

LEIPZIG  
REGION



# CITY OF MUSIC :LEIPZIG

LEIPZIG BACHFEST  
GEWANDHAUS FESTIVAL  
MENDELSSOHN FESTIVAL  
OPERA FESTIVAL



# LEIPZIG. WHERE MUSIC CALLS THE TUNE.

**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 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 world-famous Gewandhausorchester began with the "Grand Concerts" that were introduced by citizens of Leipzig in 1743. Oper Leipzig – the third oldest music stage in Europe – came into being as far back as 1693. Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Musical Director of the Gewandhausorchester, founded the first German Conservatory in 1843. Clara and Robert Schumann, Johannes Brahms and Gustav Mahler also worked here, composing outstanding musical works that have stood the test of time. And 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 city music festivals mentioned in this publication all make Leipzig what it is – an absolute must for music lovers!

[www.leipzig.travel/cityofmusic](http://www.leipzig.travel/cityofmusic)

# OPERA FESTIVAL

WAGNER 22

All of Wagner's operas in three weeks

20 June to 14 July 2022 at Oper Leipzig



In summer 2022, the world of music will turn its gaze to Leipzig. The opera house in the city of Richard Wagner's birth will be performing all 13 of the composer's stage works. With the exception of the Ring, the operas will be presented in the order in which they were written and surrounded by a rich schedule of supplementary artistic and academic events. Oper Leipzig has a tradition stretching back 325 years, and has long been one of the flagships of Leipzig City of Music. The city wrote musical history with composers such as Bach, Schumann, Mendelssohn and Wagner. Wagner's native town is a popular destination for lovers of his works from all around the world. One reason for this is the outstanding quality of the music at the opera house, played by the Gewandhausorchester, one of the best orchestras in the world. It should come as no surprise, then, that it has also become the convention for many international Wagner stars to perform Wagner's works with the Gewandhausorchester and Artistic and General Music Director Ulf Schirmer.

Tobias Wolff will begin his directorship of the Oper Leipzig at the start of the 2022/23 season. The next Opera Festival is due to take place in 2024 with a focus on dance.

[www.oper-leipzig.de/en/wagner22](http://www.oper-leipzig.de/en/wagner22)

# MENDELSSOHN FESTIVAL

2022: 175th anniversary of Mendelssohn's death

31 October to 6 November 2022

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 could. During his twelve-year term as musical director of the Gewandhausorchester and as a founder of Germany's first Conservatory of Music, he cemented Leipzig's reputation as a global city for 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 Concert Hall around the anniversary of his death, 4 November, with prestigious concerts at both cultural institutions. 2022 marks the 175th anniversary of Mendelssohn's death. At the same time, the museum at the Mendelssohn House is also celebrating 25 years since it was founded. The "Year of Festivities for Felix" was therefore set up to honour the occasion, culminating in the Mendelssohn Festival from 31 October to 6 November 2022. In addition to the Gewandhausorchester, guests can also enjoy performances by Gideon Kremer, Jörg Widmann, Dorothea Röschmann and Elena Bashkirova, among others.

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

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

# GEWANDHAUS FESTIVAL

Mahler Festival 2023

The complete symphonies of Mahler in 19 days

11 to 29 May 2023 at Leipzig Gewandhaus



May 2023 will be all about Gustav Mahler at the Leipzig Gewandhaus Concert Hall. They will be offering a unique programme: the complete symphonies and other orchestral works, performed by 10 world-class orchestras over just 19 days, in the city where Mahler became a symphonic composer. From 1886 to 1888, Mahler spent two decisive years of his life in Leipzig: years that set the course for his later career. Leipzig and the Gewandhausorchester will provide an authentic framework, and Europe's top orchestras present their individual interpretations of Mahler's symphonic vision. In addition to concerts by the Gewandhausorchester under Music Director Andris Nelsons, audiences will also have the chance to see the Budapest Festival Orchestra, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra, amongst others. The concerts will be complemented by film evenings and lied recitals, special city walking tours on the theme of Gustav Mahler in Leipzig, and much more.

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

# LEIPZIG BACHFEST

9 - 19 June 2022 - »BACH - We Are FAMILY«

8 - 18 June 2023 - »BACH for Future«

7 - 16 June 2024 - »BACH - We Are FAMILY«



The city honours the famous Cantor of St. Thomas Church, Johann Sebastian Bach, with the Leipzig Bachfest every June, upholding the long tradition of commemorating Bach that was originally established by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy. In 2022 and 2024, Leipzig will be hosting two very special Bachfests: Under the slogan »BACH - We Are FAMILY«, on each occasion numerous Bach choirs from all over the world will travel to the city in order to commemorate the composer in the place where their idol lived and worked – following in the footsteps of the many branches of the Bach family of musicians, who in the 17th and 18th centuries used to meet once a year to make music together. At various Chorale Cantata concerts, the audience is expressly encouraged to join in and thus become part of today's global Bach family. The 2023 Leipzig Bachfest revolves around the 300th anniversary of Bach's appointment as Cantor of St. Thomas. His masterpieces will be presented in exciting new contexts in a programme titled »BACH for Future«. Joining the crème de la crème of Bach performers such as Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Ton Koopman and Angela Hewitt are fresh young ensembles embodying a bold spirit.

# THE FESTIVAL RHYTHM

**LEIPZIG BACHFEST**

every year

**MENDELSSOHN FESTIVAL**

every year

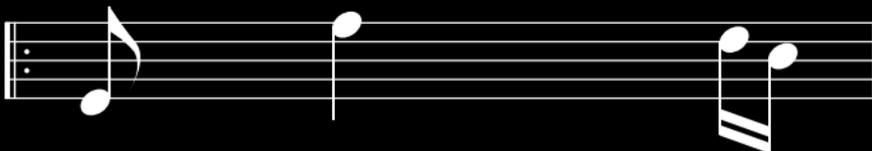
**GEWANDHAUS FESTIVAL**

every two years

**OPERA FESTIVAL**

every two years

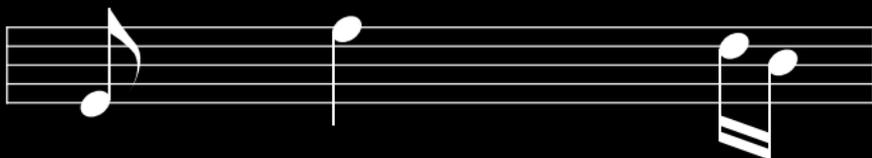
2022



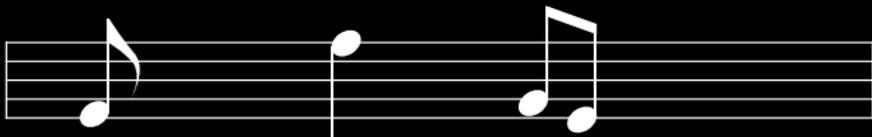
2023



2024

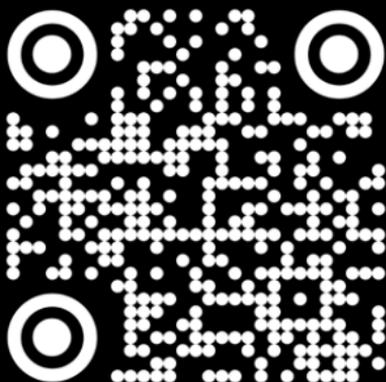


2025



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

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



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**City of Leipzig**