The Williams College Society of Alumni

Symphony on the
Blue Danube

Prague # Passau # Melk # Dürnstein
Vienna # Bratislava # Budapest

aboard the Exclusively Chartered M.S. AMADEUS BRILLIANT

June 22 to July 1, 2017
Dear Williams Alumni, Parents, Widows and Friends:

Join us on this exclusive journey to the resplendent cultural centers that inspired classical music’s Great Masters. Framed by rolling hillsides, lush vineyards and medieval castles, the legendary Danube River Valley has resonated with musicians and artists, poets and travelers, throughout the centuries. We invite you to come experience the charm and allure of this captivating region for yourself.

Our comprehensive itinerary showcases five countries in the heartland of central Europe. It has been custom designed and carefully orchestrated to feature private performances encompassing the musical heritage of Europe’s most accomplished composers, including Mozart and Beethoven, and provides opportunities to explore six UNESCO World Heritage sites. Enjoy three nights in the historic, world-class city of Prague, the “City of a Thousand Spires,” in a deluxe, centrally located hotel before traversing the fabled Blue Danube from Passau, Germany, to Budapest, Hungary. Cruise aboard the exclusively chartered M.S. AMADEUS BRILLIANT—a traditional river ship plying the waterways of Europe with the ability to dock often right in the heart of the cities we visit.

High notes of your experience will include a distinctive schedule of exclusive and specially arranged expert lectures, private classical music performances, guided excursions in Prague and in each port of call along the Danube River, and an enchanting overnight stay in the fin-de-siècle grandeur of Vienna, Austria’s extraordinary capital city.

Traveling through the heartland of Europe has never been more historically rich and culturally dynamic, especially when enhanced by live musical performances inspired by the great cities, landscapes and waterways that surround you. This journey of a lifetime is an excellent value and is sure to strike a chord with both new and repeat travelers as it taps into the heart and soul of this extraordinary region, its most renowned virtuosos and its rich history, art and architectural masterpieces. I encourage you to book now as this popular program sells out quickly. Early Booking Savings are only available through December 9, 2016.

Cordially,

Leila Derstine
Alumni Travel-Study Coordinator
413-597-4011

Joining our group will be W. Anthony Sheppard, Professor of Music at Williams College. Prof. Sheppard teaches courses in the history of music, opera, popular music, and Asian music. A frequent lecturer at the Metropolitan Opera Guild and Williams and Princeton Clubs in New York City, Prof. Sheppard has authored numerous publications on 20th- and 21st-century opera and music theater, film music, vocal timbre, and cross-cultural influence. His research has been supported by grants from the NEH, the American Philosophical Society, and the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton. Prof. Sheppard earned a B.A. from Amherst College and his M.F.A. and Ph.D. from Princeton University.
U.S./Prague, Czech Republic
Thursday and Friday, June 22 and 23
Depart the U.S. for Prague, the “City of a Thousand Spires,” a UNESCO World Heritage site showcasing 600 years of virtually untouched architecture. Upon arrival, check into the deluxe InterContinental Praha Hotel. Attend the private Welcome Reception Friday evening in the hotel.

Prague
Saturday and Sunday, June 24 and 25
On the guided walking tour, explore the diverse cultural legacy of Prague, celebrated for its splendid combination of Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque architecture. Walk along the narrow, picturesque lanes of the Staré Město (Old Town) to the Orloj, the ornate, 15th-century astronomical clock of the Old Town Hall. See the world-famous Charles Bridge, adorned with 17th- and 18th-century Baroque statues. Enjoy a brief private performance of Mozart’s music and a specially arranged private tour of the Estates Theatre, where the prodigy’s opera Don Giovanni premiered in 1787. In Josefov, the Jewish Quarter of Prague, visit Europe’s oldest extant Jewish house of worship—the Gothic-style Old-New Synagogue—and walk amongst the moss-covered, 15th-century headstones of the Old Jewish Cemetery.

On Sunday, tour the fascinating former residence of Bohemian royalty, the Hradčany complex of castles, churches and museums, whose spires dominate the city skyline. By special arrangement, view original Beethoven manuscripts and enjoy a private string quartet concert in the magnificent, family-owned 16th-century Lobkowicz Palace.

