

CRESCENDO COMPETITION STUDENTS EXCHANGE PROGRAM

August 8th – August 17th 2026



ITALY: **Brixen –Italian Alps**
GERMANY: **Neuschwanstein Castle**
SWITZERLAND: **Lucerne and Zurich**

August 8th - August 17th 2026

OUR TOUR PROGRAM

DAY 1: Aug 8th, 2026 (Saturday) – ARRIVAL DAY, Italy

DAY 2: Aug 09th, 2026 (Sunday) – MASTERCLASS and 1ST CONCERT

DAY 3: Aug 10th, 2026 (Monday) – MUSIC CONFERENCE + 2nd CONCERT

DAY 4: Aug 11th, 2026 (Tuesday) – MOUNTAIN PLOSE – BRIXEN

DAY 5: Aug 12th, 2026 (Wednesday) – BRAIES LAKE (65 km)

DAY 6: Aug 13th, 2026 (Thursday) - BRIXEN - NEUSCHWANSTEIN castle (Germany, 200 km) – LUZERN (Switzerland, 300 km)

DAY 7: Aug 14th, 2026 (Friday) – FULL DAY LUCERNE and “CHOCOLATE HUB”

DAY 8: Aug 15th, 2026 (Saturday) – FULL DAY ZURICH

DAY 9: Aug 16th, 2026 (Sunday) – MOUNT PILATUS GOLDEN ROUND TRIP

DAY 10: Aug 17th, 2026 – DEPARTURE FROM ZURICH AIRPORT



City of Brixen, Northern Italy

August 8th - August 17th 2026

Brixen, Bressanone in Italian language, is a very nice town in the Isarco Valley (northern Italy), it's a special mix of Nordic and Mediterranean traits.

With its rich and elegant historic center and its nearby beautiful surroundings, this town always amazes its visitors.

Brixen lies between Bozen and Vipiteno, among vineyards and orchards, surrounded by the Alps in a flourishing and very pleasant environment, always with the perfect weather, never too hot and always pleasant. The temperature normally is about 24-26 degrees here.

The old city of Brixen offers a huge variety of possibilities for tourists. It is full of history, interesting locations and monuments to visit, leisure and cultural activities.

There are swimming pools, an old town, shopping areas, horse-drawn carriages, different possibilities to cable cars to go up the mountains, wineries, historic houses, a river that runs through the city.



Vinzentinum

August 8th - August 17th 2026

The beautiful “**VINZENTINUM COLLEGE**” in Brixen is a state-recognized school run by the diocese Bozen-Brixen. Founded as a minor seminary in 1872 by Prince-Bishop Vinzenz Gasser it is nowadays a middle school with a focus on music and a humanist high school. During the scholar year they provide both boarding and day attendance for girls and boys.

During summer holidays the Vinzentinum opens up its gates to accommodate guests, especially groups of foreign students. The hotel offers simple but functional rooms, not comparable to a 4* hotel, but very convenient for our tour. In fact, overnighing here for our first portion of the tour, guarantees access to well equipped rooms for ALL OUR MUSIC ACTIVITIES while staying in the SAME PLACE: personal studies with pianos, music activities, masterclasses, concert, restaurant for breakfast and overnight ... all in the same institute! A real advantage.

Music groups have classrooms and pianos at their disposal.

The Parzival hall is dedicated to the memory of the great composer Richard Wagner and it's the perfect venue for concerts, presentations and performances of any kind.

Our program will be enriched with Music Masterclasses and two Concerts: the first one at the Parzival Hall of Vinzentinum Institute, the second one will take place in a Concert hall in Merano.



Merano

City and the Concert Hall

August 8th - August 17th 2026

Merano is a city in the northern part of Italy, about one hour from Bressanone. It is home to 10,000 trees, including exotic palms, as well as six museums, eight major parks and five-kilometres of promenades that run through the city - historical, contemporary or renewed - whose lifeline is the Passer River.

Merano is a very refined place, well known for its good local cuisine: it counts over 40 top restaurants, numerous bistros, bars and cafés.

