



Beethoven – tracing his footsteps through Vienna

A City Walk by Tita Büttner

Experience Vienna, the world's capital of music, by tracing the footsteps of Ludwig van Beethoven (Dec. 16, 1770 Bonn – March 26, 1827 Vienna). He was a Viennese by choice.

At the age of 17 Beethoven traveled from Bonn to Vienna to take lessons from Mozart, but had to leave before tuition began because his mother fell critically ill. At the age of 22, he returned to Vienna as Haydn's pupil (Mozart had passed away since). This time, he stayed for ever.

Walking time: approximately 2 hours. Additional travel time: approximately 30 mins.

Ask your hotel or the **Tourist Information Office** on Albertinaplatz (open daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.) for a free **city map** (also available online at: www.vienna.info) and the Vienna Tourist Board's **Calendar of Events** which gives a run-down of what's on. The **Vienna Card** is also a useful companion. Costing EUR 18.50 (from May 1, 2012: EUR 19,90) it gives you 72 hours' unlimited travel on the city's underground, bus and tram network as well as 210 discounts and special deals at museums, tourist attractions, theaters, concert halls, shops, cafés, restaurants and Vienna's wine taverns.

Start at the Theater an der Wien, near Underground station 'Karlsplatz' (U1, U2 and U4).

Theater an der Wien

(4th district, Linke Wienzeile 6 and Millöckergasse 8, www.theater-wien.at)

This theatre was opened in 1801. It was once viewed as the most important Vienna stage for operas, operettas, Singspiele, plays and concerts of all kinds. Some of **Beethoven's** works had their premiere here, for example his violin concert and his opera '**Fidelio**'. In the years 1803/04 he even lived here temporarily while working on 'Fidelio'.

The theatre's former main entrance can be found on Millöckergasse 8 (a small side-street just before the theatre). There, Mozart's friend **Emanuel Schikaneder** created a striking monument to himself, the '**Papageno Gate**'. History remembers him not only as the builder and first director of the Theater an der Wien, but also as a librettist and the first Papageno in Mozart's 'Magic Flute'.

The Theater an der Wien is rededicated to its original use as an **opera house since 2006**, following many years as a theatre for musicals.

*If you now cross Linke Wienzeile, you will be standing in the middle of the **Naschmarkt** (next a flea market open only on Saturdays). Take a little walk among the exotically aromatic, colourful stands and look beyond to catch a glimpse of several fine **art nouveau façades**. Walk the Linke Wienzeile in direction of the city center – on Friedrichstrasse on the left you find a famous building called*

Secession

(1st district, Friedrichstrasse 12, Tue-Sun 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., www.secession.at)

In 1898, Joseph Maria Olbrich, a student of Otto Wagner, erected an Art Nouveau gallery building for the new association called 'Secession'. In 1985-86, the cupola of the Secession was gilded anew and

the Secession was renovated and adapted under the guidance of Adolf Krischanitz. The 112-foot **Beethoven Frieze**, a virtuoso pictorial interpretation of the 9th Symphony, created by **Gustav Klimt** for the Beethoven Exhibition of 1902, is on permanent display in a new room on the basement level.

Now cross the street and take Lothringerstrasse (or stroll through Resselpark) until you reach

Beethoven Park and Beethoven Memorial opposite to Konzerthaus

(3rd district, Lothringer Strasse 20)

The monument erected in his honour at the Beethoven-Park at the Wiener Konzerthaus was created by Caspar Zumbusch and revealed in 1880. This was made possible by another renowned musical colleague, **Franz Liszt** (1811 Raiding – 1886 Bayreuth), who donated the proceeds of his last public concert on the 16th of March 1877 (in honor of Beethoven's 50th anniversary of death) to the then suffering memorial fund at a time of economic crisis, to ensure its completion. According to a popular anecdote, the eleven year old prodigy Franz Liszt had played the piano before Beethoven who had congratulated him enthusiastically and kissed him on the forehead. This was a seldom display of affection on part of the old master which, at the time, motivated Liszt to advocate Beethoven's work.

This Beethoven made of stone is facing the **Konzerthaus** in front of him. In the entrance of this famous Art Nouveau concert house you can admire a replica of the memorial at close range.

