FIRST NIGHTS ON LOCATION:
DUBLIN, PARIS, & VIENNA
MARCH 11-20, 2016
with Thomas Forrest Kelly PhD '73, Morton B. Knafel Professor of Music

Take part in an innovative trip that combines seeing the sites with an inside look at how an online course at Harvard is produced!

In this partnership between the Harvard Alumni Association and HarvardX, a faculty-led initiative to create online courses, experience the famed “First Nights” course both on location and online.

Led by faculty member Thomas Kelly, visit the places where five of the world’s most influential pieces of music first made their premieres: Dublin (Handel’s Messiah, 1742), Paris (Berlioz, Fantastic Symphony, 1830, and Stravinsky, Rite of Spring, 1913), Vienna (Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, 1824), and Mantua (Monteverdi, Orfeo, 1607) as an optional extension*. Professor Kelly will comment on these and other sites and give background lectures that set the stage for these famed works.

He will also use the trip as an opportunity to produce parts of his upcoming, online HarvardX course. A small film crew will accompany Kelly, allowing participants to get an inside look—amounting to a crash course in visual literacy, photography, and video—at what goes into creating a digital learning experience for tens-of-thousands of global learners and join lively roundtable discussions with the HarvardX course team.

Upon returning home, travelers will then be able to take the free, open on-line course and share their first-hand experiences with other learners.

STUDY LEADER: Thomas Forrest Kelly PhD ’73 is the Morton B. Knafel Professor of Music and Head Tutor for Historical Musicology. He received his AB from Chapel Hill and spent two years on a Fulbright in France studying musicology, chant, and organ, before earning his PhD from Harvard. He has taught at Wellesley, Smith, Amherst, and at Oberlin, where he directed the Historical Performance Program and served as acting dean of the Conservatory. He was named a Harvard College professor in 2000 and the Morton B. Knafel Professor of Music in 2001. His main fields of interest are chant and performance practice. His past books include The Beneventan Chant, First Nights: Five Musical Premieres, and First Nights at the Opera. His newest book is Capturing Music: The Story of Notation was published in November 2014.

GROUP SIZE: 10 to 24 guests

PRICING: $8,995 per person double occupancy / $1,995 single accommodations

*Information for the optional extension to Mantua is available upon request.
FRIDAY, MARCH 11
INDEPENDENT DEPARTURES
Depart on international flights from your home city to Dublin, Ireland. Most participants from the U.S. will depart on overnight flights.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12
INDEPENDENT ARRIVALS / DUBLIN
Arrive in Dublin, Ireland this morning. Check into The Westbury Hotel, situated in the heart of Dublin along the most popular thoroughfare, Dublin’s famous Grafton Street, known for being the cultural and shopping center of Dublin.

After lunch, go for a two-hour walking tour exploring the main features of Irish history: Dublin’s development, the influence of the American and French Revolutions, the Potato Famine, the Great War and the 1916 Rising, the War of Independence, the Northern conflict, and Ireland today. See the changing iconography of Dublin and admire some of its most celebrated monuments to Irish nationalists. Learn about the poets, writers, revolutionaries, and parliamentarians who gaze down over Dubliners today, as well as view some of the fine public art in the city. Stop at Trinity College, Ireland’s first university, and marvel at the elegance and grandeur of its library as you walk through the cobblestone walkways. Also view the Books of Kells, an illuminated manuscript Gospel book containing the four Gospels of the New Testament.

This evening attend a welcome reception and dinner.

Later tonight, take a short drive outside of the center to a beautiful 18th-century townhouse for a show featuring traditional Irish music and dancing at its very best, performed by All Ireland champion musicians, dancers, and entertaining presenters.

SUNDAY, MARCH 13
DUBLIN
This morning attend an introductory lecture.

Then, visit Fishamble Street, one of the oldest streets in Dublin, named after the fish ‘shambles’ or stalls that once lined it. The street’s real claim to fame is that it on April 13, 1742, Neal’s ‘Musick-Hall’ saw the premiere of ‘Mr Handel’s new Grand Oratorio, called the Messiah’. To fit in the 700-strong audience clamoring to hear Handel’s latest work, ladies were requested to come ‘without hoops’ in their skirts, and men ‘without swords’. The oratorio was an instant hit. Today all that remains of the Music Hall is the door.

