



COPENHAGEN, HAMBURG & BERLIN OPERAS, BALLETS & ORCHESTRAS with Robert Gay

Enjoy outstanding performances in some of the finest venues in Denmark and Germany, including Copenhagen's stunning opera house, Berlin's Staatsoper Unter den Linden and the sensational Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy 9 performances of opera, ballet and orchestral music, led by a series of renowned conductors including Michael Tilson Thomas, Kent Nagano, Simone Young and Gustavo Dudamel
- Get the most out of the performances with talks by tour leader Robert Gay
- Admire fine contemporary architecture, including Copenhagen's striking waterfront opera house and Herzog & de Meuron's magnificent Elbphilharmonie concert hall towering over Hamburg's river port
- Traverse the mighty Öresund Bridge which connects Denmark and Sweden
- Rediscover Berlin's rejuvenated gems, from Norman Foster's celebrated glass and steel dome crowning the Reichstag to the beautifully refurbished Staatsoper Unter den Linden
- Explore the maritime heritage of the UNESCO-listed Hanseatic town of Lübeck

IN A NUTSHELL

DATES: 31 May – 15 June 2024

ITINERARY:

Copenhagen (5n), Lübeck (2n), Hamburg (4n), Berlin (4n)

PRICE: \$13,650pp twinshare

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$2,590
for sole use of a double room

FITNESS: Moderate

GROUP SIZE: max. 20 places



Limelight Arts Travel Pty Ltd
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LIMELIGHT
ARTS — TRAVEL

OVERVIEW

Limelight Arts Travel is pleased to announce a new tour that offers the best of opera and orchestral music in cutting-edge contemporary venues, from Denmark to Hamburg and Berlin.

Enjoy nine outstanding performances of opera, ballet and orchestral music in splendid venues, including Copenhagen's state-of-the-art Operaen, Herzog & de Meuron's prize-winning Elbphilharmonie and Berlin's historic Staatsoper Unter den Linden. Discover how the Hanseatic League shaped the history, politics, economy and society of Europe through ports such as Lübeck and Hamburg, and explore a vast patrimony of art, culture and history in Berlin, including the world's largest collection of works by Rembrandt at the Gemäldegalerie.

The performance program is complemented by an excursion across the famous Öresund Bridge to the Swedish city of Malmö, and a two-night stay in the fascinating Hanseatic town of Lübeck, Germany's most extensive UNESCO World Heritage site.

TOUR LEADER

Robert Gay has significant expertise as a music history educator and tour leader, having designed and led more than 100 tours to the great musical cities of Europe and North America.

Known for his popular music history courses, which have been offered at the University of Sydney's Centre for Continuing Education for more than 30 years, Robert's musical expertise extends from the baroque period through to the great composers of the modern era.

Robert trained as a lyric baritone in London and Munich, and he was also President of the Sydney Schubert Society for many years. He has been a guest lecturer for the Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society (ADFAS), and is regularly invited to present talks on opera and music history to organisations such as the Wagner Society NSW.

Right, top to bottom: Kent Nagano courtesy HarrisonParrott (Sergio Veranes Studio); Michael Tilson Thomas (Vahan Stepanyan); Simone Young (Sandrah Steh); Gustavo Dudamel (Stephan Rabold)



DETAILED ITINERARY

FRIDAY 31 MAY – ARRIVAL (D)

Group members arrive during the day. In the early evening, gather to meet your fellow travellers, tour leader and tour manager in the hotel, before enjoying dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight Copenhagen.

SATURDAY 01 JUNE – NYHAVN, PERFORMANCE 1 (B, D)

We begin the day with a talk by Robert Gay, before heading to the Nyhavn waterfront and to take a leisurely cruise on the lovely canals and harbour, passing the **Amalienborg Palace** and the striking **Copenhagen Opera House**. A gift to the nation from a Danish industrialist, the Henning Larsen-designed building is dominated by expansive glass frontages and crowned with a 32-metre floating cantilevered roof. This afternoon, we attend a performance of Mahler's epic Third Symphony in the beautiful auditorium of the Koncerthuset, with American conductor Michael Tilson Thomas making his debut. Overnight Copenhagen.

