



Berlin Palace Bridge and Cathedral

SPRING FESTIVALS IN GERMANY!

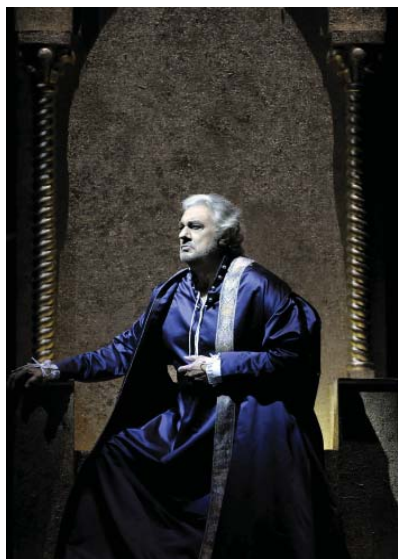
Baden-Baden & Berlin
An exclusive tour with Classical KUSC

April 11 – 21, 2014
Limited to 25 participants

Revel in the rich musical heritage of Germany and join Classical KUSC host, Rich Capparella, on a fabulous 10-day tour to two major music festivals this spring: the **Baden-Baden Easter Festival** and **Berlin Festival Days**. Two giants of the Los Angeles music scene past and present will perform: Placido Domingo sings the title role of Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra* in Berlin, and Zubin Mehta leads the mighty Berlin Philharmonic in Baden-Baden.

Two years after a Classical KUSC group saw Gustavo Dudamel conduct in Salzburg, the Berlin Philharmonic, one of the world's greatest orchestras, discontinued their long association with the Easter Festival in Mozart's hometown to set up a new home in Baden-Baden. This Bavarian town, located in the foothills of the Black Forest, was Europe's great watering hole for the rich in the 19th century and remains elegant and picturesque today.

Berlin is one of the most exciting cities in Europe, Germany's dynamic and flourishing political—as well as artistic—capital, not twenty-five years from the fall of its grim Wall. The host of the Festtage is the Berlin State Opera and its fine orchestra, the Staatskapelle Berlin led by Daniel Barenboim. The Maestro will conduct *Boccanegra* plus an orchestral concert including the rarely heard *Requiem* of Max Reger, with Mr. Domingo as soloist, and he will join the legendary Martha Argerich in a duo-piano recital. You also have the option to attend Wagner's *Tannhauser* with an illustrious cast.



Placido Domingo in *Simon Boccanegra*

We'll make excursions to Strasbourg, France, home of the European Parliament and a magnificent cathedral; the great medieval university town of Heidelberg; and Frederick the Great's palace at Sanssouci outside Berlin. Five-star hotels, fine dining and the rich commentary of KUSC's Rich Capparella complete this extraordinary trip!

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Prime tickets to five major performances at Baden-Baden Easter Festival and Berlin Festival Days, featuring the Berlin Philharmonic, Staatskapelle Berlin, Placido Domingo, Sir Simon Rattle, Daniel Barenboim, and Martha Argerich
- Tickets to three chamber music concerts by members of the Berlin Philharmonic
- Guided tours of major sites in Berlin and other cities with expert private guides
- Excursions to Strasbourg, France, with canal boat tour; Heidelberg; and Sanssouci Palace in Potsdam
- Informal talks with Classical KUSC's Rich Capparella
- Deluxe five-star accommodations in Baden-Baden and Berlin
- Fine dining at some of the region's best restaurants
- First-class travel on Germany's high-speed train, the ICE
- Private air-conditioned motor coach on all excursions
- Plenty of free time to relax, shop or additional sightseeing



Rich Capparella, on KUSC weekdays from 4-7 pm, has been named the "Best Classical DJ in LA." A man of many talents, he announces concert broadcasts in Southern California for the Pacific Symphony Orchestra and the New West Symphony, has been a narrator in Carnegie Hall and for the Boston Pops, voiced a theatrical trailer,

and is a member of the Grammy Awards classical music screening committee. His recording company, Cardiff Studios, produces commercials and programming for US arts organizations, including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. One of Rich's passions is being lead singer and guitarist in a rock band, Otherwise Normal. The music of the deep blue sea also calls to him: he has conducted tours to the Caribbean and Fiji as a scuba instructor. Rich and his wife Marcia live in Santa Monica.

TOUR COST: \$6,455 per person, ground only
Single supplement: \$920. Group limited to 25 participants.

The Germany tour is an exclusive presentation by KUSC and is organized by The Grand Tour Travel Company, Peterborough, New Hampshire. Calif. Lic.: 2088711-40.

Daily Itinerary

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

Optional group flight departs from Los Angeles on Lufthansa for non-stop travel to Frankfurt with arrival the following day.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12 WILKOMMEN!

Group flight passengers will transfer to Baden-Baden by private coach. We check into the five-star Hotel Dorint Maison Messmer, one of the town's best. Our welcome reception and **dinner** is at Michelin-starred Le Jardin de France.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13 MUSIC IN THE SPA TOWN

Breakfast is offered daily at both our hotels. Our stay in beautiful Baden-Baden allows you to take the waters if you wish at one of the town's several health spas in addition to enjoying all the musical offerings of the tour. Two chamber music concerts by members of the Berlin Philharmonic flanks **lunch** near the Lichenthaler Allee, a pretty park frequented by Brahms, Clara Schumann and other luminaries during their summer visits. Tonight our first concert presents the Berlin Philharmonic in a performance of Bach's *St. John Passion*, conducted by Sir Simon Rattle and staged by the music world's innovative *enfant terrible*, Peter Sellars.