After lunch enjoy a behind-the-scenes visit and lecture at the National Concert Hall, which is regarded by performing artists as one of the finest concert halls in Europe. At the heart of Dublin’s city center, it boasts a thrilling program of the world’s greatest performers and Ireland’s finest musicians. There are usually weekly performances by the resident orchestra, the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestras, as well as a range of performances and activities covering classical, opera, traditional, jazz, musicals, popular music, and education and community outreach. The National Concert Hall is a thriving venue catering for all musical tastes, ranging from the New York Philharmonic to the Chieftains, Cecilia Bartoli to Joan Baez, Lang Lang to Jools Holland, and Yo-Yo Ma to Peking Opera, and many more.

After dinner, spend the evening enjoying a performance at the National Concert Hall.

MONDAY, MARCH 14
DUBLIN / PARIS
This morning transfer to the airport for your flight to Paris, France.

Upon arrival, check into Le Six Hotel, a luxury 4-star boutique hotel located in Paris’s Left Bank in front of the Luxembourg Gardens near Notre-Dame Cathedral and Saint-Michel.

After lunch visit what was once the Conservatoire (1795) and its still-standing,
concert hall (1811), which was built in the Pompeian style in the 9th arrondissement (administrative district) of the city. When it opened, the Conservatoire offered instruction in music, dance, and drama, drawing on the traditions of the "French School." We have asked for special permission to enter the beautiful concert hall.

Close by is the current Theatre des Nouveautes. Built by the architect Adolf Tiers with 585 seats, the hall was inaugurated in April 1921 with the play La journée des surprises ("The Day of Surprises") by Jean Bouchor. The programming was devoted to operettas and comedies.

Dinner tonight is at a wonderful local restaurant.

End the evening with a performance at the Theatre des Champs-Elysees.

Overnight: Le Six Hotel (B, L, D)

TUESDAY, MARCH 15
PARIS

In the morning visit the Odeon Theater, the site of the premier of Hector Berlioz s, Fantastic Symphony in 1830. One of Paris’s six national theaters, the Odeon is situated in the heart of the 6th arrondissement of Paris, a stone’s throw from the Luxembourg gardens. Le Théâtre de l’Odéon was inaugurated in 1782. Together with its second auditorium, Les Ateliers Berthier (17th arrondissement), it is part of the Théâtre de l’Europe. The outside recalls the grandeur of the monuments of Greek Antiquity with their cubic shapes, Doric columns, and austere facades. The interior architecture features some real gems: the Grand Foyer, the auditorium and its ceiling, the vestibule, and the Salon Roger Blin (Roger Blin Room).

Continue on to Palais Garnier, Opera National de Paris. The iconic building designed by Charles Garnier was inaugurated in 1875 and was used as the setting for Gaston Leroux’s 1910 novel The Phantom of the Opera (as well as the subsequent adaptations in films and Andrew Lloyd Webber’s popular 1986 musical).

After lunch take a walking tour along the Grand Boulevard, one of Paris’s most famous shopping boulevards. Meander through the crowded streets amongst the city’s beautiful buildings.

Overnight: Le Six Hotel (B, L)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16
PARIS

Begin the morning with a visit to Theatre des Champs-Elysees, a national historic landmark and vital cultural center in Paris. This is the site of the premier of Igor Stravinsky’s The Rite of Spring on May 29, 1913. Admire the beautiful art deco of the theater.

Stroll down Avenue Montaigne, a wide avenue famous in Paris for its high-end and designer stores and the magnificent buildings that surround it. Continue on to the Grand Palais, whose magnificent building featuring a beaux- art construction with an ornate greenhouse-like roof is an inspiring space for both traditional and contemporary exhibitions.

Also visit le Petit Palais. Originally constructed for the 1900 Universal Exhibition, it boasts a monumental entrance and houses impressive collection of art works.

