
FESTIVALENSEMBLE STUTTGART 2009

GENERAL INFORMATION

JUNE, 2009

Dear Musicians,

This is the first of 3 letters you will be receiving from us until beginning of August. It contains important information - you are advised to read it thoroughly and keep it for future reference.

DATES

The complete dates of our project are August 12 through September 7, 2009 divided into three phases:

The first phase starts on August 12 with your arrival in Überlingen on Lake Constance and consists of rehearsals and masterclasses of *Händel's MESSIAH*, the brand new *MESSIAH* by *Sven David Sandström* as the main works plus some smaller scale choral and instrumental pieces for an extra "potpourri" concert in Überlingen. You will be performing in Überlingen on August 23rd (Härlen Aula for those who know the place) and August 25th (Händel in the *Franziskanerkirche* - a new place for most of us). August 26th ends this first phase and we'll start our concert tour. It will take us via Stuttgart, Mainz, Berlin and Homburg back to Stuttgart - in some 10 days...

In Stuttgart on 26 August we'll meet with the *Bundesjugendorchester* (BJO - see www.bundesjugendorchester.de) and are invited to visit their concert that evening - the BJO musicians in turn being invited to listen to our main rehearsal of *Sandström's MESSIAH* the next day. After this we'll take a bus ride to the city of Mainz, the closing concerts of *Rheingau Music Festival* following on August 28 and 29. Next day is lazy travel day - ending in Berlin with a free evening to stroll around known and unknown places... 31st August - back to the Berlin Philharmony, after 4 years! First we're gonna rock the hall with Händel's "hallelujah" and chill out the next evening with *Amen* from *Sandström's MESSIAH* (or afterwards).

Another travel day brings us back to Stuttgart before we do another *Händel* performance in Homburg / Saar. On September 4 we'll start preparing the opening concerts for the MUSIKFEST STUTTGART - formerly known as "Europäisches Musikfest Stuttgart" - its motto 2009 being LICHT

FESTIVALENSEMBLE STUTTGART will open the MUSIKFEST STUTTGART with a performance of *Händel's MESSIAH* on saturday, September 5 - Sunday we'll present the new version by *S.-D Sandström* to the Stuttgart audience and people around the world through live broadcast by the "ARD Radiofestival Sommer" (you'll find more information under these keywords in the web). You don't have to alarm your friends to stay up late or get up early record this for you from the radio: we'll produce a CD record from this concert doing final amendments on a monday morning session. After that, everybody will start to pack his baggage, take a nap and is expected to show up at the "FES farewell" party in the famous Hospitalhof Lounge! Make sure yo know when your plane or train is going next morning... don't miss it!

TRAVEL, VISA AND PASSPORTS

The INTERNATIONALE BACHAKADEMIE STUTTGART pays for your round trip to Überlingen, Germany and back home from Stuttgart. As a general rule, members flying in from the Americas, Russia and some parts of western and eastern Europe will have their tickets booked by us according to the information you gave us on the *Travel Form*. **Tickets cannot be changed by us after booking!!** You will either be sent your paper ticket or receive an "electronic ticket" from us by email. Please note that we can not guarantee you a refund for your air travel if you book it yourself without clearing it with us beforehand!!

Members from Germany and those parts of Europe within easy reach of Überlingen will be expected to book their train or bus tickets for themselves and will be reimbursed after arrival in Überlingen.

US-American, Canadian and European Union citizens only need a valid passport to enter into Germany. All participants from other nations must check with the German Embassy in their country whether a visa is required or not. If you need a visa to enter into Germany **it is your responsibility to get one**. Please let us know if you require a special letter to the German Consulate confirming your place with us or a "letter of

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invitation” – we will be happy to provide this. Visa applications can take some weeks easily - so **please check this now** to avoid last minute problems.

INSURANCE

All musicians from USA, Canada, South America, Japan, Australia, Taiwan, Korea and the EU (also the “new” EU members) are required to take out their own health insurance which must be valid for Germany (check with your health insurance company!). Please get a E 111 form or some other kind of health insurance certificate (e.g. **European Health Insurance Card *EHIC***) from your health insurance company.

Musicians from Russia will be insured through the Internationale Bachakademie if they don't have a valid insurance already.

A general advise: Überlingen lies in a rural area with quite some annoying little animals like mosquitos, wasps etc. and ticks which might be infectious ... Nothing to be too worried about, it is just to keep you aware that we are not in an anti-septic surrounding...

All orchestral musicians are required to have their instruments insured against loss, theft and any kind of damage.

CONCERT DRESS

Ladies: long black dress, trousers or long skirt and black shirt or top (covering as much skin as possible – especially in church concerts!), black shoes (no flipflops on stage!!!).

Gentlemen: black trousers and black shirt for the “chamber concerts” in Überlingen and Stuttgart.

For evening concerts (Reichenau, Stuttgart and Eberbach): black suit with white shirt, tie or bowtie. Black shoes - no flipflops...

HOTELS AND MEALS

During the first phase in Überlingen (August 12-25) we will provide you with full board accommodation in double bed rooms with three meals per day. During the second and third phase (August 26 – September 7) you will receive bed and breakfast in hotels (again in twin bedded rooms) in Stuttgart and Mainz plus a per diem allowance in cash for your meals.

MUSIC AND SCORES

The music for all Festivalensemble members will be sent out end of June. Please: get to know the music well and come prepared!!! Maybe you'll want to invest in a CD record of the Händel MESSIAH ... there are records available online at Amazon or iTunes Store.

STAYING IN TOUCH

As some of you will be moving around before coming to Überlingen please make sure you give us an address, email, telephone or (even better) mobile/cell phone number where we can reach you! Email is the quickest and most efficient method of staying in contact so please check it regularly!!! Also please make sure that we have a working postal address where to send your music by end of June. If you're not sure we have it, please send it again!

We are looking forward to a great summer with you!

With best wishes from Stuttgart,
Tobias and the Festivalensemble team

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