Performance details

Venue: Koncerthuset, Copenhagen

Program: Gustav Mahler, Symphony No.3

Performers: Alice Coote (mezzo-soprano), Concert Choir, Copenhagen Boys Choir, Danish National Symphony Orchestra, Michael Tilson Thomas (conductor)

SUNDAY 02 JUNE – AT LEISURE, PERFORMANCE 2 (B)

After a morning talk in our hotel, the middle of the day is at leisure until our performance this afternoon. You may like to visit the Design Museum, only a short walk from our hotel. The lovely Rococo building of 1757 displays arts, craft and industrial design from across the globe, while also paying special homage to acclaimed Danish designers Poul Henningson, Kaare Klint and Arne Jacobsen. Mid-afternoon, we take a launch across to the imposing Operaen to hear soprano Elisabet Strid make her debut in Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*. Overnight Copenhagen.

Performance details

Venue: Copenhagen Operaen

Program: Richard Wagner, *Tristan und Isolde*

Performers: Elisabet Strid (Isolde), Simon O'Neill (Tristan), Hanne Fischer (Brangäne), Sofia Jupither (director), Paolo Carignani (conductor)



MONDAY 03 JUNE – MALMÖ (B)

Today, we travel by private coach to **Malmö**, crossing the impressive 16km-long **Öresund Bridge** into southern Sweden. Founded in the late 1200s, Malmö is a cultural hub of art and design that blends old-world charm with a cosmopolitan modernity. We stroll through the cobbled streets to the town's oldest square and the Gothic church of St Peter with its fresco-covered ceiling. After free time for lunch, we have a guided tour of the city's **Opera House**. Inaugurated in 1944, it features one of the largest stages in Europe. Afterwards, we return to Copenhagen, where the evening is at leisure. Overnight Copenhagen.

TUESDAY 04 JUNE – TIVOLI GARDENS, PERFORMANCE 3 (B, L)

This morning we walk through the **King's Gardens** at Rosenborg Castle to the **Statens Museum** (National Gallery of Denmark). There is time to explore the museum's collections before we enjoy a typical Danish lunch in the beautifully landscaped **Tivoli Gardens**. As the later afternoon is at leisure, you may like to visit the nearby Glyptotek, which displays a fine collection of Egyptian, Greek, Etruscan and Roman antiquities, as well as Danish and French art and sculpture of the nineteenth century. In the evening, we attend Glazunov's ballet *Raymonda*, which was Marius Petipa's final major work, a celebrated tribute to the prima ballerina's art. Overnight Copenhagen.

Performance details

Venue: Det Kogelige Teater (Old Stage)

Program: Alexander Glazunov, *Raymonda*

Performers: Nikolaj Hübbe (choreographer, after Petipa), The Royal Danish Ballet, The Royal Danish Orchestra

WEDNESDAY 05 JUNE – TO LÜBECK (B, D)

We check out of our hotel this morning and travel by private coach to **Lübeck**, with a break for lunch along the way. Founded in the twelfth century, Lübeck was one of the most illustrious seats of global trade in the Middle Ages, and the former capital of the Hanseatic League. The World Heritage site is a preserve of Gothic, renaissance and baroque architecture, standing as a testament to the city's longstanding maritime prestige. After checking into our hotel, dinner this evening is in a local restaurant. Overnight Lübeck.



THURSDAY 06 JUNE – LÜBECK (B)

This morning we survey Lübeck's one-thousand-year history on a guided **walking tour** exploring the town's alleyways, churches, monasteries and merchants' houses. Despite sustaining significant damage in World War II, most of its noteworthy monuments, including the Holsten Gate, the churches of St Peter and St Mary, the town hall and several of the old salt warehouses survive intact. In the afternoon, we visit **St Anne's Museum Quarter** to see the fine collection of medieval sculptures and altarpieces, including the breathtaking triptych of the Crucifixion by Hans Memling. The evening is at leisure for you to continue to explore this remarkable small city in the long twilight. Overnight Lübeck.

FRIDAY 07 JUNE – TO HAMBURG (B, D)

This morning we drive to the seaside town of **Travemünde**. Built in the twelfth century, the town's location at the mouth of the Trave River offered an ideal defensive position during the time of the Hanseatic League. We visit the Church of St Lorenz to see its exquisitely painted ceiling and baroque altar, before strolling along the promenade and enjoying free time for lunch in one of the many seafood restaurants lining the quay. We then head for Hamburg, our destination for the next four nights. After checking into our hotel, dinner this evening is in a local restaurant. Overnight Hamburg.

