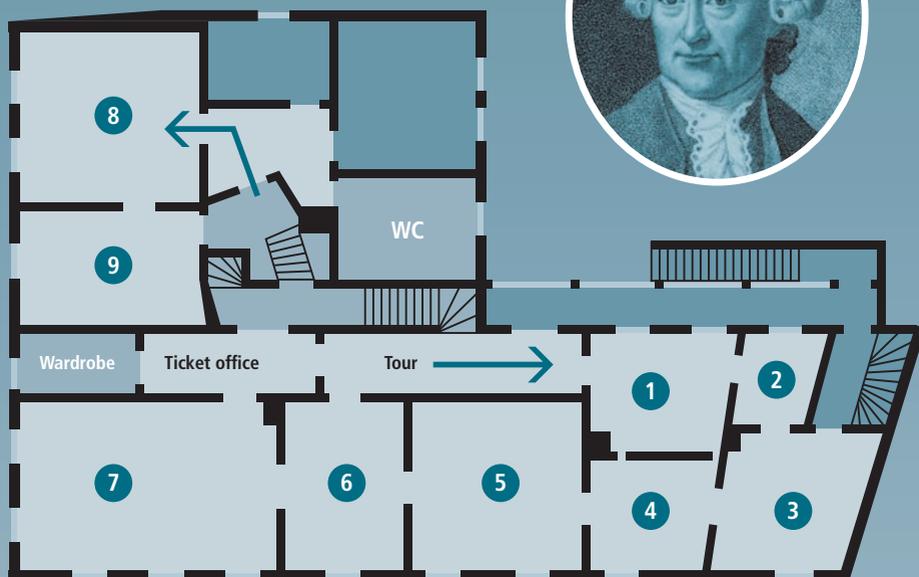


HALLE, THE CITY OF MUSIC

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE HISTORY OF MUSIC



EXHIBITION IN WILHELM FRIEDEMANN BACH HOUSE

Wilhelm Friedemann Bach House at Grosse Klausstrasse 12 is one of the most important Renaissance houses in the city of Halle and was formerly the place of residence of Johann Sebastian Bach's eldest son. An extension built in 1835 houses on its first floor an exhibition which is well worth a visit: "Halle, the City of Music".

1 Halle, the City of Music

Halle has a rich musical history, traces of which are still partially visible today. Minnesingers and wandering musicians visited Giebichenstein Castle back in the Middle Ages. The Moritzburg and later the Neue Residenz court under Cardinal Albrecht von Brandenburg reached its heyday during the Renaissance. The city's three ancient churches – Marktkirche, St. Ulrich and St. Moritz – have always played an important role in musical culture. Germany's oldest boys' choir, the Stadtsingechor, sang here. With the founding of Halle University in 1694, the middle classes began to develop and with them, a middle-class musical culture. Public concerts developed during the nineteenth century. With the composer and publisher of folk songs Johann Friedrich Reichardt, the master of ballads Carl Loewe and the composer of short, intimate songs Robert Franz, Halle wrote an important chapter in the history of German lieder.

2 Samuel Scheidt

The Halle composer Samuel Scheidt (1587–1654) was one of the most important German composers and musicians of the first half of the seventeenth century. He composed numerous sacred vocal works and instrumental music, much of which appeared in print during his lifetime. Scheidt spent all his life in Halle.

3 George Frideric Handel

The most important Halle-born composer, George Frideric Handel (1685–1759), spent his childhood and youth here (until 1703). After taking instruction from Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow at the Marktkirche, he studied at the still new University of Halle and spent one probationary year as organist of the Reformed cathedral parish. After periods in Hamburg, Rome and Hanover, he lived in London from 1712 until his death.

4 Wilhelm Friedemann Bach

Wilhelm Friedemann Bach (1710–1784) was a much sought-after virtuoso organist and teacher. The eldest son of the cantor of St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, Johann Sebastian Bach, he lived in the former Klausbadstube on Klausbrücke (today number 12, Grosse Klausstrasse) from 1764–1770, after resigning from the post of organist of the Marktkirche. His organ-playing style was spellbinding and won the praise of connoisseurs.

5 Johann Friedrich Reichardt and Carl Loewe

Johann Friedrich Reichardt (1752–1814) is known as a musicographer, composer and the publisher of numerous lieder. He moved to Giebichenstein near Halle in 1794. On his estate, which was viewed as the centre of Romanticism, he received numerous famous figures including Ludwig Tieck, Clemens Brentano, Novalis, Joseph von Eichendorff and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. He organised musical performances at his home in which his musically gifted daughters and the young Carl Loewe took part.

Carl Loewe (1796–1869), born in Löbejün, spent his formative years in Halle. He was a pupil of the Franckesche Stiftungen, and sang in the Stadtsingechor boys' choir under the baton of Daniel Gottlob Türk and as a tenor soloist in the Singakademie choral society. He went on to study theology here. He wrote nearly 50 works while in Halle, including the ballads "Erlkönig" and "Edward".

6 7 Robert Franz and the "Robert Franz Salon"

Robert Franz (1815–1892), who was born into an old Halle family of salt producers (Halloren), was one of the most important composers of the nineteenth century. He also carved a name for himself in the history of music as an arranger of works by great composers of former times, notably Bach and Handel. In Halle, he worked as music director of the university and conductor of the Singakademie, the choir which today bears his name. An original grand piano and furniture from his estate are exhibited in the adjoining "Robert Franz Salon" **7**.

8 9 The "Bohlenstube" & home music-making in Halle

There is a long tradition of home music-making in Halle. Music was played in the houses of the nobility and the middle classes, in homely parlours, fashionable salons and even outdoors, in private parks and gardens. The Bohlenstube **8** – a timbered room dating from the Renaissance – is a good example of the kind of room which was used for private music parties.

Wilhelm-Friedemann-Bach-Haus

Permanent exhibition
"Halle, the City of Music" (1st floor)
Große Klausstraße 12 (entrance on Hallorenring)
06108 Halle (Saale)
www.wfbachhaus.de

Opening times

April to October: Friday and Saturday, 10am–6pm
November to March: Friday and Saturday, 10am–5pm



WILHELM-FRIEDEMANN-
BACH-HAUS