

# Germany Music Tour 2027

Master Itinerary & Operational Guide | Custom Group Track

|             |                                               |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Tour Dates: | Thursday, June 17 – Friday, July 2, 2027      |
| Base Hubs:  | Bonn → Hanover → Leipzig → Frankfurt Airport  |
| Transit:    | Deutsche Bahn Rail (ICE/IC / Regional System) |

## Phase 1: The Birth & Sanctuary Era (Bonn Base)

### Thursday, June 17: Transatlantic Wings

- Evening departure from Seattle (SEA) and Seoul Incheon (ICN) on respective overnight routes to Germany. All meals and onboard entertainment services are provided in flight.

### Friday, June 18: Arrival in Frankfurt & Move to Bonn

- Morning/Afternoon: Transatlantic and transpacific wings land at Frankfurt Airport (FRA). Merge at Terminal 1 arrival pillar.
- 2:30 PM: Board high-speed ICE train directly from airport station straight to apartment suites in Bonn (approx. 1 hour).
- 4:00 PM: Check into Bonn apartments, unpack, and settle into assigned rooms.
- 5:30 PM: Take a gentle orientation walk through Bonn's flat, historic pedestrian center.
- 6:30 PM: Stroll through historic Marktplatz and visit the flagship Bonn Haribo Store (founded natively in Bonn in 1920) for local treats.
- 7:30 PM: Early casual group dinner; immediate return to apartments to manage jet lag.

### Saturday, June 19: Dedicated Bonn Music History Day

- 9:30 AM: Walk to the old center to tour the Beethoven-Haus Bonn. This carefully preserved baroque building is the literal birthplace of Ludwig van Beethoven, housing his last Conrad Graf grand piano, original manuscripts, and interactive 3D digital audio landscape models.
- 12:00 PM: Stroll to Münsterplatz to view the monumental bronze Beethoven statue and step inside the 11th-century Bonner Münster, where a young Beethoven served as assistant organist. Grab a casual pedestrian bakery lunch nearby.
- 2:00 PM: Take a 10-minute transit ride to the historic Endenich neighborhood to tour the Schumannhaus Bonn. This poignant memorial building is the former private clinic where Robert Schumann spent his final years and where Clara Schumann frequently visited.
- 6:30 PM: Quiet group dinner prepared entirely within the apartment suite kitchens.

### **Sunday, June 20: Dedicated Rest Day (Bonn Apartments)**

- Strictly Zero Transit: No trains, trams, or structural excursions. Students remain localized at the apartments to recharge.
- All Day: Sleep in, rest muscles, relax, and utilize the private Wi-Fi network to place comfortable long-distance video calls home to families in Washington State and South Korea.
- 6:00 PM: Chaperones oversee a quiet group dinner using the suite's private kitchens.

### **Monday, June 21: Hands-On Cologne Experience Day**

- 8:45 AM: Meet at Bonn Central Station; board direct 25-minute regional train north to Cologne.
- 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM: Interactive Workshop at the Cologne Chocolate Museum (Schokoladenmuseum). Students trace production from cacao bean to 3-meter fountain, acting as chocolatiers to customize their own Lindt chocolate bars with specialized toppings.
- 11:45 AM – 1:45 PM: Scenic Rhine Promenade Lunch. Walk flat 5 minutes to Frankenwerft embankment. Grab takeaway from walk-up kiosks at Heumarkt or Bäckerei Veedels for a scenic river picnic. (Rain alternative: Indoor culinary concourse at Cologne Central Station).
- 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM: Youth Costume Tour at the historic Farina Fragrance Museum (Duftmuseum). Explore the absolute birthplace of Eau de Cologne (est. 1709), test raw aromatic essences, and learn how historic scents are distilled.
- 3:45 PM: Low-stress ground-floor architecture walk inside the magnificent Cologne Cathedral (Kölner Dom) to view the massive choir stalls and organ lofts. (Strenuous tower climbs strictly excluded).
- 4:30 PM: Board regional train back to Bonn apartments for relaxation and packing.

