

# Concerts & Castles

A Magical Journey to Scotland with WBJC!

**91.5FM**  
**WBJC**



Edinburgh seen from Calton Hill

## Join the indefatigable Jonathan Palevsky for another magical musical journey, this time to *bonnie* Scotland.

The highlight is attendance at the 71st annual Edinburgh International Festival, arguably the world's best arts festival, in one of Europe's most beautiful capitals. A mark of this great event, you will enjoy a wide variety of performances including two by the London Symphony led by its new music director Sir Simon Rattle, back home after his long tenure with the Berlin Philharmonic; a production of Rossini's sparkling *The Barber of Seville* from Paris; recitals by the superb pianists Piotr Anderszewski and Marc-André Hamelin, the latter with the Takacs Quartet; and the spectacular Royal Military Tattoo, beneath Edinburgh Castle. You will also have the option of attending a concert performance of Wagner's *Siegfried* with a first-rate cast, or the National Theatre of Scotland's amazing chamber musical, *Midsummer*, set in Edinburgh.

From its famed castles and abbeys to its stunning landscape of mountains, glens, lochs and moors, Scotland has beguiled the romantic traveler for centuries. Scotland's colorful and dramatic history, particularly its long battle for independence from England, is rich with colorful figures: William Wallace, "Braveheart;" Robert the Bruce, Mary Queen of Scots, Bonnie Prince Charlie, not to mention its great writers from Robert Burns to Robert Louis Stevenson. We'll trace the lives of many of these while visiting several of the country's most notable monuments.

Our first three nights are in a lovely 19th century manor in the Scottish Highlands, the Coul House Hotel, in the village of Contin. There we will visit evocative castles—including Cawdor Castle with its Macbeth associations—and quaint villages while passing through some of the most spectacular scenery in the world, as well as listen to a private concert of Scottish folk music. In both the Highlands and Edinburgh, you will lodge in deluxe accommodations and sample Scottish and a cosmopolitan cuisine in some of Britain's finest restaurants. Jonathan's commentary completes a trip you won't want to miss!

**August 2-12, 2018**

*Tour begins August 3rd in Scotland.*



## Jonathan Palevsky

has been with WBJC since 1986 and has been the station's Program Director since 1990. He is originally from Montreal and came to Baltimore in 1982 to study classical guitar at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University. On WBJC he is the host of the WBJC Opera Preview, the music review program Face the Music, Music in Maryland, and is co-host of Word on Wine. His current off-air obsessions include skiing, playing guitar and being the host of Cinema Sundays.

Simon Rattle



## Tour Highlights

- Prime tickets to five performances at the Edinburgh Festival, including an opera, two orchestral concerts, and two recitals
- Prime tickets to the Royal Military Tattoo at Edinburgh Castle
- Optional concert of Wagner's *Siegfried*, or a play by the National Theatre of Scotland
- Private concert of Scottish folk music in the Highlands
- Private guided tours of major sites in Edinburgh and the Highlands, including Culloden Battlefield, Cawdor Castle, Dunrobin Castle, Holyrood Palace, the National Portrait Gallery and others
- Boat ride on famed Loch Ness
- Private whiskey tasting
- Commentary by WBJC's Jonathan Palevsky on all the music you will hear
- Deluxe accommodations in Edinburgh and the Highlands
- Private motorcoach transportation to activities in the itinerary



Royal Military Tattoo

**Tour Cost:** \$ \$5,965 per person, ground only, based on double occupancy. Tour limited to 25 participants.

The WBJC Scotland tour is organized by  
The Grand Tour Travel Company, Peterborough, NH.

# Daily Itinerary



Dunrobin Castle, Sutherland

## Thursday, August 2

The optional group flight departs Dulles Airport [IAD] non-stop to Edinburgh on United, arriving the following day.

## Day 1: Friday, August 3 FÁILTE! [WELCOME]!

Arrival at Edinburgh Airport and private motorcoach transfer to the Highlands of Scotland. We pass through lovely Perthshire and over the Cairngorms mountains, with **lunch** en route at Blair Castle, before we arrive at the manorial Coul House Hotel, near Inverness. Tonight we celebrate with a **welcome dinner** at the hotel.

## Day 2: Saturday, August 4 SHADES OF MACBETH

**Breakfast daily** at both hotels. You don't have to believe in the existence of the Loch Ness monster to enjoy the waters of the beautiful lake. We'll board the Jacobite Queen this morning for a leisurely ride and disembark at Urquhart Castle. After **lunch** in the town of Cawdor, we proceed to medieval Cawdor Castle, forever linked to Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, and tour its castle and lovely gardens. Then we stop at historic Culloden Battlefield, where the last pitched battle on British soil, on April 16th, 1746, was the decisive battle between the Jacobite forces of Charles Edward Stuart and government loyalists, with the resounding loss of the former. Dinner is on your own in the town of Inverness along the River Ness.

## Day 3: Sunday, August 5 FALCONS AND FOLK MUSIC

Fairyland Dunrobin Castle has been the family seat of the Sutherland clan for 700 years. Begun in the 14th century Dunrobin was enlarged in the 19th by Charles Barry, architect of the Houses of Parliament and *Downton Abbey's* Highclere Castle. There we tour the castle and take in an amazing falconry display! Lunch on your own in Dornoch, an attractive town known for its championship golf course. Our final evening at Coul House features a private concert of traditional Scottish folk music before **dinner**.