SATURDAY 08 JUNE – HAMBURG'S COMPOSERS QUARTER, PERFORMANCE 4 (B)

After a morning talk, we take a guided **walking tour** through the **Composers Quarter**, a collection of six small museums dedicated to various aspects of Hamburg's musical heritage. Located in restored merchant houses, the museums celebrate the lives and work of Brahms, Telemann, C.P.E. Bach, Hasse, Mahler and Felix & Fanny Mendelssohn – all of whom were either born or lived in Hamburg. The afternoon is at leisure before we attend a performance of Korngold's rarely-performed *Die tote Stadt* at the Hamburg State Opera. Overnight Hamburg.

Performance details

Venue: Hamburg State Opera

Program: Erich Wolfgang Korngold, *Die tote Stadt*

Performers: Karoline Gruber (director), Cast TBA



SUNDAY 09 JUNE – HAMBURGER KUNSTHALLE, PERFORMANCE 5 (B)

We begin with a talk on today's performance, before we visit the **Hamburger Kunsthalle** which houses one of the most important public art collections in Germany, with works ranging from the Middle Ages to Modernism. Highlights include medieval altars from north Germany, seventeenth-century Dutch Masters, masterpieces of German Romanticism and French Impressionism, and international contemporary art. In the late afternoon, in the outstanding main auditorium of the new Elbphilharmonie, we hear a semi-staged concert performance of Messiaen's only opera, *Saint François d'Assise*. Overnight Hamburg.

Performance details

Venue: Grand Hall of the Elbphilharmonie

Program: Olivier Messiaen's *Saint François d'Assise* – a project by Kent Nagano and scenic designer Georges Delnon as part of the Hamburg International Music Festival

Performers: Anna Prohaska (The Angel), Johannes Martin Kränzle (St Francis), Hamburg State Opera Orchestra, Kent Nagano (conductor)

MONDAY 10 JUNE – SPEICHERSTADT, PERFORMANCE 6 (B)

A guided **walking tour** of the **Speicherstadt** this morning takes us to the world's largest historic warehouse complex, spanning 260,000 square metres and fronting the Elbe River. Built on thousands of oak piles submerged in the river, the area was created as an economic free zone to avoid customs duty on the transfer of goods. From this vantage point, we observe the striking architecture of Hamburg's foremost cultural landmark, the Elbphilharmonie. The dazzling curved glass sits atop a warehouse base – joining the old with the new – and houses three concert halls, each boasting cutting-edge acoustic design. This evening, we attend choreographer John Neumeier's celebrated first full-length symphonic ballet (from 1975) of Mahler's Symphony No.3 at the Hamburg State Opera. Overnight Hamburg.

Performance details

Venue: Hamburg State Opera

Program: 'Third Symphony of Gustav Mahler', John Neumeier (choreographer)

Performers: Royal Danish Ballet

TUESDAY 11 JUNE – TO BERLIN (B, D)

This morning we travel by coach to Berlin, with a break for refreshments on the way. After checking in, we take an orientation stroll with our tour leader to familiarise ourselves with the vibrant Mitte district where our hotel is located. Dinner this evening is in a local restaurant. Overnight Berlin.



WEDNESDAY 12 JUNE – NEUE GEMÄLDEGALERIE, PERFORMANCE 7 (B)

After a morning talk, we walk up Unter den Linden and through the **Brandenburg Gate**, before crossing the Tiergarten – the green heart of Berlin – to the famous **Gemäldegalerie**. There is time to explore the museum's impressive collection of European masters from the thirteenth to the eighteenth century – including the world's largest collection of Rembrandts – before returning to the hotel. This evening, we attend the Staatsoper Unter den Linden's exciting new (2019) production of Verdi's *Rigoletto*. Overnight Berlin.

