



## Bach's Organ World Tour of Germany for Organists & Friends

June 2 - 11, 2020 (10 days, 8 nights)

*There will be masterclasses and opportunity for organists to play many of the organs visited. Non-organists are welcome to hear about/listen to the organs or explore the tour cities in more depth*

### **Day 1 - Tuesday, June 2**

**Departure**

Overnight flights to Berlin, Germany (own arrangements or request from Concept Tours).

### **Day 2 - Wednesday, June 3**

**Arrival/Dresden**

*Guten Tag* and welcome to Berlin! (*Arrival time to meet for group transfer tbd.*) Meet your English-speaking German tour escort who'll be with you throughout the tour. Board your private bus for transfer south to **Dresden**, a *Kunststadt* (*City of Art*) along the graceful *Elbe River*. Dresden's glorious architecture was reconstructed in advance of the city's 800th anniversary. Highlights include the elegant *Zwinger* Palace and the baroque *Hofkirche* (*Court Church*). Check in to hotel for 2 nights. Welcome dinner and overnight.



### **Day 3 - Thursday, June 4**

**Dresden**

This morning enjoy a guided walking tour of Dresden. Some of the major sights you'll see: the *Frauenkirche*; *Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister* (Painting Gallery of Old Masters); inside the *Zwinger*; the majestic *Semper Opera House*; *Grünes Gewölbe* (Green Vaults); the *Brühlsche Terrasse* overlooking the River Elbe. Free time afterwards for your own explorations.

3pm Meet at the *Kreuzkirche* to attend the organ recital "Orgel Punkt 3".

Visit *Hofkirche* and have a resident organist (tbc) demonstrate the Silbermann organ, followed by some organ time for members.

### **Day 4 - Friday, June 5**

**Freiberg/Pomßen/Leipzig**

After breakfast, check out, board bus and depart. First stop is **Freiberg** to see and learn about the two famous Silbermann organs at Freiberg's *Cathedral of St. Mary* and the *Petrikirche*. Masterclass (tbc). Continue to **Pomßen** to see and hear one of Saxony's oldest organs in the centuries-old Romanesque *Wehrkirche* (Fortified Church). Continue to **Leipzig**. This grand city of German culture has always been a major musical center. Johann Sebastian Bach, of course, was a major figure during his last years, as well as Felix Mendelssohn 100 years later and Richard Wagner, born here in 1813. Leipzig is also home to one of Germany's most important universities. East Germany's peaceful revolution in the fall of 1989 began here.



Late afternoon arrival and meet your local guide for a sightseeing tour. Highlights include

155 W. 72<sup>nd</sup> Street, 401 New York, NY 10023

Tel: 212-580-0760 Fax: 212-874-4554 info@Concept-Tours.com

*Thomaskirche*, where Bach was Cantor and Director of Music for the last 27 years of his life; the baroque *Nikolaikirche*; *Mendelssohn House*; and *Zum Arabischen Coffe Baum*, which since it opened in 1694 has served as a meeting place for Robert Schumann, Richard Wagner, Goethe, and many others. Check in to your hotel for 3 nights. Group dinner tonight.

### **Day 5 - Saturday, June 6**

### **Naumburg/Leipzig**

Full day excursion to **Naumburg** to visit the *Naumburg Dom* with its 13<sup>th</sup> century *Stifterfiguren (Founders' Statues)*. Then walk to *Stadtkirche St. Wenzel* to attend the "Orgel Punkt 12" recital and have a brief overview about the organ. After lunch (on own), return to *Wenzelskiche* to play the magnificent *Hildebrandt organ*, the organ with the closest connection to J. S. Bach. If available, you may visit the *Ladegast organ* at *St. Marien-Magdalenen-Kirche* that was built in 1869 and has not been changed since.



Return to Leipzig in late afternoon. Option to attend Evensong at *Thomaskirche*.

### **Day 6 - Sunday, June 7**

### **Leipzig**

Optional - attend 9:30 am service at *Thomaskirche*.

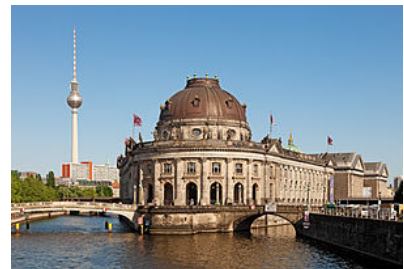
Depart (time tbd) to the *Schlosskirche* (castle church) in **Altenburg** to see and play the *Trost organ* that Bach played in 1739. Onto the small town of **Störmthal** and its village church to play its *Hildebrandt organ* (still in original condition), which was inspected and dedicated by Bach. Return to Leipzig. Balance of the day is free.

