



The Schubertiade

Music and mountains in the Vorarlberg

25–31 August 2023 (MJ 835)

7 days • £3,970

(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 Ian Bostridge, Christoph Prégardien, Sol Gabetta, and the Elias String Quartet.

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 chamber concert with Sabine Meyer (clarinet), Christoph Eß (horn), Antje Weithaas (violin), Veronika Hagen (viola), Mischa Meyer (cello) and Michael Lifits (piano): Beethoven: *Clarinet Trio in B flat, Op.11 'Gassenhauer Trio'*,



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

Brahms: Piano Quartet in C minor, Op.60, and von Dohnányi: Sextet in C, Op.37. Dinner in Schwarzenberg before an evening Lieder recital with Christoph Prégardien (tenor) and Julius Drake (piano): selected Lieder by Schubert, Liszt, Loewe, Beethoven, Wolf and Grieg.

Day 3. Morning lecture before driving to Schwarzenberg for a morning chamber concert with the Schumann Quartett and Sharon Kam (clarinet): Schubert: *String Quartet in A minor, D804 'Rosamunde'*, Mozart: *Clarinet Quintet in A, K581*. There is a free afternoon before driving to Schwarzenberg for an evening Lieder recital with Sophie Rennert (mezzo-soprano) and Joseph Middleton (piano): Schumann: *Liederkreis, Op.35*, and selected Lieder by Schubert.

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. Return to Mellau before driving to Schwarzenberg for an afternoon Lieder recital with Konstantin Krimmel (baritone), Julius Drake (piano) and Mathias Johansen (cello): selected Lieder by Schubert.

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 Sol Gabetta (cello) and Francesco Piemontesi (piano): Beethoven, and Brahms: *Cello Sonata No.2, Op.99*. Dinner in Schwarzenberg before an evening Lieder recital with Ian Bostridge (tenor) and Saskia Giorgini (piano): Schubert, 'Winterreise'.

Day 6. 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 chamber concert with the Elias String Quartet and Daniel Ottensamer (clarinet): Brahms: *Clarinet Quintet in B minor, Op.115*, and Schubert: *String Quartet in D minor, D810 'Death & the Maiden'*. Dinner in Schwarzenberg before an evening Lieder recital with Nikola Hillebrand (soprano), Sophie Rennert (mezzo-soprano), Stuart Jackson (tenor), Manuel Walser (baritone), Malcolm Martineau (piano) and Joseph Middleton (piano): Schumann: 'Sehnsucht', Op.51; 'Drei Gedichte von Emanuel Geibel', Op.30; 'Spanisches Liederspiel', Op.74; 'Minnespiel', Op.101; 'Spanische Liebeslieder', Op.138.

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 in the afternoon.

The Schubertiade
continued

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: £3,970 or £3,830 without flights. **Single occupancy:** £4,220 or £4,080 without flights.

Included: air travel (Euro Traveller) on British Airways flights (Airbus A320); private coach throughout; accommodation as described below; breakfasts, 5 dinners with wine; all admissions; all tips for restaurant staff, drivers, guides; all taxes; the services of the lecturer.

Music: tickets to 9 performances are included. Top category for all performances except the afternoon chamber concert on Day 5. Tickets for this performance are second category.

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.