

MUSIC LOVERS' TOURS 2012



Autumn Festivals of Europe

VIENNA AND GRAFENEGG FESTIVAL •
LJUBLJANA FESTIVAL • MARIBOR FESTIVAL

with Andrea Hull AO
28 August - 11 September 2012 (15 days)

sydney
symphony
Vladimir Ashkenazy
Principal Conductor & Artistic Advisor


melbourne symphony orchestra


West Australian
Symphony Orchestra


Renaissance
Tours



Tour Leader Andrea Hull AO

After a distinguished career in senior positions in the cultural life of Australia, Andrea is now enjoying her Act 3. This includes her consultancy practice Cultural Dynamics, membership of the boards of the National Gallery of Victoria, the National Museum of Australia and the Melbourne Prize, Chair of the Centre for Cultural Partnerships and a Patron of the Linari Music Festival in Tuscany.

Her previous executive roles include CEO of the Victorian College of the Arts, the CEO of the WA Department for the Arts and a Director of 3 different portfolios at the Australia Council. She has also held a wide variety of Board positions in the national and international cultural world.

“This trip takes us to Austria and Slovenia to experience three sublime music Festivals, culminating in the final Maribor Festival directed by Richard Tognetti and featuring the ACO. In between the concerts we’ll explore captivating landscapes, exquisite towns, fyne fayre and the history of a region that has played a key role in European and world history.”

Andrea

Autumn Festivals of Europe

Combining Austria’s Grafenegg Festival, the 60th anniversary of the Ljubljana Festival and Richard Tognetti’s fifth and final Festival Maribor, this tour is definitely one for the musical connoisseur!

Since its spectacular inaugural season in 2007, Austria’s newest music festival has rapidly established itself as one of the foremost classical music events in Europe. Over three nights in the romantic open-air garden setting of Schloss Grafenegg outside Vienna, you will see and hear Thomas Hampson (baritone) in recital, and the London and Rotterdam Philharmonic orchestras conducted respectively by two of classical music’s young stars, Vladimir Jurowski and Yannick Nézet-Séguin (the latter concert features legendary pianist Rudolph Buchbinder).

In 2012 the Ljubljana Festival celebrates its 60th anniversary and the organisers are planning a suitably impressive festival. Your stay is timed for the final weekend of the festival, including a special closing concert with the Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra of Saint Petersburg under the baton of Valery Gergiev.

Since his arrival in 2008, Richard Tognetti has transformed the once sleepy Festival Maribor into one of Europe’s most exciting. 2012 will be his last year as Artistic Director and the ACO will be the guest orchestra in residence. Plus, Maribor will be a European Capital of Culture.

IMPORTANT: With the final announcement of the Maribor festival programme (May 2012), we have decided to extend the tour by one day, now finishing 11 September, in order to include the world premiere performance by Richard Tognetti and the ACO of Brett Deans’ Second Violin Concerto, written for Tognetti.

At a glance ...

- Three glorious concerts at Grafenegg Festival
- The Mariinsky Orchestra at the 60th Ljubljana Festival
- The Australian Chamber Orchestra at Maribor Festival, including the world premiere performance of Brett Deans’ Second Violin Concerto
- Richard Tognetti’s fifth and final Maribor Festival as artistic director



Australian Chamber Orchestra (Credit Jon Frank)

Itinerary

Mon 27 August 2012

Depart Australia

Suggested departure from Australia on Emirates via Dubai. Overnight in flight.

Tue 28 August

Arrive Vienna

Arrive Vienna in the afternoon. Check-in to your hotel located close to Schönbrunn Palace and Park. Tonight join Andrea Hull and fellow music lovers for a welcome briefing and dinner. **BD**

Wed 29 August

Vienna

Start today with an orientation tour around the famous Ringstrasse surrounding the Old City and bordered by the city's most important buildings: the Vienna State Opera, Hofburg Imperial Palace, Town Hall, Parliament House and the Museums of Fine Arts and Natural History. Continue on foot into the Old Town for a visit to the Collection of Ancient Musical Instruments.

This afternoon is at leisure until departure for the Grafenegg Festival.

Before tonight's concert gain an insight into the day-to-day festival operations and into the development of Grafenegg into an internationally renowned festival location. The tour through the Wolkenturm and other festival venues is accompanied by interviews with those responsible behind the scenes (subject to confirmation) before this evening's pre-concert dinner.

