

LEIPZIG
REGION



CITY OF MUSIC :LEIPZIG

LEIPZIG BACHFEST
GEWANDHAUS FESTIVAL
MENDELSSOHN FESTIVAL
OPERA FESTIVAL



LEIPZIG. WHERE MUSIC SETS THE TONE.

**Leipzig has been steeped in music for over 800 years –
and delights classical music lovers with prestigious festivals.**

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

THE FESTIVAL RHYTHM

LEIPZIG BACHFEST

every year

MENDELSSOHN FESTIVAL

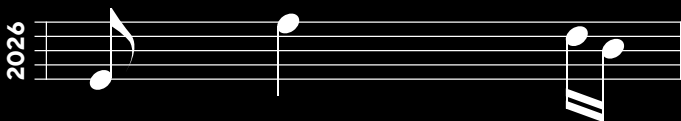
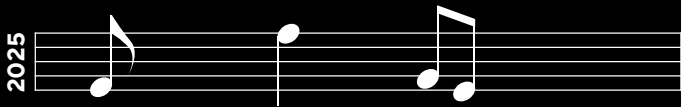
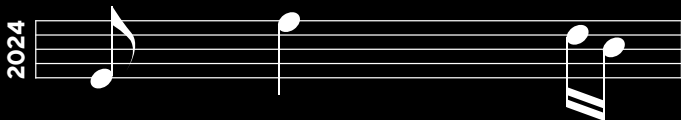
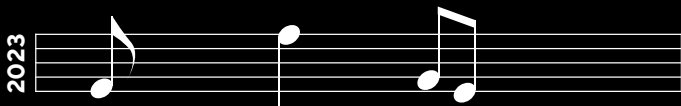
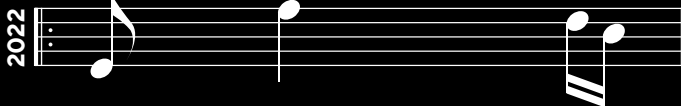
every year

GEWANDHAUS FESTIVAL

every two years

OPERA FESTIVAL

every two years



CITY OF MUSIC
: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 Dmitri Shostakovich's complete symphonic and concerto oeuvre. 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. During a visit to Leipzig in 1950, Shostakovich was inspired to compose one of his most famous piano works, the 24 Preludes and Fugues op. 87 for solo piano. Between 1976 and 1978, the Gewandhausorchester was the first orchestra in the world to perform all fifteen of Shostakovich's symphonies in a cycle.

www.shostakovich-leipzig.com

LEIPZIG BACHFEST

»Transformation«

12 - 22 Juni 2025

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. The Leipzig Bachfest 2025 will take place from 12 to 22 June and will highlight transformation processes in Johann Sebastian Bach's oeuvre. The programme includes works that Bach himself subjected to a fascinating transformation process, which he created in the style of various European sound preferences, as well as compositions by other composers that he rearranged. Exciting new concert formats are also presented under the umbrella of the 2025 festival motto „Transformation“. Renowned artists from all over the world can be experienced in over 150 events over 11 days, including the Thomanerchor and the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig.

MENDELSSOHN FESTIVAL

More than just romantic music

2 - 9 November 2025

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 years 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 each year with numerous 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 in 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

OPERA FESTIVAL

Lortzing Festival

Spring 2026

Oper Leipzig: Musikalische Komödie and Opera House



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 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. Besides the current opera house in the heart of the city, which was built in 1960, the Musikalische Komödie, a venue for musicals and operettas, also belongs to Oper Leipzig.

The Leipzig Opera Festival takes place every two years. After a successful start with 'WAGNER 22', the international ballet festival 'Leipzig dances!' was held in 2024. In 2026, the festival will focus on the composer Albert Lortzing to mark the 225th anniversary of his birth and the 175th anniversary of his death. Lortzing not only premiered many of his operas in Leipzig, but also performed here as an actor and singer. He worked as opera director at the city theatre for several years. In addition to revivals, new productions are also on the programme. Lectures, choir and chamber concerts as well as talks round off the festival.

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