

Salzburg Soundwalk

This is a soundwalk for baritone (and friend). The bells of the inner city form the framework for the walk, providing cues to move on from one place to another, on the quarter hours. A baritone voice is required in order to play with the eigentones found in the course of the walk. An eigentone is the resonant frequency of an enclosed space, and you will find it by humming continuously up and down until the one note is found which sounds louder than all the others.

⑦ Only slightly marred by the fan noise as you enter, the place should be alive with bird-song, the ambience coloured slightly by the waterfall at the south entrance. Toward 7:00 the gatekeeper should come by, swiveling his keys, to usher you out of the cemetery. The last sound you hear will be the swirl and clank of his keys as he locks the gate behind you, and saunters off into the square. And now you are ready for supper in Paterskeller a few steps to your left in the corner of the square. Bon appetit!

⑥ The two pairs of heavy wooden doors will thud behind you, leaving you in a restful stillness, which is yours to enjoy for the next 15 minutes. When you hear the bell strike 6:45, go out of the church and into the cemetery to your left.

⑤ Scuff and crunch your way across the courtyard over the fine gravel surface as you walk toward the statue at the far end. In the summer, the basin at the foot of the statue will be full of water, with the serpents spouting waterstreams into it. Listen for a short while, then go through the doors at your right into the Institute of Philology. Turn immediately right, down the short flight of stairs, then left down the corridor (3-4 steps) and find the eigentone here. This is a particularly strong one, and should keep you amused for some time, but don't linger too long or you'll miss the Dom (and St. Peter's) striking the half hour, which is your cue to move on to St. Peter's church.

① We begin at 5:40 pm, outside Mozart's birthplace on Getreidegasse. Stand with your eyes closed, listening to the strollers-by, until the Rathaus bell strikes the 3 hour (3 rings). This is your cue to proceed east, turning right at the Alter Markt, then left along Goldgasse to No. 7.

② Enter, and find the Eigentone in the staircase to your right. You have about 5 minutes here to drone and buzz about in the stairwell before leaving for Mozartplatz, arriving shortly before 6 pm.

③ At the base of the composer's statue, wait for the Glockenspiel to ring, listening meanwhile to the sounds of the parking lot around the statue. Wait a moment after the bells have stopped - you should hear several churches chiming the hour - then head east to Kalgasse, turning right and following it to Kapitelgasse.

④ Turn right again to the five humming, buzzing windows on the south side of the street, half way down the block. First try walking past them quickly, then perhaps stand between them, and twirl around in the sidewalk with your eyes closed. You can play with these sounds and wonder where they come from for another four or five minutes, until the Dom strikes the quarter hour. This is your signal to continue down into the street (listening to the mysterious windows fading into the background) through the Domplatz into the University building courtyard.

