time, performs a fascinating program of Bach's Partitas for keyboard. This is only a prelude to one of Bach's monumental choral works, the St. John Passion. It is performed by London's Solomon's Knot, a crack baroque ensemble from London, at the other major Bach church extant, the Nikolaikirche. One of Leipzig's best restaurants hosts our gala **farewell dinner** following the performance.



Solomon's Knot, András Schiff, inset

Day 10: Thursday, June 20

The tour ends after breakfast and hotel check-out. The group flight returns to LAX arriving later in the afternoon.

Itinerary is subject to change.

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

Tour Registration

Tour Cost: \$5,695 per person, ground only, double occupancy.
Single supplement: \$610

Optional group flight: \$1,290, economy on Lufthansa. Ask about higher classes of seating.

DEPOSIT: \$1,100 per person first come, first served.

Balance deadline: April 5, 2019. After that date, call for availability.

Contact: Minnie Prince of KUSC at 213-225-7534 or mprince@kusc.org to reserve your place on the tour with a credit card deposit, or send a check made out to The Grand Tour for the deposit amount to: KUSC Saxony Tour, KUSC, PO Box 7913, Los Angeles, CA 90007. Registration materials can be downloaded from www.kusc.org

Questions? Contact Minnie Prince at KUSC or The Grand Tour at 800-727-2995 / info@thegrandtour.com