Symphony on the Blue Danube

Prague # Passau # Melk # Dürnstein
Vienna # Bratislava # Budapest

aboard the Exclusively Chartered M.S. AMADEUS SILVER II

October 10 to 21, 2017
Dear Alumni, Friends, and Parents,

Join us on this exclusive journey to the resplendent cultural centers that inspired classical music’s Great Masters. Framed by rolling hillsides, lush vineyards and medieval castles, the legendary Danube River Valley has resonated with musicians, artists, poets and travelers throughout the centuries, and we invite you to come experience the charm and allure of this captivating region for yourself.

Our comprehensive itinerary showcases five countries in the heartland of central Europe. It has been custom designed and carefully orchestrated to feature private performances encompassing the musical heritage of Europe’s most accomplished composers, including Mozart and Beethoven, and opportunities to explore seven UNESCO World Heritage sites. Enjoy three nights in the historic, world-class city of Prague, the “City of a Thousand Spires,” in a deluxe, centrally located hotel before traversing the fabled Blue Danube from Passau, Germany, to Budapest, Hungary. Cruise aboard the exclusively chartered, deluxe M.S. AMADEUS SILVER II—a traditional river ship plying the waterways of Europe with the ability to dock often right in the heart of the cities we visit.

High notes of your experience will include a distinctive schedule of exclusive and specially arranged expert lectures, private classical music performances, guided excursions in Prague and in each port of call along the Danube River, and an enchanting overnight stay in the fin-de-siècle grandeur of Vienna, Austria’s extraordinary capital city.

Traveling through the heartland of Europe has never been more historically rich and culturally dynamic, especially when enhanced by live musical performances inspired by the great cities, landscapes and waterways that surround you. This journey of a lifetime is an excellent value and is sure to strike a chord with both new and repeat travelers as it taps into the heart and soul of this extraordinary region, its most renowned virtuosos and its rich history, art and architectural masterpieces. I encourage you to book now as this popular program sells out quickly. Early Booking Savings are only available through March 21, 2017.

Sincerely,

Dan Stypa
Associate Director of Alumni Programs

Please call the Traveling Owls at 713-34-TRIPS (87477) or email travelingowls@rice.edu if you have questions.

“The Gohagan staff really nailed the logistics for our trip! Everything ran smoothly and seemingly effortlessly from our viewpoint. I was very impressed! The staff on the tour went out of their way to make sure we had everything we needed.”

—Rice alums, class of ’73 & ’74, on a recent Traveling Owls trip operated by Thomas P. Gohagan & Company.
U.S./Prague, Czech Republic
Tuesday and Wednesday, October 10 and 11
Depart the U.S. for Prague, the “City of a Thousand Spires,” a UNESCO World Heritage site showcasing 600 years of virtually untouched architecture. Upon arrival, check into the deluxe INTERCONTINENTAL PRAHA HOTEL. Attend the Welcome Dinner Wednesday evening in the hotel.

Prague
Thursday and Friday, October 12 and 13
On the guided walking tour, explore the diverse cultural legacy of Prague, celebrated for its splendid combination of Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque architecture. Walk along the narrow, picturesque lanes of the Staré Město (Old Town) to the Orloj, the ornate, 15th-century astronomical clock of the Old Town Hall. See the world-famous Charles Bridge, adorned with 17th- and 18th-century Baroque statues. Enjoy a brief private performance of Mozart’s music and a specially arranged private tour of the Estates Theatre, where the prodigy’s opera Don Giovanni premiered in 1787.

In Josefov, the Jewish Quarter of Prague, visit Europe’s oldest extant Jewish house of worship—the Gothic-style Old-New Synagogue—and walk amongst the moss-covered, 15th-century headstones of the Old Jewish Cemetery.

