Hello, Pipedreams Friends!

I invite you to join me on our next tour, an adventure amidst the pipe organs of Bach Country...experiencing instruments old and new in Saxony and Thuringia.

Some of you might recall that the very first official Pipedreams Tour covered much of this territory, but this is not a simple repetition, nor are we closing the circle! Future tour plans are already in the works for 2020 and 2021, and this year’s schedule takes us to places and includes instruments not previously experienced.

Of course, our itinerary will direct us to Eisenach, Bach’s birthplace; to Erfurt, the home territory of much of the Bach dynasty before J.S.B.; to Arnstadt and Weimar, centers of the young Bach’s early employment; to Dresden, where he played at the Sophienkirche; and to Berlin, where he played for the King, in both instances hoping for a court appointment that never materialized; and to Leipzig, where he spent the major portion of his career, and where his greatest works were composed and refined.

We will see, hear, and often play instruments known to Bach, particularly the work of Gottfried Silbermann in Freiberg, Dresden, Rötha, Reinhardtsgrimma and Störmthal, and Zacharias Hildebrandt, whose imposing installation in Naumburg is said to represent Bach’s ‘organ ideal’. We’ll revisit the mighty 1855 Ladegast organ in Merseburg, where Liszt’s masterpieces were premiered, this 80-stop instrument fully restored since our last visit. But we’ll also make first-time acquaintances with the eclectic 72-stop Rieger organ in Fulda, with its ornate early 18th century case, the first stop on our very first day. We’ll hear the new, eclectic 76-stop Kern organ at the Marienkirche in Dresden, only a pipe-dream when we visited back in 2002. And we’ll also experience the 1723 Wagner organ at St. Mary’s Church in Berlin and the 103-register Ladegast-Eule organ at the Nikolaikirche in Leipzig, both now fully recommissioned.

Visits to Bach’s Thomaskirche in Leipzig, the Liszt House in Weimar, the Handel House in Halle, the Meissen Porcelain Factory, and the concentration camp at Buchenwald will add important dimensions to our travels, as will a recital by David Briggs at the Berlin Philharmonic and the optional opportunities to attend Korngold’s opera “Die tote Stadt” at Dresden’s Semperoper, a concert by the Berlin Philharmonic.

I hope you can be with us as we retrace historic footsteps and relish the sounds of instruments antique and modern. I’m excited at the prospect, and look forward to greeting you!
TUE 28 MAY  Leipzig vicinity
Take another day’s excursion outside of Leipzig first to Halle to visit the Marktkirche (1884 Schuke, III/56; 1664 Reichel, I/6) and the Handel Haus. Next is Merseburg’s Cathedral of St. Johannes and St. Laurentius with connections to Litzt. At the time Friedrich Ladegast built this organ (1853-55) it was the largest in Germany - its Baroque facade conceals 5687 pipes. The recently restored Ladegast organ remains one of the largest and most imposing Romantic organs in Germany. Return to Leipzig for an evening at leisure. Seaside Park Hotel Leipzig (B)

THU 29 MAY  Leipzig/Dresden
Depart for Dresden stopping in Meissen to see the world’s first porcelain organ—made by Jehmlich organ builders and the Meissen Porcelain Factory in 2000 (1 manual, 4 registers). This afternoon visit either the Kristian Wegscheider Orgelbau or Jehmlich Orgelbau as well as a first instrument in Dresden. Steinberger Hotel de Saxe (B, D) https://www.steigenberger.com/en/hotels/all-hotels/germany/dresden/steigenberger-hotel-de-saxe

THU 30 MAY  Dresden Vicinity
Set out from Dresden for visits to the villages of Glauchau and Steinsberg which the Silvermann Museum in Frauenstein. This afternoon will be spent in Freiberg discovering four of Gottfried Silbermann’s organs at St. Jacob’s Church, St. Peter’s Church and the Cathedral of St. Mary. The well-preerved great organ at the Cathedral was the first “big” organ built by the then 27-year-old Silberman. He ingeniously combined the French-Alsatian and Middle German styles with excellent craftsmanship and astoundingy precise voicing. Steigenberger Hotel de Saxe (B)

