



NB! This is a tentative itinerary, which is subject to change based on the final arrangements of the concerts' dates and venues. All the inclusions, sites, and basic outline will remain unchanged.

Budapest & Vienna Performance Tour

WITH OPTIONAL THREE-DAY EXTENSION TO PRAGUE

JUNE 30 – JULY 9, 2026

**TOUR CONDUCTOR:
DR. JIM TAYLOR**

**DIRECTOR OF CHORAL ACTIVITIES
PROFESSOR OF MUSIC AND DIRECTOR OF FINE ARTS AT LETOURNEAU UNIVERSITY**

REPERTOIRE:

CAMBRIDGE SONGS SUITE NO.3, JIM TAYLOR

MASS NO. 2 IN G MAJOR, FRANZ SCHUBERT

DAY 1: TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2026 – DEPARTURE FROM THE USA

Participants will depart from the USA on an overnight inter-continental flight to Budapest, Hungary. Our flight includes meals, drinks and in-flight entertainment for our journey.

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2026 – ARRIVAL IN BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

BUDAPEST

The capital of Hungary is located in the heart of Europe. Straddling the historic Danube River, the city was originally settled by the Celts and the Romans before being settled by the Magyars (Hungarians) in the ninth century. After being pillaged by the Mongols in 1241, the town was rebuilt and became a center of the Renaissance culture during the fifteenth century. The city, originally consisting of two separate towns (Buda and Pest), was joined by the Chain Bridge in 1873. A World Heritage Site, the city of Budapest is acclaimed as one of the most beautiful cities in Europe renowned for its ancient marvels, architectural wonders, and rich musical heritage.

Upon arrival, transfer by private air-conditioned coach to our hotel. One airport transfer included for the group. Depending on the arrival time, we will either check in upon arrival or store our luggage at the reception and get acquainted with our surroundings until our rooms are ready (typically after 3:00 pm).

Welcome dinner (included in the cost).

Two-hour evening choral rehearsal at the hotel conference room.

Overnight in Budapest

DAY 3: THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2026 – BUDAPEST GUIDED TOUR & REHEARSALS

Breakfast at the hotel.

9:00 am – 1:00 pm - Four- hour guided tour of Budapest with a licensed tour guide. Our four-hour Budapest guided tour will include highlights the iconic landmarks that combine Budapest's most emblematic sites across both Buda and Pest. The tour includes a blend of architecture, history, greenspace, and sweeping city views. It will give us an ideal snapshot of the city's dual charm.

Pest Highlights included on tour:

- Hungarian Parliament Building - A stunning Neo-Gothic landmark and Hungary's largest building, located on the Danube's Pest side.
- St. Stephen's Basilica - Visit this monumental basilica (the country's most important church).
- Andrassy Avenue, Heroes' Square, City Park - Stroll down this elegant UNESCO-listed boulevard lined with historic mansions, Opera House, and luxury shops. At the end stands Heroes' Square with grand statues and the entrance to City Park. If time allows, we may be able to include a quick walk through Városliget to see Vajdahunyad Castle.
- Széchenyi Chain Bridge - View the iconic bridge linking Pest and Buda — a symbolic and scenic crossing.

Buda Castle District & Scenic Views include:

- Royal Castle District, Matthias Church & Fisherman's Bastion - Explore the historic castle surroundings, multipurpose museums, the beautiful Matthias Church, and the neo-Romanesque terraces of Fisherman's Bastion offering sweeping views over the city.
- Gellért Hill (Citadel) - We will end the tour at this vantage point for one of the best panoramas of Budapest, fantastic photos, and reflection.

Lunch in Budapest (not included) and return to the hotel.

Afternoon choral rehearsal at the hotel conference room.

6:00 – 7:30 pm – Orchestra rehearsal with the Maestro (while the group is having dinner)

7:30 – 9:00 pm – Choral-orchestral rehearsal.