Following the backstage tour, concert in the indoor auditorium, featuring baritone Thomas Hampson and Wolfram Ringer on the piano. **BD**

Thu 30 August

Vienna

Following a pre-performance talk, the morning is at leisure to further explore Vienna on your own.

Depart Vienna in the early afternoon for an excursion to the Southern Vienna Woods. Pass the Roman city of Baden which is famous for its thermal springs, and drive through the romantic Helenental Valley to the former Mayerling hunting lodge. Today a commemorative chapel, here Crown Prince Rudolph together with his lover Baroness Vetsera died tragically in 1889. In the nearby Cistercian Abbey of Heiligenkreuz (1133) visit the medieval cloister which houses the remains of the last Babenberger.

After a pre-concert dinner, return to Grafenegg for a concert on the open air stage of the Wolkenturm. The London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Vladimir Jurowski performs with cellist Truls Mørk. **BD**

Programme

Dvorák – Concerto for Cello and Orchestra in B minor
Tchaikovsky – Symphony No. 5 in E minor

Fri 31 August

Vienna

Day at leisure. We recommend a visit to the Mozarthaus at Domgasse 5 where the composer lived from 1784 to 1787. Why not also explore the wonderful art museums of Vienna?

Later in the afternoon return to Grafenegg. Enjoy a picnic before a further concert on the Wolkenturm stage. The Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra with Rudolf Buchbinder (piano) will be conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin. **BD**

Programme

Brahms – Concerto for piano and orchestra no. 2 in B-flat minor
Brahms – Symphony No. 2 in D major



Schönbrunn Palace

Grafenegg Festival ...

Grafenegg Festival is a new event by European festival standards (the first Grafenegg Festival was held in 2007). This prestigious annual summer festival takes place over four weekends in August and September in the grounds of the historic 19th century Grafenegg Castle, about an hour's drive from Vienna. The artistic director is acclaimed Austrian pianist Rudolf Buchbinder and the festival's program consists of symphonic and chamber music as well as recitals. International guest orchestras perform as well as the Austrian Tonkünstler Orchestra, which serves as 'orchestra in residence'. Performances take place both on an open-air stage called the Wolkenturm as well as in an indoor concert hall.



Truls Mørk (Credit Morten Krogvold/Virgin Classics)

Sat 01 September

Vienna - Ljubljana

Enjoy a leisurely day's drive across Austria and Slovenia to Ljubljana. The charming capital of Slovenia is set on the banks of the Ljubljanica River. Dinner at your hotel. **B D**

Sun 02 September

Ljubljana

This morning explore Ljubljana's Old town, renowned for its unique architectural appearance, which is a combination of Roman, Baroque and Art Nouveau styles. In the first half of the twentieth century, the character of the city was re-shaped by the famous European architect Jože Plečnik, a native of Ljubljana. Afternoon is at leisure to relax and enjoy more of this delightful city. **B**

Mon 03 September

Ljubljana

Day at leisure to further explore Ljubljana and surroundings, before an evening performance of the Mariinsky Orchestra, conducted by Valery Gergiev. **B**

Programme

Tchaikovsky – *Romeo & Juliet* fantasy overture

Tchaikovsky – Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor, Op. 23

Stravinsky – *The Firebird*

Prokofiev – *Romeo & Juliet* suite

Tue 04 September

Ljubljana

Full day excursion through the natural beauty of Slovenia. First visit Bohinj in Triglav National Park, one of the most stunning places in the heart of the Julian Alps. Continue to Bled Castle, perched at the top of a steep cliff overlooking Lake Bled. After lunch, enjoy a leisurely cruise on scenic Lake Bled to the small island in the middle of the lake, home to the Assumption of Mary Pilgrimage Church. **B L**

Wed 05 September

Ljubljana – Maribor

Depart Ljubljana for a short drive across the scenic Pohorje region to Maribor (130 km, approx 1.5 hrs). Maribor is a university and cultural centre with an opera, theatre, museums, art galleries, and numerous cultural events including the Maribor Festival. In 2012 Maribor takes the spotlight of the European culture stage, becoming the European Capital of Culture.

During an afternoon guided tour, explore the picturesque city of Maribor. While you linger along the streets of the old medieval fortified town at the centre of Maribor, marvel at the city's architecture. Pass by the Castle to the Main Square and continue your walk to see some other of Maribor's landmarks: the Cathedral, the University and the National Theatre.

