

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS *of* FINLAND & THE BALTICS: The Hidden Treasures of Europe

Helsinki, Finland • Tallinn, Estonia • Riga, Latvia

June 27th – July 5th, 2020

Presented by Firebird Fine Arts tours • www.firebird-tours.com

June 27th (Sat) JFK to HELSINKI

- 7:05 PM Depart JFK on Finnair flight #AY 6 to Helsinki

June 28th (Sun) HELSINKI to TALLINN

- 10:10 AM Arrival at Helsinki Airport
- Lunch in Helsinki
- Ferry Ride from Helsinki for Tallinn, Estonia
- Hotel check in & Dinner together

June 29th (Mon) TALLINN

- Walking tour to discover this proud capital of Estonia located on the **Toompea Hill**, the historical and medieval heart of the city, covered in cobble stone streets and filled with medieval houses and alleyways. Tallinn's old town, still protected by the remnants of a city wall, has been astonishingly well preserved and is also included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.
- **Sectional Master Classes for YOCJ students**
- Visit to Tallinn's **Open-Air Museum**. We'll enjoy dinner here in the medieval **Kolu Inn**. Estonian folk singers and dancers will perform at dinner.

June 30th (Tue) TALLINN & CONCERT

- Visit to the magnificent **Kadriorg Palace**, <https://kadriorumuseum.ekm.ee/en/> built by Tsar Peter the Great for his wife, Catherine I, in 1718. The grandiose palace and gardens are an amazing example of Tsarist extravagance, but just as important a reason to visit is that this is also home to the foreign art collection of the **Art Museum of Estonia**.

- We'll make an inspiring stop nearby at the **Estonian Song Festival** grounds, the site of one of the largest amateur choral events in the world with 30,000 singers of all ages! Find out what special role music has played in Estonia.
- YOCJ Rehearsal followed by meeting with host musicians to get acquainted and rehearse joint pieces.
- **Joint Concert ~ our 1st performance**
- Dinner after at **Peppersack Restaurant**



July 1st (Wed) TALLINN to RIGA, stop in PÄRNU

- Depart Tallinn for Riga.
- Visit to **Pärnu**, Estonia's premiere spa town for lunch
- Depart for Riga along the scenic coast of the Gulf of Riga (Baltic Sea)
- An evening visit to the **Latvian Academy of Music** to gain insight and enjoy the world of Latvian music, both folk and classical. The cultural traditions of Latvia are rich and interesting in vocal and instrumental music and dance.
- A **Mini-Seminar** includes a professor's lecture and musicians' contributions.
- Dinner in **Lido Krasts Restaurant**, featuring Latvian specialties



July 2nd (Thu) RIGA & CONCERT

- **Riga Sightseeing Tour** which will include the **Old Town** & a plethora of Art Nouveau architectural sights. Riga was founded in 1201 and is a former Hanseatic League member. Its historical center is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, noted for its Art Nouveau architecture, as well as its charming 19th-century wooden architecture. Riga has been designated the European Cultural Capital of 2014, and you will come to appreciate this distinction!
- **Rehearsal and Concert in the Dome Cathedral** ~ our 2nd performance



July 3rd (Fri) RIGA to TALLINN to HELSINKI

- Lunch in Pärnu, Estonia's premiere spa town
- Scenic Ferry ride from Tallinn for Helsinki
- Arrival in Helsinki, transfer to hotel, Dinner

