

PARIS AND THE CAPTIVATING RHINE VALLEY



Marienberg Fortress in Würzburg, Bavaria, Germany

with Portland Symphony Orchestra Music Director Eckart Preu

Paris Panorama, Opera Garnier in the Background



ECKART PREU is the music director of the Portland Symphony Orchestra, the music director of the Long Beach Symphony Orchestra (CA) and music director of the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra.

Previously, he held the positions of music director of the Spokane Symphony (WA), the Stamford Symphony (CT), associate conductor of the Richmond Symphony (VA), resident conductor of the American Symphony Orchestra and the American Russian Young Artists Orchestra. In Europe, Preu served as music director of the Orchestre International de Paris.

Career highlights include performances at Carnegie Hall, the Sorbonne in Paris, a live broadcast with the Jerusalem Symphony, and his first commercial recording of the world premiere of "Letters from Lincoln"—a work commissioned by the Spokane Symphony from Michael Daugherty, featuring baritone soloist Thomas Hampson. He has collaborated with internationally-renowned soloists including Sarah Chang, Anne Akiko Meyers, Jean-Phillipe Collard, Vladimir Feltsman, Horacio Gutierrez, Leila Josefowicz, Louis Lortie, and Richard Stoltzman.

A native of Germany, Preu came to the United States as the winner of the National Conducting Competition of the German Academic Exchange Service (1996) for graduate studies with Harold Farberman at the Hartt School of Music, where he also received the Karl Boehm Scholarship. In Germany, he earned a masters degree in conducting from the Hochschule für Musik in Weimar studying under Gunter Kahlert and Nicolas Pasquet. He also studied under Jean-Sebastien Berau at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris in France.

JULY 6-16, 2020 • FROM **\$4,950** per person, double occupancy

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PARIS Whether you're a true aficionado or are simply seeking a good night out at a concert or performance in the city of light, you're in luck: Paris is a fantastic city for music lovers. As a global metropolis, it not only harbors some of the world's finest venues for opera, jazz, musicals, rock, or world music: it's also a city that heavily subsidizes the arts. Year round, Paris offers a variety of inexpensive and free events dedicated to the musical arts, especially during the summer months.

MONDAY, JULY 6

PARIS

Upon arrival in Paris, we will be transferred to our hotel for the next 3 nights. After check-in the remainder of the day is free to relax from the flight or explore Paris. This evening we will have a 3-course Gallic dinner and pass Paris' top sites on this cruise on the Seine River. From the panoramic windows of the dining room, look out at the Louvre, Musée d'Orsay, Ile de la Cité, Pont Alexandre III, and other glittering waterfront sights.

Hotel: Mercure Paris 17 Batignolles or similar (3 Nights)

Meal: Dinner



Palais Garnier Foyer

TUESDAY, JULY 7

PARIS

This morning we will be amazed by the rich architecture and decor of the Palais Garnier during our private behind the scenes tour. The visit will begin with the "Rotonde des Abonnés" (Member's Rotunda) which was formerly used to welcome the audience, and where we will be able to discover the unique signature of the architect Charles Garnier amongst the arabesques. The mysterious Prophetess

Pythia will greet us before we take the majestic "Grand Escalier" (Main Staircase), which brings us to the auditorium, the lounges and the foyers. The abundant decor, the splendour of the various foyers and the variety of materials used will take your breath away. The numerous paintings and sculptures allow the Palais Garnier to be not only a theatre but also a museum at the same time. The tour will also include the costume area!

The afternoon is free to explore the city on your own. This evening we will be awed by a concert in the famed 'Holy Chapel', the Sainte Chapelle. Located on the Île de la Cité in the center of the city, this gem of Gothic architecture is renowned for its stained glass and delicate wood and stone work. Our classical concert at La Sainte Chapelle will be simply unforgettable. Following the concert we will dine at Le Club. Located on the upper floor of the Compagnie des Bateaux-Mouches® landing dock in Paris with an incredible view of the Eiffel Tower, Le Club restaurant is one of the best-kept secrets and most exotic venues in the city. All the details—cuisine, decor and vintage 1930s atmosphere—combine to make Le Club an exceptional restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

PARIS

After breakfast we will discover the *Philharmonie de Paris*—the city's emblematic music place with its dreamlike architecture.

Our behind the scenes tour will enter in the Cité de la Musique by the artists' entrance and afterwards we will explore the famous concert hall where the greatest classical-music masters have performed. With our guide, we will discover the Musée de la Musique, where more than 1000 instruments and masterpieces from all eras are exposed! Then we will make a backstage visit of the astonishing building surrounded by birds and inspired by Escher, where we will learn all the secrets of the construction of this important site, built like a 300,000-piece puzzle.

We will visit the many concert halls and rehearsal studios as well as the stunning Grande Salle, which can host up to 2400 people.

The afternoon is free to stay at the City of Music or return to the hotel and explore more of Paris.

This evening a concert at the Philharmonie de Paris is planned. Please note: due to lack of advanced scheduling the concert evening might be moved to another available evening and the day by day schedule might be altered accordingly.

