



Music Room of  
Lobkowitz Palace, Prague

HOSTED BY BILL McGLAUGHLIN OF  
WFMT'S *EXPLORING MUSIC*

## The Beethoven Quartet Tour

### Ludwig van Beethoven's sixteen quartets are the pinnacle of classical music

and among the most profound and influential works ever written. Experience this incomparable music performed live by the acclaimed Cypress String Quartet in historic venues in the great music capitals of Budapest, Vienna and Prague. This once-in-a-lifetime tour will be led by Bill McGlaughlin, one of classical music's most popular radio personalities, and host of WFMT's nationally-syndicated program *Exploring Music*, as well as *St. Paul Sunday Morning*.

The Cypress Quartet, one of the finest ensembles in the world, will perform the complete quartets in six concerts exclusively for the group. The performances will take place in historic venues associated with Beethoven and his times including the Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, founded by Franz Liszt, a young pupil of the Master; the Eroicaaal in Vienna, where Beethoven led early performances of the "Eroica" Symphony and premiered other important works; and the Lobkowitz Palace in Prague, residence of one of Beethoven's most significant patrons. Along the way, we will have special access to sites and historic documents, some not accessible to the general public, integral to the life of Beethoven and other great composers.

Deluxe accommodations in five-star hotels, fine dining in some of the best restaurants in all three cities, the company of like-minded travelers, and the opportunity to attend other performances in the three cities complete this unforgettable musical journey!

#### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- The complete string quartets of Beethoven performed in historic venues
- Commentary on the music by *Exploring Music*'s Bill McGlaughlin
- Special access to historic sites including homes of Beethoven, Liszt, and Schubert
- Deluxe accommodations in five-star hotels
- Fine dining in all three cities
- Opportunity to attend other major performances in all three cities
- Private motorcoach transportation for all activities on the itinerary
- Plenty of free time to pursue your own interests

### The Cypress String Quartet performs the Complete String Quartets of Beethoven in Budapest, Vienna & Prague October 25-November 5, 2015



#### THE CYPRESS STRING QUARTET

has been praised by Gramophone for its "artistry of uncommon insight and cohesion," The New York Times described their recent

recording of Beethoven's Middle Quartets as being performed with "rich tone, crisp ensemble work and expressive nuance." The Cypress Quartet was formed in San Francisco in 1996 and quickly became one of the finest ensembles in the U.S. During the last 15 years, the CSQ has gone without a single personnel change, putting them in the unique position of having spent more hours exploring Beethoven's music than any other current quartet. The Cypress maintain a busy national and international tour schedule and play on exceptional instruments including violins by Antonio Stradivari (1681) and Carlos Bergonzi (1733), a viola by Vittorio Bellarosa (1947), and a cello by Hieronymus Amati II (1701)



#### BILL McGLAUGHLIN

*Exploring Music* with Bill McGlaughlin is now in its 12th season playing in two hundred markets across the country as well as in Australia and New Zealand. Bill has also served as host of the popular public radio program *St. Paul Sunday* since its inception in 1980. In 1996 that program received the highest honor in broadcasting,

the George Foster Peabody Award. McGlaughlin has worked with PBS, the BBC and is also host of two other popular radio programs, *Center Stage from Wolf Trap* and *Concerts from the Library of Congress*.

**TOUR COST: \$7,995 per person, ground only, based on double occupancy. Single supplement: \$1,150. Tour limited to 25 participants.**

The WFMT Beethoven tour is organized by THE GRAND TOUR Travel Company, Peterborough, New Hampshire

# Daily Itinerary

## Sunday, October 25

Flights from the US arrive in Budapest the following day.

## MONDAY, OCT 26 BUDAPEST WELCOME!

Upon arrival, we transfer to the #1 rated hotel in Northern Europe according to *Condé Nast Traveler*, the Four Seasons Gresham Palace, with its spectacular *art nouveau* lobby and award-winning restaurant. A late afternoon cruise on the lovely Danube River precedes our **welcome dinner** at one of Budapest's finest restaurants.

## TUESDAY, OCT 27 BUDAPEST

**Breakfast daily** at all three hotels. The city of Budapest is a union of two ancient cities divided by the wide Danube. This morning we'll tour the old town of Buda, stopping at the fascinating Bela Bartok Archive where we will listen to examples of the folk melodies out of which he crafted his masterpieces. Then we'll **lunch** in Buda before descending the hill to Pest for a tour of the sumptuous Hungarian State Opera House, one of the grandest buildings in Hungary. Nearby is the Franz Liszt Museum, the composer's home for the last four years of his life. A respite at a famous old-world café marks the end of our day. Dinner on your own and evening free.



The "Eroica Saal," Vienna

## WEDNESDAY, OCT 28 BUDAPEST

After **breakfast**, the morning is devoted to recent events in Budapest's history. We'll tour Heroes Square, and the House of Terror Museum, the former headquarters of the Nazis and later the Stasi, the Communist secret police. Lunch is on your own, and your afternoon is free. Tonight the Cypress String Quartet begins its survey of Beethoven's complete string quartets with a concert at the Vigadó Concert Hall. Opened in 1864 and beautifully restored after bombing damage in World War II, the hall has hosted many storied artists including Franz Liszt, Wagner, Johann Strauss Jr, Dvorak and Debussy. **Dinner** will follow at a nearby restaurant.