Visit the neo-Gothic St. Vitus Cathedral, the largest and most significant cathedral in Prague, and see the Royal Mausoleum and spectacular St. Wenceslas Chapel. Walk through the “Golden Lane,” a quaint byway lined with small, Mannerist-style houses and workshops once occupied by castle goldsmiths, alchemists, artisans and guards. Author Franz Kafka was said to have lived here between 1916 and 1917.

On the former site of the Bohemian Kingdom’s Royal Court, enjoy a private tour of the spectacular Municipal House, an early 20th-century Art Nouveau masterpiece. Visit the stunning Smetana Hall, where an independent Czechoslovakia was declared in 1918 and where the post-World War II communist government first met with political reformers led by future Czech Republic president Václav Havel in 1989.

Prague/Passau, Germany
Monday, June 26
Travel across rolling hills and through the bucolic wooded Czech and German countryside to Passau, where three legendary rivers—the Danube, Ilz and Inn—converge. Enjoy lunch in a historic, traditional German restaurant before the walking tour along the cobblestone streets of Altstadt, Passau’s Old Town. Visit the Baroque-style St. Stephan’s Cathedral, consecrated in the 12th century, where the largest pipe organ in Europe is housed.

Embark M.S. Amadeus Brilliant, attend the Captain’s Welcome Reception and, following dinner, enjoy a short concert of classical music on board.

Melk, Austria/Dürnstein
Tuesday, June 27
In the riverside town of Melk, visit the incredible Benedictine Abbey, a showcase of impressive Austrian Baroque architecture, priceless relics and...
stunning 18th-century ceiling frescoes by Paul Troger. In Melk Abbey’s beautiful kirche (church), admire the perfectly intact multi-panel 16th-century altarpiece by Danube School master Jörg Breu the Elder. A prestigious center of scholarship throughout the Middle Ages, the abbey’s library is today a repository of 100,000 medieval manuscripts.

This afternoon, dock in the charming medieval village of Dürnstein, situated below the hilltop ruins of Castle Kuenringer, where Richard the Lionheart was held prisoner after the Third Crusade. Stroll through the quaint, picturesque village to visit the 15th-century Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Abbey Church and enjoy a short, private organ concert inside the cathedral.

Be on deck this evening as you cruise the Danube’s spectacular and fabled Wachau Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site, where terraced vineyards blanket hillsides dotted with the haunting ruins of medieval castles.

Vienna
Wednesday, June 28
Former seat of the Habsburg Empire, Vienna’s historic center is a UNESCO World Heritage open-air museum of splendid Baroque architecture. Tour this remarkable city, which owes its present appearance to Austro-Hungarian Emperor Franz Josef, who created the famous Ringstrasse that displays its finest landmarks—the impressive Vienna State Opera house and the lavish Hofburg Palace. Visit the iconic, Gothic-style Stephansdom (St. Stephen’s Cathedral). Enjoy a private, specially arranged performance of Mozart and other composers’ music in the extraordinary Sala Terrena, Vienna’s oldest concert hall and where Mozart resided, worked and performed. The afternoon and evening are at leisure to peruse the cultural treasures of Vienna on your own.

Vienna/Bratislava, Slovakia
Thursday, June 29
Enjoy a free morning in Vienna or join the optional excursion to the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Schönbrunn Palace, residence of Habsburg royalty from Marie Antoinette to humans.
Palace and Gardens, the spectacular summer estate of the imperial Habsburgs. It was here, in one of the grand salons decorated in a priceless collection of art and antiques, that a six-year-old Mozart first performed for Empress Maria Theresa and her daughter, the future Queen of France, Marie Antoinette.

This afternoon, en route to Bratislava, cruise through Austria’s scenic Donau-Auen National Park, which preserves the last remaining major wetlands in central Europe. The charming capital of Slovakia, Bratislava is nestled in the foothills of the impressive Carpathian Mountain range overlooking the banks of the Danube River. Beautifully restored since the end of the Cold War, the city depicts 21st-century life amidst its 1000-year-old history. Enjoy a walking tour of the Old Town; its medieval, Renaissance and 19th-century architecture is among the finest in central Europe. Visit the Romanesque, 14th-century Cathedral of St. Martin and the elaborate Primatial Palace and see St. Michael’s Gate, Bratislava’s oldest preserved medieval fortification, originally built in 1300.

