



# Colleyville Heritage High School Choir Classical Budapest, Vienna, and Salzburg Tour

**Proposed Itinerary for March 6–15, 2019**

February 11, 2018

## **Wednesday, March 6**

We depart DFW for Budapest on flights to be determined, flying overnight with meal service en route.

## **Thursday, March 7 Arrival Budapest**

We touch down in Budapest and pass through baggage claim to be met by our USIT tour conductor and European escort. After boarding the coach, we depart for the center of Budapest, enjoying a panoramic tour of the city on the way. We'll view the city and the river from the height of the Fishermen's Bastion. From there, we'll have a splendid view of the historic Buda Palace, which we will visit. We also have admission to the beautiful nearby gothic St. Matthias Church. Every king and époque left its mark on the building until the Turks occupied Buda in 1541 and converted the temple into a mosque, whitewashing - and thus preserving - its medieval frescos. In addition to the usual biblical scenes, its frescos tell of the most important events in Hungary's history. Late afternoon we check into our hotel, the Ibis Styles Budapest City, a newly renovated hotel with fitness center, Jacuzzi, sauna, and other amenities on the Danube River, so for those who want to enjoy the city center, the hotel is nearby. The city is at your doorstep. Dinner is provided at the hotel (incl.). Dinner and hotel: Ibis Styles Budapest Central Hotel, Soroksári út 58, 1074 Hungary Phone as dialed from the US: 011 36 1 462 8100

## **Friday, March 8 Budapest**

We'll start our touring today with a panoramic tour to see the major sights of the city. We'll go by the Royal Palace. The original medieval palace that stood here was destroyed during the battles against Turkish invaders, leaving only the fortified walls. The site was then filled in to lay the foundations of the new grandiose Baroque palace started by Maria Theresa and expanded on Hungarian initiative in the 19th century, but was later mostly destroyed in WWII. We move on to Hero's Square, site of the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and statues of the Kings of Hungary. Then we go on to the Budapest Cathedral, recently restored, too beautiful to miss. Váci Street, the pedestrian main street of downtown Budapest, sets out from here, and





the square holds the most popular cafés of the capital. Lunch is on our own today. Given time, we'll visit The Pest Concert Hall, a masterpiece of Hungarian Romantic architecture, opened in 1865. It has seen the appearance of such composers as Franz Liszt, Wagner, Brahms, Richard Strauss, Bartók and Kodály. We'll also see the Parliament. Built at the turn of the century, the building of the Parliament quickly became a dominant sight and symbol of Budapest and the Danube panorama. A typically eclectic edifice with a small spikes and stone lace ornamentation, it is one of the most decorative structures of the capital. The rest of the afternoon is free. Dinner is on our own tonight. We meet back at the hotel to prepare for our **concert at the St. Matthias Church**, which we visited on arrival on Tuesday. Hotel: Ibis Styles Budapest Central Hotel



**Saturday, March 9 Travel to Vienna**

7:00 AM Breakfast at the hotel and check-out at 8:00 AM. Today we depart for Vienna and arrive late morning. Our official introduction to the city of Vienna, city of art, history, literature, and of course music, is a panoramic tour of Vienna by coach, including Vienna State Opera House, government center, and other important sights, and our guide will give us the background and history of Vienna as we go. The coach will drop us near the State Opera House for lunch on our own followed by a tour of the opera house at 3:00 PM (incl.), and we'll proceed on foot from there. After seeing more of the sights with our guide, we'll have free time on our own for shopping or exploring more of Vienna, including the famous museums. At 6:00 PM, the coaches will come back to pick us up and take us to the hotel for check-in, followed by dinner at the hotel. Hotel and dinner: Arcotel Wimberger, Neubaugürtel 34-36, 1070 Vienna Phone as dialed from the US: 011 43 1 521 65-0



**Sunday, March 10 Vienna**

7:00 AM Breakfast at the hotel. Today, we'll board the coach to see some of the sights that are a little further away from the Old City, to include the Hundertwasser House, the Composers' Cemetery with the gravesites of Schubert, Beethoven and other composers. Lunch is on our own at the café at Schönbrunn Palace. Then we have our guided tour of Schönbrunn Palace (incl.) where Mozart played for royalty as a child, and we'll have time to explore the extensive palace gardens. Then we return to the hotel. Dinner is on our own in the area of the hotel, and we will need to be dressed and ready to leave the hotel by 5:30 PM to attend our concert of the Vienna Residence Orchestra (incl.), who will perform Mozart and Strauss at the Palais Auersperg . Hotel: Arcotel Wimberger





### **Monday, March 11 Vienna and concert**

After a leisurely breakfast at the hotel this morning, we depart at 10:15 AM to transfer to the city center, and at **11:00 AM we arrive at the St. Stephen's Cathedral for our noon Mass participation and concert following the Mass.** Following the concert, we board the coaches for a pleasant drive through the countryside to Burg Kreuzenstein, a Fairytale fortress where we will see how the knights lived and see one of the largest private collection of medieval arms. Then, we'll attend their show (incl.) featuring hunting birds--hawks, eagles, and falcons. From Burg Kreuzenstein we return to Vienna for the evening and dinner on our own. Hotel: Arcotel Wimberger



