



Vienna State Opera

ANTONY & SALLY JEFFREY'S EUROPEAN MUSIC EXTRAVAGANZA - MAY/ JUNE 2017

AS many of you know, for the last three years, Sally and I have organised private opera and music journeys in Europe for friends and others who have become our friends. In April 2014, with the help of our friend Andrew Neill in London, we did a whistle stop tour of the operas of Wagner and Strauss around Europe. In June 2015 it was a little more sedate and we visited five cities in northern Europe from Prague to the Estonian capital Tallinn. This year was the best yet, and our group visited Berlin, Paris and Hamburg before finishing up at the incomparable JS Bach Festival in Leipzig. Cultural tourism in Europe is on the rise and we have to act quickly to book seats and accommodation so already our plans for 2017 are confirmed. Here is what is happening:

From 20 May to 10 June we visit **Venice, Prague, Vienna, Regensburg** and **Amsterdam** taking in many wonderful performances and venues, staying in charming four star hotels, and undertaking fascinating excursions of discovery with expert local guides in each city beyond the usual cultural tourism circuits. We work with Travel Bear, a travel agency in Vienna who specialise in classical music tours. They organise all travel logistics, including performance tickets, accommodation, excursions, guides and transport. Travel Bear owners, Claudia and Michael Weymayer have become good friends and Claudia will accompany our tour to ensure everything runs smoothly and we all enjoy ourselves.

For those of you who don't know, I have worked at a senior level in the music scene in Australia for over forty years including Opera Australia, Australian Chamber Orchestra, Song Company and many others, so planning and leading tours such as this for like minded people is a great pleasure. In addition to accompanying you to the performances, on most days I give a talk about the performance on the day. My personal view is that perhaps best of all is the companionship that develops between members of the group as they make new friends with like-minded people and compare what are often life-changing experiences.

Highlights

- ◆ Beethoven's *Fidelio* and *Der Rosenkavalier* of Richard Strauss at the incomparable Vienna State Opera
- ◆ Concerts continuing our Mahler odyssey in two of the world's greatest traditional concert halls, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and the Musikverein in Vienna
- ◆ Four days in beautiful Prague attending the Prague Spring Festival, one of the oldest and finest music festivals in Europe
- ◆ A four day visit to Regensburg for Europe's leading Baroque music festival, Tage Alte Musik. Gorgeous Regensburg is the only ancient Baroque town in Germany to escape destruction in WW2
- ◆ Rossini's *Barber of Seville* and a concert by Italy's leading orchestra in the legendary opera house Le Fenice in Venice
- ◆ In each city we visit, there will be a guided tour of hidden treasures off the usual tourist track, including a visit to the recently re-opened Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam

Our Itinerary

Saturday May 20, Arrive VENICE, Check-in to hotel:
La Fenice & Artistes
Welcome Dinner in local restaurant (venue tbc)

Sunday May 21 VENICE

Venice

Talk in hotel after breakfast
by Antony on evening's concert
Evening: RAI National Symphony Orchestra,
Conductor: James Conlon, Solo viola:
Ula Ulijona; Program: Berlioz: *Harold en Italie* op. 16, Claude Debussy: *La Mer*, Igor
Stravinsky: *Firebird* Suite (1945 edition) at Teatro La Fenice

Monday May 22 VENICE

City walk with local guide to hidden treasures of Venice

Tuesday May 23 VENICE

Talk in Hotel after breakfast by Antony on Barber of Seville
Evening: Rossini, *Il barbiere di Siviglia* – Teatro La Fenice



Wednesday May 24 PRAGUE

Transfer to Venice airport

Flight to Prague with Czech Airlines [flight details tbc]

Arrival in Prague. Check-in to hotel [*Century Old Town* tbc]

Thursday May 25 PRAGUE

Talk by Antony in hotel after breakfast about evening's concert

Special mystery tour with local guide

Evening concert at Prague Spring Festival (Festival program released October)

Friday May 26 PRAGUE

Talk by Antony in hotel after breakfast about evening's concert

Visit of Hradcin district and Lobkowitz Palace with local guide

Evening concert at Prague Spring Festival



Don Ross: *Interior of Obecí Dum, Prague*

Saturday May 27 PRAGUE

Talk by Antony in hotel after breakfast about evening's concert

Free day

Evening concert at Prague Spring Festival

Sunday May 28 VIENNA

Coach transfer to Vienna from Prague with stop at Brno (Janacek's birth place)

Check-in to hotel *Intercontinental*

Monday May 29 VIENNA

Talk by Antony in hotel after breakfast about evening's concert

City walk in Vienna accompanied by Claudia Czaak

Orchestre de Paris, conducted by Daniel Harding: Mahler Symphony 2 – Musikverein

Tuesday May 30 VIENNA

Talk by Antony in hotel after breakfast about evening's performance

Gallery and shopping day

Fidelio (Beethoven)– Vienna State Opera with Albert Dohmen, Camilla Nylund, Peter Seiffert, director Otto Schenk, conductor Cornelius Meister