This evening, after a pre-performance talk and early dinner, attend the opening night concert ('Magic') of the Maribor Festival featuring the Australian Chamber Orchestra, guest 'orchestra-in-residence' with soprano Dawn Upshaw with Richard Tognetti, Satu Vänskä and Helena Rathbone on violin. **B D**

Programme

Vivaldi – Sinfonia in G Major, RV 739 "La Verita' in Cimento" – *Andante*

Paganini/arr. R. Tognetti – Caprice on Caprices - Caprices No. 20 in D Major, and No. 17 in E flat Major

Schubert/arr. R. Tognetti – String Quartet No.14 in D Minor, *Death and the Maiden*

Schoenberg arr. for string orchestra – Litany for String Quartet No. 2 in F sharp Minor, op.10 Schumann/arr. R. Tognetti: *Moonlight* in C sharp Minor, No. 5, Op. 39

Schoenberg/arr. for string orchestra – *Transfigured Night*, Op.4

The Ljubljana Festival ...

The Ljubljana Festival has a long history and tradition of presenting premier artistic events.

The program of events features renowned artists from home and abroad, including some of the world's biggest names in music and theatre. Taking place during the months of July and August, this internationally recognised festival features many different type of events such as opera, dance, arts, theatre, contemporary music and artists from all over the world.

Since 1952, the Festival has evolved, changed and grown, and it has affected the cultural life in Slovenia considerably. Between 70 and 80 events of different genres take place annually at the Summer Festival, attended by about 80,000 domestic and international visitors.



Vladimir Jurowski



Ljubljana Castle

Thu 06 September

Maribor

Drive out of Maribor to explore the picturesque 'wine roads' in the gentle hills surrounding the town. Wine making dates back to the Roman time which makes Maribor and the surrounding wine regions among the oldest but also some of the least known in the world. Stop at several wine cellars to taste some of the region's famous wines.

Afternoon at leisure before an early dinner followed by this evening's Maribor Festival concert. **B D**

Fri 07 September

Maribor

After breakfast attend a pre-performance talk by Andrea Hull followed by the morning concert (11:00am). Afternoon at leisure before this evening's concert with the Australian Chamber Orchestra *Source of Muse* with soloist Dénes Várjon (piano). **B D**

Programme

Mendelssohn – Concerto for Violin, Piano and Strings in D Minor

Wojciech Kilar – *Orawa* for String Orchestra

Mendelssohn – Octet for strings in E flat Major, Op. 20

Sat 08 September

Maribor

Excursion to Ptujška Gora and Olimje. Visit the gothic pilgrimage church of the Mother of God in Ptujška Gora situated on a hill with marvellous views of the surrounding area. Continue to the picturesque monastery in Olimje, which is home to one of the oldest pharmacies in Europe. The building was originally constructed as a castle in the 11th century and later converted into a monastery. After lunch in a local restaurant return to Maribor.

Remainder of the afternoon at leisure before a further concert of the Maribor Festival. **B L**

Sun 09 September

Maribor

Day at leisure to enjoy the special festival atmosphere in Maribor. You may want to attend the morning concert followed by a farewell lunch.

Enjoy an afternoon at leisure before a concert of the 2012 Maribor Festival. **B L**

Mon 10 September

Maribor

Day at leisure, before this evening's final concert of the Australian Chamber Orchestra at the Maribor Festival *Electrical Charges*.

Programme

Brett Dean – *Carlo*

Brett Dean – Second Violin Concerto Electric Preludes
(world premiere)

Grieg/arr. R. Tognetti – String Quartet No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 27

Tue 11 September

Depart Maribor

Transfer (260KM approx. 3hrs) to Vienna airport for an afternoon departure on Emirates via Dubai. (B)

Wed 12 September

Arrive Australia

Evening arrival in Australia.

The Maribor Festival ...

The Maribor Festival has developed from a festival of baroque music organised for the first time in 1963, to gradually become one of the major classical music festivals in Central Europe. In 1994 the festival concept and name changed to Music September and it expanded to castles, palaces and other venues around Maribor (Ptuj, Slovenj Gradec, Dornava, etc). Invitations to the festival were not sent out to chamber ensembles with their concert repertoire being pre-defined but rather to leading soloists who then created ensembles in Maribor according to the programme selected by the artistic director.