Meal: Breakfast



ON THE RIVER

From the meandering Main to the UNESCO-designated Upper Middle Rhine Valley with its multitude of castles dotting its shores to the vineyard-clad hills of the Moselle, enjoy Europe at its most picturesque. Let the storybook villages—Bernkastel, Cochem and Wertheim—captivate you; and Rothenburg, located on the Romantic Road enchant you. Marvel at the world's largest ceiling fresco in the Würzburg Residenz, a UNESCO World Heritage Site; and the beautiful Chagall windows while in Mainz. Savor the many flavors of Germany with a chance to sample the world-famous wines of the Rheingau, the hearty smoked beer of Bamberg and Rudesheim's famed coffee. All along the way, gain an intimate understanding of the history and culture of the places you visit.

THURSDAY, JULY 9 PARIS-LUXEMBOURG

After a leisurely breakfast, we will gather in the lobby to meet our coach for our transfer to Luxembourg and the *AmaDante* cruise. This evening we will enjoy a Welcome Dinner on board the *AmaDante*.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



Porta Nigra in Trier, Germany

FRIDAY, JULY 10 TRIER

Trier is Germany's oldest city, renowned for its rich ancient Roman past, and referred to as the "Rome of the North" or "Second Rome" as it has impressive Roman relics and nine UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Join a guided tour of the city, including the old Roman amphitheater, Roman Baths and Basilica of Constantine. Alternatively, go in search of the secrets of the Porta Nigra Gate, dating back to 180 A.D., on a tour that takes you back to a time when Rome ruled the world from the Emperor's seat in Trier. You also have the choice of a hike high above Trier to Petrisberg. Later in the day, sail to Bernkastel, walk through its colorful Old Town center and past many medieval and Renaissance buildings on a guided tour that also includes a winery visit and tasting. Cycling enthusiasts can choose to join a bike tour and hikers can opt to trek up to the ruins of Landshut Castle, which dates all the way back to the 9th century. (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, JULY 11 KOBLENZ

Head to fairytale Cochem and visit the Reichsburg Castle followed by a walking tour. As an alternative, visit one of Europe's oldest working mustard mills where you will sample Cochem's famous mustard. You may also opt to hike to Reichsburg Castle and enjoy a visit or take a walking tour through nearby Koblenz. Later in the day, set sail for Rudesheim, where you can visit Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum, or enjoy the town's iconic Rudesheimer coffee, served ceremoniously with whipped cream and brandy. (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, JULY 12 RÜDESHEIM

Drink up the stunning views by soaring high above the vineyards with a gondola ride to the Niederwalddenkmal Statue or allow yourself to be treated to a wine tasting. For a more active adventure, hike through the town's beautiful vineyards or join a guided bike tour of the scenic Rheingau wine region. As an alternative, head to the confluence of the Rhine and Main Rivers to Mainz, where you'll enjoy a walking tour of its Old Town, brimming with quaint narrow streets, Baroque churches and half-timbered houses. You'll also have a chance to visit the Collegiate Church of St. Stephan, best known for its blue Chagall windows. (B,L,D)

Reichsburg Castle in Cochem, Germany on the Moselle River



FOR MORE INFO OR RESERVATIONS
Contact your AAA branch office 866-883-4985

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INCLUDES

- Three nights 4-star hotel accommodations Paris
- Admissions to Paris Museums and attractions as noted in the itinerary
- Two dinners, two concerts
- 7-night cruise on *AmaDante* Luxembourg to Nuremberg
- All meals on board ship including wine and beer at lunch and dinner
- Complimentary Sip and Sail cocktail hour each evening
- Choice of included shore excursions in every port
- Airport to hotel and ship to airport group transfers
- Port taxes

MONDAY, JULY 13

WERTHEIM

Wertheim's old town center still features half-timbered houses and the Gothic architecture of the Stiftskirche, its oldest Protestant church. You may either join a guided walking tour through the historic city center or learn the art of pretzel making with a visit to a local bakery. For those seeking a more active adventure, take a scenic bike ride through the Main River Valley or hike high above the town for a visit to the castle, one of the most picturesque ruins in Germany. (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, JULY 14

WÜRZBURG

Enjoy a city tour of Würzburg, a bursting with Baroque splendor. Or visit Würzburg's Baroque Residenz Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that features an opulent interior, including a grand fresco by Tiepolo. Or stretch your legs while hiking to Würzburg Castle. Later in the day, go on a full-day excursion to Rothenburg, Germany's best-preserved walled town located on the Romantic Road. (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

BAMBERG

Head to Bamberg, which has been referred to as "Franconian Rome" as, like Rome, it was built on seven hills—but in Bamberg, a church graces each one. Bamberg's medieval and Baroque architecture has withstood the test of time and, as such, became a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Join a guided walking tour of this medieval gem where you'll see its cathedral, Old Town Hall and elegant old mansions, and afterwards, indulge in the town's famous smoked beer, Rauchbier. Or, indulge in the culinary specialties of Bamberg, including licorice root, Hornla pastries, traditional German sausage and smoked beer. As a more invigorating alternative, pedal from Eltmann to Bamberg, meeting the ship there later in the day. (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, JULY 16

NUREMBERG

After breakfast, disembark the ship and head to the airport for our return trip to the United States. (B)

