58th Annual World Congress • ICA
Social Program

All tours include transfers to and from the Congress venue (HOTEL PYRAMIDA), entrance fees and a professional English-speaking guide. The link for registration for the social programme is: Guided Tours: http://www.gsymposion.com/event-detail/10/.

Thursday, 2 June 2016
10.30 h. – 15.00 h.
(10:30 am – 3:00 pm)
SOCIAL PROGRAMME #1
PRAGUE CASTLE HALF-DAY CITY TOUR

Prague Castle (Hradschin [Hradcany: hrad=castle]) is the largest castle complex in the world, according to the Guinness Book of World Records. Originally dating back to the 9th century, this landmark, which surrounds St. Veit’s Cathedral, bears the mark of each architectural and historical era that it has lived through. To this day it serves as the seat of the Czech state. In the picturesque Golden Lane, the little shops, built into the outer wall of the castle, which once housed the guards of the castle, cooks and alchemists to produce gold or an elixir of life, now house art, book and gift shops.

Participants will be picked-up promptly by bus at the Congress venue (Hotel Pyramida) at 10:30 am to drive to the nearby Castle. During this tour, the participants will see Loreta (a large pilgrimage destination in Hradcany), the Prague Castle including the St. Vitus Cathedral, the Old Royal Palace and the Golden Lane. A break will be arranged (at an additional cost) in a typical Czech coffee house.

The cost per person for this tour is 50 € (excluding coffee break, which is an additional cost).

PLEASE NOTE: AN ADVANCE RESERVATION IS REQUIRED THROUGH THE WEBSITE: http://www.gsymposion.com/application/10

• The above tour has a minimum requirement of 2 participants and is subject to cancellation if minimum is not met. In the event of such a cancellation, a refund will be provided or an alternative will be offered.
• Tour Departure/Pick-Up will be from the LOBBY of the HOTEL PYRAMIDA punctually at 10:30 am.
• The reservation and payment deadlines are on MONDAY, 30 MAY 2016! (Credit Cards are accepted.)

Friday, 3 June 2016
9.30 h. – 15.00 h.
(9:30 am – 3:00 pm)
SOCIAL PROGRAMME #2
OLD CITY CENTRE HALF-DAY CITY TOUR

Participants will be picked-up promptly by bus at the venue hotel (Hotel Pyramida) at 9:30 am to start this tour in the Old Town. During this tour you will see the Old Town of Prague, including the City Hall, the Church of Our Lady before Týn, the Jewish quarter and beautiful Czech coffee house. A coffee break will be arranged (at an additional cost) in such a typical Czech coffee house.

The cost per person for this tour is 50 € (excluding coffee break, which is an additional cost).

PLEASE NOTE: AN ADVANCE RESERVATION IS REQUIRED THROUGH THE WEBSITE: http://www.gsymposion.com/application/11

• The above tour has a minimum requirement of 2 participants and is subject to cancellation if the minimum is not met. In the event of such a cancellation, a refund will be provided or an alternative will be offered.
• Tour Departure/Pick up will be from the LOBBY of the HOTEL PYRAMIDA punctually at 9:30 am.
• The reservation and payment deadlines are on MONDAY, 30 MAY 2016! (Credit Cards are accepted.)

Saturday, 4 June 2016
14.00 h. – 16.00 h.
(2:00 pm – 4:00 pm)
SOCIAL PROGRAMME #3
WALKING TOUR OF PRAGUE

This tour is being offered to those participants of our Congress who are unable to partake in the above Social Programme #2 due to the scientific program.

This tour will be a WALKING TOUR and take place in the OLD TOWN of Prague where you can walk the streets, see many interesting, old sights and stop in a famous, old coffee shop which is an experience in itself and not found in other countries. During this tour you will see the Old Town of Prague, including the City Hall, the Church of Our Lady before Týn and the Jewish quarter. Coffee and a snack will be served (at an additional cost) in a typical, famous Czech coffee house.

The cost per person for this tour is 50 € (excluding the coffee break, which is an additional cost).

PLEASE NOTE: AN ADVANCE RESERVATION IS REQUIRED THROUGH THE WEBSITE: http://www.gsymposion.com/application/12

• The above tour has a minimum requirement of 2 participants and is subject to cancellation if the minimum is not met. In the event of such a cancellation, a refund will be provided or an alternative will be offered.
• Tour departure and return will be from the LOBBY of the HOTEL PYRAMIDA punctually at 14.00 h. (2:00 pm).
• The reservation and payment deadlines are on MONDAY, 30 MAY 2016! (Credit Cards are accepted.)
This evening’s event will take place in The Lobkowicz Palace, the only privately owned building in the Prague Castle complex, which is home to the highly acclaimed The Lobkowicz Collections, The Lobkowicz Palace Café, Midday Classic Concert and Museum Shop.

The Museum offers visitors the opportunity to explore the history of Europe through the unique perspective of The Lobkowicz Collections and the Lobkowicz family. Set in 22 beautifully appointed galleries, the Museum displays a selection of some of the finest pieces from The Collections, including many of international significance.

Highlights from the Museum include works by masters such as Canaletto, Brueghel the Elder, Cranach, and Velázquez; an impressive display of family and royal portraits; fine porcelain, ceramics and rare decorative arts dating from the 16th to 20th centuries; an extensive collection of military and sporting rifles from the 16th to 18th centuries; and musical instruments and original scores and manuscripts by Beethoven and Mozart, including Beethoven’s 4th and 5th symphonies and Mozart’s re-orchestration of Handel’s Messiah.