Optional: After dinner, private Boat guided trip on the Danube including soft drinks and light snacks. Cost: \$85 per person, including private bus transfer and guide. **Minimum number of people required to sign up for the tour to operate: 10.** This tour is optional!

Overnight in Budapest

DAY 3: FRIDAY, JULY 3, 2026 – PERFORMANCE IN BUDAPEST

Breakfast at the hotel.

Free morning to explore Budapest on your own with suggestions from our tour guide.

Lunch in Budapest (not included) and return to the hotel.

Take time to rest after lunch in preparation for our concert in Budapest.

Transfer by private coach from the hotel to the concert venue.

Dress rehearsal at the concert venue

Dinner in Budapest (included)

Performance in Budapest – venue TBD

Transfer back to the hotel by private coach

Overnight in Budapest

DAY 4: SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2026 – EXPLORE MORE OF BUDAPEST

Breakfast at the hotel.

Free morning to explore Budapest on your own with suggestions from our tour guide.

Lunch in Budapest (not included) and return to the hotel.

Free afternoon for last-minute shopping and to enjoy the city on your own.

Optional: Three-course dinner and special Gipsy music performance featuring well-known local players at a traditional Hungarian restaurant. **Cost: \$100 per person for a three-course meal, live performance, and private RT transfer. Minimum number of people required for the tour to operate: 10.** For those who opt out of the optional dinner, regular dinner will be served at the hotel. This dinner is optional!

Overnight in Budapest

DAY 5: SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2026 – DEPARTURE FOR VIENNA & A VISIT TO ESTERHAZY PALACE

Breakfast at the hotel, check out and transfer by private coach to Vienna, via Esterhazy Palace.

Guided tour of the Esterhazy Palace in Eisenstadt, Austria. It was the main residence of the powerful Esterházy family, one of the most influential noble families of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and the place where Haydn was a court musician.

Lunch (not included)

Upon arrival in Vienna, check into our hotel and take time to freshen up and rest.

Dinner in Vienna (included)

Overnight in Vienna

VIENNA

Imagine walking or perhaps even waltzing through the world's capitol of music – home to Beethoven Brahms, Strauss, Haydn and Chopin! We will spend a few splendid days in this historically rich and beautiful city, and will become acquainted with the Maria Theresia Platz, the Ringstrasse, and the State Opera House with its marble statues and impressive stage. The Karlsplatz invites us with its quiet park and cafes providing a moment to reflect before we arrive at the Musikverein, which is the seat of the Philharmonic Orchestra and one of the finest concert halls in the world. Our visit will include the striking monuments of Mozart, Beethoven and Johann Strauss. At last, we will arrive at the personal residence of Mozart, his only apartment that is still intact today, stepping back in time to 1784. To end the tour on a resounding note, we will have the opportunity to personally immerse ourselves in the life and music of Mozart through the audio guides at the Mozart Museum.

DAY 6: MONDAY, JULY 6, 2026 – VIENNA



SCHOENBRUNN PALACE

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by a three-hour bus and walking guided tour of Vienna, especially designed for musicians touring Vienna.

During this guided tour, we will see the famous Ringstreet, passing by the giant ferris wheel and over the Danube River. The group will stop at Hundertwasserhaus and Belvedere and will then have the opportunity to see the Mozart monument, the State Opera House of Vienna, "Karlsplatz" (Charles-Square) with the "Musikverein" (seat of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra), and the Brahms

statue nearby. Then, proceed to Stadtpark where we will see the Beethoven and Johann Strauss monuments. From there we will make our way up to Mozarthaus Vienna.

Lunch in Vienna (not included) followed by free time to stroll and see Vienna's downtown sites, have Viennese coffee while eating Lindser torte (not included), and experience other exciting sites in the Capital.

Transfer back to the hotel by private coach and take some time to rest.

Dinner in Vienna (included)

Overnight in Vienna

DAY 7: TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2026 – PERFORMANCE IN VIENNA

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by a guided tour of the Schoenbrunn Palace.