## **Phase 2: Royal Patronage & The Rail Loop (Hanover Base)**

### **Tuesday, June 22: The Schumanns' Düsseldorf Chapter → Move to Hanover**

- 9:00 AM: Checkout of Bonn apartments. Board regional train north to Düsseldorf Hbf (1 hour).
- 10:15 AM: Arrive at Düsseldorf Hbf; stow all suitcases in large station luggage lockers to remain fully hands-free.
- 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM: Tour the newly opened Schumann-Haus Düsseldorf on Bilker Straße 15. Explore the authentic residential apartment where Robert and Clara Schumann lived from 1852 to 1854. Admission is free for under 18.
- 12:30 PM – 1:45 PM: Walk to the covered Carlsplatz Market for a gourmet grab-and-go street food lunch (bratwurst, artisan crepes, pasta bowls, or fresh baked goods).
- 2:00 PM – 3:40 PM: Theater & Costume Focus at the Theatermuseum Düsseldorf (Hofgartenhaus). Inspect historical stage garments up close, while drama students study 18th-century miniature stage mechanics and set design archives. Admission is free for under 18.
- 4:00 PM: Tram back to Düsseldorf Hbf, retrieve suitcases from lockers, and access train platforms.
- 4:45 PM: Board direct, high-speed ICE train heading east straight to Hanover (approx. 2 hours 35 minutes).
- 7:20 PM: Pull into Hannover Hauptbahnhof. Easy flat walk to local apartments; check-in and dinner.

### **Wednesday, June 23: Local Hanover Händel Day & Live Brass Concert**

- 11:00 AM: Unhurried Start. Gather outside the apartments after an extended sleep-in. Take an easy stroll along the Roter Faden (Red Thread) pavement path past central landmarks, including the Neo-Classical State Opera House.
- 12:15 PM: Casual lunch at a central pedestrian bakery or walk-up cafe.
- 1:45 PM – 4:00 PM: Tram to Herrenhausen Palace and Baroque Gardens. Tour the palace museum tracking the royal music patronage of Georg Friedrich Händel, who served as Court Music Director starting in 1710. Explore the grand hedge mazes.
- 4:15 PM – 6:00 PM: Complete apartment downtime. Students rest and change into Smart Casual theater attire.
- 6:00 PM – 6:45 PM: Early dinner prepared together within the apartment suite kitchens to avoid pre-theater restaurant delays.
- 7:15 PM: Walk to the front plaza of the Opera House; check coats and bags at the staffed cloakroom (Garderobe).
- 7:30 PM: Concert Downbeat at the Opernhaus Hannover. Watch an elite live performance by the Venezuelan Brass Ensemble, showcasing over 50 powerhouse brass players in complex classical arrangements and soaring technical execution.

### **Thursday, June 24: Day Trip to Hamburg (The Composers' Quarter)**

- 8:30 AM: Meet at Hannover Hbf; select morning travel snacks.
- 9:00 AM: Board direct high-speed ICE train north to Hamburg Hbf (1 hour 20 minutes).
- 10:45 AM – 1:00 PM: Tour the spectacular KomponistenQuartier (Composers' Quarter). Walk through restored historic houses containing dedicated museums for Hamburg-natives Johannes Brahms and Felix Mendelssohn.
- 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM: Head to the adjacent Portugiesenviertel (Portuguese Quarter) for a pedestrian-friendly lunch of paninis, fresh pasta, or pastries.
- 2:45 PM – 4:30 PM: Walk the flat harbor promenade to the iconic Elbphilharmonie concert hall. Take the curved escalator to the public Plaza viewing deck for views of the industrial port. Stroll through the red-brick canyons of the Speicherstadt district.
- 6:24 PM: Board the direct return ICE train south to Hanover, arriving back by 7:45 PM for an apartment dinner.

### **Friday, June 25: Day Trip to Bremen (Fairytale & Cathedral Organs)**

- 9:15 AM: Meet at Hannover Hbf.
- 9:45 AM: Board direct regional express train northwest to Bremen (1 hour flat).
- 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM: Gather at the central Marktplatz to view the iconic bronze Bremen Town Musicians fairytale monument and explore the Gothic City Hall architecture.
- 12:15 PM – 1:30 PM: Head inside the 1,200-year-old St. Petri Dom (Bremen Cathedral). Music students marvel at the massive, historic romantic-era pipe organs while walking the flat interior aisles.
- 1:30 PM – 2:45 PM: Explore the brickwork alleys of Böttcherstraße; grab quick takeaway lunch items.

- 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM: Leisurely walk through the medieval Schnoor Quarter. This completely traffic-free fairytale maze of 15th-century houses is safe for students to explore sweet shops, buy souvenirs, and relax with ice cream.
- 5:15 PM: Board direct regional train back to Hanover. Arrive by 6:15 PM for packing and rest.

### **Phase 3: The Ultimate Cantor & Romantic Epilogue (Leipzig Base)**

#### **Saturday, June 26: High-Speed Rail Leap to Leipzig & Live Bach Motet**

- 8:30 AM: Checkout of Hanover apartments; move to station platforms.
- 9:36 AM: Board direct ICE train south straight to Saxony.
- 12:15 PM: Pull cleanly into the grand Leipzig Hauptbahnhof terminal. Drop luggage at local apartments and grab a fast, casual lunch in the pedestrian old town.
- 2:00 PM: Walk to St. Thomas Church (Thomaskirche) and line up at Entrance D. Program booklets are purchased directly at the doors for just 3.00 Euros (no advance tickets).
- 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM: Attend the Thomanerchor Motette. Hear the world-famous St. Thomas Boys Choir (directed historically by J.S. Bach for 27 years) perform a full Bach cantata and liturgical choral works live alongside the Gewandhausorchester.
- 4:15 PM: Return to Leipzig apartments so students can fully unpack, relax, and settle into their rooms.
- 6:00 PM: Casual group dinner prepared inside the apartment kitchens.