In 2008, the festival became known as the Maribor Festival and Richard Tognetti, Australian violinist, and leader and Artistic Director of the Australian Chamber Orchestra, took up the position of Artistic Director for a six year term, to culminate in the 2012 Festival as part of Maribor's status as European Cultural Capital. Under Tognetti the number of concerts has increased and, in addition to chamber music concerts, the program also contains symphonic works following the introduction of an orchestra-in-residence. In true Tognetti style, the festival program is always adventurous, eclectic and thought provoking. Expect to be very pleasantly surprised! For further information: <http://en.festivalmaribor.com>



Maribor (Credit Marko Petrej)

TOUR PRICES ...

Per person, twin-share

AUD 6,950

Single supplement*

AUD 1,150

Deposit (per person)

AUD 500

Final Payment Due

30 June 2012

**Single travellers may request to share.
Please advise at time of booking.*

TOUR CODE MLT 120828

SUGGESTED AIRLINE

Emirates

Emirates flies from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth via Dubai to Vienna as well as many other European destinations. Please contact Renaissance Tours for assistance.

TOUR PRICES INCLUDE

- Accommodation in centrally located 4-star hotels with private facilities and daily breakfast (B)
- Meals as per itinerary (L= Lunch, D=Dinner) including special Welcome Dinner and Farewell Lunch
- A-reserve (or best available) tickets to 12 concerts
- Transfer on departure from Maribor to Vienna airport if travelling on suggested flight
- Comprehensive sightseeing including local guides and entrance fees as per itinerary
- Lectures and talks with your tour leader throughout
- Comprehensive tour notes
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Porterage (1 piece per person) where available. Airport porterage NOT included.

DO NOT INCLUDE

- Transfer on arrival in Vienna
- Drinks with meals, except Welcome and Farewell Meals
- Items of a personal nature, including telephone, laundry, taxis etc.
- Optional concerts not included in itinerary
- Airport porterage
- Travel insurance

YOUR HOTELS ...



Parkhotel Schönbrunn
Vienna

★★★★



Grand Hotel Union Executive
Ljubljana

★★★★



Grand Hotel Ocean
Maribor

★★★★

NB: Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.



Richard Tognetti (Credit Maribor Festival)



Ljubljana



Sinagoga Maribor

Terms & Conditions

How to Book

Complete, sign and return the Booking Form available from Renaissance Tours with your deposit.

Deposit / Final Payments

Your deposit is due at the time of booking and is used to pay hotel, airline, performance tickets and/or other deposits. It is non-refundable in the event of your cancellation.

Final payment is due 60 days before departure. Failure to make the final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit.

Payments are accepted in cash and by cheque, bank transfer, American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa. A 3% service charge applies for payment by American Express and Diners Club.

Cancellation & Refunds

a) Cancellation by You - Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Renaissance Tours. In addition to cancellation fees for tours operated by Renaissance Tours as shown below, airlines, hotels and other third parties may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

60 days or more	Forfeit of deposit
59 – 45 days	25% of tour cost
44 – 31 days	50% of tour cost
30 – 15 days	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days	100% of tour cost

The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above, cancellation charges may apply for additional arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours, such as air tickets, hotels and travel insurance premium. If the reason for cancellation is covered by the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

b) Cancellation by Us - We reserve the right to cancel a tour for any reason (such as failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for force majeure, we will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure. No further compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Renaissance Tours. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability.

Cancellation and/or amendment fees may apply for additional travel arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours.

Passports, Visas and Vaccinations

All travellers must be in a possession of a valid passport – most countries require a 6-month validity from your date of entry or exit. For some countries (e.g. China, Vietnam, India, Russia), visas are included in the tour cost and will be arranged by Renaissance Tours prior to travel. For other countries, it is your responsibility to ensure you have the appropriate visa(s).

You are also responsible for obtaining all necessary inoculations and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of the tour.

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of travel that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for international tours. Your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours.

