A GRAND WALTZ THROUGH EASTERN EUROPE

Hungary ● Slovakia ● Poland ● Czech Republic

With Classical KING FM!

May 30–June 10, 2015

CLASSICAL

KING FM 98.1

“Don’t bother looking at the view…
I’ve already composed it.”

Gustav Mahler

Join KING FM host Bryan Lowe and experience the sumptuous past and beauty of classical music in Eastern Europe. Discover her hidden treasures: glorious classical composers, soaring architecture and rich history. Along with a small group of friends, you’ll walk in the historic footsteps of Chopin, Smetana, Mozart and Dvorak. Visit the High Tatra Mountains and sleepy mountain villages where time has magically stood still. Join Bryan Lowe and a small group of like-minded classical music-loving guests and discover the heart of Hungary, sleepy Slovakia, unforgettable Poland and the spiraling city of Prague!
YOUR CLASSICAL JOURNEY
3 Nights  Budapest, Hungary
1 Nights  High Tatra Mountains, Slovakia
2 Nights  Krakow, Poland
1 Night  Olomouc, Moravia, Czech Republic
3 Nights  Prague, Czech Republic

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS
A private concert in the Franz Liszt Museum in Budapest  ● Classical concerts in Budapest, Krakow and Prague  ● Backstage tours of the Budapest and Prague State Opera Houses  ● A thorough exploration of Budapest with a private guide  ● A river cruise on the Danube  ● Discovering quaint villages  ● A glorious dinner concert in Krakow’s Jewish quarter  ● Three nights in Krakow's, Eastern Europe’s perfectly preserved historic old town  ● Walks with local guides in Krakow highlighting the castle district, old Jewish quarter and Oscar Schindler’s factory  ● A moving and thought-provoking tour of Auschwitz  ● Leisurely days of exploring Prague’s back alleys and historic monuments with a fascinating local guide  ● A small group of like-minded KING FM classical music lovers!

IT'S INCLUDED!
★ With KING FM host Bryan Lowe
★ Fully guided by an expert Earthbound Expeditions guide, Vaclav Storek
★ Four classical events plus a Klezmer dinner concert in Krakow
★ Special insider backstage tours of grand opera houses in Prague and Budapest
★ All breakfasts and eleven additional multi-course meals (two thirds of all meals)
★ Ten nights of accommodation in charming, centrally-located 4 star hotels
★ Fascinating city-walking tours in Budapest, Krakow, Olomouc and Prague
★ All entrances as listed in your KING FM itinerary
★ All transportation from Vienna to Prague on an air-conditioned motor coach
★ Gratuities for your driver, local guides and Earthbound guide
★ Regional and city maps
★ A small fun group of soon-to-be-friends!
TRIP FACTS
Length: 12 Days/11 Nights (including air travel)
Price: $4,250 Db. Occupancy (22-29 classical music lovers)
Departing Seattle on Saturday, May 30, 2015
Beginning in Budapest on Sunday, May 31
Ending in Prague/ Seattle on Wednesday, June 10
Single Supplement: $795 (waived if you are willing to share and a roommate is found)

GROUP AIR: $1,595 on Lufthansa via Frankfurt

Reservations and Deposits: Early reservations are essential to guarantee space on the date you wish to travel. A per person deposit of $500 is needed to confirm your space. We prefer payment to be made by check, but we also accept Visa, MasterCard or American Express. However, you can make your secure credit card deposit online, by phone or by mail.

YOUR JOURNEY WITH KING FM BEGINS!

Day 1: Group flight departs for Budapest

Day 2: Arrive in the city of Liszt…Budapest!
Isten hozta! Welcome to Budapest! Our musical journey through the treasures of Hungary, Slovakia, Poland and the Czech Republic begins appropriately enough in Budapest as we land at the Liszt International Airport. After checking into your centrally-located hotel, meet your guide and KING FM host Bryan Lowe for a welcome orientation dinner fit for a Hungarian king. Sleep in Budapest (D)

Day 3: Discover Budapest, the Liszt Memorial Museum & Cruise the Danube:
This morning we’ll meet our local guide for a leisurely historic walking tour of the two cities, Buda and Pest. Our tour will take us from the imposing castle district of Buda to Hungary’s stately parliament building in Pest. This afternoon, we’ll enjoy a special tour of the Liszt Ferenc Memorial Museum. Liszt, the founding president and professor of the Franz Liszt Academy, accepted no salary for his teaching and donated a treasure trove of personal belongings to the institution, including his Chickering piano and composing desk. The highlight of our visit will be a private concert featuring the works of the great master.