## Day 4: Monday, August 6 UP THE MOUNTAIN AND DOWN TO EDINBURGH

We bid *soraidh* (farewell) to the Highlands and head south to Edinburgh. Striking out south-west towards Fort William, we take a cable-car through the Ben Nevis mountain range, Britain's highest, and **lunch** on top of the mountain. We move on to Glencoe and learn the gruesome story of the Glencoe Massacre, which befell the MacDonald clan in February, 1692, in this wild and beautiful

valley. Arriving in Edinburgh, we check in to The Principal Hotel on George Street, a deluxe 4-star hotel in the city's New Town, near Edinburgh's most elegant addresses for boutique shops and fancy clubs. The early evening takes us to the Royal Mile, and a private tour, exclusive to the group, of Holyrood Palace. This is a longtime royal residence—the Queen resides here when she visits Edinburgh. Dinner is on your own.

## Day 5: Tuesday, August 7 THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

A splendid day of music begins with a morning recital—one of the Edinburgh Festival's most pleasant aspects—in intimate Queen's Hall by the famed Polish pianist Piotr Anderszewski. He performs music by Bach and the great Diabelli Variations of Beethoven. Lunch is on your own. Tonight, enjoy a new production of Rossini's witty masterpiece, *The Barber of Seville*, direct to Edinburgh from Paris' Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, conducted by French musical pioneer Jérémie Rhorer with his period-instrument ensemble Le Cercle de l'Harmonie.

## Day 6: Wednesday, August 8 THE ROYAL MILE

Our private guided tour of Edinburgh's Old Town begins where the city itself began—on Castle Rock. The Edinburgh Castle is a former medieval fortress, Renaissance palace, and Army barracks and is still garrisoned. We will explore the upper part of the Royal Mile, the heart of the city's fabled past with its romantic "wynds" and "closes" branching off the old thoroughfare. **Lunch** is private at The Grain Store. In the evening, you have two options: The third installment of Wagner's majestic Ring cycle, *Siegfried*, is presented in concert form led by Sir Mark Elder and his Hallé Orchestra with an all-star cast including Christine Goecke as Brunnhilde and Simon O'Neill as Siegfried, or you can see the acclaimed, romantic musical *Midsummer*, by the National Theatre of Scotland, in which the audience is in the middle of the action!

## Day 7: Thursday, August 9 THE TATTOO

Today we venture north to visit the evocative Inchmahome Priory, set on an island in the Lake of Menteith, a bucolically situated Augustinian monastery dating from 1238. Mary Queen of Scots found sanctuary here at age four. We'll partake of a private **lunch** at Lake of Menteith Waterfront Restaurant, former manse of the powerful Graham clan. Back in Edinburgh, you will surely enjoy the spectacular Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, an evening of music, ceremony, theatre and dance beneath the Castle.

## Day 8: Friday, August 10

### QUEEN'S PALACE & THE LSO

This morning we venture around the corner to the excellent National Portrait Gallery to acquaint you with many of Scotland's most famous figures about whom you've heard on much of the tour so far. Lunch on your own and the afternoon is free. After a **reception** and music preview at the hotel, Sir Simon Rattle leads the London Symphony Orchestra, arguably the preeminent band in the UK, in an eclectic program of music by Bernstein—his 2nd Symphony to celebrate the composer's 100th birthday, with Krystian Zimerman, piano—Dvorak and Janacek.

## Day 9: Saturday, August 11 A MUSICAL FAREWELL!

Two concerts frame your last full day in Edinburgh where you might do your final sight-seeing and shopping or just relax. In the morning, virtuoso pianist Marc-André Hamelin, considered one of the finest pianists in the world, joins the Takács Quartet in music by Mozart, Dvorak and Dohnanyi. Tonight our **farewell dinner** takes place at a classic French bistro near the hotel. Our last concert at Usher Hall once again features the London Symphony under Simon Rattle and the powerful 9th Symphony of Gustav Mahler.

## Day 10: Sunday, August 12

The tour ends after breakfast before the group flight on United departs Edinburgh for the non-stop return to Dulles.

Itinerary subject to change. Meals in **bold** are included in the price of the tour.

## Tour Registration

**Tour Cost: \$5,965, person, ground only, double occupancy. Single supplement: \$1,490**

**Optional group flight: \$1775, economy, non-stop to Edinburgh on United from Dulles [IAD]**

**Deposit: \$1000 per person** first come, first served

**Balance deadline: Friday, June 8, 2018.**

After that date, call for availability.

Contact **The Grand Tour**, to reserve your place on the tour with a credit card deposit, or send a check made payable to The Grand Tour for the deposit amount to: WBJC Scotland Tour, The Grand Tour, PO Box 274, Peterborough, NH 03458. Registration materials can be downloaded from [www.wbjc.com](http://www.wbjc.com)

**Questions?** Contact The Grand Tour at 800-727-2995 / [info@thegrandtour.com](mailto:info@thegrandtour.com) or Joe Hutchins of WBJC at 410-580-5801 / [jhutchins@bcc.edu](mailto:jhutchins@bcc.edu)