On Friday, tour the fascinating former residence of Bohemian royalty, the Hradčany complex of castles, churches and museums, whose spires dominate the city skyline. By special arrangement, view original Beethoven manuscripts and enjoy a private string quartet concert in the magnificent, family-owned 16th-century Lobkowicz Palace. Visit the neo-Gothic St. Vitus Cathedral, the largest and most significant cathedral in Prague, and see the Royal Mausoleum and spectacular St. Wenceslas Chapel. Walk through the quaint “Golden Lane,” lined with small, Mannerist-style houses and workshops once occupied by castle goldsmiths, alchemists, artisans and guards. Author Franz Kafka was said to have lived here between 1916 and 1917. On the former site of the Bohemian Kingdom’s Royal Court, enjoy a private tour of the spectacular Municipal House, an early 20th-century Art Nouveau masterpiece.

Prague/Passau, Germany
Saturday, October 14
Travel across rolling hills and through the bucolic wooded countryside to Passau, where three legendary rivers—the Danube, Ilz and Inn—converge. Enjoy lunch in a traditional German restaurant before the walking tour along the cobblestone streets of Altstadt, Passau’s Old Town. Visit the Baroque-style St. Stephan’s Cathedral, consecrated in the 12th century, where the largest pipe organ in Europe is housed.

Embark M.S. AMADEUS SILVER II, attend the Captain’s Welcome Reception and, following dinner, enjoy a short concert of classical music on board.

Linz, Austria, for Salzburg
Sunday, October 15
This morning, arrive in Linz and transfer to Salzburg, a delightful UNESCO-designated city and the birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Enjoy a walking tour of Salzburg’s Old Town to admire its splendid Baroque architecture, the majestic 17th-century Cathedral and the landmark Festung Hohensalzburg, the largest fully preserved fortress in central Europe. Stroll through lovely Mirabell Gardens and along the charming Getreidegasse.

Cover photo: Budapest’s majestic Parliament Building is a classic example of Gothic Revival architecture and a proud symbol of Hungary's national rebirth.

Photo this page: In Prague, the “City of a Thousand Spires,” the famous Charles Bridge links the medieval Old Town with the splendid Baroque palaces of the Little Quarter, the city’s most intact historical district.
pedestrian thoroughfare to see the house where Mozart was born in 1756. Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant and time at leisure to explore Salzburg.

Drive through the breathtaking Austrian countryside featured in the movie The Sound of Music, and stop in picturesque Mondsee to see the historic church where Maria and Captain von Trapp were married in the film.

**Melk/Dürnstein**

**Monday, October 16**

In the riverside town of Melk, visit the incredible Benedictine Abbey, a showcase of impressive Austrian Baroque architecture, priceless relics, including its library—today a repository of 100,000 medieval manuscripts—and stunning 18th-century ceiling frescoes by Paul Troger. In Melk Abbey’s beautiful *kirche* (church), admire the perfectly intact multi-panel 16th-century altarpiece by Danube School master Jörg Breu the Elder.

This afternoon, dock in the charming medieval village of Dürnstein, situated below the hilltop ruins of Castle Kuenringer, where Richard the Lionheart was held prisoner after the Third Crusade. Visit the 15th-century Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Abbey Church and enjoy a short, private organ concert inside the cathedral.

Be on deck this evening as you cruise the Danube’s spectacular and fabled UNESCO World Heritage-designated Wachau Valley, where terraced vineyards blanket hillsides dotted with the haunting ruins of medieval castles.

**Vienna**

**Tuesday and Wednesday, October 17 and 18**

Former seat of the Habsburg Empire, Vienna’s historic center is a UNESCO World Heritage open-air museum of splendid Baroque architecture. This remarkable city owes its present appearance to Austro-Hungarian Emperor Franz Josef, who created the famous Ringstrasse that displays its finest landmarks—the impressive Vienna State Opera house and the lavish Hofburg Palace. Visit the iconic, Gothic-style *Stephansdom* (St. Stephen’s Cathedral).
Enjoy a private, specially arranged performance of Mozart and other composers’ music in the extraordinary Sala Terrena, Vienna’s oldest concert hall and where Mozart resided, worked and performed. The afternoon and evening are at leisure.

On Wednesday, visit the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Schönbrunn Palace and Gardens, the spectacular summer estate of the imperial Habsburgs. It was in one of these grand salons that a six-year-old Mozart first performed for Empress Maria Theresa and her daughter, the future Queen of France, Marie Antoinette. The afternoon is free for individual pursuits.

The ship overnights in Vienna on both Tuesday and Wednesday.

