

BAD ISCHL.

1983

Holiday with Southampton Operatic Society and the City of Southampton Orchestra.

Friday 27th May.

Arthur Tanner took us down to the Guild Hall. Several other members of the Society there to see us off. Official send off from the Mayor. Echo photographer turned up!

Left at 5.40 p.m. to claps of thunder!

- 3 coaches —
1. the organizers + the scenery.
 2. our coach with 46 people - all SOS.
 3. mostly the orchestra.

To Dover via 1727. A27 to other side of Chichester

A29 to Gatwick. 1723 — A23 — 1725 — 1720 — M2.

Stopped at Glastonbury Service Station on 172 where we saw Kettering Operatic Society en route to Germany to perform HMS Pinafore!

Arrived Dover 10.15 p.m. Wet journey. to discover that no places for our 3 coaches on the midnight ferry. Townsend Thoreson's small port enabled them to let private cars on the boat instead of us. Much

discussion ensued. eventually sat in coaches for a while.

Driver then decided to try again on the chance of getting on a ferry before 4.00 A.M. which was the

time we were told would be our sailing. This time into docks OK and on the quay — but then the wait until 4.00 A.M.

Saturday 28th May. Out of coaches. most people went to cafe but very crowded. We finished up with a few others in the freight drivers cafe! Didn't want to serve us but eventually got coffee. Wiled away the time talking back to coach by 3.00 AM and waited. On to ferry at 3.40 AM. Very smooth crossing - just over an hour. Bought two bottles of wine (waste of time this as we didn't drink any of it in Austria and we could have bought it on the return journey. Had light breakfast which we enjoyed. Dawn breaking as we reached Calais.

From Calais to Dunkerque and De Panne (stop for toilets at railway station) On to motorway towards and then round Brussels - to Liege - Aachen. German frontier. stopped for lunch soon afterwards - Frankfurt sausage and salad. Autobahn - navelbous - Cologne - Koblenz - Frankfurt - Wurzburg - Nuremberg.

Stopped for tea at a very posh place - expensive tea and cakes. Hops were a sight to be seen. Albert had trouble getting water to wash his hands.

On through tree lined road. Sunny afternoon. Coach restricted to 50 MPH but no speed limit for cars. We were lucky to sit behind driver. good views. comfortable drive & room to stretch legs. Drivers were Brian and John - very good and friendly. I kept the one that was driving awake - Nany sweets consumed.

On towards Munich. Hopfields. Driver phoned Hotel to tell them we would be late. On towards Salzburg. Over frontier with no problems. German

frontier guard with cloak to hide his machine gun!
Bypassed Salzburg with help of Bob Gibson who
had been before.

Arrived at Bad Ischl 0.45 hrs on Sunday
morning! Distance 1450 km. 901 miles.

Hotel Golden Schiff. Meal of cold meats waiting
for us. All staff waiting for us. First two coaches
had arrived almost together but orchestra coach eventually
got to Bad Ischl ~~at~~ after 1.30 AM. Our cases on their
coach for some daft reason! Managed to get our
cases just before going to bed at 2.40 AM.

Sunday 29th May. Church bells ringing at 6.00 AM.

Then to sleep again and eventually woke at 10.30 -
too late for breakfast! Coffee. Lovely sunny
day. Started to explore the town. Had lunch
with Sue & Tony Welland at restaurant on the
other side of the river from our hotel - the
Weinhaus Altveger! Sat outside in the sunshine.
Lovely meal of veal, and our first taste of Eiscafe.
The beer was quite nice too! The restaurant was a
typical Austrian building.

Walked up by the station in the afternoon. Quiet
lazy day acclimatising (others had been up the
mountain in a cable car etc!) Dinner in hotel at
7.00 P.M. Coffee in a restaurant afterwards.

Monday 30th May. Another beautiful sunny day.
Up & time for breakfast - rolls with cherry jam or

apricot preserve & coffee. Then to theatre - stole company and orchestra. Technical rehearsal.

Met Dieter Neumann for the first time.

Being Walkabout in the afternoon to try to sell more tickets. This was quite something. Part of orchestra on a large cart drawn by two horses. Philip on cart to conduct. Also Dieter with Negaphone. Whole cast in costume following! Stopped at intervals round the town and performed excerpts. Police stopped traffic for us - no panics. Travellers experience - it couldn't happen in Southampton.

52 Short walk in Bad Ischl afterwards.

Locals St. Wolfgang in evening. Small party on one of the coaches. (Against the wishes of Pam!). Coach drive took us to Hotel Post. Three members of the orchestra plus husband of one provided folk music for singing and dancing. Much hilarity. Locals much amused!

Panic before show due to make up taking longer Tuesday 31st May. Lovely day again. To the Kurhaus in the morning for a full rehearsal with orchestra - but not in costume.

Lunch in Hotel. Pleased that walkabout planned for the afternoon was cancelled. Large number decided to go up the mountain on the cable car.