Family History
The Lobkowicz family, among the oldest and most distinguished Bohemian noble families, has played a prominent role in Central European history for over seven hundred years. Successive generations have held the highest of noble titles, including Princes of the Holy Roman Empire, High Chancellors of Bohemia, Dukes of Sagan and of Roudnice, and Knights of the Order of the Golden Fleece. On a scale unimaginable today, they commissioned magnificent architectural projects and ground-breaking music and collected paintings, manuscripts, books, musical instruments and decorative arts that enhanced their numerous residences and increased their prestige in the courts and circles in which they moved and exerted power.

Early in the 17th century, prior to the start of the Thirty Years’ War, the Lobkowicz family began to assert its role in the Catholic inner circle of the Habsburg court. Zdeněk Vojtěch, 1st Prince Lobkowicz (1568-1628), served as Chancellor to Emperors Rudolf II, Mathias and Ferdinand II. Through the marriage of Zdeněk Vojtěch to Polyxena Pernstein, numerous properties (including Lobkowicz Palace and Roudnice Castle), important Spanish portraits and books and great political influence came into the Lobkowicz family. The crucial Catholic victory at the Battle of White Mountain in 1620 solidified the family’s fortunes and enabled the purchase of Nelahozeves Castle in 1623.

Zdeněk Vojtěch and Polyxena’s only son, Václav Eusebius, 2nd Prince Lobkowicz (1609-1677), served Emperors Ferdinand III and Leopold I as a Member of the Imperial Council and became one of the most influential European statesmen of the 17th century. He raised his own regiment to fight in the Thirty Years’ War and subsequently held high appointments in Vienna as President of the Imperial War Cabinet (from 1652) and President of the Imperial Privy Council (from 1669). Among his most lasting accomplishments, however, were the family palaces he had reconstructed in the baroque style by Italian architects and artists, including Lobkowicz Palace in Prague and the immense Roudnice Castle, in Central Bohemia.

Joseph Franz Maximilian, 7th Prince Lobkowicz (1772-1816), was named Duke of Roudnice in 1786 by Emperor Joseph II. Though a talented singer, violinist and cellist, his greatest contribution to the history of music, and indeed world history, was in his role as great patron of the composer and pianist Ludwig van Beethoven. The generous annual stipend he provided allowed the musical genius to create some of his most significant and now famous works. In recognition of his patronage, Beethoven dedicated numerous important works to Joseph Franz Maximilian, including the 3rd (Eroica), 5th and 6th (Pastoral) symphonies; the Opus 18 String Quartets; the Triple Concerto and the song cycle An die ferne Geliebte.

The family and The Lobkowicz Collections were dramatically impacted by events of the 20th century. Maximilian Lobkowicz (1888-1967), a lawyer, politician and diplomat, provided crucial support to the newly formed democratic Czechoslovak state (1918), in spite of the government’s decision to disallow the use of noble titles and to redistribute inherited property. This collaboration, combined with his service as Ambassador of Czechoslovakia to Great Britain during World War II, led directly to the confiscation of the family’s properties and possessions by the Nazis in 1939.

Though returned to the family in 1945, all the properties and The Collections were confiscated again a short time later, this time by the Communist regime that took power in 1948. Maximilian and his immediate family were left with nothing and forced into exile.
After the Velvet Revolution in 1989 and the opening of Czechoslovakia, President Václav Havel signed three legislative acts that provided for the return of property confiscated by the Communists. Maximilian’s son, Martin (b. 1928), with his youngest son, William (b. 1961), together undertook the enormous task of tracing and reclaiming The Collections and the many properties in which those treasures had been housed.

With the successful restitution came an immense family responsibility: to preserve, protect and restore these newly returned cultural monuments in spite of greatly reduced resources. The family established Lobkowicz Collections o.p.s., Lobkowicz Events Management and the American Friends for the Preservation of Czech Culture with the overarching mission of making these important cultural resources available to the public.

Through bold vision, careful planning and great determination, the family has already opened three properties - Lobkowicz Palace, Nelahozeves Castle and Střekov Castle - to over half a million visitors, placing thousands of cultural objects on permanent display. Roudnice Castle, said to be the fourth largest castle in the Czech Republic, is open to the public while plans for its revitalization are being developed.

Participants will be picked-up by bus at the venue hotel (HOTEL PYRAMIDA) and will begin a sightseeing tour around the center of Prague. After that, they will be drive to the Prague Castle where Lobkowicz Palace is situated, for and ICA Farewell Dinner. The dinner will include a welcome drink, cold appetizers, soup, main dishes, salads, desserts, non-alcoholic drinks, coffee and tea and wine.

This evening's event costs 100 € PER PERSON and is to be paid in advance. An advance reservation is required.

• The above event has a minimum requirement of 40 participants and is subject to cancellation if a minimum is not met. In the event of such a cancellation, a refund will be provided or an alternative will be offered.
• Tour Departure/Pick up will be from the LOBBY of the HOTEL PYRAMIDA punctually at 18.00 h. (6:00 pm).
• The reservation and payment deadlines are on MONDAY, 30 MAY 2016! (Credit Cards accepted.)