



Leipzig Bach Festival

Music by the Bach family and their baroque contemporaries

9–15 June 2022 (MI 388)

7 days • £3,430

Lecturer: Dr David Vickers

15–20 June 2022 (MI 389)

6 days • £3,010

Lecturer: Richard Wigmore

Music by Johann Sebastian Bach, his forebears and offspring, and some other composers of the baroque era.

Artists from around the world including some of the leading specialists in Bach and baroque.

Concert venues include the Thomaskirche and Nikolaikirche, the churches where J.S. Bach was director of music.

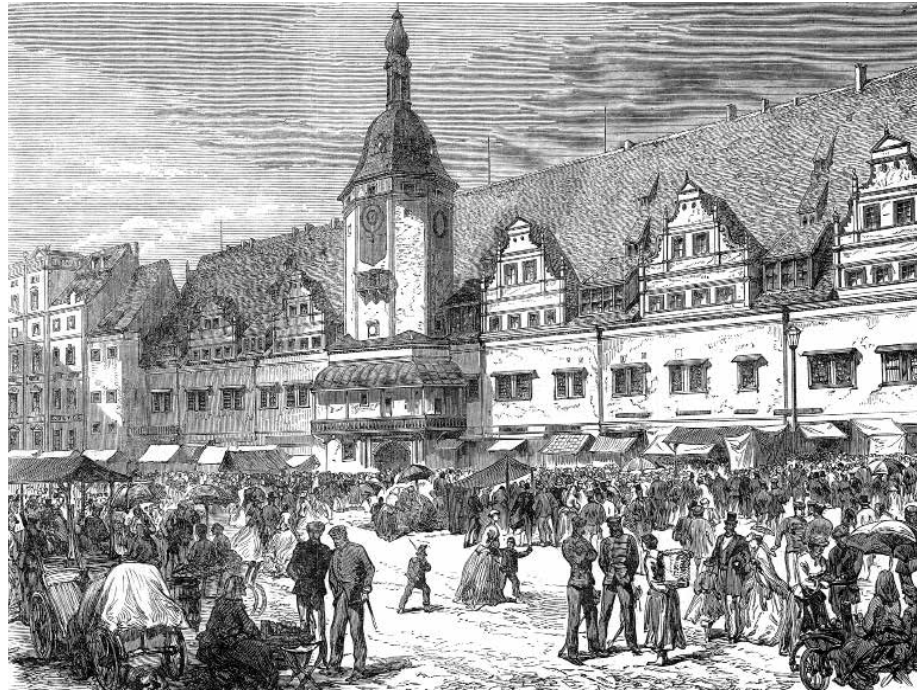
Centrally-located hotel within easy walking distance of the concerts and restaurants.

Guided walks to explore the architecture and musical heritage of this historic and lively city.

Over eighty members of the Bach family are listed in the *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*. For two centuries the Bachs, Johann Sebastian among them, plied their trade in the employ of courts, churches and free cities in Thuringia and Saxony. Though geographically in the heart of Germany, these places were not among the major political or cultural centres of Europe. And their location on the other side of the Iron Curtain in the later 20th century enveloped them further in obscurity.

There was no star system in the Bachs' time; genius was an alien concept. The tradition the family worked in was one of sheer dogged professionalism, with ability generally recognised and rewarded. Really exceptional once-in-a-century talent was beyond the comprehension of the city burgers, however; Johann Sebastian was the third choice for the post of Cantor at St Thomas's Church in Leipzig, and for the remainder of his life he was constantly chafing against the indifference and high-handedness of his employers.

The Bachfest Leipzig has become established as one of the major items in the calendar of European festivals. The venue most used is the parish church of St Thomas, the Thomaskirche, which was Bach's principal auditorium during the 27 years when he was effectively the city's director of music. There are concerts also in the Nikolaikirche, another church for which he had



Leipzig, Altes Rathaus wood engraving from *The Illustrated London News*, 1866.

responsibility, in the University Church, the modern Gewandhaus and in the charming neo-baroque Salles de Pologne.

Leipzig is now, again, a handsome and lively city, following an almost miraculous transformation during the 1990s and beyond. Cleaning, restoration and rebuilding went hand in hand with the emergence of cafés, smart shops and good restaurants. Located at the heart of this ancient trading city is the large market place and the renaissance Town Hall, and around is a beguiling network of alleys, courtyards and arcades.

Guided walks investigate this heritage and the musical history of the city, which encompasses not only the Bach family but also Telemann, Robert and Clara Schumann, Mendelssohn, Wagner, Mahler and Kurt Masur. There is time also to enjoy the excellent museums – the Fine Arts Museum in spectacular new premises, the radically refurbished Museum of Musical Instruments, and the rejuvenated Bach Museum.

Leipzig Bach Festival I

9–15 June 2022 (MI 388)

7 days • £3,430

Lecturer: Dr David Vickers

Ten concerts, with the option of additionally attending three late-evening concerts.

Ensembles include the Monteverdi Choir & English Baroque Soloists (Sir John Eliot Gardiner), Les Talens Lyriques (Christophe Rousset), Collegium Vocale 1704 (Václav Luks), Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra (Ton Koopman), Les Arts Florissants (William Christie).