**Bratislava, Slovakia**

**Thursday, October 19**

En route to Bratislava, cruise through Austria’s scenic Donau-Auen National Park, the last major wetlands in central Europe.

The charming capital of Slovakia, Bratislava is nestled in the foothills of the impressive Carpathian Mountain range. Beautifully restored, the city depicts 21st-century life amidst its 1000-year-old history. Enjoy a walking tour of the Old Town; its medieval, Renaissance and 19th-century architecture is among the finest in central Europe.

Visit the Romanesque, 14th-century Cathedral of St. Martin and the elaborate Primatial Palace and see St. Michael’s Gate, Bratislava’s oldest preserved medieval fortification, originally built in 1300.

This evening, enjoy a performance of classical music on board the ship.

**Budapest, Hungary**

**Friday, October 20**

Austrian-born, nevertheless the “most Hungarian Habsburg,” Archduke Joseph is credited with creating in Budapest an imperial capital that rivaled Vienna. Buda and Pest—twin cities that face each other across the Danube River—along with the embankments of this storied river and the Buda Castle Quarter are together a UNESCO World Heritage site. Begin your tour in Pest to see the iconic and imposing neo-Gothic limestone Parliament Building, built between 1884 and 1904 situated on the river’s banks. Pass through Heroes’ Square and admire the monuments honoring the Magyar chiefs who conquered Hungary in A.D. 896. Inside the 19th-century, neo-Renaissance Hungarian State Opera House—one of the most beautiful performing arts venues in the world—admire frescoes by eminent painters, including Mór Than and Károly Lotz, and enjoy a private, specially arranged aria performance.

Cross the imposing Chain Bridge linking river-level Pest to the hills of Buda. Visit the stately, late-19th-century, neo-Romanesque Fisherman’s Bastion, where seven turrets symbolize the seven Magyar tribes that settled in the Carpathian Basin, and explore the Gothic-style St. Matthias Church, where Charles I, the last Habsburgian ruler, was coronated in 1916.

On board the ship this evening, attend the Captain’s Farewell Reception and Dinner followed by a traditional Hungarian folklore performance.

**Budapest/U.S.**

**Saturday, October 21**

Continue on the Hungarian Tradition in Budapest Post-Program Option or transfer to the airport for your return flight to the U.S.

Fortified and rebuilt over the course of one thousand years, Bratislava Castle dominates the city skyline from its perch 300 feet above the Danube.
Historic Prussia and Saxony Berlin • Dresden Pre-Program Option
One of Europe’s preeminent centers of history, art and music, Berlin is known for its world-class museums, grand opera house and eclectic architecture. Explore the Pergamon Museum on the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Museum Island; visit the Wall Museum at historic Checkpoint Charlie, the former border crossing between East and West Berlin; and enjoy a panoramic city tour cruise along the Spree River. En route to Prague, enjoy a walking tour through oft-overlooked Dresden, known as the “Jewel Box of Germany” for its splendid Baroque and Rococo architecture and its cultural and artistic significance. Accommodations are for three nights in the ideally located, deluxe WESTIN GRAND BERLIN HOTEL.

Hungarian Tradition in Budapest Post-Program Option
Extend your stay in captivating Budapest, amid the majestic hills of Buda and the artistic, bohemian avenues of Pest. Visit the stately, Gothic Revival-style Parliament Building, and enjoy an excursion into Hungary’s great protected puszta (plains), including a display of master horsemanship and a traditional regional lunch. Accommodations are for two nights in the Five-Star KEMPINSKI HOTEL CORVINUS.