Your afternoon will be free to further explore this East European gem, or reward yourself with a relaxing Turkish bath at one of Budapest’s famous bathhouses. Tonight, take in the stunning views while enjoying your evening meal on a dinner cruise along the Danube River. Sleep in Budapest (B, D)
“In Hungary all native music, in its origin, is divided naturally into melody destined for song or melody for the dance.”
Franz Liszt

Day 4: Heroes Square & Budapest State Opera House
After a leisurely morning, we will travel beyond the banks of the Danube deeper into Pest to explore impressive Heroes Square with its mighty statue of the Angel Gabriel, its magnificent Fine Arts Museum and many architectural curiosities. Then we are off to the Great Synagogue in Dohány Street, also known as the Tabac-Schul, the Yiddish translation of dohány (tobacco), after the Hungarian name of the street. It is a monumental synagogue, with a capacity of 2,964 seats (1,492 for men and 1,472 in the women’s galleries) making it one of the largest in the world. The afternoon is free to explore the city markets, museums and cafes before meeting your fellow travelers for a performance at the gorgeous Budapest State Opera House. Sleep in Budapest (B, L)

Note: A concert may be offered at the Budapest State Opera TBA

Day 5: North to Slovakia's Tatra Mountains via Banska Bystrica
Straddling Slovakia and southern Poland, the Tatra Mountains are Eastern Europe’s highest peaks. Following breakfast, we’ll depart Hungary for Slovakia. The scenery is striking as we make the drive from Budapest north to our overnight destination in the High Tatra Mountains in Slovakia.

Our first stop in sleepy Slovakia is the ancient mining town of Banska Bystrica, where we’ll have time to enjoy a typical Slovakian lunch. By six o’clock we’ll arrive at our elegant, turn-of-the-century mountain lodge in the heart of the High Tatra Mountains. Sleep in High Tatra Mountains, Slovakia (B, L, D)

Day 6: North to Historic Krakow
This morning we’ll drive through a breathtaking region of Malopolska (or little Poland). In just a few hours we arrive in Krakow, which is located on the Vistula River. Krakow is the country’s most stunning city in terms of architecture and culture. And once upon a time it was the old Polish capital before it was moved to Warsaw. However, in many ways it can be said that it still remains Poland’s academic, cultural and artistic capital. Upon arrival we’ll set out to discover the central square and secret alleyways. Sleep in Krakow (B, D)
**Day 7: Imperial Krakow**
A true survivor of war, Krakow is a colossus of art and architecture. It is also Poland’s best-preserved city. This morning we will join an engaging local guide for a walk back through time. We’ll visit Central Europe’s largest medieval market place at Rynek Glowny, and we will continue to Wawel Castle, where generations of Polish kings were crowned and buried. The afternoon is yours to further explore this breathtaking city at your own pace.

Through the centuries Krakow’s Jewish population thrived. After enjoying a free afternoon meet for a touching look at Krakow’s Jewish quarter and trace the life and heroic deeds of Oscar Schindler, who set up shop in this city during World War II. Tonight, we’ll set out for an evening of music and tradition, and we’ll take in a festive kosher feast and Klezmer dinner concert in the heart of Krakow’s Jewish quarter. Sleep in Krakow (B, D)

**Day 8: A Moving Excursion to Auschwitz and Sleepy Moravia**
This morning we will make a pilgrimage to the concentration camp of Auschwitz in order to fully understand the origins of Poland’s suffering at the hands of the Nazis. In the afternoon we’ll drive due east to the province of Moravia, Czech Republic. The wine-loving Moravians considered themselves somewhat separate from their beer producing brother Czechs in Bohemia. In the earlier part of this decade they even called upon the newly created Czech State to change its name to Czech-Moravia. Our destination, Olomouc, is rich in history, architectural beauty, and is a prominent university town.

**Note:** The work of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, the brilliant Austrian composer and pianist, is also connected with Olomouc. The eleven year-old Mozart composed Symphony No. 6 in F Major during his stay in the Hauenschild’s Palace and later in the Cathedral’s Deanery.

