



CHATTANOOGA GIRLS CHOIR
CONCERT TOUR OF GERMANY, CZECH REPUBLIC, AND AUSTRIA
JUNE 2011

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

MONDAY, JUNE 13

DEPART FROM THE U.S.

Depart from Atlanta on a flight found for Berlin, Germany. There may be one or more change of planes. Select meals, snacks, and refreshments will be served on flight.

TUESDAY, JUNE 14

ARRIVE IN BERLIN, GERMANY

Morning arrival in **Berlin, Germany** (pending airline updates). Upon arrival in the Berlin Airport, you will be greeted by your **Music Contact International Tour Manager** after collecting your luggage and passing through customs. Together, board your waiting motor coach and meet your local English-speaking guide for a



highlights tour of Germany's capital city. As the capital of Prussia, the First German Empire, the Weimar Republic, Hitler's Third Reich, and the Federal Republic of Germany, Berlin is a city of immense historical importance. During your stay you will see evidence of the grandeur of the Hohenzollern Dynasty, the destruction wrought by full-scale war and division, and the painstaking efforts to construct a unified city in the post-Cold War era. Moreover, you will experience a taste of Berlin's art and music scene—perhaps the liveliest in Europe. You will also have the opportunity to see the famous

Brandenburg Gate. Located in what was once the no-man's land between East Berlin and West Berlin, the gate now stands as a symbol of the reunited city. Another symbol of the city's reunification is **Potsdamer Platz.** Here, stunning glass offices, apartments, and shopping centers have been erected where western tourists and East German border guards once faced off. Also see the **Reichstag.** Heavily damaged by the Nazis in 1933, and by the Russians in 1945, this building has been reconstructed and now serves once again as home to the German Parliament. You will also see remains of the **Berlin Wall** (1961 – 1989), which stood for 28 years as the most potent symbol of a divided Europe.

There will be an opportunity to exchange money and buy lunch.

In the late afternoon, transfer to the **Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church.** The church was bombed into ruins by Allied forces during WWII and was integrated into an inspired new design. Its broken spire now stands as a haunting war memorial. Perform the music for the evening prayer service and a short concert afterwards*.



Following the prayer service and concert, board your motor coach and depart for Leipzig (estimated 2 hours driving time). The city is known as an important center for commerce and publishing, and has hosted annual trade fairs since the Middle Ages. As home to such musical giants as **Bach, Wagner, and Mendelssohn,** however, the city is perhaps best known for its contribution to the world of music. Moreover, a famous scene in Goethe's *Faust* takes place in Leipzig, and has immortalized the city's "Passagen" in the annals of world literature.

Upon arrival in Leipzig, check in to your hostel and gather together in the dining room for a **Welcome Dinner.**



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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15

LEIPZIG/HALLE

CONCERT

Have breakfast in the hostel before meeting your local guide and embarking on a **guided walking tour** of Leipzig. The influence of Johann Sebastian Bach can be felt throughout the city. Visit the **Church of St. Thomas** (Thomaskirche), which was built between 1212 and 1222 for canons of the Augustinian order. Leipzig's most famous resident, Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), was the choirmaster here for 27 years until his death and is buried just in front of the altar. Both Mozart and Mendelssohn performed in the **Thomaskirche** as well, and Richard Wagner was christened here in 1813. The church was built on the site of a 13th century monastery and was heavily restored after World War II. The beautiful Renaissance galleries were built in 1570 by Hieronymus Lotter. **St. Thomas's Choir** is assumed to be as old as the church itself. When Bach was choirmaster, there were 54 boys in the choir, today there are about 100. Perform a **mid-day concert** for the public at **St. Thomas***.



Also see the **Church of St. Nicholas**, which boasts a striking 245-foot, 12th century tower and a neo-classical interior with altarpieces by A. F. Oeser. St Nicholas holds a special place in recent German history because it was the gathering place for the people who staged the peaceful revolution of 1989. You will also see the **Opera House** and the famous **Gewandhaus** concert hall.