MONDAY, APRIL 14 BEETHOVEN AND STRAUSS

Another morning concert starts our day with members of the Berlin Philharmonic performing in the Stiftskirche. This parish church in the historic old town is the burial place of fourteen Margraves of Baden. **Lunch** in an Alsace-Bavarian restaurant precedes your free afternoon. Tonight Zubin Mehta, for 16 years the Music Director of the LA Philharmonic, leads the Berlin orchestra in Beethoven's "Emperor" Piano Concerto, with Yefim Bronfman as soloist, and Richard Strauss' magisterial tone poem, *Ein Heldenleben* (A Hero's Life). The year 2014 marks the 150th anniversary of Strauss' birth.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15 ELEGANT STRASBOURG

Today we venture across the Rhine River to France to tour Strasbourg, the capital city of Alsace-Lorraine and the European Parliament. A lovely canal boat ride makes a perfect introduction to the city, passing many of its landmarks including the magnificent Gothic cathedral which we'll visit inside. We'll have **lunch** in town before returning to Baden-Baden, where your evening is free.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16 ROMANTIC HEIDELBERG

Our transfer to Berlin takes us by coach and train. First, the coach brings us to the town of Heidelberg, one of Germany's most romantic

and picturesque towns. Dominated by its castle and famed University, we'll tour Heidelberg then travel a short distance to Mannheim to board our direct high-speed train to Berlin. After arrival, we check into the luxurious Hotel Regent, a five-star hotel in the city's historic Mitte quarter, close to the graceful Gendarmenmarkt square.

Dinner is nearby.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17 "I AM A BERLINER!"

Today we tour the great city by private coach, passing the remains of the Wall, Checkpoint Charlie, the Potsdamer Platz, Kurfurstendam and much more. We end up at the Glockenturm overlooking the Olympic Stadium, site of the 1936 Olympics where American track star Jesse Owens stunned the Nazi leadership by winning three gold medals. **Lunch** is in one of Berlin's arty neighborhoods where you'll be able to stroll afterwards. Tonight the great tenor, ageless Placido Domingo sings the baritone title role in Verdi's drama, *Simon Boccanegra*, under the baton of Daniel Barenboim.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18 MUSEUM ISLAND & DOMINGO REDUX

This morning we'll visit two of Berlin's many amazing museums. The Pergamon Museum houses the reconstructed Pergamon Altar and the Market Gate of Miletus, two of antiquity's most stunning monuments. Then a short walk brings us to the Deutsches Historisches Museum, filled with highlights of Germany's momentous history. Our **lunch** takes place in yet another Berlin neighborhood to explore. Tonight the Staatskapelle Berlin under Maestro Barenboim performs the *Requiem* of Max Reger, with Placido Domingo as soloist, and another performance of Strauss' *Ein Heldenleben*, affording us an always interesting comparison of two conductor's interpretations!

SATURDAY, APRIL 19 SANSSOUCI AND GREAT PIANISTS

Frederick the Great of Prussia built the grand Sanssouci Palace in Potsdam in 1748 as a summer retreat; its continued growth mirrored



Baden-Baden



Berlin's Brandenburg Gate

the growth of the Prussian state as an important player in European politics and the dominant state in a unified Germany. A Francophile, Sanssouci reflects Frederick's desire to build his own version of Versailles. We will tour the main palace and grounds and also visit the Cecilienhof, where Truman, Churchill and Stalin signed the agreement in August 1945 to divide up the spoils of Europe after the war. We return to Berlin for a late afternoon duo recital by Daniel Barenboim and fellow Argentinean pianist, Martha Argerich.

SUNDAY, APRIL 20 EASTER IN BERLIN

Easter Sunday morning in Berlin is free. Our sumptuous farewell **brunch** takes place at our lovely hotel. The rest of the day is free except for those who choose the option of prime tickets to see Wagner's soaring drama of love and redemption, *Tannhäuser*, with a stellar cast led by bass René Pape, conducted by Maestro Barenboim, and directed by Greta Waltz, one of the leading choreographers in the world who has turned to opera. Later in the evening, we reconvene for **dessert and champagne**.

MONDAY, APRIL 21 AUF WIEDERSEHEN!

The group flight on Lufthansa returns to Los Angeles via Munich, arriving in the afternoon.

Itinerary subject to change. Meals in bold included in the price of the tour.

TOUR REGISTRATION

TOUR COST: \$6,455 per person, ground only, double occupancy; Single supplement: \$920
Optional group flight: \$1385, on Lufthansa

DEPOSIT: \$1100 per person
Tax-deductible contribution to KUSC: \$600

BALANCE DEADLINE: February 10, 2014
After that date, call for availability.

REGISTRATION: To reserve your place, contact Minnie Prince of KUSC at mprince@kusc.org or 213-225-7534 to make a credit card deposit; or send a check for the deposit amount to: KUSC Germany Tour, KUSC, PO Box 7913, Los Angeles, CA 90007. For registration materials go to www.kusc.org.

QUESTIONS? Contact Minnie Prince at mprince@kusc.org or 213-225-7534 or The Grand Tour at info@thegrandtour.com or 800-727-2995.