Merano has 920 historic park benches, Art Nouveau villas, striking buildings from the Wilhelminian period and timeless architecture from the 1950s to the present day

The city is very lively, with plenty of social events, such as concerts and festivals of any kind.

Our second concert will take place in the “Kurhaus”, a large and prestigious building with a hall for the concerts, conferences and special events.

Our group will be hosted in the “ Pavillon des Fleurs” hall with Steinway Grand Piano on the stage.



August 8th - August 17th 2026

Director of Crescendo Competition and of the Student Exchange Program

ALEX BABAYEV

CONCERT PIANIST

As **Founder** and **President of Crescendo Competitions**, **Dr. Alex Babayev** is an **established composer and concert pianist**. He is extremely passionate about sharing his knowledge of music and believes that everyone are capable of appreciating this beautiful art form. **Dr. Babayev** enjoys building community bonds and appreciates everyone for their personal qualities and not just as musicians. One of **Dr. Babayev's** most valuable possessions is an album containing letters from parents and students expressing their gratitude for sharing the love of music and helping enrich their lives.



Artistic Director of the Student Exchange Program in Europe

EUGENIA NALIVKINA

CONCERT PIANIST

Mrs Nalivkina teaches piano at the Conservatory and collaborates with one of the largest and most popular youth Music Competition: Crescendo International Competition from United States of America. Since 2021 she is the Artistic Director of Student Exchange Program in Europe.



Professors of the Master Class

August 8th - August 17th 2026

Massimo Lambertini, Professor of piano

Mr Lambertini teaches Piano at the Conservatory of Trento. Born in Bologna, Italy, winner of the prestigious “Beato Angelico for Europe” International Award by the Vatican for his qualified conducting of the Baltic music in west Europe, He’s a regular guest conductor of many orchestras. In 2004 and 2005 he’s been the assistant conductor of the Luigi Cherubini Youth Symphony Orchestra under personal invitation of Riccardo Muti, its musical director.

Federica Fortunato, Professor of History of Music

She teaches History of Piano at the Conservatory of Trento. She works at the International Study Center “Riccardo Zandonai” in Rovereto, where the main activities include the musicological research and the organization of public events (conferences, exhibitions, publications) focused on Riccardo Zandonai and 20th-century music.

She is also part of the artistic direction team of “Settenovecento. Incontri Musicali” a Rovereto, a symphonic and chamber music festival held annually in Trentino.

She has always been committed in projects and associations promoting human rights, peace and ecology.



Master class professors: Sebastian Beltramini, Alex Babayev, Eugenia Nalivkina and Massimo Lambertini

Mountain Plöse Excursion - Alps

August 8th - August 17th 2026

What a privilege to be able to visit the close by located **ALPS!!** You'll be immerse in the **Dolomites**, which are a **globally renowned UNESCO World Heritage Site** in northeastern Italy, famous for **jagged limestone peaks, dramatic vertical walls and vibrant alpine lakes**, with a lot of iconic spots, among which the three towering "Tre Cime di Lavaredo" peaks, the turquoise Lago di Sorapis and the expansive "Alpe di Siusi" meadow.

We will be going up with the new cable car, to "conquer the top". We will enjoy some walking and breathtaking views in the middle of the mountains (an altitude of about 2000 mt). **Odle** will be part of what we see, providing us with an unforgettable glance.

**** Please ensure you wear suitable clothing, including a jacket and comfortable shoes with good grip – this excursion is suitable for everyone and does not require any special training ****

Get back down in town where you'll meet a local guide and visit Brixen. Walk in its historical center along its beautiful river which crosses the entire town.

Enjoy visiting the majestic main Cathedral of the city and conclude your day with a pleasant italian dinner.



Plöse is a sunny mountain and ski resort near Brixen (South Tyrol, Italy) – it is famous for its wide, panoramic slopes, long toboggan runs like the Trametsch valley run, and extensive hiking trails



Brixen, the historic, artistic, cultural, economic, social, and administrative capital of the Eisack Valley area, is the oldest city in Tyrol and was for a long time the seat of the ecclesiastical principality. Important landmarks bear witness to this history, such as the majestic Cathedral.