After the tour, have free time for lunch on your own before boarding your motor coach and departing for **Halle**, the hometown of composer Georg Friedrich Händel. Upon arrival, enjoy a guided walking tour of the city. Start with a visit to the **Francke Foundations**. Built from 1698 onward under the direction of Pietist A.H. Francke, the foundation consists of a poorhouse and school for orphans. Continue your tour with a visit to the **Händel House**. The house in which this great composer was born now boasts an excellent collection of historical instruments, along with dozens of original scores. Also of note is the **Reichel Organ**, on which Händel learned his craft. See the picturesque **market square**, which is flanked by no less than five towers: the **Red Tower**, which dates from the 15th century, and the four towers of the **Market Church of St. Mary**, which was built in 1529. **Perform an afternoon concert** at the **Market Church***, the place where Händel learned to play the organ!



After your performance, return to Leipzig and refresh at the hotel.

In the evening, a fun **pizza dinner** is served to your choir at a nearby restaurant.

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

DRESDEN/PRAGUE

CONCERT



this magnificent city. Although most of the city was destroyed by an Allied bombing raid in 1945, many of

After breakfast, check out of the hostel and load your luggage onto the motor coach. Depart Leipzig for **Dresden**, known at one time as "Florence on the Elbe" (about 2 hours' drive). Splendidly situated on the banks of the broad and impressive Elbe River, Dresden became the capital of Saxony as early as the 15th century, although the architectural masterpieces for which the city is known date mainly from the 18th century. Dresden conjures up images of beautiful baroque architecture, graceful fountains, priceless art, and fine porcelain. Upon arrival, meet your local English-speaking guide for a **tour of**



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the city’s architectural masterpieces have been painstakingly reconstructed. In the old town, you will see the **Frauenkirche**, once the largest Protestant church in all of Germany. After being completely destroyed in World War II and lying in ruins for more than four decades, the church was rebuilt through the efforts of private citizens and can now be experienced again in its full baroque splendor. **Perform a brief a cappella concert** in the church, or in the nearby **Hofkirche**, the equally impressive Catholic Court Church. Also see the striking **Semper Opera House**, which was re-opened in the 1980s. It was here that Richard Wagner’s operas *Tannhäuser* and *The Flying Dutchman* were premiered, along with Richard Strauss’ *Salome* and *Elektra*. In stunning contrast to the baroque masterpieces of centuries past are the broad boulevards and squares that were characteristic of Communist architectural preferences.

After the tour, enjoy a visit to **Volkswagen’s Transparent Factory** to see how the VW Phaeton is made.

Have free time for lunch after the visit before again boarding your motor coach and continuing on to **Prague**, the capital city of the Czech Republic.

Upon arrival in Prague, check in to your hotel and refresh.

Dinner is served this evening to your choir in the hotel dining room.



FRIDAY, JUNE 17

PRAGUE

CONCERT

Following breakfast in the hotel, transfer to a local school where your choir has been invited to participate in a **Friendship Concert** with the Czech students. Enjoy meeting and mingling with each other while sharing your love for music!



Enjoy free time for lunch on your own following the concert.

In the afternoon, meet your local English-speaking guide and embark on a walking tour of Prague. Having been spared the bombs of World War II, **Prague** is reminiscent of a fairy tale. The city, which was built on seven hills, boasts a combination of different architectural styles from many centuries, with fine parks and gardens interspersed throughout. The **Vltava River**, which is spanned by 16 bridges, winds through the city. There are four breathtaking districts of Prague: the **Castle Area**, the crowning glory of the city’s skyline perched above the river; **Mala Strana** (Lesser town), which links the castle area with the Vltava and Charles Bridge; the **Old Town** across the river; and the **New Town**—aptly named, as it was founded only later, in the 14th century!