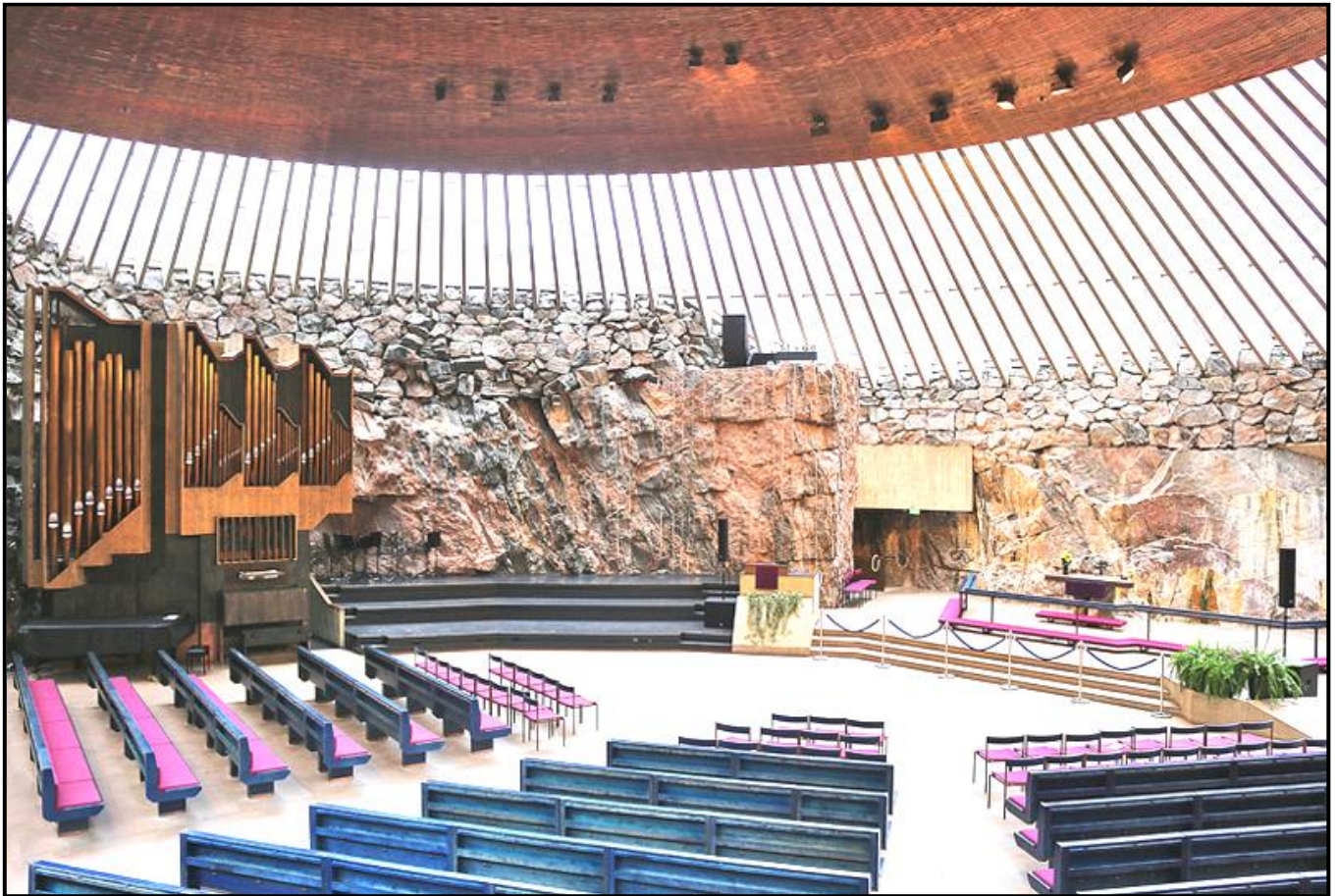
July 4th (Sat) HELSINKI

- **Guided walking tour of Helsinki:** A city of the sea, Helsinki was built along a series of oddly shaped peninsulas and islands jutting into the Baltic coast along the Gulf of Finland. Spectacularly entwined with these bays, inlets and islands, Helsinki's boulevards and backstreets are filled with magnificent architecture, intriguing dining options and groundbreaking design. The city's 400 or so parks make it particularly inviting in the summer We will end our tour at Helsinki's **Old Market Hall** first opened in 1888 <https://vanhakauppahalli.fi/626-2/#>
- Here you will have lunch on your own and the opportunity to shop for traditional Finnish products. Just a 2 minute walk away is the **Market Square**, where there is also the possibility to shop for Finnish souvenirs and goods.



- Visit the **Temppeli aukio Kirkko (Rock Church)**. It is a stunning Lutheran church that was built into solid rock in the 20th century

<http://www.sacred-destinations.com/finland/helsinki-rock-church-temppeliaukio>



- YOCJ students & families will attend a **professional concert in Helsinki.**
- Farewell Dinner



July 5th (Sun) HELSINKI – JFK

- 12:45pm Depart Helsinki on Finnair flight #AY 5 to JFK, arrival at 2:40 PM