This afternoon travel across Paris to la Cité de la Musique, in the Parc de la Villette. The Musée de la Musique is the "jewel in the crown" of music museums as it houses one of the richest collections of musical instruments in the world—over 4,500 pieces from the 200-year-old National Conservatory. Through extraordinary displays the museum recounts the history of European music. There are some early instruments including a flute made of vulture bone from around 2,500 B.C and a harp-like instrument from Africa.

Dinner is on your own this evening.

For those interested, attend a performance at the Philharmonie de Paris, the new 2,400-seat concert hall designed by Jean Nouvel. Located near the Conservatory of Music, the Philhamonie is now home to the Orchestre de Paris. The orchestra left the Salle Pleyel, its longtime home in central Paris, with the hopes that this location will become a magnet for touring ensembles and music-loving
audiences—and will also draw new audiences
to classical music, including younger people
and suburban families.

Overnight: Le Six Hotel (B, L)

THURSDAY, MARCH 17
PARIS / VIENNA

This morning transfer to the airport for your
flight to Vienna, Austria.

Upon arrival, check in to the Grand Hotel Wein,
a luxury hotel that first opened in 1870. The
Grand Hotel Wein is centrally located in the
heart of Vienna, close to the Opera House and
many of Vienna’s beautiful parks.

Enjoy a private tour at the Theater an der
Wien, one of Vienna’s most beautiful theaters,
rich with tradition.

End the day with a walking tour through the
historical Center of Vienna. Stroll through the
gardens and admire the magnificent
architecture of the surrounding historical
buildings. Stop at the site of Theater am
Kärntnertor, now a hotel. Theater am
Kärntnertor was for many years the center of
opera in Vienna. In 1869 it met with
competition in the form of the newly built
Court Opera on the Ring and finally had to be
closed down. But from 1810 the
Kärntnertortheater was an essential part of
Viennese society. It presented opera and
ballet and, increasingly, its patrons came not
only from the aristocracy but also from the
rising Viennese bourgeoisie. It mounted
performances of operas by internationally
famous composers with first-rank singers: in
1814, for instance, Ludwig van Beethoven
conducted the premiere of his final version of
Fidelio. In 1821 the theatre witnessed the first
public performance of Franz Schubert’s song
‘Der Erlkönig’. After the theatre had been
closed during the Revolution of 1848, Emperor
Franz Joseph gave assurances that it would
operate as a court theatre and put it under
court administration in 1849.

Dinner is on your own this evening.

Return this evening to the Musikverein for a
performance by the Wiener Mozart Orchester.

Overnight: Grand Hotel Wein (B, L)

FRIDAY, MARCH 18
VIENNA

Begin the day with a visit to the State Opera
House located a couple blocks away from the
Grand Hotel Wein. Enjoy a guided tour of this
captivating building, which is home to
internationally renowned opera performances.

Then head north of Vienna to visit Beethoven
Wohnung Heiligenstadt, the location where
Beethoven wrote the 2nd Symphony, the
Piano Variations, Op. 34 and 35, as well as the
Heiligenstadt Testament. Continue on to
Beethoven Pasqualatihaus, where Beethoven
lived between 1804 to1815. It was while living
in the Pasqualati-Haus that he wrote the opera
Fidelio, his Symphonies No. 5, 6, 7, and 8. Also
stop by Beethoven Eroicahaus, where
Beethoven lived in the summer of 1803.

This evening attend a performance at Theater
in der Josefstadt.

Dinner is again at leisure.

Overnight: Grand Hotel Wein (B, L)

SATURDAY, MARCH 19
VIENNA

This morning visit the Gesellschaft der
Musikfreunde (Society of Music Lovers in
Vienna) located in the Musikverein, a beautiful
concert hall in the heart of Vienna. On your
private tour learn about the history of this
historic concert hall.

Continue on to the Rathaus building, with its
impressive gothic-style architecture.

After lunch visit the Schonbrunner Palace
and Gardens just outside the center of Vienna.
Take in the impressive gardens and learn the
history of the captivating palace.

This evening gather for a farewell reception
and dinner.

Overnight: Grand Hotel Wein (B, L, D)

SUNDAY, MARCH 20
RETURN TO U.S.