Pre-Program and Post-Program Options are available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

Deluxe m.s. AMADEUS SILVER II
The meticulous crafting of the deluxe m.s. AMADEUS SILVER II, launched in 2015, sets new standards in ship design and technology and features the comforts of a deluxe floating hotel.
This exclusively chartered ship offers 84 river-view, air-conditioned, stylishly appointed Suites (284 square feet) and Staterooms (from 188 square feet), among the most spacious of any European river ship. Most accommodations feature a unique floor-to-ceiling panoramic window whose upper half can automatically lower to create a French balcony. Junior Suites feature a private balcony and an interior sitting area. Each Suite and Stateroom has two twin beds (convertible to one queen-size bed), a private bathroom with shower, individual climate control, walk-in closet, satellite telephone and television, safe and hair dryer.
Freshly prepared continental meals featuring local ingredients are served in single, unassigned seatings in the delightfully scenic Panorama Restaurant featuring floor-to-ceiling windows and include early-risers’ coffee, buffet breakfast and lunch, afternoon tea, four-course dinner and late-evening snack. Complimentary wine and beer are served with lunch and dinner. Inviting public facilities are spacious and include the Panorama Bar, Lido Bar, Amadeus-Club with Internet station, beauty salon, boutique and fitness studio with massage services and early morning exercise classes. The Sun Deck has a chess board and shuffle board. Guests will also appreciate the complimentary use of an audio headset, available to all passengers for listening enhancement during shore excursions. The ship has an elevator serving all passenger decks except the Sun Deck, and laundry service is available. There is no doctor aboard the ship.
The English-speaking, international crew provides warm hospitality. The m.s. AMADEUS SILVER II meets the highest safety standards and is one of the only European river ships to have been awarded the “Green Certificate” of environmental preservation.
Included Features

In Prague, Czech Republic

◆ Three nights in the centrally located, deluxe INTERCONTINENTAL PRAHA HOTEL with breakfast each morning.
◆ Welcome Dinner in the hotel.
◆ Walking tour of Prague’s historic center, a UNESCO World Heritage site, through the Staré Město (Old Town) and Josefov, the old Jewish Quarter.
◆ Private tour of the Estates Theatre with a short, exclusive performance of Mozart compositions.
◆ Visit to the magnificent Hradčany Castle complex, including its neo-Gothic St. Vitus Cathedral.
◆ Specially arranged guided tour of Lobkowicz Palace with private concert of classical music.
◆ Private tour of the Art Nouveau-style Municipal House.

Scenic transfer from Prague to Passau, Germany, and a walking tour of Passau featuring its charming Altstadt (Old Town) and a visit to the 12th-century St. Stephan’s Cathedral, with lunch.

On board the exclusively chartered deluxe M.S. AMADEUS SILVER II

◆ Seven-night cruise on the legendary Danube River from Passau, Germany, to Budapest, Hungary, with port calls at Linz for Salzburg, Melk, Dürnstein and Vienna, Austria; and Bratislava, Slovakia.
◆ Deluxe river-view, air-conditioned Suite or Stateroom, each with a private bathroom.
◆ All meals served at single, unassigned seatings—earlier-risers’ coffee, buffet breakfast and lunch, afternoon tea, four-course dinner and late-evening snack—featuring fine continental cuisine.
◆ Complimentary house wine and beer are served with lunch and dinner.
◆ Captain’s Welcome and Farewell Receptions.
◆ Two specially arranged classical music performances on board the ship.
◆ Excursion to Salzburg, a UNESCO World Heritage site, including the stately Mirabell Gardens and lunch.
◆ Tour of the magnificent Benedictine Abbey of Melk, a Baroque masterpiece.
◆ Walking tour of picturesque Dürnstein, featuring a brief, private organ recital inside Dürnstein Abbey.
◆ Cruise through the scenic Wachau Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
◆ Panoramic tour of the world-class city of Vienna, a UNESCO World Heritage site, featuring a private performance of Mozart and other composers’ music.
◆ Tour of the Habsburgs’ opulent Schönbrunn Palace and Gardens, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
◆ Guided tour of Bratislava’s medieval Schlosshof.
◆ Tour of Budapest, a UNESCO World Heritage site, highlighted by a visit to the Hungarian State Opera House and a private, specially arranged, brief aria performance.
◆ Specially arranged, exclusive Hungarian folklore performance on board.