Wednesday May 31 VIENNA

Talk by Antony in hotel after breakfast about evening's performance

Special mystery tour with guide

Der Rosenkavalier (R Strauss) – Vienna State Opera with Angela Denoke, Sophie Koch, Peter Rose; director Schenk, conductor Sascha Goetzel

Thursday June 1 VIENNA

Talk by Antony in hotel after breakfast about evening's performance

Free day

Evening piano recital by Ryoma Takagi: Program includes Liszt Sonata in b minor at Klimt-Villa Vienna

Friday June 2 REGENSBURG

Transfer to Vienna Hauptbahnhof

10.50 Departure to Regensburg – 1st class seats

14.27 Arrival in Regensburg and transfer to hotel *Achat Plaza* Regensburg, check-in

Saturday June 3 REGENSBURG

Talk in hotel by Antony about Regensburg Festival

City walk including many wonderful churches with local guide

Concerts at Regensburg Festival (Program released in October)

Sunday June 4 REGENSBURG

Talk in hotel by Antony about concert program of the day

Concerts at Regensburg Festival

Monday June 5 REGENSBURG

Talk in hotel by Antony about concert program of the day

Concerts at Regensburg Festival

Regensburg



Tuesday June 6 AMSTERDAM

After breakfast transfer to Munich airport

14.05 departure of KLM1796 to Amsterdam

15.35 arrival in Amsterdam, Transfer to hotel *NH Museum's Quarter*, check-in

Dinner in local restaurant [venue tbc]

Wednesday June 7 AMSTERDAM

Talk in hotel after breakfast by Antony about Boat concert program

City walk with local guide

Private Recital on large Houseboat in Amstel by leading Dutch pianist, Ivo Janssen:

Program includes JS Bach's Goldberg Variations

Thursday June 8 AMSTERDAM

Talk in hotel after breakfast by Antony about concerts on Thursday and Saturday

Visit to newly re-opened Rijksmuseum and Van Gogh Museum

Concert at Concertgebouw: Staatskapelle Dresden, conducted by Daniel Harding, with Matthias Goerne (baritone) Mahler: Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen, Dvorak:

Symphony No. 8

Friday June 9 AMSTERDAM

Talk in hotel after breakfast about *Salome*

Salome (R Strauss) at Dutch National Opera– new production with Ivo van Hove;

Malin Byström in title role and Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra conducted by Daniele Gatti at Opera House Amsterdam

Saturday June 10 AMSTERDAM

Free day

Concert at Concertgebouw; Nederlands Philharmonic Orchestra, conductor: Marc

Albrecht;; Berg Violin concerto "Voices of Angels" with soloist Christian Tetzlaff;

Mahler 9th Symphony

Sunday June 11 Departures from Amsterdam

HOTELS

May 20-24	La Fenice & des Artistes, Venice	4 nights
May 24-28	Century Old Town, Prague (tbc)	4 nights
May 28-June 2	Intercontinental, Vienna	5 nights
June 2-6	Achat Plaza, Regensburg	4 nights
June 6-11	NH Museum's Quarter, Amsterdam	5 nights

COSTS

You are welcome to join the whole tour from 20 May in Venice and depart from Amsterdam on 11 June, or join us for a shorter period of your choice. Below we have quoted three options: the whole tour, or minus Venice at the start or minus Amsterdam at the end. If you want to choose the specific dates that suit you, we can quote you accordingly.

Costs quoted include bed and breakfast for all nights, group celebratory dinners in Venice and Amsterdam on 20 May and 6 June, all travel including air and train fares between tour cities, but does not include flights to the tour commencement or departure. Cost of all performance tickets to at least 18 performances (for those joining the whole tour) are included, and costs of at least one guided gallery visit/ city walk in each city visited. At your request, we also can quote you the extra cost and arrange larger rooms or suites at the hotels where we stay.

	Per person, shared double room	Per person, single supplement
Cost of the whole tour is as follows:	€6,820	€8,690
Cost from Prague to Amsterdam, excluding Venice	€5,590	€7,120
Cost from Venice to Regensburg, excluding Amsterdam	€5,270	€6,710

A deposit of \$1,000 per person will be requested in late September, but will be refundable until we are able to provide you with the programs in Prague and Regensburg, expected to be available by late October or early November. For the same reason, there may need to be a small adjustment to the estimated tour cost when the Prague and Regensburg programs are advised. Another deposit will be requested in January 2017. The final amount due will be billed in late March 2017 in Australian dollars.

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