This evening, enjoy a delightful performance of classical music on board the ship.

Budapest, Hungary
Friday, June 30
Austrian-born, nevertheless the “most Hungarian Habsburg,” Archduke Joseph is credited with creating in Budapest an imperial capital that rivaled Vienna. Buda and Pest—the centuries-old twin cities that face each other across the Danube River—the embankments along this storied river and the Buda Castle Quarter together as one are a designated UNESCO World Heritage site. Begin your tour in Pest to see the iconic and imposing neo-Gothic limestone Parliament Building, built between 1884 and 1904 situated on the river’s banks. Pass through Heroes’ Square and admire the monuments honoring the Magyar chiefs who conquered Hungary in A.D. 896. The guided visit through the 19th-century, neo-Renaissance Hungarian State Opera House, one of the most beautiful performing arts venues in the world, highlights its interior, which is decorated with frescoes by eminent painters, including Mór Than and Károly Lotz. Here, enjoy a private, specially arranged aria performance.

The imposing Chain Bridge links river-level Pest to the hills of Buda on the opposite side of the Danube. On Castle Hill, visit the stately, late-19th-century, neo-Romanesque Fisherman’s Bastion, where seven turrets symbolize the seven Magyar tribes that settled in the Carpathian Basin, offering exceptional panoramic views of the city, and explore the Gothic-style St. Matthias Church, where Charles I, the last Habsburgian ruler, was coronated in 1916.

On board the ship this evening, attend the Captain’s Farewell Reception and Dinner followed by a traditional Hungarian folklore performance.

Budapest/U.S.
Saturday, July 1
Continue on the Hungarian Tradition in Budapest Post-Program Option or transfer to the airport for your return flight to the U.S.

Fortified and rebuilt over the course of one thousand years, Bratislava Castle dominates the city skyline from its perch 300 feet above the Danube.
Historic Prussia and Saxony Berlin • Dresden Pre-Program Option
One of Europe’s preeminent centers of history, art and music, Berlin is known for its world-class museums, grand opera house and eclectic architecture. Explore the Pergamon Museum on the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Museum Island; visit the Wall Museum at historic Checkpoint Charlie, the former border crossing between East and West Berlin; and enjoy a panoramic city tour cruise along the Spree River. En route to Prague, enjoy a walking tour through oft-overlooked Dresden, known as the “Jewel Box of Germany” for its splendid Baroque and Rococo architecture and its cultural and artistic significance. Accommodations are for three nights in the ideally located, deluxe WESTIN GRAND BERLIN HOTEL.

Hungarian Tradition in Budapest
Post-Program Option
Extend your stay in captivating Budapest, amid the majestic hills of Buda and the artistic, bohemian avenues of Pest. Visit the stately, Gothic Revival-style Parliament Building, and enjoy an excursion into Hungary’s great protected Puszta (plains), including a display of master horsemanship and a traditional regional lunch. Accommodations are for two nights in the Five-Star KEMPINSKI HOTEL CORVINUS.

Pre-Program and Post-Program Options and the Schönbrunn Palace and Gardens Optional Excursion are available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.
Included Features

In Prague, Czech Republic

◆ Three nights in the centrally located, deluxe INTERCONTINENTAL PRAHA HOTEL with breakfast each morning.
◆ Welcome Reception in the hotel.
◆ Walking tour of Prague's historic center, a UNESCO World Heritage site, through the Staré Město (Old Town) and Josefov, the old Jewish Quarter.
◆ Private tour of the Estates Theatre with a short, exclusive performance of Mozart compositions.
◆ Visit to the magnificent Hradčany Castle complex, including its Gothic-style St. Vitus Cathedral.
◆ Specially arranged guided tour of Lobkowicz Palace with private concert of classical music.
◆ Private tour of the Art Nouveau-style Municipal House.