Performance details

Venue: Staatsoper Unter den Linden

Program: Giuseppe Verdi, *Rigoletto*

Performers: Alfredo Daza (Rigoletto), Pene Pati (Duke of Mantua), Aida Garifullina (Gilda), Grigory Schkarupa (Sparafucile), Elena Maximova (Maddalena), Staatskapelle Berlin, Giedrė Šlekytė (conductor)

THURSDAY 13 JUNE – AT LEISURE, PERFORMANCE 8 (B)

Following a morning talk on tonight's opera, the remainder of the day is free to explore Berlin's many museums and attractions. In the evening, we have our second visit to the beautifully refurbished Staatsoper Unter den Linden to see Simone Young conduct Claus Guth's production of Musorgsky's Russian folk drama *Khovanshchina*, which chronicles a late seventeenth-century uprising against Peter the Great. Overnight Berlin.

Performance details

Venue: Staatsoper Unter den Linden

Program: Modest Musorgsky, *Khovanshchina* (orchestrated by Shostakovich)

Performers: Mika Kares (Ivan Khovansky), Najmiddin Mavlyanov (Andrei Khovansky), Stephan Rügamer (Vasily Golitzin), Ferruccio Furlanetto (Dosifey), Marina Prudenskaya (Marfa), Vladislav Sulimsky (Boyar Shaklovity), Steve Davislim (Scrivener), Claus Guth (director), Staatskapelle Berlin, Simone Young (conductor)

FRIDAY 14 JUNE – RIVER CRUISE, PERFORMANCE 9 (B, L)

This morning we enjoy Berlin's principal sights – such as Museum Island, the Nikolai Quarter, the main railway station and the Reichstag – from a different perspective as we take a relaxing **cruise on the River Spree**. Afterwards, we head to Norman Foster's remarkable reconstruction of the **Reichstag** building. Ascending to the rooftop terrace restaurant, adjacent to Foster's 800-ton steel and glass dome, we dine on modern German cuisine at our farewell lunch, while enjoying expansive views over the city. Tonight, in the famous Philharmonie, we hear Mahler's mighty Sixth Symphony, played by the Berlin Philharmonic conducted by Gustavo Dudamel – certainly a fitting end to our musical odyssey. Overnight Berlin.



Performance details

Venue: Philharmonie

Program: Gustav Mahler, Symphony No.6

Performers: Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, Gustavo Dudamel (conductor)

SATURDAY 15 JUNE – DEPARTURE (B)

Our tour arrangements conclude after breakfast in the hotel. Our partner Mary Rossi Travel would be pleased to assist with your onward travel arrangements, including flights, transfers and international travel insurance.



INCLUSIONS

- 15 nights' accommodation at 4*, 4* Superior and 5* hotels and aparthotels
- All breakfasts and 7 lunches or dinners
- Tickets to 9 performances as set out in the itinerary
- All ground transport, guided tours and entrance fees to sites as mentioned in the itinerary, and tipping
- Talks by and expertise of a tour leader throughout
- Services of a German-speaking professional tour manager throughout

HOTELS

Hotel Phoenix 4* Copenhagen, 5 nights

<https://www.phoenixcopenhagen.com/>

Hotel Atlantic 4* Superior Lübeck, 2 nights

<https://www.atlantic-hotels.de/en/hotel-luebeck/>

Hotel Steigenberger 5* Hamburg, 4 nights

<https://hrewards.com/en/steigenberger-hotel-hamburg>

Hilton Hotel Berlin 4*, 4 nights

<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/berhitw-hilton-berlin/>

Centrally located modern hotel offering comfort for our 4-night stay in Berlin.

NB: hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

TOUR DETAILS

DATES

31 May – 15 June 2024

TOUR LEADER

Robert Gay

ITINERARY

Copenhagen – 5 nights

Lübeck – 2 nights

Hamburg – 4 nights

Berlin – 4 nights

PRICE

\$13,650pp twinshare

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

\$2,590 for sole use of a double room

FITNESS

Moderate

GROUP SIZE

Maximum 20 places

FIRST DEPOSIT

\$1,500pp at the time of booking

SECOND DEPOSIT

\$2,000pp due on 01 February 2024

FINAL PAYMENT DUE

18 March 2024

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

By booking on this tour, you accept our terms and conditions, which can be found on our website:

<https://www.limelight-arts-travel.com.au/terms-and-conditions-tours>



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