FRI 31 MAY  Dresden
Explore Dresden today – a city reborn from the ashes of WWII. Visits of particular note include the famous Frauenkirche whose Silberman organ was inaugurated on December 1, 1736, in a concert by J.S. Bach. Unfortunately the church and the instrument were destroyed in 1945 and a new ecletic organ was built in 2005 by Kern, though the case recreates the Silberman original. Another Silberman instrument of note is in the Hofkirche, whose organ was removed from the church before the WWII bombing; with a meticulously replicated case, the old components were restored to create an instrument nearly origial in its glorious effect. This evening you have the option to attend Korgnold’s opera “Die tote Stadt” at the Dresden Semperoper (request your ticket at the time of tour registration). Steigenberger Hotel de Saxe (B)

SAT 01 JUNE  Dresden/Berlin
Depart for Berlin with a visit in Wittenberg where Martin Luther lived for the greater part of his life. According to tradition, he nailed his 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church, thus launching the Reformation with connections to Litzt. At the time this church explore the magnificent 1864 Ladegast organ (restored and enlarged by Eule). Continue to Berlin for hotel check-in, dinner and overnight. This evening you have the option to attend a concert a the Berlin Philharmonic with cellist Bruno Deplealeer and conductor Michael Sanderling performing Haydn’s Concerto No. 2 and the “Leningrad” Symphony (No. 7) by Shostakovich (request your ticket at the time of tour registration). Maritim proArte Hotel Berlin (B, D) www.maritim.com/en/hotels/germany/proarte-hotel-berlin

SUN 02 JUN Berlin
Attend an 11:00AM recital at the Berlin Philharmonie with special guest David Briggs at the console. This British organist, one of the most famous of our time, is regarded as the “King of tTranscriptions”, and will present arrangements of famous works, including Wagner’s “Liebestod,” Ravel’s charming ballet “Ma mère l’oye” and the finale of Mahler’s Fifth Symphony. This afternoon enter the Medieval Marienkirche where the organ on the west wall is a masterpiece, built in 1721-1722 by Joachim Wagner. The screen was created in 1723 by Gottlieb Glume; the organ was renovated and opened again in 2009 by Daniel Kern. This evening you have the option to attend a concert of the Aperto Piano Quartet including music by Beethoven (request your ticket at the time of tour registration). Maritim proArte Hotel Berlin (B)

MON 03 JUN Berlin
Continue with your discovery of Berlin’s organs today. Of note is the 1905 Sauer instrument in the Berlin Cathredal which is part of the original artisitc fittings and fixtures. At its inauguration in 1905, this 4-manual organ of 7269 pipes and 113 registers was considered to be the largest in Germany. Though the Cathedral ceiling was penetrated by a wartime bomb, miraculously the organ was not even partially exposed to the elements...was preserved and eventually was brought back to original as-new condition. Gather this evening for a farewell dinner. Maritim proArte Hotel Berlin (B, D)

TUE 04 JUN Return to U.S.
Transfer this morning for flight check-in and departure to JFK at 12:55PM. (B, Meals in-flight)

Code: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Itinerary subject to change.

TOUR CONDITIONS

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: Your reservation and deposit of $750 per person is requested immediately to fulfill the group deadline requirements. Note that space is limited and reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis. Final payment is due March 15, 2019. For credit card payment APM accepts Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express. IMPORTANT: Credit card payments cannot be accepted via email.

REFUND POLICY: All cancellations must be in writing. There is no refund for partial or unused land arrangements. Note: Airline tickets will be issued well in advance prior to departure and may be nonrefundable. The following penalties will apply: Up to January 14, 2019 - $100 per person administrative fee plus any unrecoverable deposits; January 15 – May 7, 2019 – Deposit plus any unrecoverable payments to hotels, tour operators or airlines; May 8, 2019 or after – No refund.

CHANGES TO GROUP FLIGHTS: The group airfare contract for this tour may not allow travelers to make any date or itinerary changes. If you are considering other dates or cities, please submit your request in writing well in advance to secure the best rates and schedule, but no later than January 15, 2019. A minimum fee of $100 per person will apply for changes to group flights in addition to a possible airfare increase.

LATE BOOKINGS: Passengers registering within thirty days of tour departure will be charged a $50 per person fee. Tour payment in full is required before we can request and confirm space. This fee does not cover any additional ground service charges.
Choose any or all of these options on the Reservation Application

1. OPTIONAL OPERA: FRI 31 MAY (7:00PM) Dresden Semperoper/Korngold “Die tote Stadt”
   Estimated ticket cost based upon mid-range ticket: $90

2. OPTIONAL CONCERT: SAT 01 JUN (7:00PM) Berlin Philharmonic
   Estimated ticket cost based upon mid-range ticket: $60

3. OPTIONAL CONCERT: SUN 02 JUN (8:00PM) Aperto Piano Quartett
   Estimated ticket cost based upon mid-range ticket: $30

These optional tickets will be purchased at the time tickets go on sale at the respective venues, and the confirmed ticket price will appear on your final invoice.

