

Great Music Masters of Prague: From Dvořák to Mahler and Beyond

with Dr. Robert Greenberg

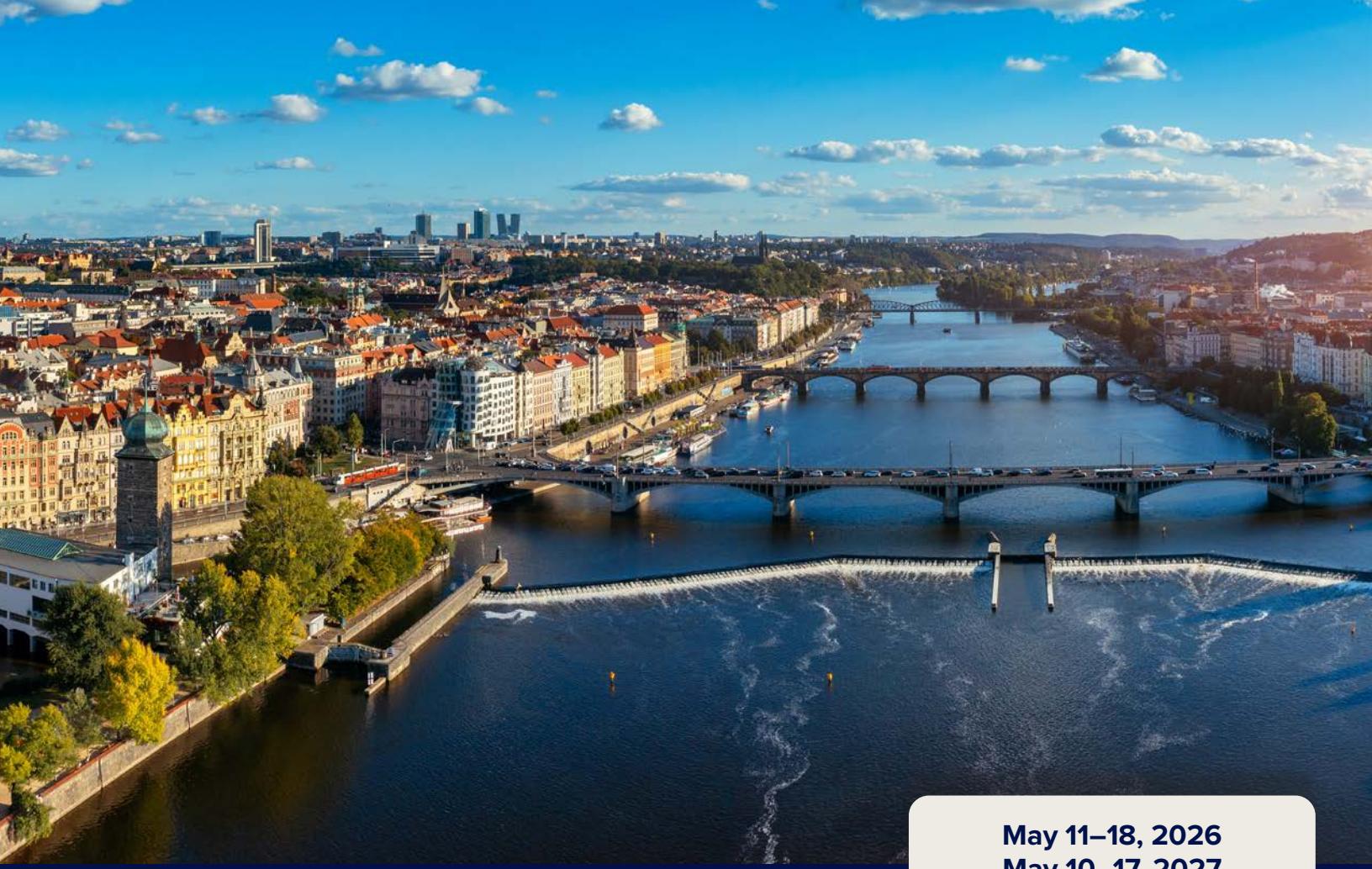
May 11–18, 2026 | May 10–17, 2027



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From \$7,195 per person

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Long considered one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, Prague also has the distinction of being one of the most musical. For centuries, it has served as a crossroads of history, culture, and art, producing some of the greatest composers and musical minds the world has ever known.

