



The Schubertiade

Music & mountains in the Vorarlberg

21–27 August 2021 (MH 868)

7 days • £3,830

(including tickets to 10 performances)

Lecturer: Stephen Johnson

Amid the superb mountain scenery of the Vorarlberg, the Schubertiade is one of the most prestigious and enjoyable festivals in Europe.

Singers and players of the highest calibre perform including Elisabeth Leonskaja, Renaud Capuçon, André Schuen and Christoph Prégardien.

The programme includes Schubert's two great song cycles *Winterreise* and *Die schöne Müllerin*.

Excursions to historic towns in the vicinity and an optional hill walk, but time also to relax among ravishing upland scenery.

The combination of music-making of the highest quality with a pre-Alpine mountain setting is a heady mix. Devotees of the Schubertiade return year after year; addiction is a distinct possibility. Add guided walks and visits in the surrounding area and top up with relaxation among ravishing upland scenery and this begins to sound like the recipe for the perfect holiday for music lovers.

It takes place in the Vorarlberg, the westernmost province of Austria, with all the concerts in the village of Schwarzenberg, described by the philosopher Johann Gottfried Herder as 'the prettiest village in Europe'. Our tour is based in the neighbouring village of Mellau, seven miles away.

Itinerary

Day 1. Fly at c. 12 noon from London Heathrow to Zurich (British Airways). Drive through Switzerland and into Austria, arriving early evening at Mellau in the lovely upland landscape of the Bregenzerwald. All six nights are spent in this very attractive village.

Day 2. Morning lecture before driving to Schwarzenberg for an all-Schubert piano recital with Elisabeth Leonskaja: *Drei Klavierstücke*, D 946; *Sonata in A minor*, D 784; *Sonata in D*, D 850 'Gasteiner'. Return to Mellau for lunch and some free time. *Afternoon Lieder recital* with André Schuen (baritone) and Daniel Heide (piano): Schubert, *Die schöne Müllerin*. Dinner in Schwarzenberg before an evening concert with the *Minetti Quartet* and Lars



A print published in 1897 after 'A Schubert Evening in a Vienna Salon' by Julius Schmid.

Anders Tomter (viola): Mozart: *String quintet in G minor*, K 516; Schubert: *String quartet in A minor*, D 804 'Rosamunde'.

Day 3. Optional excursion with a guided tour in the small town of Hohenhems, original location of the Schubertiade. Some free time here before returning to Mellau for an afternoon lecture. Drive to Schwarzenberg for an afternoon piano recital with Marc-André Hamelin: Schubert: *Andantino from 'Divertissement sur des motifs originaux français'*, D 823; *Sonata in A minor*, D 845; Fauré: *Nocturnes op. 33/1 und 2*; *Barcarolle*, op. 70; Debussy: *Préludes (selection)*. Dinner in Schwarzenberg before an evening *Lieder recital* with Christoph Prégardien (tenor), Oliver Darbellay (horn) and Michael Gees (piano): selected *Lieder* by Schubert, Britten and others.

Day 4. Optional hill walking on the Baumgartner Höhe, 4km, 2½ hours, altitude gain 200m, a moderate walk with inclines and terrific views and starting and ending with a funicular ride. Free afternoon. Drive to Schwarzenberg for an evening song recital with Katharina Konradi (soprano), Julia Kleiter (soprano), Sophie Rennert (mezzo-soprano), Tara Erraught (mezzo-soprano) and Wolfgang Rieger (piano): *Songs for female voices* by Schubert, Mendelssohn, Schumann and Brahms.

Day 5. Morning excursion to Bregenz, the regional capital located beside Lake Constance.

Begin in the upper town, the picturesque older part, and walk down to the lake and visit the local history museum. Return to Mellau in the early afternoon for a lecture before driving to Schwarzenberg. *Afternoon chamber concert* with Renaud Capuçon, Guillaume Chilemme (violin), Adrien La Marca (viola) Gérard Caussé (viola), Edgar Moreau (cello): Schubert: *String quartet in D minor*, D 810 'Death and the Maiden'; Bruckner: *String quintet in F*. Dinner before an evening *Lieder recital* with André Schuen (baritone) and Daniel Heide (piano): Schubert, 'Winterreise'.

Day 6. Free morning in Mellau before driving to Schwarzenberg for a *Lieder recital* with Sophie Rennert (mezzo-soprano), Joseph Middleton (piano): *Lieder* by Schubert and Mahler. Dinner in Schwarzenberg before a concert with Renaud Capuçon (violin), Victor Julien-Laferrrière (cello) and David Fray (piano): Schubert: *Arpeggione Sonata in A minor*, D 821; *Violin sonata in A*, D 574; *Piano trio in B-flat*, D 898.

Day 7. Homeward journey. Stop at Winterthur to see the Old Master and Impressionist paintings of the Oskar Reinhart Collection, beautifully displayed in the collector's home in woods outside the city. Fly from Zurich, arriving at London Heathrow c. 5.00pm.

The Schubertiade
continued

Lecturer

Stephen Johnson. Writer, broadcaster and composer Stephen Johnson is the author of books on Beethoven, Bruckner, Wagner and Mahler. For 14 years he presented BBC Radio 3's *Discovering Music*. His orchestral work *Behemoth Dances* was premiered in 2016 by the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra, and his Clarinet Quintet *Angel's Arc* had its first performance in January 2019. His book about music and mental health, *How Shostakovich Changed My Mind*, was published in 2018. A book about Mahler's Eighth Symphony, *Symphony of a Thousand*, is due to be published in 2020.

Practicalities

Price, per person. Two sharing: £3,830 or £3,670 without flights. **Single occupancy:** £4,040 or £3,880 without flights.

Included: air travel (Euro Traveller) on British Airways flights (Airbus A319); private coach throughout; accommodation as described below; breakfasts, 6 dinners with wine; all admissions; all tips for restaurant staff, drivers, guides; all taxes; the services of the lecturer.

Music: tickets (top category) to 10 performances are included. Tickets are confirmed in September 2020.

Accommodation. Hotel Sonne, Mellau (sonnemellau.com): a 4-star hotel, modern and functional with a pleasant atmosphere and very helpful staff. All rooms are doubles. There is a swimming pool and restaurant. *Single rooms are doubles for sole use.*

How strenuous? There is some walking through towns and over uneven ground. The optional walk is rated moderate and participants wishing to take part should bring appropriate walking footwear. Average distance by coach per day: 55 miles.

Group size: between 10 and 22 participants.