

Itinerary for
Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey
Performance Tour of Austria
June 22nd – June 30th, 2024

Presented by Firebird Fine Arts Tours

Saturday, June 22 - USA – Vienna

2:00 PM Air Canada flight AC 8879 departs Newark, arriving in Toronto at 3:42 PM

5:50 PM Air Canada flight AC 886 departs Toronto

4:55 PM Aer Lingus flight EI 104 departs JFK, arrives in Dublin at 4:25 AM on June 23rd

Sunday, June 23 – Vienna

7:20 Aer Lingus flight EI 660 departs Dublin

08:30 Air Canada flight arrives

11:10 Air Lingus flight arrives

We will travel North from the airport, to the Vienna Woods, where we make a stop in Heiligenstadt, a landmark in Beethoven's life and work, and have a brief walk to stretch your legs, and visit the one of the many homes that Beethoven lived in Vienna. It is now the Beethoven Museum in Heiligenstadt <https://www.wienmuseum.at/de/standorte/beethoven-museum>

Beethoven's life and work are inseparably linked with Vienna. He first came to Vienna in 1789 to study with Mozart, and from 1792 onwards he became a permanent resident.

Heiligenstadt is where Beethoven came to try and heal, or at least improve, his hearing loss, because Heiligenstadt in the early 18th Century was a wellness spot thanks to a local water source that was said to have healing powers. The House where Beethoven lived in 'Probusgasse 6' is where he composed what came to be known as the "Heiligenstadt Testament" a letter that he wrote to his brother, but never sent, in which he expressed his dismay at becoming deaf.

It was in this house that he also composed some of his most important works, among them the 'Sturm' Sonata, op.31, the 'Prometheus' Variations, op.35 and the first drafts of his 3. Symphony (originally dedicated to Napoleon, he later changed it to 'Eroica' after Beethoven realized that Napoleon was a dictator)

12:30 Lunch together in **Heiligenstadt – Mayer am Pfarrplatz**

After lunch we will board our busses and enjoy an introduction of Vienna by a bus tour of the **Ringstrasse**, the majestic avenue that encircles the city center, which was once where the medieval wall encircled the city. Along the avenue are grand structures that speak of the cultural, political and military might of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, most constructed at the zenith of power in the nineteenth century. Immediately you'll fall under the spell of this cultural Mecca. For young musicians it is non-stop inspiration. What closer association to Vienna is there than music? Around nearly every bend, there are musical landmarks, ranging from theaters that premiered Mozart operas; *The Merry Widow*, *Così fan Tutte*, to residences of some of the world's greatest composers.

4:00 PM Check into our hotel

7:00 PM Dinner in the hotel



Monday, June 24 - Vienna - Attend a performance at the ‘Wiener Musikverein’

Breakfast buffet

9:30 We will have a walking tour of downtown Vienna, where you’ll see, amongst other things, Mozart’s famous “Figaro” apartment, as well as the mansion of the Lobkowitz family, one of Beethoven’s most loyal supporters. (He dedicated his Third Symphony to them.)

We will also see the house where **Schubert** was born. Unlike most of Vienna's other famous composers, Schubert was a native of the city. Also see the Hofburg, the winter palace of the Habsburg kings and queens, St. Stephen’s Cathedral, and the historic Viennese coffee houses.

12:30 Lunch on your own, followed by free time.

4:00 PM Return to hotel to change clothes and freshen up

5:30 PM Dinner in the hotel

7:15 PM Depart our hotel

8:15 PM We will attend a performance by the **Viennese Mozart Orchestra** at the ‘Wiener Musikverein’ (Vienna Music Society) <https://www.wien.info/en/art-culture/music-stage-shows/classic/musikverein-353398> where they will perform a selection of Mozart’s works

10:15 PM Return to our hotel

Tuesday, June 25 - Vienna

Breakfast buffet

9:30 PM Depart our hotel for ‘*Schloß Belvedere*’ (Belvedere Palace)

<https://www.belvedere.at/gustav-klimt> which houses the world’s greatest collection of Austrian art. It was on the initiative of Klimt and other artists that the ‘*Moderne Galerie*’ (Modern gallery) was founded here in 1903, the institution that has evolved into the Belvedere. The highlight is Klimt’s ‘*The Kiss*’



12:30 Lunch together – ‘**Salm Bräu**’,

2:00 PM We will pay a visit to Schloss Schönbrunn (the Imperial Palace) and admire the majestic palace grounds

15:00 PM Proceed to the Vienna Music School for rehearsal. Rental instruments will be issued and we will meet Daniel Muck, young Austrian composer and friend of YOCJ.

