



# The Haydn Festspiele

In association with Classical Opera

**7–11 September 2016 (ED 850)**

5 days • £1,990

(including tickets to 5 concerts)

Lecturer: Richard Wigmore

International festival in the small country town where Haydn was based for most of his career.

Three performances from Classical Opera, alongside concerts with the Austro-Hungarian Haydn Philharmonic and the Basel Chamber Orchestra.

Visits to other places associated with Haydn, including the house on the outskirts of Vienna where he spent the last 12 years of his life.

Led by Richard Wigmore, music writer, lecturer and broadcaster for BBC Radio 3.

Few small country towns have such an important place in the history of music as Eisenstadt; and few festivals other than the Haydnage offer the privilege of hearing music in the hall where it was first performed.

Eisenstadt is now in the Burgenland, the small province comprising the plain south-east of Vienna which before 1919 was part of Hungary. Dominating the townscape is a vast mansion, the principal seat of the Esterházy family, the richest and most powerful noble family in Habsburg Hungary. Successive princes, but especially Nicholas (1762–90), were lovers of music who maintained a choir, orchestra and Kapellmeister whose duty it was to conduct and compose. For over forty years their Kapellmeister was Joseph Haydn.

The wooden floor that Haydn insisted be laid on the marble original to improve the acoustics is still in the Great Hall of Schloss Esterházy; here the orchestral concerts and operas of the festival take place. Further associations with the composer extend into the town of Eisenstadt and the countryside around.

In the 2016 festival, symphonies and chamber music by Haydn are juxtaposed with works by gifted Bohemian contemporaries including Leopold Kozeluch, court composer to Emperor Franz II, and Joseph Mysliveček, a composer held in unusually high regard by Mozart who subsequently acquired the nickname 'il divino Boemo' ('the divine Bohemian').

## Itinerary

**Day 1.** Fly at c. 9.15am from London Heathrow to Vienna (Austrian Airlines). Drive to Eisenstadt stopping at Rohrau to visit Haydn's birthplace en route. An introductory lecture is followed by dinner.

**Day 2.** The historic centre of Eisenstadt has changed little since Haydn's day. Visit the Haydn Museum in the house he bought after his release from service with the Esterházy family, and see the state apartments of the Baroque and Neo-Classical Schloss Esterházy. An early dinner precedes the evening concert in the Haydnssaal, Schloss Esterházy with Classical Opera, Ian Page (conductor) Ailish Tynan (soprano), Rachel Kelly and Kitty Whately (mezzo-soprano), Robert Murray (tenor): Haydn, *Symphony No. 2 in C*; Mysliveček, *four arias from 'Semiramide'*; Haydn, *'La Canterina' (semi-staged)*.

**Day 3. All-day excursion to Vienna.** Morning visits to the house in Gumpendorf, Vienna where Haydn spent the last twelve years of his life. Visit also the Figaro Haus where Mozart resided between 1784–87. The afternoon is free, maybe to visit the excellent art collection at the Kunsthistorisches Museum, or to enjoy the streets, squares and churches in the historic centre. Return to Eisenstadt for an evening concert in the Haydnssaal with Classical Opera, Ian Page (conductor), Klara Ek (soprano), Lawrence Zazzo (countertenor), Benjamin Hulett (tenor): *'Tales from Ovid' – Dittersdorf, Symphony in F, 'The Rescue of Andromeda by Perseus' and transformation scenes from Mozart, 'Apollo & Hyacinthus'; Gluck, 'Orfeo ed Euridice'; Haydn, 'Philemon & Baucis'*.

**Day 4. Morning chamber concert in the Empiresaal with Classical Opera, Steven Devine (fortepiano), Ailish Tynan (soprano), Robert Murray (tenor), Catherine Martin (violin), Jonathan Rees (cello): Haydn, Italian duets and Lieder, Piano Trio No.7 in D and folksong settings, sonatas by Kozeluch and Vanhal.** Free afternoon with the option of joining a tour of 18th-century organs in Eisenstadt. Evening concert in the Haydnssaal with the Kammerorchester Basel, Sebastian Knauer (piano): Haydn, *Symphony No. 25 in C*, Piano Concerto in F, Piano Concerto in G; C.D. von Dittersdorf, Piano Concerto in B; Piano Concerto in A.



Joseph Haydn, steel engraving c. 1840.

**Day 5. Morning concert with the Austro-Hungarian Haydn Philharmonic, Adam Fischer (conductor), Ödön Rűcz (double bass): Vanhal, Concerto for double bass and orchestra in D; Haydn, Symphony No. 95 in C-minor.** After lunch drive to Vienna airport. Fly to Heathrow arriving c. 6.30pm.

## Practicalities

**Price: £1,990.** This includes: air travel (economy class) on scheduled Austrian Airlines flights (Airbus A320); coach travel for airport transfers and the excursion to Vienna; accommodation as described below; breakfasts, 1 lunch and 3 dinners with wine; admissions; tips for restaurant staff, drivers and guides; state and airport taxes; the services of the lecturer. **Single supplement £80. Price without flights: deduct £200.**

**Accommodation.** Hotel Burgenland (hotelburgenland.at): a functional but comfortable 4-star hotel, located in the heart of the old town of Eisenstadt, only 10 minutes on foot from the Schloss Esterházy.

**Music:** first category tickets for 5 performances are included, costing c. £355. To be confirmed in December 2015.

**How strenuous?** There is a reasonable amount of walking each day, including to and from the concert venue. Average distance by coach per day: 31 miles.

**Group size:** between 10 and 22 participants.