



**ANTONY AND SALLY JEFFREY'S MUSICAL
JOURNEY
FOR BEETHOVEN'S 250th ANNIVERSARY:
14 - 30 MARCH 2020**

2020 will be one of the most important anniversaries in recent times for the musical world: the 250th Anniversary of the birth in 1770 of Ludwig van Beethoven. Celebrations of his life and music are set to resound across the Western world throughout 2020, most significantly in Bonn, his birthplace. Bonn is a small elegant city full of architectural and artistic treasures. In 2020 its range of Beethoven-themed events is astonishing.

Over a week we will attend performances of Beethoven's whole sequence of nine symphonies performed by the sensational Russian orchestra MusicAeterna conducted by Teodor Currentzis. Currentzis and his brilliant orchestra hail from Perm in Siberia where they serve the Perm Opera and Ballet. Their recordings by Sony and performances around Europe have placed them firmly at the top of the musical tree. We saw them perform Mahler last year in Berlin and I have never heard an orchestra to match them.

After our week in Bonn, we visit the supreme musical cities of Berlin and Dresden for more musical and cultural delights, including a new *Idomeneo* in Berlin conducted by Simon Rattle, the sensational Yuja Wang playing Prokofiev's 5th Piano Concerto, and a recital in Dresden's brand new Kulturpalast by the incomparable Renée Fleming.

Detailed Musical Program:

Bonn:

15 March: Beethoven Symphonies 1 and 3 (Eroica). MusicAeterna/ Teodor Currentzis

16 March: Beethoven Symphonies 2 and 5. MusicAeterna/ Teodor Currentzis

17 March: Mozart Symphonies 40 and 41 and Violin Concerto in A K219. Mahler Chamber Orchestra/ Enno Poppe

18 March: Beethoven Symphonies 4 and 6 (Pastoral). MusicAeterna/ Teodor Currentzis

19 March: Beethoven Symphonies 7 and 8. MusicAeterna/ Teodor Currentzis

21 March: Beethoven Symphony No. 9 (Choral). MusicAeterna/ Teodor Currentzis

Berlin:

22 March: Premiere of David McVicar's new production of Mozart's *Idomeneo* at Staatsoper Unter den Linden with the Berlin Staatskapelle under Simon Rattle with soloists Magdalena Kozena, Anna Prohaska and Andrew Staples

24 March: Concert by Staatskapelle Berlin of Stravinsky, Prokofiev and Berlioz featuring Yuja Wang (piano) and conductor Antonio Pappano at the Philharmonie Berlin

Dresden:

25 March: Lieder recital by Renée Fleming and Evgeny Kissin of Brahms, Debussy and Strauss at the Kulturpalast

27 March: *The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein* (Offenbach) with Anna Schwanewilms, soloists, Semperoper chorus and Staatskapelle Dresden

28 March: *Marriage of Figaro* (Mozart) with soloists, Semperoper chorus and Staatskapelle Dresden



29 March, 11 am: Concert of Schumann, Brahms and Brett Dean's new concerto *The Lost Art of Letter writing*, with Carolin Widmann (violin) and Dresden Philharmonie at Kulturpalast

29 March, 8 pm: *Alcina* (Handel), soloists, Semperoper chorus and Staatskapelle Dresden conducted by Otto Dantone

We planned to complete the tour with a visit to the legendary La Scala Milan but we don't know when and what will be performed yet, so we have decided to treat it as an additional option for the tour. We'll contact everyone about it when we have details.

Guided Visits and Excursions

In addition to the performances, we have worked out what I hope you will agree is a fascinating series of excursions and museum visits which include:

- guided tours of Bonn's Beethoven house and the former Parliament
- A full day's trip to Cologne including a guided tour of the cathedral
- Visit to the great roccoco residence of the Cologne archbishops at Bruhl
- Visit to the Dragons Rock by cog railway on the Rhine
- Visits to Berlin's best contemporary art museums
- River trip on the Elbe to the Lohengrin House and Wagner Museum at Graupa
- Dresden's fabulous Green Vault and the superbly restored Frauenkirche



Yuja Wang

Renée Fleming

Accommodation

Hotel accommodation on tours of this kind is incredibly important, especially when we arrive back late at night tired after a performance. Sometimes a hotel has not measured up to expectations. This time we have made a special effort to ensure the best.

Bonn 14 - 21 March: The Hilton, the best hotel in Bonn and close to the Bonn Opera House where all our performances take place

Berlin 22 - 24 March: The Melia, in the “Levels” - the top two floors where we have all day access to a free private dining and lounge area

Dresden 25 - 29 March: The Kempinski Taschenberg Palais, former royal residence and my personal favourite hotel in Europe

Costs and Tour Arrangements

The tour cost is €5,250 per person in a shared room plus €1,090 for a room with single occupancy. At present rates of conversion from euros to Australian dollars, this is approximately \$8,400 with an extra \$1,760 for single room occupancy. I am pleased to say this is less than either of our tours to Europe in 2018 and the same as our northern Europe tour later this year.

This cost will cover all accommodation and breakfast in the above hotels from arrival in Bonn on 14 March to departure from Dresden on 30 March. It includes transport between Bonn and Berlin and Berlin and Dresden, together with coaches, entry fees, and guides to all the walks, museums and excursions mentioned above. In addition it includes Welcome drinks in Bonn, a Welcome dinner in Bonn, lunch in Pillnitz, and a Farewell lunch in Dresden. It does not include the cost of an optional extension to Milan we expect to offer in the coming weeks.

Our Viennese agent Claudia Czaak accompanies the tour and handles all logistics. I provide pre-tour notes, a detailed itinerary and give talks before performances. On our tours, a reasonable degree of fitness is expected for the considerable amount of walking around the cities we visit. In due course we will ask for details of next of kin, travel insurance and dietary preferences.

To secure your place on the 2020 Beethoven 250th Anniversary Journey, we ask for a deposit of \$A1,000 per person. A second deposit will be requested in October and the balance in January 2020. The deposit should be sent by EFT to Antony Jeffrey Tours Account at the ANZ Bank BSB 012227 a/c 183890412.

Antony Jeffrey
www.antonyjeffrey.com

Dresden Philharmonie in the new Kulturpalast

