



The Schubertiade II

Music and mountains in the Vorarlberg

27 August–2 Sept. 2024 (MK 394)

7 days • £4,380

(including tickets to 9 performances)

Lecturer: Richard Wigmore

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 the Hagan Quartett, Konstantin Krimmel, Leif Ove Andsnees and Patrick Grahl.

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 in the morning from London Heathrow to Zurich (British Airways). Drive through Switzerland and into Austria, arriving late afternoon at Mellau in the lovely upland landscape of the Bregenzerwald. All six nights are spent in this very attractive village.

Day 2. Drive down to Feldkirch, a little town built at a narrowing of the valley of the River Ill. Historic buildings, arcaded streets and a network of alleys nestle beneath high limestone cliffs; a tour includes medieval defences, town hall and Gothic cathedral (altarpiece by Wolf Huber). Return to Mellau for an afternoon lecture before driving to Schwarzenberg for an *afternoon Lieder recital* with Ilker Arcayürek (tenor) and Ammiel Bushakevitz (piano): Schubert: 'Die schöne Müllerin', Op.25. Followed by an *evening chamber concert* with *Quatuor Modigliani* and Julia Hagen (cello):



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

Wolf: *Italian Serenade in G*; Beethoven: *String Quartet in D, Op 18/3*; Schubert: *String Quintet in C, D956*.

Day 3. Morning lecture before driving the small town of Hohenhems, original location of the Schubertiade, for a guided tour. Drive onwards to Schwarzenberg for an *afternoon Lieder recital* with André Schuen (baritone) and Daniel Heide (piano): Brahms, 'Vier ernste Gesänge', Op. 121; Mahler: *Lieder from 'Des Knaben Wunderhorn'*; Brahms: 'Geheimnis', Op.71/3, 'Verzagen', Op. 72/4, 'Auf dem Kirchhofe', Op.105/4, 'Lerchengesang' Op.70/2, 'Wie bist du meine Königin', Op.32/9, 'Mondenschein', Op.85/2, 'Entführung' Op.97/3. Followed by an *evening Lieder recital* with Louise Alder (soprano), Sophie Rennert (mezzo-soprano), Patrick Grahl (tenor), Konstantin Krimmel (baritone), Helmut Deutsch (piano), Michela Sara De Nuccio (piano): Brahms: 'Liebeslieder-Walzer', Op. 52; *Lieder* by Hans Huber.

Day 4. Optional walk on the Baumgartner Höhe: 4km (max 2½ hours), altitude gain 200m, a moderate walk with inclines and terrific views, starting and ending with a funicular ride. Return to Mellau to refresh before driving to Schwarzenberg for an *afternoon piano recital* with Christian

Zacharias: Schubert: 'Six Moments Musicaux' D780; Haydn: *Sonata in G*; Schubert: *Sonata in D, D850*, 'Gasteiner Sonate'. *Lieder recital* with Anne Sofie von Otter (mezzo-soprano) and Kristian Bezuidenhout (fortepiano): Schubert: 'Winterrreise', Op. 89.

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. *Afternoon chamber concert* with Yaara Tal and Andreas Groethuysen (piano), Niklas Liepe (violin), Raphaela Gromes (cello): Schubert: *Sonata in C for piano four hands, D812*, 'Grand Duo'; Beethoven, *Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op.67*. *Evening Lieder recital* with Konstantin Krimmel (baritone) and Ammiel Buschakevitz (piano): Schumann, 'Liederkreis', Op. 39; 'Der Einsiedler', Op. 83/3; Mandyczweski, from *Romanian Songs*, Op. 7; Brahms: 'Meerfahrt', Op. 96/4, 'Wie rafft ich mich auf', Op. 32/1, 'Auf dem Kirchhofe', Op. 105/4, 'Der Tod, das ist die kühle Nacht', Op. 96/1, 'Feldeinsamkeit', Op. 86/2, 'Mondenschein', Op. 85/2, 'Die Mainacht', Op.43/2.

Day 6. Drive to Schwarzenberg for a morning chamber concert with the Pavel Haas Quartett, Petr Ries (double bass), Karel Dohnal (clarinet),

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Přemysl Vojta (horn) and Tomáš Františ (bassoon): Dvorak, excerpts from 'Cypresses' for string quartet; Schubert: Octet in F, D 803.
The rest of the day is free for independent exploration; perhaps take advantage of the hotel spa facilities.

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 the woods outside the city. Fly from Zurich, arriving at London Heathrow c. 4.30pm.

Lecturer

Richard Wigmore. Music writer, lecturer and broadcaster for BBC Radio 3. He writes for *BBC Music Magazine* and *Gramophone* and has taught classes in Lieder history and interpretation at Guildhall College of Music & Drama, Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance and Birkbeck College. He read French and German at Cambridge and later studied Music at Guildhall. His publications include *Schubert: The Complete Song Texts* and *Pocket Guide to Haydn*.

Practicalities

Price, per person. Two sharing: £4,380 or £4,140 without flights. **Single occupancy:** £4,620 or £4,380 without flights.

Included: air travel (Euro Traveller) on British Airways flights (Airbus A320); 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 and tour manager.

Music: first category tickets to 9 performances are included.

Accommodation. Hotel Sonne, Mellau (sonnemellau.com): 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.