Optional - attend evening service at *Thomaskirche*.

### **Day 7 - Monday, June 8**

### **Berlin**

After breakfast, check out and board your bus for the three hour drive to **Berlin**. En route visit **Rotha** with its two lesser-known *Silbermann organs* at the churches of *St. Mary's* and *St. George's*, and possibly **Merseburg** for the famous *Ladegast organ* in *Merseburg Cathedral*: *Liszt* wrote his *Fantasie* and *Fugue on Bach* for that organ. Late afternoon arrival in Berlin; meet your local guide who will take you on a 3-hour guided tour of Berlin. Highlights include the *Brandenburger Tor (Brandenburg Gate)*; the *Reichstag (Parliament)*; *Checkpoint Charlie* and its museum (with artifacts from the city's post WWII period); a fragment of the notorious *Berlin Wall*; *Die Siegessäule (Victory Column)*; the *Tiergarten* (Berlin's largest park); *Gendarmenmarkt* (Berlin's most beautiful square) and *Potsdamer Platz (Potsdam Square, the old and new center of Berlin)*.



Group dinner tonight, overnight in Berlin for 3 nights.

## **Day 8 - Tuesday, June 9**

**Berlin**

Morning visit to the Berliner Dom for an organ demonstration with the cathedral's organist, followed by the chance to come up to the console to make yourself familiar with the organ. Afternoon and evening free to explore Berlin on your own.

## **Day 9 - Wednesday, June 10**

**Brandenburg/Berlin**

Today, venture out into the Brandenburg "organ landscape" with visits to **Brandenburg an der Havel** and **Tangermünde**. At the *Brandenburg Cathedral (Dom Sts. Peter und Paul)*, you'll see, study and play the marvelous Wagner organ built for the Dom in 1725. After a quick lunch break, continue to Tangermünde and *St. Stephen's Church (Stephanskirche)* to find the 1624 Scherer organ. Return to Berlin (approx. 2 hours).

Tonight, you'll enjoy a **festive farewell dinner** at a fine local restaurant.



## **Day 10 - Thursday, June 11**

**Flights Home**

Transfer to the airport for your flight(s) home. **Welcome home!**

### **Your Tour Leaders:**

**Lee Ridgway** has been active as an organist, harpsichordist and choral conductor in the Boston area for more than 40 years. Lee holds the bachelor's degree from the University of Oklahoma, where he studied organ with Mildred Andrews. His master's degree is from the New England Conservatory, where he studied harpsichord with John Gibbons. He has also done extensive additional studies in Europe. He has performed on many historic organs in Europe, North America, and Mexico, including the instruments on the Bach tour. He brings to the tour knowledge of organs which span 280 years of organ building, a detailed experience of the history, sound and quirks of playing historic instruments. Tour participants will play several instruments by organ builders admired by J. S. Bach.

**Mark Steinbach** is University Organist, Curator of Instruments, and Senior Lecturer in Music at Brown University, where he teaches applied organ and seminars on topics including historically informed performance practices. Mr. Steinbach concertizes and teaches frequently throughout the United States and Europe. He has performed solo recitals on historic organs including Freiberg Cathedral, Rötha, Dresden, Halle, and Berlin, Germany and throughout Italy. His new recording on the historic Silbermann organ in Dresden Cathedral (an organ featured in this tour) will be released in 2020.

Mark has been a featured recitalist and clinician at regional and national conventions of the American Guild of Organists, the Organ Historical Society, and The Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative Festival and the International Music Symposium in Xi'an China. He has been featured on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" performing on a 1640's English cabinet organ. His recording *Organ Works of Anton Heiller (Loft)* has been featured on *Pipedreams* and *The Organ Loft*. Mr. Steinbach has adjudicated several organ competitions, including the American Guild of Organists National Young Artists Competition. Mr. Steinbach earned the bachelor of music degree from the University of Kansas, and the master of music and doctor of musical arts degrees from The Eastman School of Music. As a Fulbright scholar, he studied in Vienna, Austria.

Please Note: This tour involves a significant amount of climbing narrow stairs and walking on hilly and/or uneven terrain.