Walk around **Old Town Square**, and take a first look at the historic buildings surrounding the square, including the church of **Our Lady before Tyn** and the **Old Town Hall** with its famous **Astronomical Clock**. Built during the 14th century, the Old Town Hall is an assemblage of several buildings. The **Astronomical Clock** or Horologue was installed along its west façade in 1410. Then, the tour will focus on the Prazsky Hrad, or **Prague Castle**, an outstanding collection of buildings dating from the 10th to the 20th centuries. Enter the first courtyard, where you may witness the historic changing of the guard. Next pass through the **Matthias Gate**, which was built in 1614 and once stood alone in front of the moats and bridges that surrounded the castle. This gate leads to the second courtyard, which offers wonderful views of the **St. Vitus Cathedral** spires. The third courtyard leads to the entrance of the Gothic St. Vitus Cathedral. Marvel at the graceful towers soaring overhead, and the beauty of the Gothic interior, with brilliant stained glass windows and magnificent facades. Next visit the **Royal Palaces**, seat of the Bohemian princes since the 11th century, and the **Bohemian Chancellery**, site of the famous “Defenestration of Prague”, which started the 30 Years



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War. Continue on to the **Basilica of Saint George**, a vaulted chapel decorated with paintings from the 16th century. While underway, see the lovely artisans' cottages along the inside castle walls. Known as the **Golden Lane**, these buildings were constructed in the 16th century for the castle's guards. In the evening, **dinner** is arranged for your group at the hotel.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

PRAGUE/VIENNA



Have breakfast in the hotel before checking out and loading your luggage onto the motor coach. Transfer to **Vienna, Austria** (about 5 hrs driving time), stopping en route for lunch and breaks as needed.

Upon arrival in Vienna, check in to your hotel and refresh.

Take some time to rest before joining your tour manager on an **orientation walk in the historic city center**. Get your first glimpse of **St. Stephen's Cathedral** with its fantastic tiled roof and lace-in-stone spires; see the **Staatsoper** (State Opera); and the **Hofburg** – once the winter palace of the Habsburg family, rulers of a vast empire over six centuries. Walk along the elegant pedestrian street **Kärntner Straße** lined with boutiques, bakeries, and famous Viennese cafes.

Tonight, have **dinner** together at a local restaurant or the hotel dining room.

SUNDAY, JUNE 19

VIENNA

CONCERT

After breakfast, transfer to a local church where you choir has been invited to **sing as part of the Sunday Worship Service**. Afterward, there may be an opportunity for your choir to perform a concert for the congregation*.

Following the service, meet your local guide and embark on a **panoramic motor coach and walking tour** of Vienna. Visit the **Ringstraße**, an ambitious piece of city planning by the Hapsburgs, which is based around a single street that encircles the center of Vienna. One of the first buildings erected in this area was the **Votiv Church**, and soon after, a multitude of architectural styles were used to decorate this striking area. See the **University of Vienna**, the **Staatsoper**, the **Hofburg**, the **Rathaus** (City Hall), **Parliament**, the **Kunsthistorisches (Art History) Museum** and the **Belvedere Palaces**. Continuing your tour of Vienna, view the **Hundertwasser Haus**, a fanciful piece of modern artistic architecture designed by the contemporary Austrian artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser, and also stroll through the **Imperial Treasury** to see the **Habsburg crown jewels**. See the collection of imperial and royal regalia and jewels dating from the 10th to the 19th century.



Following time for lunch, your choir may optionally choose to visit the spectacular **Schloß Schönbrunn** and its expansive formal gardens (additional pricing applies). Schloß Schönbrunn was once the home of Maria Theresa and the summer residence of the Habsburg family. The palace and gardens illustrate the tastes, interests and aspirations of successive Habsburg monarchs. The palace recalls the days of eighteenth-century Vienna when Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven called it home, and when Vienna was established as the European capital of music. It is one of the most important cultural monuments in Vienna and since the 1860's has been one of its major tourist attractions.



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To end a wonderful day in Vienna, travel to nearby **Gumpoldskirchen**, an 800 year-old wine village. Experience a traditional Austrian “**Heurigen**,” a dinner of meats and bread served to you while local musicians play the accordion and inspire guests to sing along!

MONDAY, JUNE 20

VIENNA

CONCERT

Following breakfast in the hotel dining room, depart for a Viennese school where your choir has been invited to **perform a Friendship Concert** for the students. Enjoy getting to know each other and exchanging culture



through your shared love of music!

Later this morning, your group may optionally choose to visit **Central Cemetery**, which contains the graves of famous musicians such as Beethoven, Johann Strauss, and Schubert.