Braies Lake

August 8th - August 17th 2026

In the morning visit of **Braies Lake** (*Pragser Wildsee*) with a local guide. Here, you can admire the crystal-clear waters and walk along the lakeside.

The local guide will give you explanations regarding the region “South Tyrol”, the area, the valley, the lake and the Dolomites.

It is one of the most iconic spots in the Dolomites, famous for its intense turquoise color and the almost fairy-tale atmosphere surrounding it.

In the afternoon, you will relax and enjoy in the **Acquarena Park** (3 hours): a wonderful “water adventure park”. You will have access to indoor & outdoor pools, with children's pool, sports pool, whirlpool, salt water pool and infrared cabin.



Neuschwanstein Castle

August 8th - August 17th 2026

We leave Italy to head to the fairytale-like and romantic **Castle of Neuschwanstein Castel**, a 19th-century Romanesque Revival palace in Bavaria, Germany, built in 1869 by King Ludwig II as a romanticized, fairytale retreat.

Perched in the Alps, its iconic white limestone towers inspired Disney's Sleeping Beauty castle. The castle was never fully completed, and Ludwig died before its construction ended.

Shortly after his death in 1886, it was opened to the public and has since become a symbol of Romantic idealism, fantasy, and royal extravagance.



Lucerne

August 8th - August 17th 2026

Lucerne, a picturesque city in central Switzerland, set on the shores of Lake Lucerne and surrounded by mountains. Known for its well-preserved medieval architecture, it is famous for the Chapel Bridge (Kapellbrücke) and its charming Old Town. Lucerne serves as a popular gateway to the Swiss Alps and offers a perfect blend of natural beauty, history, and culture.

In the morning, you'll enjoy an interesting city tour as you stroll through the city centre. In the afternoon, you'll be treated to a sensory journey through the world of chocolate, visiting **ESCHBACH CHOCOLATIER** (in Root-Lucerne), a chocolate factory.

Discover their "chocolate museum" and don't miss the chance to sample a wide range of their products! You'll round off the day by creating your own personalized chocolate bar to take home with you!



August 8th - August 17th 2026

Zurich

You will spend all day in **Zurich**, enjoy the city and getting to know it with a local guide.

Zurich is Switzerland's economic and cultural powerhouse, offering a blend of historic charm and contemporary urban life. Its Old Town (Altstadt) features narrow cobbled streets, medieval guild houses, and landmarks such as Grossmünster and Fraumünster, the latter famous for its Marc Chagall stained-glass windows.

The city is known for its efficient public transport, clean environment, and strong emphasis on sustainability. Zurich also has a lively arts and nightlife scene, with museums, theaters, and festivals throughout the year. Surrounded by natural beauty—Lake Zurich, nearby forests, and the Alps—it provides easy access to outdoor activities while remaining a leading international business and research hub.

In the afternoon, you'll visit the very interesting "Tonhalle Zürich / Philharmonia Zürich", which is not a traditional museum, but the city's main concert hall.



August 8th - August 17th 2026

INTERLAKEN

You will spend all day in **Interlaken**, which lies in the heart of the Swiss Alps, nestled between two stunning lakes, Lake Thun and Lake Brienz, and surrounded by the breathtaking peaks of the Bernese Alps.

It is famous for its spectacular natural scenery and outdoor activities.

Visitors can enjoy hiking, paragliding, and boat cruises, all while taking in panoramic views of iconic mountains like Jungfrau.

With its picturesque setting, fresh alpine air, and easy access to nearby attractions, Interlaken offers a perfect blend of relax and adventure in the heart of Switzerland.



August 8th - August 17th 2026

DEPARTURE DAY

Return back to United States



Every journey leaves a story behind.... Thank you for sharing Yours with us !

Have a safe and wonderful trip home