Enhanced Travel Services

◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
◆ All excursions and visits, as outlined above, led by experienced English-speaking local guides.
◆ Taxes.
◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers.
◆ Complimentary bottled water in your Suite or Stateroom on board the ship and on excursions.
◆ Hospitality desk aboard the ship and in the hotel.
◆ The services of experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors throughout the program.
◆ Complimentary use of a state-of-the-art audio headset for each participant during guided excursions.
◆ Travel document wallet, name badge and pre-departure material.
◆ Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Thomas P. Gohagan & Company.
Since the 18th century, the lands encompassing the Danube River Valley—Austria, Hungary and Germany—and the Czech Republic have bequeathed to the world an unparalleled musical legacy. The 1700s saw the creative genius of Johann Sebastian Bach, Franz Josef Haydn, Johann Pachelbel and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. In the 19th century, such musical titans as Ludwig van Beethoven, Franz Schubert, Johannes Brahms, Franz Liszt and Johann Strauss II reigned over the courts and orchestra halls of central Europe, backed by the generous patronage of the Habsburgs in Vienna.

This exclusive journey highlights the musical traditions of master composers and their enduring vitality. See the stage in Prague’s prestigious Estates Theatre where Mozart premiered his famous opera *Don Giovanni* and attend a private performance of the great composer’s works. Admire Europe’s largest cathedral pipe organ in Passau’s Cathedral of St. Stephan. View a collection of Beethoven’s original manuscripts and attend a private performance of musical works by Beethoven and other master composers in Lobkowicz Palace. Enjoy a short organ recital within the 15th-century Dürnstein Abbey. Stroll through the historic center of Vienna in the footsteps of Beethoven and Brahms, see the famous Vienna State Opera house and attend a private performance of Mozart’s music at Sala Terrena, the oldest concert hall in the city. Enjoy classical music performances on board the ship.

The golden statue of Waltz King Johann Strauss immortalizes Vienna’s rich musical legacy.
Singles are available in category 5 at $10695 and in category 2 at $12695 on or before March 21, 2017.

Send to: Office of Alumni Relations - MS 520

Signature______________________________ Date________________ Signature_______________________________ Date_________________

If the application is made for, or by, a person under 21 years of age, both parents or the applicant's guardian must also sign the application.

Signature______________________________ Date________________ Signature_______________________________ Date_________________

liability for delays, injuries, or death, or for the loss of, or damage to, his property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to the tour.

harmless the Association of Rice Alumni and Rice University and any of their respective officers, agents, licensees, or representatives from any and all

brochure, the undersigned hereby agrees for and on behalf of himself, his dependents, heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, to release and hold

Therefore, having read and understood the above, as well as the schedule of activities for this tour and the Responsibility statement appearing on this

accommodations during the trip and in no way serve as agents for these businesses, or accept responsibility for their services and products.

travel, services, accommodations, and products provided by the tour operator, certain land transport carriers, and other providers of services and

SYMPHONY ON THE BLUE DANUBE RESERVATION FORM

Program reservations require a deposit of $800 per person and $200 per person Historic Prussia and Saxony Pre-Program Option and/or $200 per person Hungarian Tradition in Budapest Post-Program Option. By reserving and depositing on this program, I/we agree to the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.

Enclosed is my/our check for $ to cover deposit. Make checks payable to Thomas P. Gohagan & Company.

q I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $ to:

q Visa  q MasterCard

Card Number ___________________________ Exp. Date __________

Signature as it appears on credit card

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by July 7, 2017.

The Association of Rice Alumni and Rice University serve only in a capacity of assisting the undersigned travelers in making arrangements for travel, services, accommodations, and products provided by the tour operator, certain land transport carriers, and other providers of services and accommodations during the trip and in no way serve as agents for these businesses, or accept responsibility for their services and products. Such travel, services, accommodations, and products are subject to the terms and conditions under which they are offered or provided. Therefore, having read and understood the above, as well as the schedule of activities for this tour and the Responsibility statement appearing on this brochure, the undersigned hereby agrees for and on behalf of himself, his dependents, heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, to release and hold harmless the Association of Rice Alumni and Rice University and any of their respective officers, agents, licensees, or representatives from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death, or for the loss of, or damage to, his property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to the tour.
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TRIP INSURANCE: We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Information about trip insurance will be emailed to you from the Traveling Owls upon receipt and processing of your reservation.

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REGISTRATION: CST#: 2013168-40, WST#: 601 767 666, OTS#: TA 0905.

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ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for himself/herself or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.

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