For dinner we’ll feast on some Moravian delicacies and sample some of her many wines. Sleep in Olomouc, Moravia – Czech Republic (B, D)

**Day 9: Olomouc to Prague!**
Olomouc is the site of several large and richly-decorated squares, the chief of which is adorned with Holy Trinity Column, which stands 115ft high and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Olomouc is also famous for its collection of colorful mosaics, the most unusual being the glockenspiel, which is strangely decorated with 1950s-style communist motifs and figures.

After lunch depart for the city of Kafka and the city that Mozart loved best, Prague! For the next three nights our home is Prague, the city considered by many to be the most beautiful in Europe. Sleep in Prague (B, D)
Day 10: Prague’s Historic Heart
From its mythological inception to the present, benefactors have placed Prague on the cusp of the divine. King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor Karl IV refashioned Prague into a city of soaring cathedrals and lavish palaces. Our historic walking tour of Prague will start at its medieval center, the Old Town Square. We’ll cover some of Prague’s most interesting sights such as the Estates Opera house where Mozart conducted “Cosi Fan Tutte.” Our tour will continue to Prague’s stirring medieval Jewish quarter. We’ll take time to savor this culturally-rich neighborhood and stop by the Old Synagogue, which has been a place of worship for over 700 years. Upon final victory, Hitler bizarrely envisioned that he would turn this neighborhood into a museum for an extinct Jewish race. After an orientation given by your guides, the afternoon is yours to further explore Prague. Sleep in Prague (B, D)

Day 11: Prague’s Jewish Quarter Quaint Back Alleys: We start the day with a stroll to Prague’s most famous landmark, Charles Bridge, after which we'll visit the historic castle district. The afternoon and evening is yours to explore this city’s charming streets. Perhaps you’ll want to take in a Bohemian market, or simply wander the wondrously preserved historic old town. For those staying on, your guides will be available this afternoon for any post-tour planning assistance you may require. Sleep in Prague (B, L)

Day 12: Return home
Return to the USA or spend a few extra leisurely days in Prague.

KING FM GRAND WALTZ CONCERT PROGRAM
Featuring works by the Great Classical Composers
Full program to be released by Jan. 1, 2015

BUDAPEST
*: Budapest State Opera TBA
*: Franz Liszt Private Museum Concert

KRAKOW
*: Klezmer Jewish Quarter evening dinner concert
*: Chopin piano recital

PRAGUE
*: Prague Estate Opera presents, Don Giovanni!
*: Prague Symphony TBA

Note: If a concert is not available another concert of similar quality will be found.
MEET YOUR KING FM HOST BRYAN LOWE

KING FM Program Director Bryan Lowe has lived in the Pacific Northwest his entire life. He hails from a family of musicians, including a sister who plays in the Pacific NW Ballet Orchestra and a brother who tours internationally with jazz and rock ensembles. His family radio station when he was young KING FM.

Bryan played French horn in many local groups, including Seattle Youth Symphony, Bellevue Philharmonic, and Seattle Philharmonic. He attended Cornish College of the Arts and was a Gold Medal performer with the Seattle Symphony under Milton Katims. His goal since childhood was to become an announcer at KING FM. As a child, he “practiced” being a KING FM announcer with a toy broadcast kit, and he was active as a classical announcer at his high school radio station and at the public station at Washington State University in Pullman.

Bryan started at KING FM after graduation in 1979. Since 1996, Bryan has been instrumental in the development of KING FM’s website and online broadcast channels. He has been Program Director since 2006.

Bryan’s favorite composers are Messiaen, Janacek, and Prokofiev, though he also enjoys Chopin and R. Strauss. Bryan has built several boats and uses them with his wife and two grown children in the sloughs and rivers of the Northwest. He is involved in youth radio and broadcast programs at Mercer Island High School and is on the board of the WMEA Young Musicians Excelling Program.

MEET YOUR KING FM GUIDE VACLAV STOREK

Vaclav Storek is one of the finest guides in Eastern Europe. His organizational skills and knowledge of history combine to make Vaclav the perfect travel companion. When not touring Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Austria, Vaclav may be found guiding groups in his hometown of Prague. Vaclav has been guiding tours for over a decade and is fluent in Czech, English and German.