 Orchestra of the  
Age of Enlightenment

# Patrons' Trip: Vienna

Saturday 10 May - Monday 12 May 2025



# Introduction

Both Mendelssohn and Schumann visited Vienna.

Mendelssohn visited on his travels, in his youth where he was unimpressed, harshly calling it “a damned and frivolous dump” in his *Reisebriefe* (Travel Letters). Schumann, on the other hand, longed for Vienna, writing in his diary “To Vienna - where my Beethoven and Schubert sleep.” When he visited, however, he also struggled in Vienna describing his loneliness in his letters to Clara.

On the 11 May 2025, Mendelssohn (perhaps to his surprise) and Schumann return to Vienna with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Sir András Schiff in our performance at the Musikverein.

This Patrons’ Trip will challenge Mendelssohn’s harsh review as we cover landmarks of Viennese history, attending guided tours of the City Palace and the Kunsthistorisches Museum, an opera at the renowned Staatsoper and ending by joining Sir András Schiff and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment as they perform in the Musikverein.

In addition to our carefully curated sightseeing experiences, we have planned leisurely meals and ample free time for you to explore Vienna's vibrant springtime atmosphere at your own pace.

## Saturday 10 May

### 9.00-10.00am: Garden Palace Tour

Join us for a private guided tour of the the Liechtenstein Garden Palace from 9am till 10am. The Palace, which is otherwise closed to the public, is renowned for Baroque stucco ceilings and decadent neo-Rococo interiors, discover its significant in Vienna's history. With its manicured gardens, it is the ideal place to experience Vienna's spring.



#### Palais Liechtenstein

*The historic Liechtenstein Palace, a Baroque masterpiece dating back over 300 years, houses a world-class art collection. Admire works by renowned masters like Rubens, Raphael, and Rembrandt, and witness the splendor of the "Golden Carriage" and the priceless Badminton Cabinet.*

### 10:30-11:30am: Cafe Weimar

We will head down the road to the historic Cafe Weimar for some well earned Kaffee und Kuchen and relax in the opulent scenery of this authentic Viennese Coffee House which opened in 1900.

### 12:00-2:00pm: Volksoper

We will then stroll towards the Volksoper for a private tour of the Opera House and the opportunity to hear a sneak preview of their rehearsals with their Music Director [Ben Glassberg](#) who was appointed in January 2024.



#### Volksoper

*The Volksoper opened in 1898 as the "Kaiserjubiläum-Stadttheater", as a theatre purely for the spoken word. In 1903 operas became included in the programme and it became the Volksoper. It is regarded as the world's leading theatre for operetta.*

## 4:30-7:00pm: Rote Bar Restaurant, Hotel Sacher

At 4:30 PM, we reconvene at the esteemed Rote Bar, nestled within the iconic Hotel Sacher. Indulge in an exquisite culinary journey through Viennese and Austrian traditions. Savor the renowned Sacher goose liver tarte, the delicate crispy eggplant with miso, cabbage greens, and mountain meadow herbs, and the succulent grilled pike-perch fillet. Each dish, a masterpiece crafted by the talented chef who has been awarded two prestigious Gault Millau toques.



### **Rote Bar, Hotel Sacher**

*Located in the Hotel Sacher Wien in the Philharmonikerstraße, built in 1876.*

## 7:00-10:00pm: Staatsoper

Following dinner, we shall adjourn to the prestigious Staatsoper, directly across from the restaurant, to witness Gounod's timeless *Roméo et Juliette*. This captivating production, directed by the visionary Marc Leroy-Calatayud, features the extraordinary talents of Aida Garifullina and Benjamin Bernheim in the eponymous roles.



