



# Spring Music in Norway and Iceland

with Mairi Nicolson

OSLO • BERGEN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL • REYKJAVIK ARTS FESTIVAL

22 May – 05 June 2012 (15 days)



## Tour leader

### Mairi Nicolson

Mairi Nicolson has worked for both the ABC and the BBC for more than 30 years, most recently for ABC Classic FM and Radio National as a broadcaster and arts journalist. She is currently the producer and presenter of 'Weekend Afternoons' on ABC Classic FM on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Mairi also hosts ABC Classic FM's 'The Opera Show' and live broadcasts from Melbourne.

*"Coming from a family with close Celtic and Norse kinship it is no wonder I am so excited about touring to Iceland and Norway and sampling their splendid and unique cultural, scenic and culinary offerings! In addition to trying Hákarl (fermented shark!), an Icelandic delicacy, I'm looking forward to hearing the famed Oslo Philharmonic in the spectacular Oslo Opera House, top Norwegian soloists Truls Mørk (cello) and Leif Ove Andsnes (piano) and wallowing in Reykjavik's geothermal wonder: the Blue Lagoon."*

Mairi

## Spring Music in Norway and Iceland

After the long cold winters Scandinavians look forward to the summer. And to welcome the arrival of the warmer, longer days are two wonderful events, the Bergen International Festival (Norway) and the Reykjavik Arts Festival (Iceland).

Begin in Oslo for a concert by the highly respected Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra and a new work by Wayne McGregor's Random Dance Company in the stunning new opera house on the waterfront.

Then enjoy a full week in Bergen during the Bergen International Festival, one of Europe's longest-running and most loved music festivals. In venues such as the famous Grieg Hall, see the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, the North German Radio (NDR) Symphony Orchestra performing a Tchaikovsky programme over two evenings, as well as Norwegian cellist Truls Mørk and French Baroque ensemble Les Arts Florissants. And at every turn, marvel at the breathtaking scenery of fjords, mountains and sea literally on your doorstep.

Continue to Iceland for a thorough discovery of this extraordinary country of volcanoes, geysers, glaciers and lush countryside, plus the highlights of the Reykjavik Arts Festival. Iceland's already rich classical music life has just been further enhanced with the opening of a new performing arts centre in May 2011, Harpa, the new home of the Iceland Symphony Orchestra and the Icelandic Opera.

### At a glance ...

- **Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra** conducted by Jukka-Pekka Saraste with violinist Frank Peter Zimmermann
- visit the **Oslo Opera House** – a landmark – and see a dance performance by Wayne McGregor's company
- 5 performances of the **Bergen International Festival 2012** featuring Mahler Chamber Orchestra, NDR Symphony Orchestra, Truls Mørk Trio and Les Arts Florissants
- 4 performances of the eclectic **Reykjavik Arts Festival 2012** including an Iceland Symphony Orchestra concert (Beethoven's symphonies 6 and 7)
- visit the homes of Norway's most famous composers
- travel through Northern Europe's most pristine nature and unique landscapes: mountains, fjords, volcanoes, waterfalls, geysers and glaciers, to name a few

## ITINERARY

Mon 21 May 2012

Depart Australia

Suggested departure on Qantas / British Airways via Singapore to London Heathrow, connecting with a British Airways flight to Oslo.

Tue 22 May

Arrive Oslo

Late morning arrival in Oslo, the capital of Norway, situated at the head of Oslo Fjord and surrounded by forested ridges. This evening join Mairi Nicolson and fellow music lovers for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. (D)

Wed 23 May

Oslo

Morning orientation tour of the Viking capital. Pass by the Royal Palace, the City Hall, Oslo Cathedral and the Akershus Fortress, dating from 1299. Stop for a walk through the Vigeland Sculpture Park, and drive to Holmenkollen to see the famous ski jump and admire the breathtaking view over Oslo and its fjord. Return to the city centre for a guided tour of the Viking Ship Museum.

Afternoon at leisure to further explore Oslo. Why not visit the Nobel Peace Centre?

Tonight attend a [Random Dance performance of FAR](#), at the Oslo Opera House. Wayne McGregor, also house choreographer of the London Royal Ballet, found his inspiration in Ray Porter's book *Flesh in the Age of Reason*, a story about an 18th century journey of enlightenment in body and soul. Ten fantastic dancers challenge the distortions, sensuality and feeling of an age permeated by the search for knowledge; all this to insistent, newly composed music by Ben Frost. (BD)

Thu 24 May

Oslo

This morning visit the Munch Museum, containing Edvard Munch's bequest to the city of Oslo – a vast collection of his own paintings, drawings and graphic works. Continue to the Oslo Opera House for a

private guided tour. Opened in 2008 as the home of the Norwegian Opera and Ballet, the Oslo Opera House is one of the world's most spectacular, with a magnificent location beside the harbour – and the first opera house in the world to let visitors walk on its roof!

Afternoon at leisure.

