Symphony on the Blue Danube

James Hepokoski
Professor of Music
Goethe once said, “Music is liquid architecture,[and] architecture is frozen music.” The Danube River and the resplendent cities of Prague and Vienna, which inspired classical music’s Great Masters, are a visual symphony of landscape and architecture where rolling hillsides and terraced vineyards are in concert with medieval cities and stone castles.

Our specially created itinerary features private performances from the musical heritage of Europe’s most accomplished composers, including Mozart and Beethoven, and provides opportunities to explore six UNESCO World Heritage sites; and experience the rich history and dynamic legacies that contextualize the West’s art and architectural masterpieces. We’ll spend three nights in the world-class city of Prague, the “City of a Thousand Spires,” in a centrally located hotel before cruising the celebrated Blue Danube from Passau, Germany, to Budapest, Hungary. Traveling aboard the exclusively chartered Amadeus Queen—a deluxe river ship launched in 2018, we’ll dock right in the heart of the cities we visit.

High notes of your experience include specially arranged expert lectures, private classical music performances, guided excursions in Prague and in each port of call along the Danube River, and an overnight stay in the fin-de-siecle grandeur of Vienna, Austria’s extraordinary capital. I hope you will join us on this delightful small group program that is sure to sell out fast. Call 203-432-1952 today to hold your spot. I hope you will join us on this charming fall program.

Lauren Summers
Senior Director of Lifelong Learning and Travel

yaleedtravel.org/danube19
James Hepokoski is Henry L. and Lucy G. Moses Professor of Music in Yale’s Department of Music, where he has taught since 1999, and where he has been serving as Chair of the Department since 2013. He is a frequent and popular lecturer with the Yale Alumni Association’s (YAA) educational travel program.

Professor Hepokoski is a specialist in operatic, symphonic, and chamber music from the eighteenth to the 20th centuries, with particular expertise in musical style and its political and cultural implications. He is the author or co-author of seven books and dozens of essays on a wide variety of topics. These include studies of Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, Strauss, Sibelius, and Debussy, as well as his award-winning book from 2006 Elements of Sonata Theory.

He has also given several pre-concert lectures at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. At Yale, he teaches a generous selection of music courses, among which are a much-praised survey of music history as well as numerous graduate and undergraduate seminars ranging from Mozart, Beethoven, and European Nationalism to American Music, 1920s Blues, and Cole Porter songs.

Students have remarked on his lively and entertaining lectures, which illuminate aesthetic and historical points embedded in the classical repertory. In 2010, he was awarded Yale College’s Sidonie Miskimin Clauss Prize for Teaching Excellence in the Humanities.

Yale Study Leader

James Hepokoski

Upcoming Trips

Dutch Waterways
04/25/2019 – 05/03/2019
Associate Prof.
Marian Chertow

Dynasties of China and Tibet
05/04/2019 – 05/18/2019
Prof. Mimi Yiengpruksawan

Shores of Iberia: Spain & Portugal
Aboard Sea Cloud II
05/16/2019 – 05/29/2019
Prof. Mimi K. David Jackson

Arctic Expedition Under The Midnight Sun Aboard L’Austral
06/21/2019 – 07/01/2019
Prof. Richard O. Prum

• Yale Educational Travel • Yale Alumni Association
• Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010
• Reservations: 203.432.1952 edtravel@yale.edu
ITINERARY
SEPTEMBER 16-25, 2019

WELCOME PHONE CALL
Tuesday, September 10, 2019
(Tentative)
Join the group at 4PM EST for a pre-trip welcome call with Professor James Hepokoski to learn more about what to expect and to ask questions.