Cross the Lothringerstrasse outside of Konzerthaus in direction of Schuberting and then follow Schwarzenbergstrasse until the corner of Seilerstätte/Krugerstrasse. If you have time visit the

Haus der Musik (House of Music)

(1st district, Seilerstätte 30, daily 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., www.hdm.at, discount for Vienna Card holders)

Unique and fascinating listening experiences await you here on four floors — from simple noises to the music of the future. **Haydn, Mozart, Schubert, Strauss, Mahler** and, of course, a **Beethoven** exhibit are presented in an entertaining way in this multimedia world of musical infotainment.

One room provides a most interesting insight into Beethoven's everyday life. For instance: with the ear-trumpet arrangement one can well imagine the gradual loss of Beethoven's hearing.

Be your own maestro and guide the Vienna Philharmonic through Mozart's 'Eine kleine Nachtmusik' ('A Little Night Music') with the help of modern technology — but make sure you keep up the tempo, and don't miss any entrances. These virtual musicians know no mercy!

The Haus der Musik also offers culinary delights in the shape of the **"Dinner & Klangmuseum"** package — a musical and culinary journey of discovery including a museum visit and a three-course meal at Huth, the museum's restaurant.

Take Annagasse, cross Kärntner Strasse and follow Führichgasse. On the corner to Spiegelgasse visit the

Theatre Museum in Lobkowitz Palace

(1st district, Lobkowitzplatz 2, daily exc. Tues. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., www.theatermuseum.at, discount for Vienna Card holders)

This is a genuinely unique museum that theatre fans should make time for. Generations of the Lobkowitz princes were not only owners of this palace but also generous patrons of various musicians. Beneficiaries of this generosity included **Christoph Willibald Gluck** (b. 1714 Erasbach – d. 1787 Vienna). Empress Maria Theresia appointed the composer to teach to some of her 16 children, including Marie Antoinette who later became the queen of King Louis XVI and an advocate in Paris for her former teacher. Gluck was a reformer of opera and was highly regarded in the music world. Mozart, for example, placed great value on the support of his fatherly friend.

Ludwig van Beethoven conducted his third symphony in the room here now known as the Eroica Room. It was a private performance for the composer's great supporter, Franz Joseph Maximilian Prince Lobkowitz, whose contribution to a life-long allowance for Beethoven helped persuade the famous composer to remain in Vienna.

Turn right into Augustinerstrasse and walk on straight ahead, passing Michaelerplatz, following Herrengasse, which turns into Schottengasse. Turn left into Mölker Bastei to reach the

Pasqualati House

(1st district, Mölker Bastei, Tue-Sun, publ. hols. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 2 – 6 p.m., closed on 1.1., 1.5., 25.5., publ. hol. if Mon; www.wienmuseum.at)

The **Beethoven museum** is located on the fourth floor. You can reach it via the steps that the master himself often used. Beethoven spent the winter months here several times between 1804 and 1814. In summer he usually headed for the country. The composer switched residence around 70 times during his time in Vienna, so his extended association with this address is noteworthy.

Many of Beethoven's personal effects are on display here and his famous compositions can be listened to on headphones. In Beethoven's days the house commanded a view across the city suburbs to the hills of the Vienna Woods. The view inspired many of the great master's most important works. It was here that he wrote 'Für Therese' – a piece that he dedicated to his great love, Therese von Malfatti. Today the piece is known by the title 'Für Elise' after a copyist's error.

As you leave the building take a look at the neighboring **Dreimäderlhaus**, famous for its association with stories surrounding **Franz Schubert**.

*From here it is only a short walk to the Schottentor underground and tram station where you take the no. 37 tram. The next stop is called Schwarzspanierstrasse (see the plaque at **no. 15**).*

In the building which stood here, **Beethoven died during a violent winter storm on March 26, 1827**. At **Beethoven's funeral** on March 29 the pompous procession was followed by 20,000 of Vienna's dwellers, a significant amount of people when keeping in mind that Vienna had only 200,000 inhabitants at the time. As Franz Grillparzer, who spoke the emotional eulogy at the funeral, stated: 'He was a musician but also a human being, human in every highest sense.' Beethoven's mortal remains were moved from the original cemetery in Vienna's 18th quarter Währing (today Schubert Park) to the Central Cemetery in 1888.