Evening concert by the [Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra](#) conducted by Jukka-Pekka Saraste with violinist Frank Peter Zimmermann. (B)

*Programme*

Schubert/Webern:	German Dances
Martinu:	Violin Concerto No. 2
Beethoven:	Symphony No. 2

Fri 25 May

Oslo – Bergen

Transfer to the airport for the one-hour flight to Bergen – the 'Gateway to the Fjords of Norway'. Surrounded by seven hills and seven fjords, Bergen is a beautiful, charming city. Transfer to your hotel on arrival.

Afternoon at leisure, before attending the first of your Bergen International Festival performances, with a concert by the [Mahler Chamber Orchestra](#) performing 'Beethoven – The Journey' with Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes. (B)

*Programme*

Beethoven:	Piano Concerto No. 1 in C major, Op. 15
Stravinsky:	Apollon Musagète, Ballet in 2 scenes for string orchestra
Beethoven:	Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37

Sat 26 May

Bergen

Morning tour of Bergen, including the old Hanseatic warehouses at Bryggen, Haakon's Hall completed in 1262 and the Rosenkrantz Tower dating back to the 15th century. Pass the bustling market place with its famous fish market and the old, white wooden houses



Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra - Credit Bo Mathisen



Leif Ove Andsnes

at Rosegrend and Skuteviken which show how people in Bergen lived some 250 years ago. Finish with a visit to the Hanseatic Museum, situated in one of the oldest and best preserved wooden buildings in Bergen and furnished in the style of the 1700s to give an intimate picture of the life of a Hanseatic merchant.

Following the tour, enjoy lunch at the restaurant atop Mount Floien which offers fantastic views of the city and the fjord and islands beyond.

Afternoon at leisure before this evening's concert featuring the [Truls Mørk Trio](#) at Haakon's Hall (programme to be advised). (BL)

### Sun 27 May Bergen

Today you will experience 'Norway in a Nutshell' – featuring spectacular train, ferry and coach journeys through a constantly changing landscape of fjords, rivers, lakes and farmland, all surrounded by mountains. Highlights include a cruise on the stunning Nærøfjord and the famous Flåm Mountain Railway. (BL)

### Mon 28 May Bergen

This morning visit two sites associated with the rich musical heritage of Bergen, starting with the beautiful and extraordinary villa on the island of Lysøen – the 'Island of Light' – which was built in 1873 as a summer residence for the Norwegian violin virtuoso Ole Bull (1810-1880). Continue to Troidhaugen, the home of composer Edvard Grieg (1843-1907) and his wife Nina. Grieg lived here for 22 years and composed many of his best-known works in the little garden. See the cliff-hewn tomb where he was buried, the Troldsalen concert hall and the museum.

Return to Bergen for an afternoon at leisure.

In the course of two evenings, conductor Eivind Gullberg Jensen and his [NDR Radiophilharmonie](#) dive deep into Tchaikovsky's works at the Grieg Hall. Tonight's concert features Grammy-winner cellist Truls Mørk. (B)



NDR Radiophilharmonie

### Programme

Tchaikovsky: [Symphony No. 4 in F minor, Op. 36](#)

Tchaikovsky: [Rococo Variations in A major, Op. 33](#)

Tchaikovsky: [Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Op. 64](#)

### Tue 29 May Bergen

This morning drive south of Bergen to Siljustøl, the home of composer Harald Sæverud and his wife Marie, surrounded by beautiful parklands. His studio, grand piano and personal effects lie just as he left them at his death in 1992. Also visit Damsgaard Manor, one of the finest stately homes around Bergen, dating from the late 18th century.

Afternoon at leisure, before attending the second part of the [NDR Radiophilharmonie's](#) Tchaikovsky programme at the Grieg Hall, with French violinist Renaud Capuçon. (BL)

### Programme

Tchaikovsky: [Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 35](#)

Tchaikovsky: [Symphony No. 6 in B minor, Op. 74](#)  
*Pathétique*

### Wed 30 May Bergen

Day at leisure to further explore Bergen on your own.

Evening concert at Den Nationale Scene featuring French Baroque ensemble [Les Arts Florissants](#). Paul Agnew's monumental project is to perform a complete cycle of Monteverdi madrigals across Europe between 2011 and 2014, in about 100 concerts. (B)

### Programme

Monteverdi: [Madrigals Book III](#)

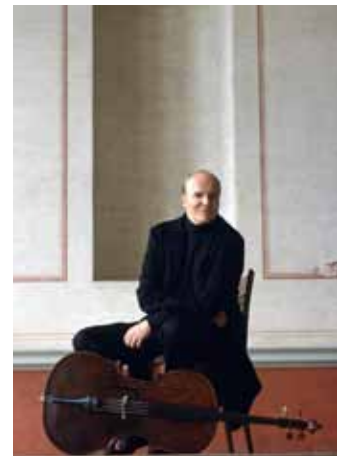
### Thu 31 May Bergen – Reykjavik

After a leisurely breakfast, transfer to the airport for the flight to Reykjavik via Trondheim.

Arrive Reykjavik mid-afternoon and transfer to your hotel for check-in and dinner.



