



3rd „Salzburg Singt!“ Festival March 23-26/27, 2023

**St. Matthews Passion
for individual singers and choirs in Ebensee
Salzkammergut/Austria**



Johann Sebastian Bach (*1685 in Eisenach; † 1750 in Leipzig) was a German composer, cantor, organ and harpsichord virtuoso of the Baroque era. In his main creative period, he was Thomascantor in Leipzig. He is the most prominent representative of the Bach family and is today regarded as one of the best-known and most important musicians of all time.

The St. Matthew's Passion, BWV 244, is an oratorio passion by Johann Sebastian Bach. The account of the suffering and death of Jesus Christ according to the Gospel according to Matthew forms the backbone. It is supplemented by interspersed Passion chorales and edifying poems by Picander in free choruses and arias. The St. Matthew Passion is Bach's most extensive and most heavily scored work and represents a high point of Protestant church music. The premiere took place on April 11, 1727 in the Thomaskirche in Leipzig.

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Festival program

Thursday, March 23, 2023: **Arrival / Rehearsal / Group Dinner**

Afternoon: Individual arrival in Ebensee am Traunsee – easily reachable by train via Attnang-Puchheim. Check-in to 3* Hotel Post in Ebensee.

The Salzkammergut holiday region was shaped by its unique mountain and lake landscape. The market town of Ebensee is located on the southern shore of Lake Traunsee. The 5-lake community invites you to extensive activities with its mountain lakes that provide drinking water (Traunsee, Vorderer, Hinterer Langbathsee, Offensee, Wildensee) and the ideally performed mountain climbs including cable car to the local mountain "Feuerkogel". Both nature freaks and those interested in culture will find their perfect retreat here. A leisurely walk along the legendary "Strähn", the route of the first saltworks pipeline, from Ebensee to Hallstatt or a walk along the Traun River and the lake shore are just some of the many other ways to explore this beautiful area. The renowned "Contemporary History Museum Ebensee" offers informative, exciting insights into the diverse history of the village.

Evening: 1st choir rehearsal in Ebensee choir with piano. director: Jan S. Bechtold
Dinner and overnight at Hotel Post in Ebensee.

Friday, March 24, 2023: **Morning Rehearsal / Afternoon Rehearsal / Group dinner**

Buffet-breakfast at hotel.

Morning: 2nd choir rehearsal in Ebensee choir with piano. director: Jan S. Bechtold
Lunch on your own (not included).

Afternoon: Travel by train or coach to Bad Ischl. Guided city walk through the imperial city - past the congress and theater building, the Sissi Park, the drinking hall and the parish church, the walk ends at the Imperial Villa, the former summer residence of Emperor Franz Joseph I and Empress Elisabeth of Austria. A visit to the famous Zauner pastry shop is highly recommended!
Later this afternoon we return by train (or your coach) to Ebensee.

Evening: 3rd choir rehearsal in Ebensee choir with piano. director: Jan S. Bechtold
Dinner and overnight at Hotel Post in Ebensee.



Saturday, March 25, 2023: Dress Rehearsal / Ebensee / Festive Concert / After Show Party

Buffet-breakfast at hotel.

Morning: Dress rehearsal at the parish church Ebensee
Choirs, soloists and orchestra. director: Jan S. Bechtold

Afternoon: Free afternoon in Ebensee

Evening: Rehearsal at the parish church Ebensee

07:00pm festive concert at the parish church Ebensee:

Johann Sebastian Bach „St. Matthew’s Passion BWV 244“

Double choir formation: Chorus I in the sanctuary and Chorus II on the organ gallery

Choir lineup: featuring the Jubilate-Chor Salzburg, Chorus Lacus Felix, Diabelli-Chor Mattsee, Belcanto-Chor Salzburg, vocal ensemble of the Resurrection Church Salzburg, the church choir Ebensee and participating choirs and singers from Austria, Germany, Europe and the entire world, soloists, the chamber choir Kohlschütter Salzburg and the Musica Iuventa from Halle (Germany).

Conductor: Jan S. Bechtold

Afterwards, light dinner and social get-together at Hotel Post.

Overnight at Hotel Post in Ebensee.

Sunday, 26. März 2023: Departure or Excursion to Gmunden

Buffet breakfast at hotel. End of short trip. Check-out and departure.

For all those who have booked the long trip until March 27, enjoy an excursion to the ceramic city of Gmunden.

Full day: Panoramic train ride along the Traunsee to Gmunden. Home of the world-famous Gmundner ceramics and Orth Castle - the lake castle built on a small island can only be reached via a 120m long bridge and is known from the television series of the same name. The "Gmundner Tram" takes us from the train station to Kaiser Franz Josef Platz. On a walk along the lake promenade/esplanade, past the town hall with its porcelain carillon and the salt carrier fountain, we reach the Kammerhof Museum - home and seat of the powerful Salzamt men. When we visit the museum, we learn more about the history of the city and the unique sanitary exhibition "Klo&So". Afterwards there is time for lunch and an individual stroll through the city, a detour to the parish church or a visit to Castle Orth. Joint return trip on the Traunsee ship "Karl Eder" from Gmunden to Ebensee. During the cruise we enjoy coffee and cake (included).

Dinner and overnight at Hotel Post in Ebensee.



Monday, March 27, 2023: Individual Departure

Buffet breakfast at hotel. Check-out.

Individual departure.

See you next year!