Katrin Alm. Very good ascent with super views of Bad Ischl. Very quiet. just four in each car. Travellers on top. Hot and sunny. super views. Cafe at top and lots of cold drinks! Sheila + Brian

walked up towards the summit. Met American couple from California coming down - persuaded them to come and see The Mikado. They had thought it was to be sung in German! Didn't get to top but enjoyed the views. Very hot. Came down to the cafe. Brian sick! Down in the cable car with Philip de Gouck started to walk back to Bad Ischl - left from the Americans in their brand new rented Ford Sierra. Brian very grateful for the lift.

Changed ready for the show in the evening. Sheila and others off first. Brian followed in evening suit. 52 complementary tickets to sort out. Very impressed by locals turning up in their best clothes. Mary in national costume. Very good atmosphere. Good show well received. Brian sick again during the interval and so missed the second half. Much applause at end. Brian tried to go back to the hotel but locked out! Back to theatre. Eventually got into the hotel and to bed very tired.

Panic before show due to make up taking longer than expected. Colin Sty with cold but sang OK.

Wednesday 1st June. Very hot day. Everybody to Salzburg in the coaches. Should have gone to some water gardens but only one coach found the way there. First thing in the city was to sit in the square by Mozart's statue under an umbrella and have a cold drink! Into the cathedral.

Mirabelle Gardens. Lunch in a restaurant by the river - outside under another umbrella. Saw quite

a Cot of the City considering that the Leat was against walking about too much. And Brian was still suffering.

Thursday 2nd June. up at 5.45 AM for 6.30 breakfast. Coaches left at 7.00 for Hallstatt. Beautiful morning. Today is Corpus Christi. Tom band playing early in Bad Ischl. Arrived at Hallstatt early. small village on the edge of a lake with mountains all round. stood by lake for while and then made the decision to go into the village - the right decision because we got into the village square and therefore saw the ceremony. procession with children. Tom band. clergy etc. petals on the ground. Beautiful singing of choir & orchestral type accompaniment. Arch bishop present. Afterwards a kindly nature "Are you English?" took us up the village for a grandstand view of the procession on the lake. Unusually light still as we were to realize later was the build up to a thunderstorm.

Then on to Ice Caves. Some confusion as groups split up. Traffic jam. Then up large cable car - 20+ people standing! about 1100m up a mountain of 3000m. Dachstein. Cable car could go up 2 more sections! Ice caves after a walk up the mountain. all very impressive. Started to rain as we came down in the cable car.

Thunderstorm as we got back to Bad Ischl. All stops shut as holiday for Corpus Christi. Sheila

went to sleep. Dinner at 5.00 - the best meal yet -
escalope of veal, new potatoes & side salad. Fresh fruit
salad and cream.

Show in the evening. good audience which included
the great grandson of the Grand Duke. Orchestra not
as good as they were on Tuesday.

To Bee Kella afterwards! Usual noisy crowd but
we enjoyed the company of the Wellands, Vires, Lesley, Wellman
& coach driver. Back to hotel at 1.45 AM.

Friday 3rd June. Weather had cleared and once
more we had a marvellously sunny warm day.

All coaches to Wolfgang. Beautiful town with many
fine Austrian houses. very crowded and rather trippish.

Boat on lake to Strobl. Super views. Village
by the lake side. lovely church with wrought iron work
on graves outside. Picnic lunch by the lake.

back by boat to Wolfgang. stopping. sat
by lake. no time to go up the rack & pinion
railway. Some of the others went the other way up
the lake and up on a cable car.

Final party in the evening at a Gasthaus
about a mile from Bad Ischl. very crowded.
Entertained by a top folk group. Singing and dancing
impressed by the noise of the slapping on the lederhosen.
Back late to the hotel. packing before bed.

Saturday 4th June. Another lovely morning. assembled
at the coaches in the car park by the river. Then off

on our long journey Lorraine. Salzburg. Munich.
Stuttgart and eventually Luxembourg City
which we reach at 11.30 P.M. In evening cafes
open with people sitting outside. To railway station
for toilets - now that was an experience. Rapid
purchases at the cafeteria. Then on through Belgium
and France towards Calais. passed New Mons.
By this time we expected that we had left the
orchestra coach behind! As we arrived in
Calais we caught up the first coach & both
arrived at the dock just in time to catch the 4.0 AM
ferry. Thunder and lightning.

Before reaching Luxembourg we had travelled
through the Moselle grape growing valley and
later grew to like this type of wine.

Sunday 5th June
we enjoyed this
calm crossing.

Breakfast on the ferry -
duty free stop for drinks.

Charged drivers in England. Idiot drivers
brought us home to Southampton via the South
Circular Road & A3 and Fareham. Arrived
home safely Steve Arthur was waiting to bring
us home! I stayed put to help organise the
luggage. Since most of our people's cars were on
the orchestra coach which arrived 4 hours late.