Fitness and Participation

For the overall benefit of the group, all tour members must possess a moderate level of mobility, including the ability to:

- negotiate airports and railway stations without wheelchair assistance
- use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities)
- undertake walking tour of 2-3 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
- stand for long periods in museums and other sites
- embark / disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
- handle your own luggage

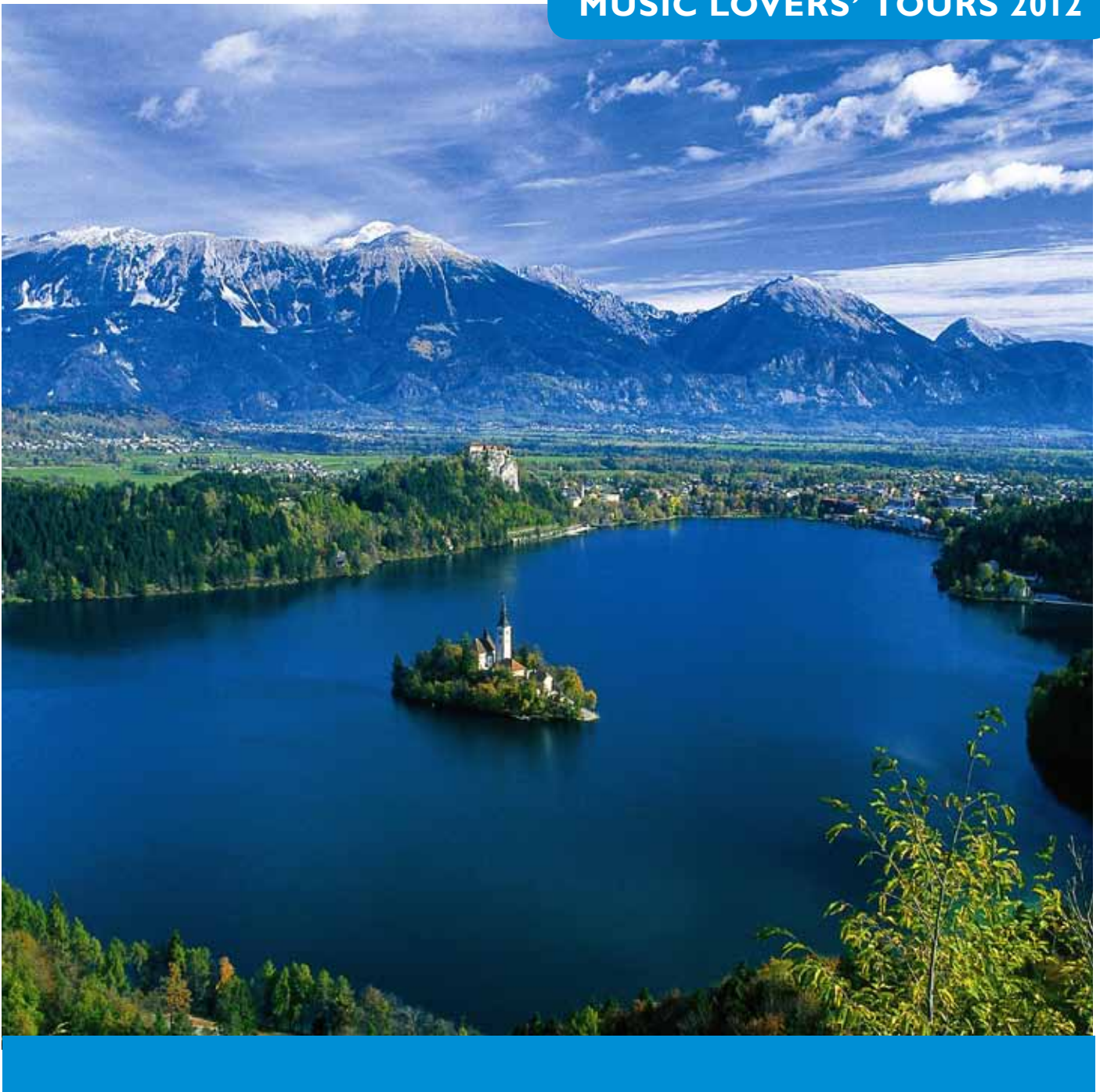
If you (or we) have any doubts about your ability to participate in your chosen tour, you may be required to have a doctor's appraisal. This would require a doctor to read the itinerary of your chosen tour and provide you with a written confirmation of your ability to participate.

Terms & Conditions

You can find the full terms & conditions on the Renaissance Tours booking form. They can also be found at www.renaissancetours.com.au or we would be happy to post you a copy on request.



Concert in Maribor Cathedral (Credit Maribor Festival)



Front image: Grafenegg Festival
Back image: Lake Bled



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