Soloists include Julia Doyle, Joanne Lunn, Hana Blažíková, Alex Potter, Thomas Hobbs, Klaus Mertens, Peter Harvey, Amandine Beyer, Jean-Guihen Queyras.

Performances of *St John Passion*, *Magnificat* (J.S. Bach), suites and partitas for violin and for cello, and several cantatas.

Leipzig Bach Festival
continued

Itinerary

Day 1. Morning flight from London Heathrow to Berlin (British Airways) with onward travel to Leipzig (c. 2½ hours) by private coach. The first of the daily talks is followed by dinner.

Day 2. The morning talk is followed by a walk with a local guide to introduce the layout and main buildings of Leipzig's historic centre. **Noon concert at the Thomaskirche with the Choir of Trinity Wall Street (NY), Trinity Baroque Orchestra, Julian Wachner (conductor): Cantatas BWV 2, 7 and 20.** Lunch at a famous restaurant is followed by free time. **8.00pm concert at the Nikolaikirche with the Monteverdi Choir, English Baroque Soloists, Sir John Eliot Gardiner: funeral music by Heinrich Schütz, Johann Hermann Schein and J.S. Bach (Christ lag in Todes Banden BWV 4).** **Optional 10.30pm concert at the Thomaskirche with Amandine Beyer (violin): J.S. Bach, three sonatas and partitas.**

Day 3. After the daily talk, a guided tour of the excellent museum at the Bach Archive. **Noon concert at the University Church of St Paul with Daniel Beilschmidt (organ), Akadèmia, Françoise Lasserre (director), soloists: Nicholas Bruhns, Matthias Weckmann, Buxtehude and J.S. Bach (BWV 131 & 150).** Free afternoon (the Grassi Museum of Musical Instruments and the Old Town Hall Museum are recommended) and early dinner. **8.00pm concert at the Thomaskirche, Nederlands Kamoroor, Les Talens Lyriques, Christophe Rousset (director), soloists: Handel (Messiah extracts), C.P.E. Bach (Credo, Magnificat) and J.S. Bach (from B minor Mass).** **Optional 10.30pm concert at the Nikolaikirche with Amandine Beyer (violin): three sonatas and partitas by J.S. Bach.**

Day 4. 11.30am concert at the Salles de Pologne with Jean-Guihen Queyras: J. S. Bach, three cello suites. Free afternoon; try Mendelssohn's Apartment or the Museum of Fine Arts. **5.00pm concert at the Thomaskirche, Collegium 1704, Václav Luks (conductor) and soloists: cantatas by J.C. Bach, Johannes Bach, N. Bruhns and J.S. Bach (including 'Actus tragicus' BWV 106).** **8.00pm concert at the Nikolaikirche, Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra & Choir, Ton Koopman (conductor), soloists: Schütz, J.M. Bach, J.C. Bach, Buxtehude, J.S. Bach (BWV 71).** **Optional 10.30pm concert at the Salles de Pologne with Jean-Guihen Queyras: J.S. Bach, three cello suites.**

Day 5. A morning walk with a specialist guide concentrates on Leipzig's musical heritage. Free afternoon, opportunity for the Museum of the Book or a trip by tram to the Völkerschlachtdenkmal, a vast centennial monument to commemorate the Battle of the Nations (1813). **8.00pm concert at the Gewandhaus with Les Arts Florissants & William Christie, Cantorey & Hans-Christoph Rademann, soloists: J.S. Bach, including BWV 16, BWV 1068 and Magnificat BWV 243.**

Day 6. After the morning lecture, the earlier part of the day is free. The German Museum of Books and Writing and Museum of Applied Arts remain. **3.00pm concert at the Paulinum-Aula, Concert Clemens Aarhus, Pauliner Barockensemble, Carsten Seyer-Hansen, soloists: J.S. Bach cantatas.** An early dinner is followed by the **8.00pm concert at the Thomaskirche: St John Passion with Choir and Orchestra of the J.S. Bach Foundation St. Gallen, Rudolf Lutz (conductor), soloists.**

Day 7. Transfer to Berlin for the flight back to London Heathrow, arriving c. 3.30pm.

Lecturer

Dr David Vickers. Musicologist, lecturer, journalist and critic for Gramophone. He teaches academic studies at the Royal Northern College of Music and is a consultant for international baroque orchestras, singers, record labels, festivals and organisations. He is co-editor of The Cambridge Handel Encyclopedia, and his knowledge ranges widely over the 17th and 18th centuries, with a particular focus on Monteverdi, Bach, Handel and Mozart.

Practicalities

Price (per person): two sharing £3,430 or £3,230 without flights, **single occupancy** £3,740 or £3,540 without flights. Package of three optional evening concerts £130.

Included: top category tickets for ten concerts; flights with British Airways (Airbus A319); private coach for airport transfers; accommodation as described below; breakfasts, 1 lunch and 4 dinners (with drinks); museum admissions; tips; taxes; lecturer, tour manager and local guide.

Concert tickets to be confirmed autumn 2021.