Scene transfer from Prague to Passau, Germany, and a walking tour of Passau featuring its charming Altstadt (Old Town) and a visit to the 12th-century St. Stephen's Cathedral, with lunch.

On board the exclusively chartered M.S. AMADEUS BRILLIANT

◆ Five-night cruise on the legendary Danube River from Passau, Germany, to Budapest, Hungary, with port calls at Melk, Dürnstein and Vienna, Austria; and Bratislava, Slovakia.
◆ River-view, air-conditioned Suite or Stateroom, each with a private bathroom.
◆ All meals served at single, unassigned seatings—early-risers’ coffee, buffet breakfast and lunch, afternoon tea, four-course dinner and late-evening snack—featuring fine continental cuisine.
◆ Complimentary house wine and beer are served with lunch and dinner.
◆ Captain’s Welcome and Farewell Receptions.
◆ Two specially arranged classical music performances on board the ship.
◆ Panoramic tour of the monument Benedictine Abbey of Melk, a Baroque masterpiece.
◆ Walking tour of picturesque Dürnstein, featuring a brief, private organ recital inside Dürnstein Abbey.
◆ Cruise through the scenic Wachau Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
◆ Panoramic tour of the world-class city of Vienna, a UNESCO World Heritage site, featuring a private performance of Mozart and other composers’ music.
◆ Guided tour of Bratislava’s medieval Old Town.
◆ Tour of Budapest, a UNESCO World Heritage site, highighted by a visit to the Hungarian State Opera House and a private, specially arranged, brief aria performance.
◆ Specially arranged, exclusive Hungarian folklore performance on board.

Enhanced Travel Services

◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
◆ All excursions and visits, as outlined above, led by experienced English-speaking local guides.
◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
◆ Complimentary bottled water in your Suite or Stateroom on board the ship and on excursions.
◆ Optional excursion to Vienna’s UNESCO World Heritage-designated Schönbrunn Palace and Gardens available at additional cost.
◆ Hospitality desk aboard the ship and in the hotel.
◆ The services of experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors throughout the program.
◆ Complimentary use of a state-of-the-art audio headset for each participant during guided excursions.
◆ Travel document wallet, name badge and pre-departure material.
◆ Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Thomas P. Gohagan & Company.
Since the 18th century, the lands encompassing the Danube River Valley—Austria, Hungary and Germany—and the Czech Republic have bequeathed to the world an unparalleled musical legacy. The 1700s saw the creative genius of Johann Sebastian Bach, Franz Josef Haydn, Johann Pachelbel and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. In the 19th century, such musical titans as Ludwig van Beethoven, Franz Schubert, Johannes Brahms, Franz Liszt and Johann Strauss II reigned over the courts and orchestra halls of central Europe, backed by the generous patronage of the Habsburgs in Vienna.

This exclusive journey highlights the musical traditions of master composers and their enduring vitality. See the stage in Prague’s prestigious Estates Theatre where Mozart premiered his famous opera *Don Giovanni* and attend a private performance of the great composer’s works. Admire Europe’s largest cathedral pipe organ in Passau’s Cathedral of St. Stephan. View a collection of Beethoven’s original manuscripts and attend a private performance of musical works by Beethoven and other master composers in Lobkowicz Palace. Enjoy a short organ recital within the 15th-century Dürnstein Abbey.

Stroll through the historic center of Vienna in the footsteps of Beethoven and Brahms, see the famous Vienna State Opera house and attend a private performance of Mozart’s music at Sala Terrena, the oldest concert hall in the city. Enjoy classical music performances on board the ship.

The golden statue of Waltz King Johann Strauss immortalizes Vienna’s rich musical legacy.
Singles are available in category 2 at $9695* and in category 1 at $10395* on or before December 9, 2016.

wire transfer by March 17, 2017

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or

card number                        exp. date
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Category ‡

Stateroom

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<th>Title</th>
<th>Full Name (exactly as it appears on your passport)</th>
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<td>Junior</td>
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<td>French balcony (floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors with railing), Mozart Deck.</td>
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<td>French balcony (floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors with railing), Strauss Deck, forward.</td>
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<td>French balcony (floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors with railing), Mozart Deck.</td>
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<td>Small window, Haydn Deck, forward.</td>
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SYMPHONY on the BLUE DANUBE RESERVATION FORM

Send to:
Williams College Desk
c/o Thomas P. Gohagan & Company
209 South LaSalle Street, Suite 500
Chicago, Illinois 60604-1446

If you have any questions regarding tour logistics, please call Gohagan & Company at (800) 922-3088 and ask for the travel coordinator handling this tour.