Lunch in Vienna (not included), followed by free time.

Transfer back to the hotel by private coach and take time to rest prior to our evening performance in Vienna.

Transfer by private coach from the hotel to the concert venue.

Dress rehearsal or Sound-check at the concert venue (if DR, take into account 2.5 hours for dinner prior to concert).

Dinner in Vienna (included)

Performance in Vienna– venue TBD

Transfer back to the hotel by private coach

Overnight in Vienna

DAY 8: WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2026 – FREE DAY IN VIENNA

Breakfast at the hotel.

Free day in Vienna to explore this marvelous city on your own.

Farewell dinner in Vienna (included)

On your own: After dinner, go to the nearby Johann Strauss, Jr. Park for waltzing under the stars – a magical evening to see the elegant professional dancers demonstrate the Viennese waltz, and then for the graceful ones, try it yourself!

Overnight in Vienna

DAY 9: WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2026 – DEPARTURE DAY OR CONTINUE TO PRAGUE

PRAGUE - 3-DAY OPTIONAL TOUR EXTENSION, JULY 9-12

Breakfast at the hotel, check out and transfer by private coach to Vienna International for our return flight to the USA, or board the bus for our private transfer to Prague for the optional three-day extension (approximately 4 hours' ride, without stops). The route will take us through charming towns, rolling hills, and scenic countryside, offering a delightful road trip experience.



Prague – The jewel in the crown of Europe! There is no contesting the fact that this vibrant city with its stunning buildings and lovely town squares is one of the world's most beautiful cities. Nicknamed, "the City of a Hundred Spires," it is known not only for its magnificent Gothic churches, but for the historic Old Town Square, a medieval Astronomical Clock, colorful baroque buildings, and a castle set on a hill. But not just any castle! Views from this ancient castle in the world include the entire city of Prague, where

around every nook and cranny you will find multitude of inviting cafes and restaurants with delectable pastries and culinary delights. The sights, sounds, scenes and sensations of Prague will provide you with memories to be treasured for a lifetime.

Lunch en-route (not included).

Upon arrival in Prague, check into our hotel and take time to settle in our room prior to dinner.

Dinner in Prague (included)

Overnight in Prague

DAY 10: THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2026 – GUIDED TOUR OF PRAGUE

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by a three-hour guided tour of Prague with a licensed tour guide.

Lunch in Prague (not included), followed by free time to explore the winding streets of the Old City on your own.

Transfer back to the hotel by private coach.

Dinner in Prague (included)

Evening Optional: Experience the magnificence of Prague with a river cruise through the city center. The cost includes private RT transfer from the hotel, a one-hour boat cruise including light snacks and a drink. **Cost: \$90 per person. Minimum number of people required to sign up for the tour to operate: 10.** This tour is optional!

Overnight in Prague

DAY 11: FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2026 – GUIDED TOUR OF PRAGUE

Breakfast at the hotel



THERESIENSTADT

9:00 am – 1:00 pm - Morning **optional tour** of the town of Terezín (Theresienstadt).

The Nazis developed and used Terezin as a transitory concentration camp for tens of thousands of Jews, before deporting them to Auschwitz, Treblinka and other death camps in the East. The Defiant Requiem has recently been performed in the USA to tell the story of this camp and to honor the prisoners in Terezín and their inspired artistic

endeavors. It is in this camp where a group of Jewish prisoners learned to sing the Verdi Requiem. **Cost: \$150 per person. Minimum number of people required to sign up for the tour to operate: 10.** Cost includes private motor coach transportation (Prague – Terezin – Prague), licensed tour guide and entrance fee to the Ghetto Museum and the Small Fortress. **This tour is optional!**

Overnight in Prague

DAY 12: FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2026 – DEPARTURE

Breakfast at the hotel, check out and transfer to the Prague International Airport for our return flight to the USA. One airport transfer included for the group.