

Preucil School String Orchestra American Celebration of Music in the Baltics

Tour #7 (6 nights/8 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service to Riga, Latvia

Day 2

Riga

(D)

Arrival in Riga

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Dinner included, and overnight

Riga has always been the Baltics' major metropolis, with far more of a big-city atmosphere than anywhere else in the region. Set on a flat plain divided by the Daugava River, the city boasts art nouveau architecture of its own and a historic old quarter with gracious parks

Day 3

Riga

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning Rehearsal

Lunch, on own

Afternoon excursion through Riga visiting the old town, surrounded by a water channel, with the famous Dome Cathedral, St. John and St. Peter Churches, the Freedom Monument, National Opera, Parliament, Castle, the cozy spacious squares and the remarkable Art Nouveau district

Dinner included, and overnight

Day 4

Riga

(B)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning at leisure in Riga

Lunch, on own

Sound-Check Rehearsal

Dinner on own

Performance in Riga as part of the American Celebration of Music in the Baltics*

Return to the hotel for overnight

Day 5

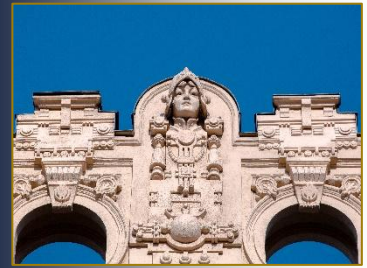
Hill of Crosses / Vilnius

(B,L)

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to Vilnius

En route, visit the Hill of Crosses – one of the most important sites in all of Lithuania. Desecrated but never destroyed, set on fire but never burned down, the Hill of Crosses is a potent symbol of faith, hope, and freedom. It is a must-visit site in Lithuania. The Hill of Crosses near Šiauliai is a hill covered with thousands of wooden crosses. During the Soviet era (1940 – 1991), these crosses were removed by the authorities, but locals continuously and constantly replaced them. In 1993, Pope John Paul II prayed here, and he often mentioned the sacred site in his homilies and speeches. He later sent



Music Celebrations International
Concert Tours With Integrity

a crucifix to Lithuania which was placed on the hill, and today pilgrims begin and end their journeys at this location. Other memorials here are tagged with flowers, a photograph or other mementos of the deceased, and inscribed with a sweet or sacred message. Traditional Lithuanian kopylstulpis (wooden sculptures of a figure topped with a little roof) intersperse the crosses, as do magnificent sculptures of the Sorrowful Christ (Rūpintojėlis). If you wish to add your own memento, you can. Some of the crosses are devotional, others are memorials (many for people deported to Siberia). They vary greatly in size, and some are accompanied by mournful statues of the Virgin Mary. The devout come from far and wide; and you will spot a memorial to 9/11 victims and another to Ukrainians killed in ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict

Lunch, included

Continue to Vilnius for hotel check-in

Dinner on own, and overnight



Day 6 **Vilnius** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a morning city tour including Cathedral Square, Presidential Palace Square, Vilnius University, the gothic corner with the churches of St. Anne and St. Bernardine, the old Jewish ghetto, Town Hall Square and the Gates of Dawn

Lunch, on own

Afternoon Rehearsal

Dinner included

Performance in Vilnius as part of the American Celebration of Music in the Baltics*

Return to the hotel for overnight

Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania is situated at the confluence of the Neus and Viliya Rivers, set among hills and surrounded by pine forests. The city has a wealth of architectural monuments, and the life and work of many revolutionaries, writers, scientists and artists are linked with Vilnius



Day 7 **Kaunas / Vilnius** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Excursion to Kaunas, the second largest town of Lithuania. Enjoy a city tour upon arrival that includes: the Old Town of Kaunas with its St George's Church, Kaunas Castle, the courtyard of the Theological seminary, the Town Hall Square surrounded by former 16th - 18th century merchants' houses and baroque churches, the Church of Vytautas dating back to the 14th century and the Perkunas (Thunder) House

Lunch, on own

Performance in Kaunas as part of the American Celebration of Music in the Baltics*

Return to Vilnius

Farewell Dinner included, and overnight



Day 8 **Depart for home** **(B)**

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to the Vilnius Airport for return flight home

****Subject to confirmation***



This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

© Music Celebrations International