7:30 PM Depart for dinner to **Restaurant Melker Stiftskeller**

Wednesday, June 26 - Vienna - Eisenstadt - CONCERT

Breakfast buffet

08:45 Load instruments onto buses and depart for Eisenstadt, a 45-minute drive

11:00 CONCERT in the Haydn Hall

<https://esterhazy.at/en/esterhazy-palace>

1:00 PM Buffet lunch in the **Haydn Bräu** Restaurant, just a five-minute walk from the palace.

2:30 - 5:00 PM Tour the **Esterhazy Palace** in small groups; also have a little free time in this delightful historic town.

5:30 PM Free time to shop and explore Eisenstadt

6:30 PM Dinner buffet in the **Haydn Bräu**



Thursday, June 27 - Vienna - Salzburg

Breakfast buffet

9:30 Depart for Salzburg with a stop in **Melk**

11:00 Arrival in Melk, here we will see the world famous Benedictine Abbey of Melk, one of the highlights being the spectacular library. <http://www.stiftmelk.at/englisch/index.html>

12:30 Lunch at Abbey Melk

2:00 PM Depart for Salzburg after lunch, about a 2hr. and 15 minute drive

4:20 PM Arrival in Salzburg

4:30 PM Salzburg, the mecca for all **Mozart** lovers, where even the cobblestones seem to be imbued with musical vibrations. We will have a short walking tour to become acquainted with the charms of Salzburg.

7:30 PM Dinner together at the **Bräustübl Kaltenhausen**, afterwards proceed to our hotels



Friday, June 28 - Salzburg - CONCERT

Breakfast buffet

9:30 We will visit to Mozart's place of birth.

The museum has been freshly conceptualized to reflect the mecca it is.

It is more than a collection, more than a suite of rooms. It is an inspiration, a revelation, most especially for musicians.

<https://mozarteum.at/mozart-museen/mozarts-geburtshaus#info>

Afterwards time for lunch on your own in small groups

3:00 PM Meet and return to hotels to get dressed for concert

4:30 PM Depart our hotels for Hof

5:00-6:00 PM pick up instruments followed by rehearsal

6:00 PM Snack

7:00 PM Concert in the K.U.L.T Kulturzentrum (Cultural Center) of Hof, Salzburg

9:00 PM Eat dinner at the K.U.L.T. center

Saturday, June 29 - Salzburg - Berchtesgaden

Breakfast buffet

10:00 Depart our hotel for the short drive (45 minutes) across the border to Germany to the mountain town of Berchtesgaden. Berchtesgaden is a beautiful mountain retreat that became infamous due to the "Eagles Nest", the retreat for Hitler and his henchmen

12:30 Lunch in Berchtesgaden



After lunch we will pay a visit to the Salt Mine Berchtesgaden, a fascinating under mountain exploration that dates back to 1517
<https://www.salzbergwerk.de/en> Afterwards we will return to Salzburg for our farewell dinner



Sunday, June 30 - Salzburg - Munich - USA

Breakfast buffet

6:30 Depart our hotel for the Munich Airport

11:25 AM Aer Lingus flight EI 353 departs Munich, arrives in Dublin at 1:00 PM

4:45 PM Aer Lingus flight EI 107 departs Dublin, arrives in JFK at 7:20 PM

11:50 AM Air Canada flight AC 837 departs Munich, arriving in Toronto at 3:00 PM

5:15 PM Air Canada flight AC 718 departs Toronto, arriving in LaGuardia at 6:48 PM