



Music in the Alps!

The Lucerne Festival and Menuhin Festival with WBJC

Lake Lucerne

“Wherever I cast my gaze, I am surrounded by a magical world here; I know of no other home on earth more beautiful, indeed, none more comfortable than this.”

~ Richard Wagner in Lucerne

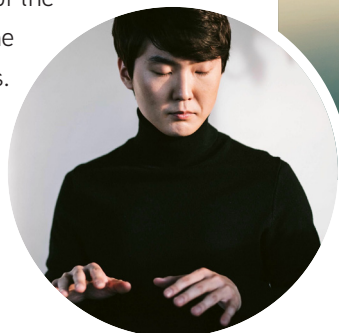
Join WBJC’s Judith Krummeck and your fellow WBJC supporters for a spectacular, musical extravaganza this summer in the Swiss Alps!

Some of the finest orchestras and musicians in the world will perform at two major European festivals. Revel in the luxurious sounds of the Royal Danish Orchestra, the oldest in the world; the celebrated Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, helmed by Santtu-Matias Rouvali; and two performances by the great Berlin Philharmonic—often called “the Rolls Royce of Orchestras”—led by Kirill Petrenko. Be amazed at the aspiring talent and the established stars of classical music including Cecilia Bartoli (left), Augustin Hadelich, Seong-Jin Cho and Vikingur Ólafsson.



The tour begins in the mountains above the resort town of Gstaad. Inspired by the magnificent natural setting of the Saanenland, the legendary violinist Yehudi Menuhin founded the festival that bears his name in 1957. The Lucerne Festival, one of the best in the world, takes place in pretty Lucerne on one end of the gorgeous eponymous lake, ringed with stunning mountain peaks.

We hope you will join us and look forward to seeing you on this unforgettable musical journey!



August 19–29, 2026*

*Tour begins August 20 at Geneva Airport

**91.5FM
WBJC**



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Prime tickets to 7 concerts by some of the best orchestras and artists in the world at two major European festivals
- Deluxe accommodations in Lucerne and near Gstaad
- Private tour and recital at Tribtschen, Wagner’s house in Lucerne
- Excursions to Eggli in the Bernese Alps overlooking Gstaad and Mt. Rigi overlooking Lake Lucerne
- Dining at top restaurants in town and countryside
- Private air-conditioned motor coach for all excursions in the itinerary
- Plenty of free time for additional sight-seeing, shopping or relaxing
- Breakfast daily, 1 Reception, 2 Dinners and 7 Lunches

LIMITED TO
25 PARTICIPANTS



above: KKL Luzern—home of the Lucerne Festival
left: Seong-Jin Cho



Itinerary

Kapellbrücke (Chapel Bridge), Lucerne
circle, below: **Gstaad Niklauskapelle**

Wednesday, August 19

Flights to Europe, with arrival the following day

Thursday, August 20 *Gstaad*

Bienvenue & Willkommen!

Arrival at Geneva Airport (GVA) and transfer by private motor coach to the resort town of Gstaad. Our home for three nights is the 4-star Golfhotel Les Hauts de Gstaad & Spa, nestled in the mountains in the village of Saanen, above Gstaad.

We celebrate our arrival with a **reception** and **welcome dinner** at the hotel.

Friday, August 21 *Gstaad*

Swiss German

Breakfast daily at both hotels. Today we'll explore the rich heritage and natural history of the Bernese Oberland on the mountaintop of Eggli. We'll visit a generational cheesemaker and

hike alpine trails with a private and expert guide. **Lunch** is on the mountaintop with epic views of the Saanenland. This evening, our first performance is under the tent at the Menuhin Festival. Puccini's romantic opera, *La Bohème*, is performed in concert by the Gstaad Festival Orchestra and the Chor der Opera Bern.

Saturday, August 22 *Gstaad*

Gstaad and Saanen

What better way to begin the day than enjoying a morning performance by the extraordinary talent of 19 year-old rising star Ilva Eigus playing Brahms, Schumann, Stravinsky, and Tchaikovsky. After **lunch**, we continue to explore the immediate alpine towns of Gstaad and Saanen, their pretty chapels, cobbled pedestrian streets and notable retail shops. Our final performance under the tent this evening is by The Royal Danish Orchestra, led by Marie Jacquot in a program by Abrahamsen, Brahms, and Prokofiev, with the fine violinist Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider headlining.

Sunday, August 23 *Lucerne*

Auf Wiedersehen, Gstaad

We bid *auf Wiedersehen* to Gstaad as our private coach takes us to Lucerne with a scenic stop for **lunch** along the way. We arrive

in Lucerne and check in to the elegant 5-star Grand Hotel National, perched on the shore of Lake Lucerne.

Tonight, our first performance of the Lucerne Festival is optional, and takes place in the state-of-the-art KKL, the 1900-seat home of the Lucerne Festival, with its stellar, some say "perfect" acoustics. Opera superstar Cecilia Bartoli sings Orfeo in a concert performance of Gluck's *Orfeo and Euridice*. Conductor Gianluca Capana leads Les Musiciens du Prince-Monaco and the vocal ensemble Il Canto di Orfeo.