Join renowned musicologist, composer, and The Great Courses professor Robert Greenberg on a journey into the heart of Bohemia to explore the lives and legacies of notable Czech musicians, from Antonín Dvořák and Bedřich Smetana to Gustav Mahler and others whose work helped define the sound of a nation. With the elegant Grand Hotel Bohemia as your homebase, you'll stand in the rooms where Dvořák composed, walk the streets where Smetana taught, and visit the home where Mahler came of age. As a tour highlight, attend performances of the Prague Spring International Music Festival, one of the world's most prestigious classical music events and the perfect opportunity to bring to life the cultural roots of one of Europe's richest musical traditions.

Your Journey Expert



Dr. Robert Greenberg is Music Historian-in-Residence with San Francisco Performances. A graduate of Princeton University, Professor Greenberg holds a PhD in Music Composition from the University of California, Berkeley. He has seen his compositions—which include more than 45 works for a wide variety of instrumental and vocal ensembles—performed all over the world, including New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles, England, Ireland, Greece, Italy, and the Netherlands. He has served on the faculties of the University of California, Berkeley; California State University, Hayward; and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and has lectured for some of the most prestigious musical and arts organizations in the United States, including the San Francisco Symphony, the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Van Cliburn Foundation, and the Chicago Symphony. For The Great Courses, he has recorded more than 500 lectures on a range of composers and classical music genres. Professor Greenberg is a Steinway Artist. His many other honors include three Nicola de Lorenzo Composition Prizes and a Koussevitzky commission from the Library of Congress. He has been profiled in various major publications, including *The Wall Street Journal; Inc.* magazine; and the *London Times*.

Highlights

- Attend performances of the world-renowned Prague Spring International Music Festival where concerts showcase top-tier classical music talent in iconic venues.
- Explore the life and legacies of prominent Czech composers such as Bedřich Smetana, Gustav Mahler, and Antonín Dvořák with visits to their birth houses, museums, and the prominent concert halls that bear their name.
- Discover rare musical manuscripts annotated by Mozart and Beethoven in the Lobkowicz Palace Collection, followed by an intimate concert in the beautiful Baroque Concert Hall.
- Tour historic landmarks like Prague Castle, the Clementinum, and the Estates Theatre where Mozart conducted the premier of his celebrated *Don Giovanni*.
- Enjoy a stroll through the UNESCO World Heritage town of Telč, known for its pastel Renaissance facades, arcaded houses, and enchanting main square.



Questions? Call 1-855-476-5080

Discover More 

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Itinerary



Day 1: Welcome to Prague

Arrive on individual flights into Prague (Vaclav Havel Airport: PRG) and transfer independently to your hotel. Set out on an introductory walking tour that showcases the city's rich architectural and cultural heritage with stops at iconic landmarks like the Church of Our Lady before Tyn, St. James Basilica, Prague Astronomical Clock, the historic Jewish Quarter, and the storied Charles Bridge that spans the Vltava River. In the evening, gather with Professor Robert Greenberg and your fellow travelers for a festive welcome dinner at a nearby restaurant.

Included Meal: Dinner

Accommodations: Grand Hotel Bohemia

Day 2: Castle Walls and Concert Halls

Begin your day with a lecture by Professor Greenberg and hear how Prague's complex history intertwined with the city's extraordinary musical legacy. Embark on a guided tour of Prague Castle, the largest ancient castle complex in the world, where centuries of architectural styles and historical layers come together in a dramatic hilltop setting. After lunch, continue to the grand Municipal House, a jewel of Czech Art Nouveau architecture. Here, a private tour will reveal the building's lavish interiors and culminate in a visit to Smetana Hall, one of the country's premier concert venues named for the famed Czech composer. The evening concludes with a performance of the prestigious Prague Spring International Music Festival. Performance details will be announced closer to the departure date.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodations: Grand Hotel Bohemia

Day 3: Mostly Mozart

Visit the Lobkowicz Palace, an historic residence within the Prague Castle complex that houses an extraordinary private collection of art, musical manuscripts, and decorative objects belonging to the noble House of Lobkowicz, including original scores annotated by Beethoven and Mozart. After lunch at a local restaurant, attend a classical concert held in the palace's intimate music salon. Then, enjoy a guided tour of the Estates Theatre, one of the oldest European theaters still in use and



where Mozart personally conducted the world premiere of *Don Giovanni* in 1787. Dinner and the rest of the evening will be yours to enjoy in the “city of a hundred spires.”

