

LEIPZIG  
REGION



# CITY OF MUSIC :LEIPZIG

LEIPZIG BACHFEST  
OPERA FESTIVAL  
GEWANDHAUS FESTIVAL  
MENDELSSOHN 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 (St Thomas Boys Choir), 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 worldfamous 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!

# OPERA FESTIVAL

Festival Lortzing

24 April – 3 May 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. In 2026, composer, singer and actor Albert Lortzing will be the focus of the festival on the occasion of his 225<sup>th</sup> birthday and 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death. Not only were many of his operas premiered in Leipzig, but the creator of 'Zar und Zimmermann' also appeared on stage himself and played a combative and popular role in shaping the musical scene of his time. During the festival, there will be numerous performances, including two premieres: the popular opera 'Der Waffenschmied' (The Armourer), a comedy of mistaken identity about love and status, and the rarely performed revolutionary opera 'Regina'. 'Der kleine Zar' (The Little Tsar) will also give young audiences aged 6 and above an introduction to Lortzing's story and music. Also in preparation: an academic conference, an exhibition and an 'open stage' for choirs on Augustusplatz, as well as guided walks.

[www.oper-leipzig.de/lortzing26](http://www.oper-leipzig.de/lortzing26)

[www.leipzig.travel/lortzing26-reiseangebot](http://www.leipzig.travel/lortzing26-reiseangebot)

# LEIPZIG BACHFEST

"In Dialogue"

11 – 21 June 2026

More than 200 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. From 11 to 21 June 2026, Leipzig will become the world capital of Bach. Under the motto 'In Dialogue', Leipzig Bachfest celebrates the art of exchange – as it is brought to life in Bach's music: voices that talk to each other, contradict each other and yet come together again. A special highlight is the world's first 'Bach Charts': for the first time, the global Bach community has helped shape a central part of the programme by voting for their favourite Bach cantatas. The top 50 will be presented in twelve concerts, performed by the Champions League of Bach interpreters, including stars such as Philippe Herreweghe, John Eliot Gardiner and Ton Koopman. A second focus is the anniversary of '300 Years of Clavier-Übung': Sir András Schiff (piano) and Mahan Esfahani (harpsichord) will devote themselves to these key works in large cycles. These will be complemented by Bach's 'Dialogue con cembalo obbligato', his cello suites and works reflecting Bach's role models, critics and admirers. The grand finale: the B minor Mass with the St Thomas Boys Choir. Dialogue concerts, discussion formats and the festival director's series 'Maul trifft...' ('Maul meets...') also open up spaces for exchange between art, science and the audience. Bach's music shows that genuine dialogue also involves friction and yet is a source of inspiration, insight and shared joy – Leipzig brings it to life.

[www.bachfestleipzig.de/en](http://www.bachfestleipzig.de/en)

[www.leipzig.travel/bachfest26-reiseangebot](http://www.leipzig.travel/bachfest26-reiseangebot)

# MENDELSSOHN FESTIVAL

Tribute to Leipzig

1–8 November 2026

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, which is intended as a tribute to Leipzig.

[www.gewandhausorchester.de/en](http://www.gewandhausorchester.de/en)

[www.mendelssohn-haus.de](http://www.mendelssohn-haus.de)

# GEWANDHAUS FESTIVAL

Beethoven Festival

9 – 23 May 2027

Leipzig Gewandhaus



The Gewandhausorchester is the oldest civic symphony orchestra in the world. The orchestra's nucleus was the concert society Das Große Concert, founded in 1743 by a group of 16 musical philanthropists, comprising noblemen and burghers alike. The ensemble took residence in its first genuine concert hall - adopting the name Gewandhausorchester - on moving to an upper hall of the textile merchants' trading house in 1781.

The Gewandhausorchester is revered for its highly individual, warm, dark sound palette that clearly distinguishes it from other elite orchestras. This unique sound identity, along with the extraordinarily rich diversity of the repertoire which the Gewandhausorchester performs, is cultivated in almost 300 performances each year in the orchestra's three 'homes': as concert orchestra in the Gewandhaus, orchestra of the Oper Leipzig and orchestra for the weekly performances of the cantatas of Johann Sebastian Bach with the St Thomas Boys Choir at St Thomas Church.

The Gewandhaus Festival alternates annually with the Opera Festival. Following Mahler (2023) and Shostakovich (2025), the focus in 2027 will be on Beethoven.

Participating artists include the Gewandhausorchester with Gewandhauskapellmeister Andris Nelsons, Lang Lang and other soloists. Details to follow.

[www.gewandhausorchester.de/en](http://www.gewandhausorchester.de/en)

[www.leipzig.travel/beethoven27-reiseangebot](http://www.leipzig.travel/beethoven27-reiseangebot)

# TRAVEL OFFERS

## Leipzig – City of Music

Hardly any other destination can look back on such a rich musical history as Leipzig – which makes our city the perfect destination for music lovers looking for a short break. Leipzig Tourismus and Marketing GmbH (LTM) offers discerning music lovers not only tailor-made travel packages including tickets for classical music festivals, but also many other opportunities to experience the musical diversity of the city:



### Excerpt from our opera and concert tour programme:

EASTER IN LEIPZIG

#### **Passion in St Thomas Church**

with the St Thomas Boys Choir and the Gewandhausorchester

#### **Leipzig Bachfest**

The highlight of June, featuring world-class artists at authentic Bach locations

LEIPZIG IN ADVENT

#### **Bach's Christmas Oratorio**

with the St Thomas Boys Choir and the Gewandhausorchester

NEW YEAR'S EVE IN LEIPZIG

#### **Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony**

Ring in the New Year with the Gewandhausorchester

All travel offers, dates and prices can be found at [www.leipzig.travel/reiseangebote](http://www.leipzig.travel/reiseangebote)

Would you like more tickets, need tips for the supporting programme or have a special request? Contact us! We will be happy to advise you.



### Information and booking:

Leipzig Tourismus und Marketing GmbH,  
Incoming Department  
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[incoming@ltm-leipzig.de](mailto:incoming@ltm-leipzig.de)

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

**[WWW.LEIPZIG.TRAVEL/MUSIKSTADT](http://WWW.LEIPZIG.TRAVEL/MUSIKSTADT)**



**PUBLISHED BY**

Leipzig Tourismus und Marketing GmbH  
Augustusplatz 9, 04109 Leipzig, Germany  
[www.leipzig.travel/en](http://www.leipzig.travel/en)

**IMAGE CREDITS**

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St Thomas Church © LTM / Michael Adair  
Andris Nelsons © Christian Modla

**PUBLICATION DATE**

November 2025  
subject to change