#### **Sunday, June 27: Dedicated Rest Day (Leipzig Apartments)**

- Strictly Zero Transit: Complete, unbroken Sunday. Students sleep in, cook in the suite kitchens, rest muscles, and place long-distance video calls to family back home.

#### **Monday, June 28: Modern Automation meets Classical Giants**

- 9:15 AM: Take a quick 20-minute transit northwest to the gates of the Porsche Experience Center Leipzig (Tor 1 Nord).
- 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM: Porsche Factory Tour Classic. An English-guided assembly line walk tracking autonomous transport networks, robotic window-bonding, and the final mechanical 'Wedding' line. (Age 13+, closed-toe shoes required).
- 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM: Grab lunch directly inside the Customer Centre at the Carrera Café, sitting before glass windows overlooking the live FIA test track.
- 1:15 PM: Return to the pedestrian old town to trace the Leipzig Music Trail (Notenspur). Visit the world-class Bach-Museum Leipzig, see Bach's tomb inside Thomaskirche, and tour the historic Mendelssohn-Haus.
- 6:00 PM: Group dinner at the apartments.

#### **Tuesday, June 29: The Halle Baroque Stopover → Berlin Capital Excursion**

- 9:15 AM: Board local S-Bahn or regional train north to Halle (Saale) Hbf (20 minutes flat). Stow daypacks in station rental lockers.
- 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM: Walk to the magnificent Händel-Haus Halle. Tour the 15th-century residence that serves as the literal birthplace where Georg Friedrich Händel grew up, viewing over 700 historic instruments

and an interactive miniature baroque model theater.

- 12:45 PM: Return to Halle Hbf, retrieve packs, and grab quick takeaway bakery items.
- 1:12 PM: Board the direct ICE train heading north straight to Berlin Hbf (1 hour 15 minutes).
- 2:27 PM – 5:45 PM: Exit onto flat ground to see the Brandenburg Gate, walk the structural remnants of the Berlin Wall Memorial, and explore the central capital plazas.
- 6:00 PM: Enjoy a group dinner along the scenic Spree River promenade.
- 8:15 PM: Board direct return ICE train south from Berlin Hbf, pulling back into Leipzig Hbf by 9:30 PM.

### **Wednesday, June 30: The Spectacular Jewels of Dresden & Midday Organ Concert**

- 9:00 AM: Board the direct high-speed rail line east to Dresden Hbf (exactly 60 minutes).
- 10:15 AM: Take a relaxed 15-minute walk down flat pedestrian avenues straight into the Altstadt, arriving at Neumarkt square.
- 11:40 AM: Gather the group and line up at Entrance D of the magnificent, reconstructed Frauenkirche.
- 12:00 PM – 12:45 PM: Words & Organ Music Showcase. Hear the 4,876-pipe Daniel Kern organ live as it fills the towering dome with rich Baroque and Romantic masterworks. Stay for the central architectural tour tracking the cathedral's historic rebirth.
- 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM: Grab takeaway local street food and head to Brühl's Terrace ('The Balcony of Europe') right behind the church to eat lunch together overlooking the Elbe River.
- 2:45 PM – 4:30 PM: Walk past the Procession of Princes porcelain mural to Theaterplatz to view the exterior of the spectacular Semperoper Dresden. Cross the bridge to let theater and costume students explore the artisan design studios in the Neustadt district.
- 5:20 PM: Board a direct Intercity train back to Leipzig Hbf, pulling in at 6:30 PM for a final packing night.

## **Phase 4: The Return Track**

### **Thursday, July 1: Return Rail to Frankfurt Airport Base**

- 10:00 AM: Checkout of Leipzig apartments. Board direct high-speed ICE train heading west back to Frankfurt (approx. 3.5 hours).
- 1:30 PM: Pull into Frankfurt Airport long-distance station. Walk seamlessly through covered pedestrian terminal skywalks and check into the Sheraton Frankfurt Airport Hotel.
- Afternoon/Evening: Complete free time inside the airport's extensive, secure indoor shopping plazas for final souvenirs, a relaxed final group dinner, and document organization.

### **Friday, July 2: Outbound Flights Home**

- Morning: Wake up, skip transit stress, and walk straight out of the hotel lobby directly into your airline check-in pillars at Terminal 1 or Terminal 2. Catch outbound flights back home to Seattle and Seoul.