Eivind Gullberg Jensen – Credit Mat Hennek



Truls Mørk – Credit Morten Krogvold Virgin Classics 2004

During your stay in Reykjavik, you will attend 3 performances of the eclectic Reykjavik Arts Festival. Performances to be advised in early 2012. (BD)

#### Fri 01 June

Reykjavik

Discover the world's northernmost capital with a morning orientation tour of Reykjavik. First settled in the late 9th century by the Viking Ingólfur Arnason, Reykjavik is today a modern but intimate city of 200,000 with a vibrant arts scene, striking contemporary architecture and stunning natural surroundings. See Hallgrímskirkja Church – at a height of 74.5 metres, the tallest building in Iceland – and Hofdi House, built in 1909 and best known as the location for the 1986 summit meeting between presidents Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev that effectively marked the end of the Cold War.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant on the harbour, before an afternoon at leisure. Explore Reykjavik's multitude of craft and art galleries along with the special visual arts exhibitions which will form part of the 2012 Reykjavik Arts Festival.

Tonight attend the 'Beethoven Cycle III' concert featuring the [Iceland Symphony Orchestra](#) conducted by Hannu Lintu at Harpa. (BL)

#### Programme

Beethoven: [Symphony No. 6](#)

Beethoven: [Symphony No. 7](#)

#### Sat 02 June

Reykjavik

Journey out of Reykjavik for a full day tour known as the 'Golden Circle'. Visit some of the most beautiful natural phenomena of Iceland, including the site of the ancient parliament at Thingvellir National Park, the impressive waterfall at Gullfoss and the original Geysir and nearby Strokkur, which hurls boiling water to heights of up to 20 metres once every 5 minutes. (BL)

#### Sun 03 June

Reykjavik

This morning visit the Blue Lagoon, where you can relax in the rejuvenating geothermal water, rich in minerals and believed to have healing properties. This unique spa is surrounded by a surreal environment of lava fields. Afternoon at leisure. (B)

#### Mon 04 June

Reykjavik

Today see more of Iceland's unique landscapes on a South Shore Adventure tour. You will have an opportunity to stand behind a plummeting waterfall, walk along a beach of black sand, gaze at a natural rock formation and feel the amazing power of a glacier (depending on road conditions). (BL)

#### Tue 05 June

Depart Reykjavik

Group transfer to the airport for Icelandair flight to London Heathrow (included) to connect with Qantas flights back to Australia. Tour arrangements conclude on arrival in London. (B)

#### Wed 06 June

In flight

#### Thu 07 June

Arrive Australia

Early morning arrival in Australia.



Flam, Norway



Hannu Lintu – Credit Heikki Tuuli



Strokkur, Iceland

## TOUR PRICES ...

**EARLY BOOKING REDUCTION**  
Book and deposit by 23 December  
and receive a reduction of **AUD 450**  
per person on the tour cost.

Per person, twin-share **AUD 10,450**

Single supplement\* **AUD 2,050**

Deposit (per person) **AUD 1,000**

Final payment **23 March 2012**

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

**TOUR CODE** MLT – SPRING

**SUGGESTED AIRLINES**

British Airways / Qantas

Qantas / British Airways fly to London via Singapore, connecting with a British Airways flight to Oslo.

Please contact Renaissance Tours for assistance.

**TOUR PRICES INCLUDE**

- 14 nights accommodation in centrally located 4-star hotels with daily breakfast (B)
- Meals as per itinerary (L=Lunch, D=Dinner) including welcome dinner and farewell lunch. Wines included with dinners and welcome and farewell meals
- A-reserve tickets for 11 performances (or best available)
- Pre-performance introductions and talks with your tour leader

- Economy class flight Oslo to Bergen on Scandinavian Airlines (23 kg luggage allowance)
- Economy class flights Bergen to Reykjavik and Reykjavik to London on Icelandair (20 kg luggage allowance)
- Comfortable air-conditioned coach transportation
- Comprehensive sightseeing including local guides and entrance fees as per itinerary
- Departure transfer in Reykjavik
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Hotel portorage (1 piece per person)

**DO NOT INCLUDE**

- International airfares
- Arrival transfer in Oslo
- Drinks with meals, except welcome and farewell meals
- Airport portorage
- Items of a personal nature (e.g. telephone, laundry, minibar etc.)
- Travel insurance.

**YOUR HOTELS ...**

Thon Hotel Bristol  
Oslo ★★★★★

Radisson Blu Saga Hotel  
Reykjavik ★★★★★

Clarion Collection Hotel  
Havnekontoret  
Bergen ★★★★★

*NB: Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.*



Bergen funicular – Credit Pal Hoff Innovation Norway



Blue Lagoon, Iceland



Renaud Capuçon – Credit Mat Hennek



Seljlandsfoss Waterfall, Iceland



FAR by Wayne McGregor's Random Dance

## 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.renaissance-tours.com.au](http://www.renaissance-tours.com.au) or we would be happy to post you a copy on request.



Oslo Opera House



Bergen



Front image: Geiranger Fjord, Norway  
Back image: Mahler Chamber Orchestra - Credit Deniz Saylan



**TOUR ARRANGEMENTS BY –  
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Your travel agent is –