

LEIPZIG
REGION



CITY OF MUSIC :LEIPZIG

LEIPZIG BACHFEST
GEWANDHAUS FESTIVAL
MENDELSSOHN FESTIVAL
OPERA FESTIVAL

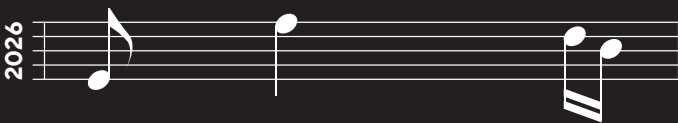
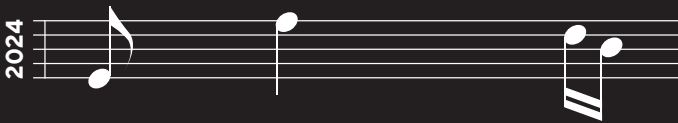
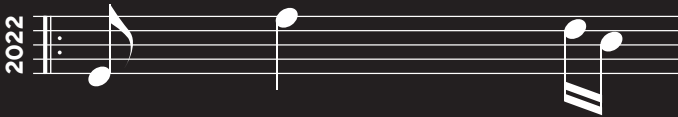
THE FESTIVAL RHYTHM

LEIPZIG BACHFEST
every year

MENDELSSOHN FESTIVAL
every year

GEWANDHAUS FESTIVAL
every two years

OPERA FESTIVAL
every two years





LEIPZIG. WHERE MUSIC SETS THE TONE

Leipzig has been steeped in music for over 800 years – and every year the city holds festivals to celebrate its musicians.

Music is always a blend of tradition and zeitgeist. Especially in Leipzig. The Thomanerchor Leipzig, founded in 1212, was strongly influenced in the Baroque era by its most renowned cantor, Johann Sebastian Bach. Back then, no one had any idea that the boys' choir would still be giving regular performances of his motets and cantatas in St Thomas Church over 800 years later. And Leipzig has even more superlatives to offer. The history of the now world-famous Gewandhausorchester began with the "Grand Concerts" that were introduced by merchants of Leipzig in 1743. Oper Leipzig came into being as far back as 1693 – only Venice and Hamburg are older. Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Musical Director of the Gewandhausorchester, founded the first German Conservatory in 1843 in Leipzig. Richard Wagner was born in Leipzig. Clara and Robert Schumann, Johannes Brahms and Gustav Mahler also worked here, composing outstanding musical works that have stood the test of time. In the city centre, visitors can stroll around the unique Leipzig Music Trail, which connects 23 of the locations where famous composers lived and worked. These musical greats, unique musical ensembles and events such as the music festivals mentioned in this publication all make Leipzig what it is – an absolute must for music lovers!

www.leipzig.travel/cityofmusic

LEIPZIG BACHFEST

7 - 16 June 2024: »CHORal TOTAL«

12 - 22 June 2025: »Transformation«

More than 150 events in and around Leipzig



Every year in June, the city honours the famous cantor of St Thomas Church, Johann Sebastian Bach, with the Leipzig Bachfest, upholding the long tradition of commemorating Bach that was originally established by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy. A very special Bachfest is coming up in 2024. Under the motto "CHORal TOTAL", numerous Bach choirs from all over the world will travel to the original places where their idol worked and perform the entire 1724-25 annual cycle of chorale cantatas - exactly 300 years after the premiere. Many of the hymns that Bach transformed into elaborate chorale cantatas in this annual cycle even date back half a millennium. In 2024, Bach's first Leipzig Passion oratorio, the St John Passion, will also be 300 years old and will be presented in three different versions. Renowned international artists will perform in more than 150 events over ten days, including John Eliot Gardiner, Isabelle Faust, Václav Luks and Philippe Herreweghe and, of course, the Thomanerchor and the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig.

GEWANDHAUS FESTIVAL

Shostakovich Festival 2025

One of the most comprehensive examinations of his works
15 May to 1 June 2025



In May 2025, the Leipzig Gewandhaus will honour Dimitri Shostakovich on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his death with one of the most comprehensive examinations of his works. Under the direction of Gewandhauskapellmeister Andris Nelsons and Anna Rakitina, the Gewandhausorchester, the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Festival Orchestra will perform Dimitri Shostakovich's entire symphonic and concerto oeuvres. The Festival Orchestra was founded especially for the festival, comprising members of the Mendelssohn Orchestra Academy and the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra. An unsurpassed roster of world-class artists such as Daniil Trifonov, Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider und Baiba Skride, will feature in the extensive chamber music series, while two performances of the opera *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* at the Oper Leipzig, conducted by Andris Nelsons, will complete the festival programme. The Gewandhausorchester has been playing works by Shostakovich since 1929 and gave numerous German premieres. At the Leipzig Bachfest in 1950, Shostakovich was inspired to one of his most famous piano works, 24 Preludes and Fugues Op. 87 for solo piano.

Start of ticket sale

Festival packages and opera tickets: 24 October 2023

General ticket sale: 8 April 2024

www.shostakovich-leipzig.com

MENDELSSOHN FESTIVAL

29 October to 4 November 2024

Leipzig Gewandhaus and Mendelssohn House



Next to Johann Sebastian Bach, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy is perhaps the best-known former resident of Leipzig. He shaped the world of music like few others. During his twelve-year term as Musical Director of the Gewandhausorchester and as a founder of Germany's first Conservatory of Music, he established Leipzig's reputation as an internationally renowned city of music. The memory of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy is kept very much alive in Leipzig. Traditionally, the composer and musician is commemorated every year with many concerts held during the Mendelssohn Festival. This takes place in cooperation with the Mendelssohn House and the Leipzig Gewandhaus around the anniversary of his death on 4 November, with prestigious concerts at both cultural institutions. Internationally renowned artists present a rich musical programme, ranging from symphony concerts with the Gewandhausorchester under the direction of Andris Nelsons to choral symphonies, recitals and chamber music performances. A variety of talks, guided tours and lectures complete the festival programme.

www.gewandhausorchester.de/en

www.mendelssohn-haus.de/en

OPERA FESTIVAL

“Leipzig dances!": 21 - 29 June 2024

Lortzing Festival: 24 April - 3 May 2026



With its 330-year tradition, Oper Leipzig is one of the flagships of Leipzig as a city of music. As early as 1693, the first opera house at Brühl was opened as the third civic music theatre in Europe after Venice and Hamburg. Since 1840, the world-renowned Gewandhausorchester has played at all performances of the opera and the Leipzig Ballet. The international ballet company of the Oper Leipzig also performs at the highest level. After the great success of the Opera Festival “WAGNER 22”, the next festival is coming up in 2024. From 21 to 29 June 2024, it is time for “Leipzig dances!” when internationally renowned artists and companies from the ballet and dance scene come to Leipzig to celebrate this genre. In 2026, the composer Albert Lortzing will be in the spotlight of the Opera Festival to mark the 225th anniversary of his birth and 175th anniversary of his death. He not only premiered many of his operas in Leipzig, but also performed here as an actor and singer. Lortzing’s works are already an integral part of the repertoire of Oper Leipzig and the Musical Comedy Theatre „Musikalische Komödie“, the venue for musicals and operettas in the Lindenau district.

www.oper-leipzig.de/en/leipzig-tanzt

www.oper-leipzig.de/en/lortzing-in-leipzig

For further information about the music festivals and travel packages, including concert tickets, see:

WWW.LEIPZIG.TRAVEL/CITYOFMUSIC



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City of Leipzig