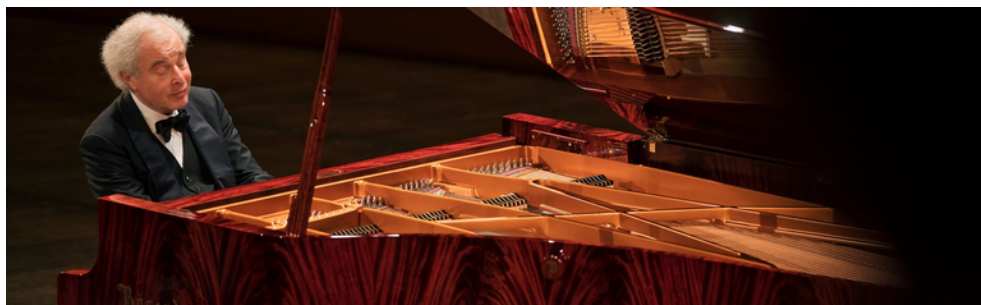
### **Weiner Staatsoper**

*One of the world's leading opera houses, the building of the Renaissance Revival was built from 1861 to 1869.*

## Sunday 11 May

### 10:00-11:30am: Open Rehearsal

For those who would like to start the day with music, at 10am we will watch the players in their very first rehearsal in the Musikverein after landing in Vienna the night before. Gain an insight into the intricacies of the performance and join in the anticipation of the evening's concert.



### 11:45am-13:00pm: Kunsthistorisches Museum

Those who wish to wander around the Kunsthistorisches Museum's collections in their own time and enjoy some refreshments at their highly reviewed cafe, please join us at the museum from 11:45 onwards.

### 1:00-2:00pm: Tour of Historic Musical Instruments

At 1 PM, we have curated a private guided tour of the renowned Collection of Historic Musical Instruments. This extraordinary collection, tracing its origins to the esteemed House of Habsburg, boasts a particularly impressive array of Renaissance and Baroque instruments, including a diverse range of clavichords and harpsichords.



*Natural Trumpet, 1741  
Manufacturer: Michael Leichamschneider*

## 2:15-4pm: Lunch

We will lunch at Esterhazykeller at 2:15pm, a *heurige* (wine tavern) which sits two floors below the ground dating to the 16th century. Located within the Esterhazy family's Viennese pied-a-terre, which is the largest privately owned palace in the city.

Along with players of the orchestra enjoy the ambience of the wine tavern before heading off to explore Vienna yourself.



### Esterhazykeller

*During the time of the Turkish War in 1683, the city wall was in close proximity to the wine cellar. It is said that Prince Esterhazy formed an army who were provided with free wine before battle, and Joseph Haydn, who was Kapellmeister at the time to Prince Esterházy, dined there.*

## 6:45-7:30pm: Pre-concert drinks

In the Erste Bank foyer at the Musikverein we shall meet for a drink at 6:30pm just before the much awaited performance which will set into motion the rest of the orchestra's tour.

## 7:30-10:00pm: Concert



### Golden Hall, Musikverein Wein

*Inaugurated by Emperor Franz Joseph in 1870, the Golden Hall is the main stage of the Vienna Mozart Orchestra and home to the annual Vienna Philharmonics New Year's concert. The hall is renowned also for its unique architectural and acoustic qualities, making it one of the most famous concert halls worldwide.*

## 10:15pm: Post-concert drinks

Following the concert we will meet for a post concert drink at the Restaurant Meissl & Schadn Wien to celebrate the start of our tour. Enjoy a drink and conversation with the orchestra players and Sir András Schiff.

## Programme

### Musikverein

**Robert Schumann:** Konzertstück: Introduction and Allegro Appassionata,

Op. 92

**Felix Mendelssohn:** A Midsummer Night's Dream, Op. 61 (excerpts)

*Interval*

**Robert Schumann:** Klavierkonzert in A minor, Op.54

Tickets for this trip are £530. Tickets include\*:

- Private tour of the opulent Liechtenstein Garden Palace.
- A guided tour of Volksoper, including a behind the scenes look into their rehearsal.
- Exquisite Austrian cuisine at Rote Bar Sacher, carefully prepared by their chef and team, awarded two Gault Millau.
- Private Open Rehearsal at the Musikverein.
- Entry to the Kunsthistorisches Museum and a private tour of their Historic Musical Instruments collection.
- Lunch at Esterhazykeller, a wine bar within the largest privately owned palace along the romantic Harhoff.
- Premium concert tickets to the very first performance of the orchestra and Sir Andrés Schiff's tour at the Musikverein's Golden Hall.

\*please note that this is a draft itinerary.