U.S./PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC
Monday and Tuesday, September 16 and 17
Depart the U.S. for Prague, the “City of a Thousand Spires,” a UNESCO World Heritage site showcasing 600 years of virtually untouched architecture. Upon arrival, check into the deluxe InterContinental Praha hotel. Attend the private Welcome Reception Tuesday evening in the hotel. (R)

PRAGUE
Wednesday and Thursday, September 18 and 19
On our guided walking tour, explore the diverse cultural legacy of Prague, celebrated for its grand combination of Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque architecture. Walk the lanes of the Staré Město (Old Town) to the Orloj, the ornate, 15th-century astronomical clock of the Old Town Hall, and see the iconic Charles Bridge lined with 17th- and 18th-century Baroque statues. Enjoy a specially arranged private tour and brief Mozart musical performance in the Estates Theatre, where the prodigy’s opera Don Giovanni premiered in 1787. The Gothic-style Old-New Synagogue in Josefov and walk amongst 15th-century headstones in the Old Jewish Cemetery.

On Thursday, tour the former residence of Bohemian royalty, the Hradčany complex of castles, churches, and museums. Visit the neo-Gothic St. Vitus Cathedral and see the Royal Mausoleum and the St. Wenceslas Chapel, a Czech Gothic masterpiece.

By special arrangement, view original Beethoven manuscripts and enjoy a private string quartet concert in the magnificent, family-owned 16th-century Lobkowicz Palace.

Author Franz Kafka was said to have lived here between 1916 and 1917. Discover more of Prague’s time-honored treasures during the afternoon and evening at your leisure. (2B)

Walk through Prague’s quaint “Golden Lane,” lined with small, Mannerist-style houses and workshops once occupied by castle goldsmiths, alchemists, artisans, and guards.

PRAGUE/PASSAU, GERMANY
Friday, September 20
Travel through the bucolic wooded Czech and German countryside to Passau, where three legendary rivers—the Danube, Ilz and Inn—converge. Enjoy lunch in a historic restaurant before the walking tour along the cobblestone streets of Altstadt, Passau’s Old Town. Visit the Baroque-style St. Stephan’s Cathedral, home to the largest pipe organ in Europe. Embark the AMADEUS QUEEN, attend the Captain’s Welcome Reception and, following dinner, enjoy a short concert of classical music on board. (B/L/R/D)

VIENNA
Sunday, September 22
Former seat of the Habsburg Empire, Vienna’s historic center is a UNESCO World Heritage museum of Baroque architecture. The Ringstrasse, commissioned by Austro-Hungarian Emperor Franz Joseph, showcases the impressive Vienna State Opera house and Hofburg Palace. Visit the Gothic-style Stephansdom (St. Stephen’s Cathedral). In the intricately painted Sala Terrena, Vienna’s oldest concert hall, enjoy a specially arranged performance by PaulTroger, showcasing stunning 18th-century ceiling frescoes and relics. The museum of the palatial kirche (church), displays the perfectly intact, multi-panel, 16th-century altarpiece created by Danube School painter Jörg Breu the Elder. A prestigious center of scholarship throughout the Middle Ages, today the abbey’s library is a repository of 100,000 medieval manuscripts.

Later, dock in the medieval village of Dürnstein, below the hilltop ruins of Castle Kuenringer, where Richard the Lionheart was held prisoner after the Third Crusade. Stroll through the storybook village, stopping in the 15th-century Dürnstein Stiftskirche for a short, private organ concert.

This evening, cruise through the Danube’s fabled Wachau Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site, where terraced vineyards blanket hillsides interspersed with striking medieval castle ruins. (B/L/D)
of Mozart’s and various composers’ music. Peruse Vienna’s cultural glories this afternoon and evening at your leisure. (B/L/D)

VIENNA/BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA  
Monday, September 23  
This morning, in Vienna or join the optional excursion to the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Schönbrunn Palace and Gardens, the summer estate of the imperial Habsburgs. Here, in one of the grand salons, a six-year-old Mozart first performed for Empress Maria Theresa and her daughter, the future Queen of France, Marie Antoinette.

Cruise through Austria’s Donau-Auen National Park, the last remaining major wetlands in central Europe. Nestled in the foothills of the Carpathians, Slovakia’s beautifully restored capital city overlooks the broad banks of the Danube. On the guided tour of Bratislava’s Old Town, walk among some of central Europe’s finest medieval, Renaissance and 19th-century architecture. Visit the Romanesque, 14th-century Cathedral of St. Martin and the elaborate Primatial Palace; see St. Michael’s Gate, a medieval fortification originally built in 1300.