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodations: Grand Hotel Bohemia

Day 4: Smetana's Prague

Today, your journey continues with a tour of the Rudolfinum, the prestigious home of the Czech Philharmonic. Explore its grand concert halls and behind-the-scenes rehearsal spaces, gaining insight into the heart of the city's musical life. Enjoy lunch at Café Mozart, which overlooks the bustling Old Town Square and the iconic Astronomical Clock. In the afternoon, visit the Bedřich Smetana Museum, housed in a charming riverside building dedicated to the life and legacy of the composer often called the father of Czech music. Next, step into the historic Clementinum, considered one of the most beautiful libraries in Europe for its soaring ceilings, antique globes, and frescoed walls. Then, enjoy a lecture by Professor Greenberg, who will offer a deeper look into the life and works of Smetana and his foundational role in shaping Czech national music. The remainder of the evening will be at your leisure.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodations: Grand Hotel Bohemia

Day 5: Mahler's Moravian Roots

Travel to the Czech countryside with a visit to Jihlava, the childhood home of composer Gustav Mahler. Enjoy a guided tour of the House of Gustav Mahler, where exhibits trace his formative years and early influences in this historic Moravian town. The journey continues to the nearby UNESCO World Heritage town of Telč, celebrated for its stunningly preserved Renaissance architecture. Have lunch in the charming main square, framed by pastel-colored facades and arcaded houses, followed by time on your own to wander the cobbled streets. Return to Prague for another remarkable performance of the Prague Spring International Music Festival. Performance details will be announced closer to the departure date.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodations: Grand Hotel Bohemia



Day 6: In Dvořák's Footsteps

Begin with a scenic drive to Nelahozeves Castle, a Renaissance treasure overlooking the Vltava River and known for its large art collection and deep ties to the noble Lobkowicz family, longtime patrons of the arts. Along the way, Professor Greenberg will speak about the life and work of Antonin Dvořák, setting the stage for the sites ahead. Just a short distance from the castle, visit the Antonin Dvořák Birth House, a modest village home where the composer was born that provides insight into Dvořák's early life, his humble beginnings, and the rural sounds that later shaped his music. Return to Prague for a special evening chamber concert in the Gothic and intimate Saint-Martin-in-the-Wall Church.

Included Meal: Breakfast

Accommodations: Grand Hotel Bohemia

Day 7: Prague's Musical Legacy

Your final day in Prague begins with a visit to the Antonin Dvořák Museum, located in a Baroque villa where a thoughtfully curated collection of manuscripts, letters, and personal artifacts brings the composer's life and legacy vividly to life. Continue to Vyšehrad Cemetery, a place of national reverence and reflection where many of the Czech Republic's most celebrated cultural figures—including Dvořák and Smetana—are laid to rest among striking sculptures and tombstones. Later, enjoy a tour of the recently restored State Opera, an architectural masterpiece that has regained its original Neo-Renaissance splendor after years of careful renovation. In the evening, raise a toast to the unforgettable history and music of Prague during a festive farewell dinner.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodations: Grand Hotel Bohemia

Day 8: Departures

Transfer individually to the airport (Vaclav Havel Airport: PRG) and depart Prague on individual flights for your journey home.

Included Meal: Breakfast

Access to some locations is subject to availability pending festival rehearsal and performance schedule. The itinerary will be adjusted if necessary.



Accommodations



Grand Hotel Bohemia

Prague

Located in the heart of Prague's Old Town, the Grand Hotel Bohemia has been effortlessly blending classic elegance with modern comfort since 1927. Its 79 well-appointed rooms offer a work desk, pillow menu, spacious bathrooms, air conditioning, Wi-Fi, flat-screen televisions, and tea and coffeemaking equipment. The upscale Steiner's Bar and Restaurant serves a traditional Czech cuisine with contemporary flair and signature cocktails based on local fruit schnapps, while the opulent Boccaccio Bar is where important figures from the First Czechoslovak Republic used to convene. **(7 nights)**



Pricing:

Departure	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy	Deposit	
May 11–18, 2026	\$7,195	\$8,445	\$500	BOOK NOW
May 10–17, 2027	\$8,195	\$9,745	\$650	BOOK NOW

What's Included:

- All accommodations for the duration of the tour
- Meals, as noted in the itinerary
- All sightseeing and visits as noted in each itinerary
- Expertise of The Great Courses Expert, travel director and local guides throughout the tour
- All gratuities for on-tour guides, drivers, hotel and restaurant staff as part of the group program
- All on-tour transportation, unless otherwise noted
- Quietvox listening devices to facilitate audibility and social distancing on tour
- The assistance of an ATA professional travel team to assist with pre-trip questions, travel arrangements, including flights, extra hotel nights and other services
- Comprehensive pre-departure mailings and materials with information about the destination and what to expect on tour, including a suggested reading list
- Emergency evacuation insurance