Our tour continues on the no. 37 tram to the Pokornystasse stop.

Eroica House

*(19th district, Döblinger Hauptstrasse 92, www.wienmuseum.at. Attention: the museum **opens only upon request in advance** – please call Tel. +43 1 505 87 47-85173 two weeks in advance)*

Beethoven enjoyed spending the summer months in the country, frequently in the wine-growing villages to the north-west of Vienna. In 1803, the year he worked primarily on his third symphony, the 'Eroica', tradition has it that he spent the summer months in idyllic Oberdöbling. Many exhibits in the Eroica House recall the world of the still rural Viennese suburb, and the works the composer created in that year.

Continue on the no. 37 tram to the Hohe Warte stop and walk to the entrance of Heiligenstädter Park (please use the entrance closest to the stop). Here you will find an impressive

Beethoven Memorial

This portrayal comes close to what **Beethoven** really looked like as he roamed through Heiligenstadt (the name of this suburb) and its vineyards, with his unruly shock of hair, his notebooks and conversation books always at the ready in his coat pocket, loudly humming to himself and sometimes gesticulating wildly in his battle with deafness. In Beethoven's days there were therapeutic baths where the park is now located and the composer came here in the hope of finding relief from his suffering. He spent several summers here.

Leave the park heading towards Grinzinger Strasse, walk along Armbrustergasse and turn into Probusgasse where you will find the

Heiligenstadt Testament House

(19th district, Probusgasse 6, Tue-Sun, publ. hols. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 2 - 6 p.m., closed on 1.1., 1.5., 25.5., publ. hol. if Mon; www.wienmuseum.at)

Beethoven wrote his 'Heiligenstadt Testament' in this house. In fact it was a letter to his brothers that he never posted. It was written in desperation as, at the age of just 32 and in the middle of writing his Symphony No. 2, Beethoven realized that his deafness was incurable. Despite all the misery and physical and mental anguish he suffered, Beethoven continued for another 25 years writing his great symphonies and other unique works of music in a 'world of silence'.

*On leaving the memorial house continue along Probusgasse towards Pfarrplatz, passing - or visiting - some of the charming '**Heurige**' (wine taverns) such as*

Mayer am Pfarrplatz

(19th district, Pfarrplatz 2, Mon. - Fri. from 4 p.m.; Sat., Sun. and publ. hols. from 12 a.m.; www.pfarrplatz.at)

Beethoven lived and **worked in this quaint building** for a short time in **1817**. Round off your tour in the footsteps of the famous musician with a glass of wine in one of the wine taverns or a walk along the Beethoven Trail ('Beethoven Gang') through the nearby vineyards.

EXTRA: Central Cemetery (Zentralfriedhof)

(11th district, Simmeringer Hauptstrasse 234, May-August 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., March, April, September, October 7 a.m. - 6 p.m., November-February 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., www.vienna.gv.at)

Take the no.71 tram directly to the main gate (Tor 2) of Vienna's Central Cemetery. Staff will be able to provide you with a map of the cemetery, listing all the tombs of honor.

You really should allow plenty of time for this cemetery. The Dr. Karl Lueger Church is also well worth a visit (www.luegerkirche.at). There is hardly anywhere else where will you find so many honorary graves in one place.

The composers **Ludwig van Beethoven, Franz Schubert, Johann Strauss senior, Johann Strauss junior**, his brothers **Eduard** and **Josef**, **Josef Lanner, Carl Michael Ziehrer, Johannes Brahms, Christoph Willibald Gluck, Antonio Salieri, Arnold Schoenberg, Robert Stolz, Emmerich Kálmán, Hugo Wolf, Franz von Suppé** and **Karl Millöcker** are all buried here and there is a monument to **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**. Also buried here in this 2.7 km² cemetery are the popular actors **Hans Moser** and **Paul Hörbiger**, film-legends **Curd Jürgens** and **Theo Lingen**, pop star **Falco**, playwright **Johann Nestroy** as well as the authors **Arthur Schnitzler** and **Friedrich Torberg**.

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