## THURSDAY, OCT 29 VIENNA

Before departing Budapest, the Cypress performs the 2nd in the Beethoven cycle at another impressive venue, The Liszt Music Academy. Founded by Liszt, himself a student of Beethoven, the Academy has served as music

capital of the city since 1875. The building and its world renowned university has hosted most of the major artists of the past and current century. **Lunch** follows before we leave for Vienna by our private motorcoach. Upon arrival in the great city, we check in at the grand Hotel Imperial on the Ringstrasse, since 1873 one of Vienna's most elegant addresses. Tonight you have the option of a concert by the Cleveland Orchestra in one of the world's greatest concert halls, the Musikverein, across the street from our hotel. Dinner on your own.

## FRIDAY, OCT 30 VIENNA

Strolling through the historic center from Saint Stephen's, where Bruckner played the great organ, we enter the Imperial Palace to view many of the lavish, intricately-crafted symbols of Habsburg power in the Hofburg's Treasure Chamber. After **lunch** at the Schwarzen Kameel (Black Camel) in a characteristic *jugendstil* (art nouveau) building, we visit the great summer palace of the Habsburgs, Schönbrunn Palace and its gardens. Evening free.

## SATURDAY, OCT 31 VIENNA

This morning we offer a private tour, exclusive to the group, of Vienna's Fine Arts Museum with its famous paintings by Breughel, Caravaggio, Arcimboldo, and many others. For a change of pace, we then visit a lesser known gem: the Leopold Museum—and its collection of *jugendstil* painting and decorative arts. **Lunch** is in the lovely Palmenhaus in the Burggarten. In the afternoon, we then travel to the suburb of Heiligenstadt to visit the house of Beethoven, where—in the most profound crisis of his life—he penned the "Heiligenstadt Testament" admitting his growing deafness. Nearby is the birthplace of Franz Schubert, born here in 1797, and the site of the 3rd performance in our Beethoven cycle. Dinner on your own and evening free.

## SUNDAY, NOV 1 VIENNA

Morning free and lunch on your own. This is a great opportunity to watch the famed Lippizzaner horses go through their paces, hear the Vienna Choir Boys, visit the Freud Museum or visit any number of other Vienna landmarks. Tonight is the 4th concert of the Beethoven cycle, in the historic Eroicaaal of the Lobkowitz Palace. Here Beethoven led an early performance of the "Eroica" Symphony and premiered the 4th Symphony as well as other important works. After the concert, we celebrate the end of our stay in Vienna with **dinner** at the Hotel Bristol, one of the best restaurants in the city.

## MONDAY, NOV 2 PRAGUE

We bid *aufwiedersehen* to Vienna to travel by motorcoach to the gorgeous city of Prague on the river Moldau. En route, we stop for **lunch** in the town of Mikulov. In Prague, we will reside in intimate luxury at the music-themed Aria Hotel, where every room is named for a composer and a vast music library is at your disposal. We'll tour Strahov Monastery, founded in 1143, with a

special private visit to its Baroque library, and take in its spectacular view overlooking the city. Dinner is on your own and your evening is free.

## TUESDAY, NOV 3 PRAGUE

Today we ascend Prague's Castle Hill to visit the Royal Palace, scene of many major events in the city's history, the cathedral of St. Vitus, and medieval St. George basilica. Nearby, **lunch** is at U Zlate Hrusky [The Golden Pear]. Afternoon free. Tonight the 5th concert of Beethoven's complete string quartets takes place at the beautiful Gregor Hall in Prague's magnificent art nouveau Municipal House.

## WEDNESDAY, NOV 4 PRAGUE

Passing through the Old Town Square to see the extraordinary astronomical clock, we take a walking tour of the unique Jewish Quarter. Visits to the Old Jewish Cemetery, a veritable tumble of centuries-old tombstones, and the gothic Old-New Synagogue are fascinating and we'll hear about the life of the quarter's most famous resident, Franz Kafka. The afternoon is free before our final concert this evening. The 5th Prince Lobkowitz was one of Beethoven's most important patrons to whom the composer dedicated the Opus 18 quartets, the Eroica Symphony and other works. We will tour the family palace on Castle Hill and view its prized art collection, original scores and manuscripts by Beethoven and Mozart. The private concert precedes a **Gala Farewell Dinner**.

## THURSDAY, NOV 5

The tour ends after breakfast and flights home to the US, arriving the same day.

*Itinerary subject to change.*

*Meals in bold are included in the price of the tour.*

## TOUR REGISTRATION

**TOUR COST: \$7,995 per person, ground only, double occupancy. Single supplement: \$1,150**

**DEPOSIT: \$1200 per person first come, first served**

**BALANCE DEADLINE: Friday, August 21, 2015.**  
After that date, call for availability.

Contact **The Grand Tour, 800-727-2995** or **info@thegrandtour.com** to reserve your place with a credit card deposit, or send a check made payable to The Grand Tour for the amount to: Beethoven Quartet Tour, The Grand Tour, PO Box 274, Peterborough, NH 03458. Registration materials can be downloaded from [www.wfmt.com/travel](http://www.wfmt.com/travel)

### QUESTIONS?

Contact The Grand Tour at 800-727-2995 or **info@thegrandtour.com**