Alternately, you may also choose to visit **KunstHaus Wien** OR the **Collection of Old Musical Instruments**, OR the **House of Music** (additional pricing applies for each). Your choir could choose to visit both the Collection of Old Musical Instruments and the House of Music due to their proximity, or alternatively visit the KunstHaus Wien to see not only paintings but also experience interior spaces designed by the

Austrian artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser.

In the evening, enjoy **dinner** at a typical **Viennese coffeehouse**.

TUESDAY, JUNE 21

VIENNA – MELK - SALZBURG

CONCERT

Have breakfast in the hotel before checking out and loading your luggage onto the motor coach. Depart Vienna for **Salzburg**, stopping en route in the magnificent town of **Melk**.

Melk is home to the famous **Benediktinerstift** (Benedictine Abbey), fashioned by architect Jakob Prandtauer in 1700. Prandtauer transformed a former 11th century fortress, once part of the Babenberg dynasty, into one of the most magnificent baroque buildings in all of Europe. The abbey attracts thousands of visitors each year and was the inspiration for Umberto Eco’s historical novel and film, **The Name of the Rose**. Take a glimpse at abbey as you walk through the courtyards to the church. After the tour your choir will have the **opportunity to perform a musical offering in the breathtaking abbey church** with 12-second delay acoustics (pending confirmation).



After the concert, board your motor coach again to continue your journey to Salzburg (approximately 3 hours’ driving time).

You may optionally choose to stop in the town of **Mondsee** and soak in the breathtaking views of this resort, where in the movie, “The Sound of Music”, Maria and the Baron von Trapp were married in the **Pfarrkirche** (parish church).

Upon arrival in Salzburg, check in to your hotel and refresh after today’s journey.

Dinner is served to your choir this evening in the hotel dining room.



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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22

SALZBURG

CONCERT

After breakfast at the hotel, meet your local English-speaking guide and embark on a **walking tour** of



Salzburg's **Old Town** for a glimpse of architecture and religious life. See the majestic fortress **Hohensalzburg**, which towers over Salzburg from its perch atop **Mönchsberg**, the highest point in the city, and where the **Salzburg Festspielhaus**, home of the famous Salzburg Festival Operas, is built into the side of the hill. Visit **St. Peter's Abbey**, which is next to the oldest burial ground in Salzburg and was the inspiration for the dramatic escape scene in **The Sound of Music**. Walk through **Mozartplatz**, a pleasant square with a bronze statue of Mozart. Pass by **Mozart's Geburtshaus** (Mozart's Birthplace) and continue up **Getreidegasse**, the city's pedestrian street lined with 17th and 18th century

buildings, each of which displays the authentic tin signs depicting the trade of the local business. During your tour, you may optionally choose to visit EITHER the **Hohensalzburg Fortress** (\$14 supplement) OR **Mozart's Birth House** (\$9 supplement).

The tour will end at the **Salzburg Cathedral** where you will **perform a lunchtime concert** (pending confirmation). After your performance, enjoy lunch (arranged individually) and time on your own to explore the marketplace.

This afternoon, depart on an excursion to the **Hallein Salt Mine**. These famous underground salt mines are what gave Salzburg its name and wealth, and are among the oldest mines in the world that are open to the public. Also known as **Salzbergwerk Dürrnberg**, the Hallein Salt Mine is located in the Dürrnberg plateau above Hallein, Austria. The mine has been worked for over 7,000 years since the Celtic tribes who were the first to begin carving the salt from the mountainside. Since World War I, it has served as a mining museum, known for its long wooden slides between levels.



After the visit, return to Salzburg, stopping along the way at selected sites from *The Sound of Music* for photo opportunities.

Tonight, a **Festive Farewell Dinner** is planned for your group at a restaurant serving local specialties. Alternatively, the group may attend the **Mozart Dinner Concert** in the baroque hall at St. Peter's Restaurant, the oldest restaurant in Austria. Dishes are prepared based on recipes from Mozart's time, and musicians dressed in period costumes perform arias from Mozart operas (\$65 supplement per person).

THURSDAY, JUNE 23

RETURN TO THE U.S.

Have breakfast before checking out of the hotel and transferring to the Munich Airport (about 2 hrs driving time) and your return flight home.

Welcome Home!!