

Great Music Masters of Vienna: The Romantics From Brahms to Mahler

with Dr. Robert Greenberg (May 2027)

or with Dr. Catherine Kautsky (October 2027)

May 2–8, 2027 | October 17–23, 2027



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From \$7,995 per person

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“The gaiety of the town, the beauty of the surroundings, the sympathetic and vivacious public, how stimulating these are to the artist.” –Johannes Brahms

During the sunset of the Austro-Hungarian empire, Vienna served as the home to promising and innovative musicians and artists who would later become known as The Romantics. From Strauss' *The Blue Danube* to Brahms' *Liebeslieder-Walzer*, the spirit of the music created during these years permeates the lively streets of Vienna still. Explore the legacy of the city's music masters with acclaimed composer, pianist, musicologist, and beloved Great Courses professor Robert Greenberg. Follow the footsteps of Brahms, Strauss, and Mahler to the homes where they composed, the palaces and venues where they performed, and the cafés and shops they frequented. Through private tours, concerts, and an excursion to Baden bei Wien, delve deep into the circumstances and personalities that shaped their incomparable bodies of work and that of legendary musical forebears such as Mozart and Beethoven.

Your Journey Expert



Dr. Robert Greenberg (May 2027) 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*.



Dr. Catherine Kautsky (October 2027) is the George and Marjorie Olsen Chandler Professor of Music and the Chair of Keyboard at Lawrence University. She is a performer, teacher, author, and lecturer who has performed and given classes on six continents, winning accolades for both her playing and her far-ranging commentary, which spans music, history, art, culture, and more. *The New York Times* lauded her as “a pianist who can play Mozart and Schubert as though their sentiments and habits of musical speech coincided exactly with hers.” Her articles have appeared in *Clavier Companion*, *American Music Teacher*, and *International Piano*, and her book, *Debussy’s Paris: Piano Portraits of the Belle Epoque*, was reviewed by Booklist as “a fascinating fusion of music, literature, and social history,” Professor Kautsky earned her Master of Music degree from The

Juilliard School and her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Stony Brook University. She has produced *The Great Course Great Piano Works Explained*.

Highlights

- Gain insights into the life and works of great composers on guided visits to their homes and haunts with The Great Courses expert Dr. Robert Greenberg.
- Take an after-hours tour of Schönbrunn Palace and enjoy a classical concert under the vaulted ceiling of the Orangerie featuring the works of Mozart and Strauss.
- View rare treasures on a guided tour of the Collection of Historic Instruments and discover the crossover of art nouveau and music in the Secession Museum.
- Set off on an excursion to the spa town of Baden bei Wien and discover the reasons key creatives from Vienna sought sanctuary there.

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Itinerary



Day 1: Welcome to Vienna

Arrive in Vienna and transfer independently to your hotel in the city center. After time to settle in, head into the streets of Vienna with Professor Greenberg, your fellow travelers, and a local guide for an overview of the city's historic heart and its enduring musical heritage. This evening, gather at a local restaurant for a welcome dinner.

Included Meal: Dinner

Hotel: Le Méridien Vienna

Day 2: Johannes Brahms and Gustav Mahler

Join Professor Greenberg for a morning lecture followed by a guided walk to Karlsplatz to see the Brahms Monument, the Karlskirche, and the State Opera House. Browse the art collection at the adjacent Kunsthistorisches Museum. Cap off the day with an after-hours tour of Schönbrunn Palace, the lavish summer residence of Empress Maria Theresa where six-year-old prodigy Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart first played before the imperial court. After dinner at the palace restaurant, attend a concert in the elegant Orangerie. You may want to retire to the hotel bar with Professor Greenberg and your new friends to discuss the events of the day.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Le Méridien Vienna

Day 3: Johann Strauss

Make your way on foot to Stadtpark to see the golden statue memorializing Johann Strauss II. Continue to the Neue Burg to visit the world-renowned Collection of Historic Musical Instruments then to nearby St. Stephen's Cathedral, Vienna's spiritual center, where Haydn sang as a choir boy and Mozart's funeral was held. Enter the Theater an der Wien, where Strauss first performed several of his operettas. Enjoy dinner together in a nearby restaurant before continuing to an evening concert performance.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Le Méridien Vienna

Day 4: The Second Viennese School

Begin the day with a visit the Haus der Musik, a museum dedicated to the concept of sound and Vienna's greatest



composers, followed by a guided tour of Palais Lobkowitz and its Theatermuseum. See the intersection of music and art with a guided visit to the Secession Museum to view the Beethoven Frieze by Gustav Klimt, considered one of Klimt's key works and a highlight of Viennese Art Nouveau. Finally, explore the Arnold Schönberg Center to discover his fusion of experimental art and music during the turn of the century.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Le Méridien Vienna

Day 5: Baden bei Wien

Pay your respects at the graves of Brahms and Strauss, buried at Zentralfriedhof alongside Mozart, Beethoven, and Schubert. Travel south to the spa town of Baden, a retreat for Vienna's aristocracy, artists and musicians. Enter the house where Beethoven came regularly in hopes of a remedy for his encroaching deafness and see some of the folios he wrote here, including parts of the legendary Ninth Symphony. Visit a local vineyard for a tour and tasting. Back in Vienna gather with Professor Greenberg for evening lecture before dinner.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Le Méridien Vienna

Day 6: The Strauss Family

Visit Haydnhaus followed by the recently- opened House of Strauss. At the Lichtentaler Church, learn about Schubert's time as an organist. With luck, we'll catch a private organ recital inside the church. Continue to the Strauss Apartment on Praterstrasse where Johann Strauss wrote arguably his most famous piece, *The Blue Danube*. The associated museum is home to Strauss's manuscripts, instruments, and other original items. Tonight, toast Vienna's The Romantics musical masters at a farewell dinner at Griechenbeisl, the oldest inn in Vienna and a favorite of Professor Greenberg.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Le Méridien Vienna

Day 7: Departures

After breakfast, transfer independently to the airport for your flight home.

Included Meals: Breakfast



Accommodations



Le Méridien

Vienna

Located across from the Vienna State Opera, this 4-star property is ideally situated in the heart of Vienna. Rooms and suites combine comfort with contemporary furnishings and modern amenities, and feature works by promising local artists. Restaurant YOU serves an internationally inspired menu with curated cocktails in a refined lounge atmosphere. Amenities include a business center, gym, and an indoor heated pool. Le Méridien Vienna is within walking distance of nearly all of the city center's attractions, as well as upscale shopping streets, the Hofburg Congress, and the Event Centre. The Karlsplatz Metro Stop is just down the street from the hotel.



Pricing:

Departure	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy	Deposit	
May 2–8, 2027	\$8,495	\$10,395	\$650	BOOK NOW
October 17–23, 2027	\$8,195	\$10,170	\$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

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