### **Tuesday, March 12**

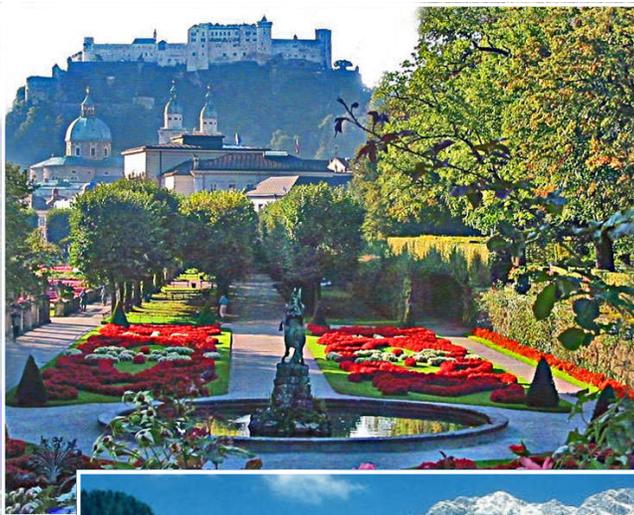
6:30 AM Breakfast at the hotel. After an early breakfast at the hotel and check-out, we leave Vienna at 8:00 AM sharp, and head towards Salzburg. As we travel on towards Salzburg, we'll drive along the beautiful Danube River, winding through upper Austria. We'll stop for a short visit in the town of Krems, in the heart of the wine and apricot region, to stretch our legs and see a little bit of this river town. At Krems we reboard the coaches for Salzburg. Then we'll continue up the autobahn a short distance and stop at a Rosenberg restaurant for lunch. After lunch, we'll stop for a tour of St. Florian's Abbey ("Stift St. Florian"), for a tour of the abbey, including its magnificent library and Baroque cathedral (incl.). The composer Anton Bruckner was the organist here for ten years, and his tomb in the catacombs, which we can visit and sing briefly, is directly under the organ he so loved, the famous Krissman organ. We can also sing informally in the sanctuary. After visiting St. Florian, we continue down the road to Salzburg, where we arrive late afternoon at our four-star hotel for check-in. Hotel and dinner: NH Hotel Salzburg City, Franz-Josef-Straße 26, 5020 Salzburg Phone as dialed from the US: 011 43 662 8820410



### **Wednesday, March 13**

7:30 AM Breakfast at the hotel Today we'll see some of the Sound of Music sites, Schloss Heilbrunn outside Salzburg at which the famous gazebo stands, and then we'll drive the short way up into the mountains to Berchtesgaden, Germany, where the Alps begin. Here we'll enjoy a boat ride and tour of the famous deep green waters of the Koenigssee in the Berchtesgaden National Forest, the most photographed panorama in Germany, an alpine lake with forest and near vertical cliffs on its banks. The boat, with silent electric motor, crosses the lake and glides to a small peninsula where the ancient baroque chapel of St. Bartholomew has stood for 600 years, accessible only by water (adm. incl.). We can sing informally in the chapel. Then, after lunch on our own, we take a tour deep into the mountain





at the famous salt mines in Berchtesgaden (adm incl.), which is fun for young and old alike. Then we board our coach again to drive back into Salzburg. Dinner is on our own. Hotel: NH Hotel Salzburg City

**Thursday, March 14**

7:30 AM Breakfast at the hotel. This morning, we plan to sing Mass at the Salzburg Dom, followed by a concert there in the cathedral. Then we'll start our walking tour of Salzburg at Mirabelle Gardens, one of the Sound of Music sites. From there, we continue to tour through the Old City (Altstadt) on foot, the best way to see it. This is a very compact area between the jutting outcrop of the Moenchsberg and the Salzach River. The rest of the Old City belonged to the wealthy burghers: the old market, the town hall, and the tall, plain burghers' houses like Mozart's Birthplace (adm. incl.). The Moenchsberg cliffs emerge unexpectedly behind the Old City, crowned to the east by the Hohensalzburg Fortress. Across the river is the Steingasse, a narrow medieval street where the working people lived. Our tour will include the Mozartplatz with its cafes and candy stores, the Residenz at the heart of Baroque Salzburg, the Dom and nearby St. Peter's Abbey. You can walk up to the fortress, or take the funicular, and from the Fortress Hohensalzburg, you can see the whole city, and on a clear day, you can see the nearby Alps in all their glory. Depending on the time, there is much more to see, and you have some free time in the afternoon. Our farewell dinner is provided at the hotel tonight in Salzburg. Hotel: NH Hotel Salzburg City

**Thursday, March 15 Travel Home**

This morning, we depart very early for the two and a half hour drive to Munich Int'l Airport to catch our 1:30 PM flight, to be determined. Arrival at DFW is planned for @ 7:00 PM.