Monday, August 24 *Lucerne*

Luzern

The day begins with a private guided tour of Lucerne, one of Switzerland's prettiest towns. With its lively streets, hidden alleys and picturesque medieval façades in the Altstadt (Old Town), it is ideal for exploring on foot. We'll stroll across 14th century Chapel Bridge, one of the city's two iconic, picture-perfect wooden bridges, and admire its medieval gable paintings, and rest and reflect in the contemplative 13th century Franciscan Church, an unspoiled example of medieval Gothic mendicant architecture. The sculpted Lion Monument commemorates the Swiss Guards massacred during the French Revolution in 1792, and the amazing Bourbaki Panorama is a 360° trompe-l'oeil painting of the retreat of a French army into Switzerland in 1871. **Lunch** is in the old town.

Tonight we'll enjoy a performance by two more superstars of classical music. Violinist Augustin Hadelich and pianist Seong-Jin Cho perfectly complement one another in performing works by Brahms, Janáček, Beach and Prokofiev at the KKL.

Tuesday, August 25 *Lucerne*

Wagner in Lucerne

Richard Wagner loved Lucerne. After his patron, King Ludwig II, arranged for him to move into a private home, he left the city and lived at Tribschen from 1866–1873, where he hosted many



top: **Wagner Museum, Tribschen**
below: **Rigi cog rail train**

dignitaries including his patron Ludwig, Franz Liszt, and, multiple times, Friedrich Nietzsche. Today we will enjoy a private boat cruise to Wagner's Tribschen where we are accorded a private, pre-public hours tour of the house as well as a recital on the Master's own piano. **Lunch** is on the lake. After the boat ride back to town, the rest of your afternoon and evening is free.

Wednesday, August 26 *Lucerne*

The Queen of Mountains

Today we head up into the mountains from the town of Vitznau at the foot of majestic Mt. Rigi, where it's a dramatic half-hour's journey aboard the cog railway up into the magnificent Alpine world. A breathtaking panoramic view across the Alps can be enjoyed from the summit. A short nature walk with our guide acquaints us with some of the rich Alpine flora comprising nearly 1,000 species. Keep your cameras ready! We'll enjoy **lunch** on the mountain with spectacular views of Lake Lucerne and the city. Tonight the renowned Berlin Philharmonic, under the baton of acclaimed maestro Kirill Petrenko, is center stage with a program by Elgar and Tchaikovsky at the KKL.

Thursday, August 27 *Lucerne*

A Modernist Collector

Angela Rosengart's passion for art began at age 17 when her father allowed her to purchase a drawing by Paul Klee for her birthday. Her passion continues, even at 94 years of age, and this morning our visit to the Rosengart Collection bears this out: besides entire floors devoted to Klee, the eminent Swiss artist, and Picasso, who depicted her at least five times, the work of 23 artists from Impressionists to early Modernism are on display. At a noon-time matinee, the up-and-coming pianist Bridget Yee plays Barber, Gershwin, Arafah, at St. Luke's Church. **Lunch** is nearby. Your afternoon is free before a chance to hear an encore performance by the Berlin Philharmonic, led by Kirill Petrenko, and featuring violinist Augustin Hadelich, in an evening of works by Beethoven and Scriabin.

Violinist
Augustin Hadelich



Friday, August 28 *Lucerne*

A Final Farewell

A free day in Lucerne for additional sightseeing, to finish that shopping, or simply stroll the pretty waterfront. We will enjoy an early gala **farewell dinner** before our final musical feast: the incredible Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, under Santtu-Matias Rouvali, performs Beethoven and Prokofiev, with much-lauded Icelandic pianist Vikingur Ólafsson as soloist.

Saturday, August 29

The tour ends after breakfast. Transfers to Zurich Airport for flights back to the US, returning the same day.

Itinerary subject to change.

*Meals in **bold** included in the price of the tour.*

Berlin Philharmonic, Kirill Petrenko, conductor



TOUR REGISTRATION

Tour Cost: \$12,780 per person, ground only, based on double occupancy. **Single Supplement: \$2,650**

Deposit: \$1,000 per person, due upon registration, first come, first served. Tour limited to 25 paying participants.

Balance Deadline: Friday, June 26, 2026.

After that date, please call for availability.

To reserve your place:

- 1) Follow this link to the **WBJC Alps Tour** on TGT website
- 2) Enter the code **WBJC26** in the box to the right to access your tour's full itinerary and the registration and payment portal page.
- 3) Follow the instructions to complete and submit your registration form and deposit payment

If you prefer to complete your registration manually, please call or email us. If you do not wish to pay your deposit through TGT's web portal, please call us with your credit card information, or mail a check to: WBJC Alps Tour / The Grand Tour Travel Company, PO Box 274, Peterborough, NH 03458

Questions? Contact The Grand Tour: 800.727.2995 / info@thegrandtour.com

The WBJC Music in the Alps tour is an exclusive presentation by WBJC and organized by The Grand Tour Travel Company, Peterborough, NH.

JUDITH KRUMMECK

Judith Krummeck has been WBJC's evening-drive host for almost thirty years. Before that, she was the arts editor for SAfm in South Africa. She is also the author of three books and published her debut novel last year.

