

Beethoven in Berlin

1st - 5th December 2010



Few other ensembles are connected with the same long-standing and close involvement of the history of European music as the Vienna Philharmonic. During the course of its 166-year existence, the members of this ensemble, at home in the “capital city of music”, have experienced and shaped musical events throughout a period of artistic importance which appears unique, due to the multitude of composers and interpreters it has produced.

From 1st to 5th of December 2010, the members of the Vienna Philharmonic will once again be the guests of the Berlin Philharmonic. Maestro Christian Thielemann will conduct the extensive Beethoven cycle in four concerts —the symphonies 1 to 9. Beethoven’s Ninth will be the crowning highlight on the first Sunday of Advent, featuring the soloist Annette Dasch and the Berlin Rundfunk choir, among others. Thielemann himself considered to be one of the finest contemporary conductors in the world has already had the honour of conducting

Beethoven’s 9th during the Bayreuth Festival — a stunning success which continues to resound.

As part of this unique package, Professor Grueneberg of Berlin Philharmonic Foundation will provide an introduction to the work of the composer. This is a marvellous opportunity to enjoy brilliant music in the build-up to Christmas.

Accommodation is at the superb 5-star hotel BRANDENBURGER HOF BERLIN for four nights, including the famous à-la-carte breakfast, and you will have plenty of time to explore the city – its museums and spectacular sites. Also included, is an exclusive look behind the scenes of the Berlin summer residence at Potsdam in which you can immerse yourself in the royal world of the German kings and emperors and have lunch — a privilege reserved for few people — with the Prussian rulers — in the New Palais at Potsdam.

The Programme

Wednesday, the 1st of December 2010 Depart London Heathrow airport terminal 5 on British Airways at 09h55. Arrive Berlin Tegel airport at 12h45 and whisked by private car to Hotel BRANDENBURGER HOF.

Upon arrival, champagne and canapés will be served in the QUADRIGA lounge of the hotel Berlin. During the reception, Professor Grueneberg of the Berlin Philharmonic foundation will give a first introduction to the forthcoming concert programme. Following the introductions, a three course menu with accompanying wines will be served from the QUADRIGA-Cuisine of master Chef Sauli Kempainen. You will travel to the Berlin Philharmonic in luxurious mini-buses, and relax with Beethoven’s Symphonies 4 and 5. Following the concert, the bus will be ready to take you back to the hotel.

Thursday, the 2nd of December 2010 After breakfast, the day is yours to do with as you wish...perhaps you’d like to use the time to discover the most beautiful Christmas Markets in the city. The main museums are also open for you (VIP tickets upon request). In the evening: Beethoven’s Symphonies 6 + 7, including transfer to and from the concert.

Friday, the 3rd of December 2010 After a substantial breakfast, set off on a private tour to Potsdam where Samuel Witwer, the director of the Prussian Palaces and Gardens Foundation will accompany you on a tour. From the Church of Peace, through the wintery palace grounds, past the summer residence Sans Souci, you will visit the imposing tombs of Emperor Frederick III and his English bride, a brief guard of honour at the tomb of the great Fritz (King Frederick II) and his seven greyhounds, and discover the mysterious secret hidden in the antique temple in the park. You will then reach one of the best-known Hohenzollern palaces (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) — The New Palais. Immerse yourself in the anecdotes and histories of the German monarchs with the royal historian of the Hohenzollern dynasty. A communal lunch with the director of the Prussian Palaces and Gardens Foundation in the apartment of the famous 18th century author and philosopher Jean-Baptiste de Boyer Marquis d’Argens (exclusive use of the rooms in the New Palace). Afterwards, some more lively history in the famous marble Palais in the New Garden. Here, the royal world becomes sensual. The most famous royal mistress — Countess Enke von Lichtenau — designed her love nest to be full of beauty. With a view over the Holy Lake, we have arranged the conclusion to a beautiful winter’s day: fine cheeses and strong red wines, sweet treats such as home-made Christstollen, Pithivier

chocolates, fine crispy biscuits, preserved figs, all accompanied by punch and aromatic coffee. Following this last refreshment, you will all be driven back in the bus to the BRANDENBURGER HOF. All meals include drinks.

Saturday, the 4th of December 2010 After another sumptuous breakfast, the day is yours to do with as you wish. Afternoon tea in the BRANDENBURGER HOF is included; a musical introduction to the second part of the concert series with Professor Grueneberg of the Berlin Philharmonic Foundation will be accompanied by fine English sandwiches and tea. In the evening: Beethoven’s Symphonies 1, 2, and 3, including transfer to and from the concert.

Sunday, the 5th of December 2010 Breakfast at the hotel. On the first Sunday of Advent, you will be driven to the final highlight of the Beethoven cycle. The symphonies No. 8 and 9 will be performed by the star soprano Annette Dasch, Mikoko Fujimuro (Alto), Robert Dean Smith (Tenor), Robert Holl (Bass), and the Berlin Rundfunk Orchestra. There will be a 60 to 90 minute interval between the symphonies: we have reserved the green salon of the Berlin Philharmonic exclusively for you, and will serve you a midday meal consisting of six small dishes — the choice will be yours (includes drinks). Following the concert, the bus will be ready to transfer you to the airport in time for your British Airways flight departing at 19h20, arriving at London’s Heathrow airport at 20h15.

5-Day Tour Price

5-Day Tour Price (per person)	£2,900
Single room supplement:	on request

The price includes: roundtrip air fare including taxes (Club Europe supplement on request), airport to hotel transportation by private car; accommodation for four nights in a luxurious double room including breakfast, meals, transportation, performance tickets, sightseeing receptions and talks as described.

How to Book

Space is limited to just 5 couples, so early booking is essential. Please contact Opera in Style to check availability and make a provisional booking which may be held on option for 72-hours. A completed booking form and deposit of 20% is required to confirm the option.

ANDREW BLAIR'S
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