This tour requires considerable walking. Please check with your tour leader if you have any questions.
PRELIMINARY ORGAN LIST

- Fulda: Cathedral (1996 Rieger, IV/72s)
- Eisenach: St. George's Cathedral (1962 Schuke, III/60)
- Walterhausen: Waltershausen, Stadtkirche (1720 Troot, II/53)
- Ilmenau: St. Jacobskirche (1911 Walcker, II/66)
- Königsee: Stadtkirche (1871 Schulze, II/3)
- Arnstadt: Bach Church (1703 Wender, II/23, 1813 Steinmeyer, III/56)
- Erfurt: Predederkirche (1978 Schuke)
- Naumburg: Saint Wenzel's Church (1746 Hildebrandt, III/53)
- Leipzig: Gewandhaus Concert Hall (1981 Schuke, IV)
- Leipzig: Nikolaikirche (1862 Ladegast-Sauer, IV/87)
- Rötha: Saint George's Church (1721 Silbermann, II/23)
- Rötha: Marienkirche (1721 Silbermann, I/11)
- Störmthal (1923 Hildebrandt; I/15)
- Altenburg: Hofkirche/Castle Church (1739 Trost, II/42)
- Halle: Marktkirche Unser Lieben Frauen (1884 Schuke, III/56; 1664 Reichel, I/6)
- Merseburg: Cathedral/Dom (1855 Saint Laurentii et Johannes Baptistae (1855 Ladegast, IV/80)
- Meissen Porcelain Factory (2000 Jehmlich, I/4)
- Coswig: Old Church (17th century unknown, I/10)
- Dresden: Max Kasewidegcher Orgelbau or Jehrmich Orgelbau
- Reinhardtshirn: Village Church (1731 Silbermann, II/20)
- Freiberg: Dom/Cathedral of Saint Mary (1714 Silbermann, III/44, 1719 Silbermann, I/14)
- Freiberg: Saint Jacob's Church (1718 Silbermann, II/20)
- Freiberg: Saint Petri Church (1735 Silbermann, II/32)
- Kreuzkirche (1963 Jehlmich, IV/76)
- Frauenkirche (2005 Kern, IV/68s)
- Hofkirche (1750 Silbermann-1755 Hildebrandt, III/47s)
- Wittenberg: Schlusskirche (1864 Ladegast, IV/48)
- Berlin: St. Marien Kirche (1723 Joachim Wagner, III/45s, restored by Kern in 2002)
- Berlin: Schloss Charlottenburg (1790 Schuke, II/26)
- Berlin: Holy Cross Church (1870 Hook, III/39)
- Berlin: Dom/Cathedral (1905 Sauer, IV/113)
- Berlin: Kaiser Wilhelm Gedächtniskirche (1963 Karl Schuke, IV/63)

ACCOLADES TRAVEL PROTECTION

Travel protection is optional, but we encourage all travelers to purchase a plan. GTD offers an extensive and competitively priced plan from Travel Insured International. Travel protection can help provide coverage for trip cancellation/interruption, baggage delay/loss, emergency and any associated medical costs, and emergency evacuation/repatriation. If you decide to decline coverage at the time of reservation, you may purchase it later, but the Pre-existing Conditions Waiver is available only if the plan is purchased within 21 days of the initial trip deposit. You may contact Travel Insured International for further information before making your decision. 866-684-0218 (refer to Agency #47346). Review your Plan Document for Schedule of Benefits and Plan Details.

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- Trip Interruption.....................up to 150% of Tour Cost**
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- Evacuation/Repatriation....................$50,000
- Medical Emergency Assistance Service....................$10,000
- Political Emergency Assistance Service....................$100,000
- Schedule of Benefits and Plan Details.

Cost of this optional Accolades Travel Protection is $320 per person ($330 in single occupancy). Additional coverage provided as needed; the full cost of your tour must be covered. Travel protection is non-refundable fourteen days after you purchase a plan.

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NOTE TO OUR TRAVELERS:

Please be assured that Accolades continually monitors travel industry developments (strikes, etc.) as well as world events. If any such matters affect your tour, you will be notified. At the time this tour was developed the U.S. State Department for this destination was Level 2 (Exercise Increased Caution); please refer to the following website for current information or call Group Travel Directors. https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html

For payment information, contact:

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Website: www.gtd.org

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