

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 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. 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!

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. A unique programme will be offered: 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 related to Gustav Mahler in Leipzig and much more.

www.gewandhausorchester.de/en/mahler-festival/

LEIPZIG BACHFEST

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. The 2023 Leipzig Bachfest focuses on 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«. The crème de la crème of Bach interpreters such as Ton Koopman, Lang Lang, Daniel Hope and Angela Hewitt as well as young ensembles will celebrate the composer and his anniversary in over 150 events.

In 2024, Leipzig will host another very special Bachfest: Under the slogan »BACH - We Are FAMILY«, 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 encouraged to join in and thus become part of today's global Bach family.

MENDELSSOHN FESTIVAL

29 October to 5 November 2023

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.

In 2023, works by Mendelssohn, Mahler, Beethoven, Bach and Fanny Hensel, among others, will be performed at chamber music and choral concerts, lieder matinees and "Grand Concerts". Alongside the president of the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation, Elena Bashkirova, renowned greats such as Sir András Schiff, Magdalena Kožená and Georg Nigl will be performing.

www.gewandhausorchester.de/en

www.mendelssohn-haus.de

OPERA FESTIVAL

Festival with focus on dance

Summer 2024

At Oper Leipzig and many more stages in the city



With its more than 325-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. In addition to today's opera house on Augustusplatz, built in 1960, Oper Leipzig includes the "Musikalische Komödie" in the Lindenau district, a special venue for musicals and operettas. Opera fans love both the exciting productions and the first-class musical standard of the house. The international ballet company of the Oper Leipzig under the direction of ballet director and chief choreographer Mario Schröder also performs at the highest level. That is why the next opera festival will be dedicated to dance. It will take place in summer 2024.

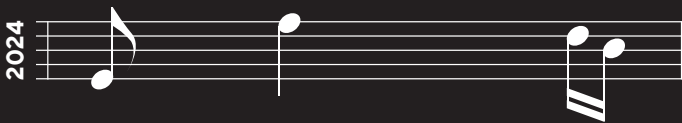
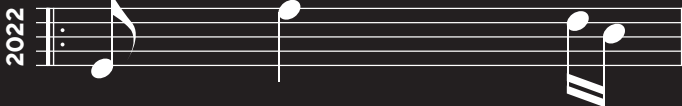
THE FESTIVAL RHYTHM

LEIPZIG BACHFEST
every year

MENDELSSOHN FESTIVAL
every year

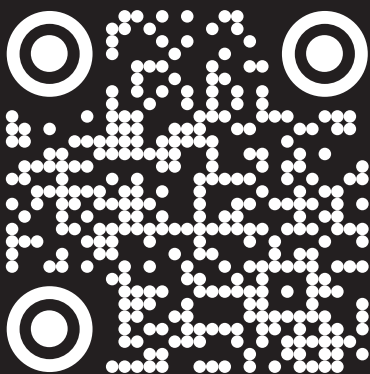
GEWANDHAUS FESTIVAL
every two years

OPERA FESTIVAL
every two years



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