Please make my/our reservation(s) in Stateroom Category:
1st Choice _____  2nd Choice _____

Please make my/our reservation(s):

Historic Prussia and Saxony
Berlin • Dresden Pre-Program Option
Double at $1335 per person.
Single at $1535 per person.
I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Hungarian Tradition in Budapest
Post-Program Option
Double at $750 per person.
Single at $1150 per person.
I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Please make my/our reservation(s):

Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.

Enclosed is my/our check(s) for $__________ as deposit.
I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $__________ to:

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Program reservations require a deposit of $800 per person and $200 per person Historic Prussia and Saxony Pre-Program Option and/or $200 per person Hungarian Tradition in Budapest Post-Program Option. By reserving and depositing on this program, I/We agree to the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.

If I/We want to book my/our air from ________ (fill in departure city) to Prague, Czech Republic, with return from Budapest, Hungary, at additional cost to be advised.

Taxes are an additional $195 per person and are subject to change.

* M.S. AMADEUS BRILLIANT has been specially contracted for this tour, and the applicable deck plan is available on request from Gohagan & Company and reflects the only valid cabin categorization of the vessel.

* Add $1000 for reservations made after December 9, 2016.

** Please read the Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.

Enclosed is my/our check(s) for $__________ as deposit.
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Signature as it appears on credit card

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RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT RESPONSIBILITY: The President and Trustees of Williams College, and its and their employees, shareholders, contractors, agents, servants, officers, agents, subcontractors, suppliers, companies, guides or services, local operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, charters, airlines or transportation providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Gohagan is not liable for any negligent or willful act of or failure to act on the part of any such entity. Any changes will be made at the sole discretion of Gohagan. 

In addition and without limitation, Gohagan is not responsible for any delays, departure, flight schedule and itinerary changes, even if Gohagan makes the flight arrangements or bookings, for any loss or damage to air, sea, rail, motor, or other transportation, resulting from operational and/or other causes, or due to acts of God or force majeure. If due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you have to travel on a different (and often more expensive) flight, which is required under those circumstances, then you will be responsible for the cost of such changes. In such situations, Gohagan will substitute hotels, vehicles, meals, vessels, or other means of transportation, or for any failure of Gohagan to perform any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely. Airplane, vessel, motorcoach or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any tourist activities of a similar category for those listed in this brochure. 

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip including Pre/Post Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of Gohagan. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a $200 ($50/Pre/Post Program(s)) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 121 days prior to departure; from 95 through 120 days prior to departure, $800 ($200/Pre/Post Program(s)) per person; from 64 through 94 days prior to departure, 40% of the published full regular tariffs; from 43 through 60 days prior to departure, 50% of the published full regular tariffs from 22 through 44 days prior to departure, 70% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 21 days or less prior to departure, no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply. 

TRIP INSURANCE: We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Trip cancellation insurance is available through Williams College, Gohagan, and others for comprehensive coverage of such expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident, and damaged or lost luggage. We will send you an application upon receipt of your reservation. 

RATES: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. On land and/or cruise programs, even after final payment, Gohagan reserves right to increase the tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases are to be paid to Gohagan upon notice to the tour participant of such increases. On programs which include Gohagan purchased international air (which originates or returns to the United States), no increased costs will be passed on after final payment. Such cost increases will be subsequently imposed governmental tax increases. 

REGISTRATION: Pre/Post Programs; WST#: 601 767 666, address service requested. 

CANCELLATION POLICY: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for themselves or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement. 

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Chicago, Illinois 60601-1446
(111) 990-1140 or (305) 922-3088
http://www.gohagancruise.com
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Founded in 1089, the Austrian Benedictine Abbey of Melk houses a world-renowned monastic library. 

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