



## BBC European Music Tour 2024

At the end of 2024, BBC Music travelled to Italy, Austria and Munich with 51 students and 6 staff (28 November-14 December).

Members from our College Strings, Collegians, Brass Ensemble and Woodwind Quintet left on Thursday 28 November to experience a trip of a lifetime. Our tour group of 51 students and 6 staff were well rehearsed and prepared for a tour of 6 performances and visiting a number of historical cities in Europe. BBC Music was visiting the birthplace of composers like Vivaldi Mozart and Beethoven.

We started with a day of sightseeing around Rome and the Vatican City. Our group visited the Colosseum, climbed the Spanish Steps and the witnessed the Sistine Chapel. Later that day our Collegians had the experience of singing in St Peter's Basilica as part of the 5.00pm official Mass. The following day, the entire tour group did it's first performance at the *Oratoria del Caravita* in Rome. We then travelled to Florence with a stop for lunch in the historic and beautiful Siena on the way. Following a guided tour around Florence and the opportunity to visit the *Accademia Gallery* seeing Michelangelo's famous statue of David, we performed in St Mark's English Church to an enthusiastic audience.

We then travelled to Mestre for our performance and visit to Venice. On the way, we had the opportunity to stop for lunch and visit the home of Stradivarius, Cremona. Whilst in Cremona we went to the *Stradivarius Violin Museum* where the tour group got to see instruments by the famous Violin maker.

In Venice, our musicians had the opportunity of walking through the amazing laneways, seeing the Rialto Bridge, San Marco Basilica and visiting the Murano Glass demonstration before their performance in the lovely *San Stae Cathedral*.

From Venice we travelled by bus to the wonderful and historic Vienna, having crossed the border into Austria. Each ensemble attended a masterclass hosted by a Viennese local specialist clinician. We also had the opportunity to visit the Christmas Night Markets following our performance in the wonderful St Peter's Church of Vienna. Prior to leaving Vienna, the tour group visited the Central Cemetery; the resting place of Beethoven, Brahms, Schubert and Schoenberg as well as a memorial to Mozart.

On the way to Salzburg, the tour group stopped off at the Schönbrunn Palace completing a guided tour through the summer residence of the Hapsburg Emperors. Our final performance was in Salzburg at the *Kult Theatre*. The birthplace of Mozart and setting of the *Sound of Music* movie. Our musicians were given a guided Sound of Music tour of the sights with Collegians getting the opportunity to sing in the Church that was used for the wedding scene of the movie. We also attended a lecture at the Mozarteum University (the main Music institution in Salzburg).

The last leg of the tour saw our tourists travel to Munich before flying out of Europe back home. There was one more treat in store with a visit to Ludwig III's Neuschwanstein Castle. This amazing building was the perfect way to end our trip to Europe. One of the final highlights of the tour was Collegians being asked by the terminal staff at Munich International Airport to perform at the departure gate prior to boarding.

BBC Music had the opportunity to perform in some wonderful venues. Each performance highlighted the maturity and experience of our musicians. We thank all involved in organising our

European Tour and are grateful for the support of our Headmaster and the College Executive. A huge thank you to the families of the touring musicians for helping to make the tour possible. We are also very grateful for the contribution and guidance of the members of the BBC Music Support Group. Thank you to all the staff from World Projects. And finally, thank you to the BBC staff for their efforts and dedication to the program.

## PERFORMANCES

### Rome

- St Peter's Basilica (Vatican City) – Collegians sing at Mass
- Concert 1 – Oratorio del Caravita – College Strings, Collegians, Brass Ensemble and Woodwind Quintet

### Florence

- Concert 2 – St Mark's English Church - Concert 1 –College Strings, Collegians, Brass Ensemble and Woodwind Quintet

### Venice

- Concert 3 – St State Cathedral – College Strings, Collegians, Brass Ensemble and Woodwind Quintet

### Vienna

- Concert 4 – St Peter's Church of Vienna – College Strings, Collegians, Brass Ensemble and Woodwind Quintet

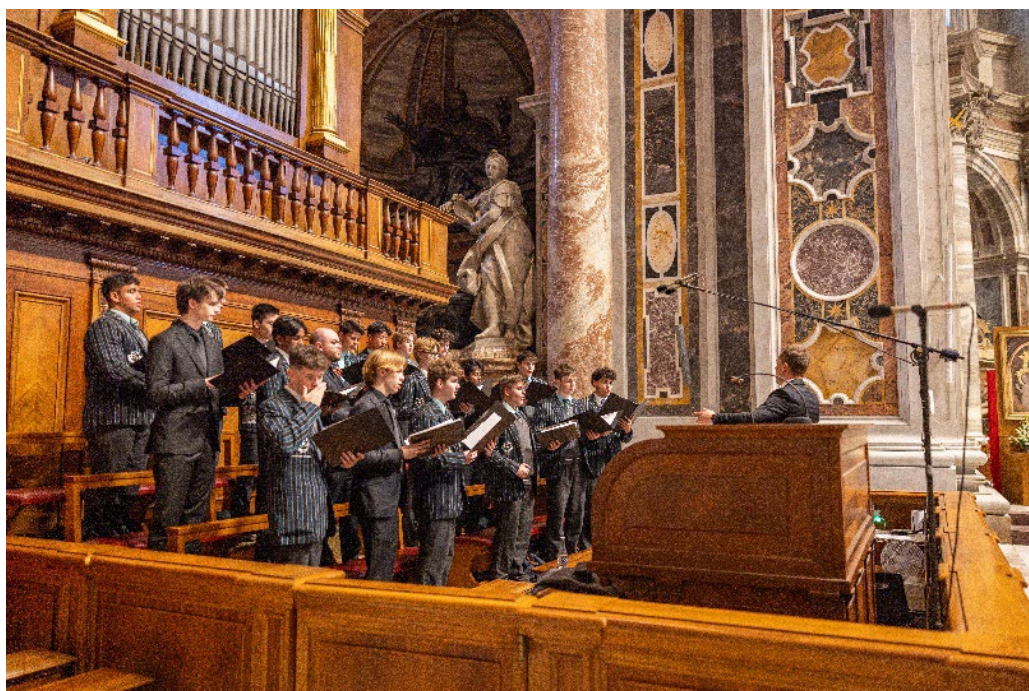
### Salzburg

- Concert 5 – Kult Theatre – College Strings, Collegians, Brass Ensemble and Woodwind Quintet



BBC Music in St Peter's Basilica (Vatican City)





Collegians singing at St Peter's Basilica (Vatican City)



Collegians singing at St Peter's Basilica (Vatican City)





Concert 1 - BBC Music at the Oratoria del Caravita (Rome)



BBC Music at the Piazzale Michelangelo overlooking Florence





Concert 2 - BBC Music at St Mark's English Church in Florence



Concert 3 - BBC Music at St Stae's Cathedral in Venice





Concert 4 - BBC Music at St Peter's Church of Vienna



College Strings performing at St Peter's Church of Vienna