Accommodation. Leipzig Marriott Hotel (leipzigmarriott.de): Conforming to its brand, the Marriott is a smart 4-star hotel with lots of marble, pillars, wood, brass and comfortable easy chairs. It is located on a pedestrian street just inside the north-eastern section of the ring road that runs around the city centre, and no more than 10–15 minutes on foot from the venues. Rooms are spacious, with cosy neoclassical furnishings and are equipped to a high standard. *Single rooms are doubles for sole use.*

How strenuous? Walking is the only practical way of getting around the largely pedestrianised centre of Leipzig. Most walks will be less than 20 minutes.

Group size: between 10 and 22 participants.

Leipzig Bach Festival
continued

Leipzig Bach Festival II

15–20 June 2022 (M1 389)

6 days • £3,010

Lecturer: Richard Wigmore

Seven concerts plus the option of two additional late-evening concerts.

Ensembles include the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra (Ton Koopman), Thomanerchor Leipzig (Andreas Reize, Cantor), Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin, Gli Incogniti, Nederlandse Bachvereniging, I Barocchisti.

Instrumental soloists include Angela Hewitt (piano), Sir Andrés Schiff (piano), Mahan Esfahani (harpsichord), Amandine Beyer (violin).

Major pieces include the St Matthew Passion and the B Minor Mass.

Day 1. Morning flight from London Heathrow to Berlin (British Airways), and by private coach to Leipzig (c. 2½ hours). Time to settle into the hotel before the daily lecture; dinner follows. **Optional 10.30pm concert at the Salles de Pologne with Konstantin Lifschitz (piano):** J. S. Bach, *Goldberg Variations*.

Day 2. After the talk, a walk with a local guide which passes the main squares, streets and buildings of the centre. **4.00pm concert at the Gewandhaus with the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra and Ton Koopman and three other harpsichordists for a programme of harpsichord concertos, by J.S. Bach (BWV 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065) and one by C.P.E. Bach.** This is followed by a **7.00pm concert at the Gewandhaus with Sir Andrés Schiff (piano):** J.S. Bach, *The Well-Tempered Keyboard, BWV 846–869*. Dinner after.

Day 3. Apart from the daily talk, the day is free until the afternoon concert. Suggested activities include the excellent Bach Museum (Bach-Archiv), Altes Rathaus for the City History Museum (portrait of Bach). **3.00pm concert the Gewandhaus with Angela Hewitt (piano):** J.S. Bach: *The Well-Tempered Keyboard, BWV 870–893*. Early dinner; **8.00pm St Matthew Passion at the Thomaskirche with Thomanerchor Leipzig (augmented with other school choirs) and Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin, directed by Thomaskantor Andreas Reize, soloists.**

Day 4. Morning talk, then a guided tour of

the Grassi Museum of Musical Instruments, one of the most important collections in the world. You may wish to stay on for the Grassi Museum of Applied Arts, or visit the Museum of Fine Arts or the apartment where Felix Mendelssohn lived and died. **5.00pm concert at the Kupfersaal, Gli Incogniti, Amandine Beyer (director, violin):** violin concertos by Telemann, C.P.E. Bach and J.S. Bach. Break for dinner. **8.00pm concert at the Nikolaikirche, Nederlandse Bachvereniging, Shunske Sato (leader), soloists: Bach Cantatas BWV 80, 97, 117 & 192. Optional 10.30pm concert at the Federal Supreme Court with Mahan Esfahani (harpsichord):** Pachelbel, Marchand, Byrd, Frescobaldi, J.S. Bach, J.C. Bach.

Day 5. Morning lecture, then a guided walk which to some less well-known places with musical associations. For the afternoon we recommend the German Museum of Books and Writing, the Stasi Museum or a tram ride to the Völkerschlachtdenkmal, Monument to the Battle of the Nations, 1913. **6.00pm B Minor Mass at the Thomaskirche with Coro della RSI (Choir of Swiss Radio & TV), I Barocchisti, Diego Fasolis (director), soloists.** Dinner after.

Day 6. Drive from Leipzig to Berlin Airport and fly to London Heathrow, arriving late afternoon.

Lecturer

Richard Wigmore. Music writer, lecturer and broadcaster for BBC Radio 3 and contributor to BBC Music Magazine and Gramophone. He read French and German at Cambridge, studied Music at the Guildhall, sung professionally (a soloist in many Bach performances) and has taught classes in Lieder history and interpretation at the Guildhall, Trinity College of Music and Birkbeck College. His publications include *Schubert: The Complete Song Texts* and *Faber Pocket Guide to Haydn*. Richard has written and lectured extensively on Bach and his contemporaries, and in 2021 gave five webinars for MRT on Bach's choral works. Twitter: @wigmoresworld | Website: wigmoresworld.co.uk

Practicalities

Price (per person): two sharing £3,010 or £2,810 without flights, single occupancy £3,250 or £3,050 without flights. Package of two optional evening concerts £105.

Included: top category tickets for seven performances; flights with British Airways (Airbus A319); private coach for airport transfers; accommodation as described below; breakfasts, 4 dinners (with drinks); museum admissions; tips; taxes; lecturer, tour manager and local guide.

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