This evening, enjoy a delightful performance of classical music on board the ship. (B/L/D)

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY  
Tuesday, September 24  
Austrian-born, nevertheless the “most Hungarian Habsburg,” Archduke Joseph is credited with creating in Budapest an imperial capital that rivaled Vienna. The embankments of the centuries-old twin cities of Buda and Pest facing each other across the Danube and the famous Buda Castle Quarter are a designated UNESCO World Heritage site.

Begin your tour in Pest to see the neo-Gothic Parliament Building, built between 1884 and 1904. Pass through Heroes’ Square and admire the monuments honoring the Magyar chiefs who conquered Hungary in A.D. 896.

Cross the imposing Chain Bridge linking river-level Pest to the hills of Buda on the opposite side of the Danube. Visit the late-19th-century, neo-Romanesque Fisherman’s Bastion on Castle Hill. Here, the terrace’s turrets symbolize the seven Magyar tribes that settled in the Carpathian Basin. Nearby is the Gothic-style St. Matthias Church, where Charles I, the last Habsburg ruler, was coronated in 1916.

On board the ship this evening, attend the Captain’s Farewell Reception and Dinner, followed by a Hungarian folklore performance. (B/L/R,D)

BUDAPEST/U.S.  
Wednesday, September 25  
Continue on the Hungary’s Parliament and Plains Post-Program Option or transfer to the airport for your return flight to the U.S. (B)

Included meals indicated each day as B/L/R/D = Breakfast/Lunch/Reception/Dinner.
BERLIN • DRESDEN
PRUSSIA AND SAXONY
REVEALED

Pre-Program Option
September 13–17
$1,545 per person, double occupancy
$2,345 per person, single occupancy
Known for its world-class museums and eclectic architecture, Berlin is one of Europe’s preeminent cultural centers. Enjoy the city tour, cruise along the Spree River and visit the Wall Museum at Checkpoint Charlie, the former border crossing between East and West Berlin. Explore the Pergamon Museum on UNESCO World Heritage-designated Museum Island. En route to Prague, tour the “Jewel Box of Germany,” Dresden, known for its celebrated architecture and its cultural and artistic significance. Accommodations are for three nights in the deluxe WestIn Grand BerlIn hotel.

HUNGARY’S
PARLIAMENT AND PLAINS
Post-Program Option
September 25–27
$945 per person, double occupancy
$1,395 per person, single occupancy
Extend your stay in captivating Budapest, amid the majestic hills of Buda and the artistic, bohemian avenues of Pest. Enjoy an excursion into Hungary’s great protected Puszta (plains), including a display of master horsemanship and a lunch of fresh regional specialties at the farm. Then visit the stately, Gothic Revival-style Parliament Building. Accommodations are for two nights in the deluxe InterContInental BudaPest.

Taxes and gratuities to ship personnel are included for all categories.
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To register, return this form with your deposit of $1,000 per person to Yale Educational Travel. Final payment is due June 18, 2019.

1) name as on passport

date of birth yale connection

passport origin relationship to other guest

2) name as on passport

date of birth yale connection

passport origin relationship to other guest

Contact Information

address

city/state/zip

primary phone

secondary phone

e-mail

Terms and Conditions

MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL
The right is retained to decline to accept, or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of Yale Educational Travel (“YET”), is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip without refund. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

CANCELLATION
In addition to airline cancellation penalties, all cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a $500 per person cancellation fee through 91 days prior to departure. Cancellation from 90 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. All cancellations must be submitted in writing to YET.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE
A deposit of $1,000 per person, payable to Gohagan & Company, of which $500 is nonrefundable for administrative fees, is required with the reservation application. Final payment must be received 90 days prior to departure. Mail to: The Association of Yale Alumni, Yale Educational Travel, Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010. Or call: 203-432-1952.

Complete Terms and Conditions will be sent after registration and are available at: yaleedtravel.org/faqs

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Framed by rolling hillsides, lush vineyards and medieval castles, the legendary Danube River Valley has resonated with musicians, artists, poets, and travelers throughout the centuries.

This journey of a lifetime is sure to strike a chord with both new and repeat travelers.