



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF FERENC LISZT IN SOPRON

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SOPRON AND FERENC LISZT

Ferenc Liszt was born in 1811 in Doborján (today Raiding, Austria), in the territory of Hungary, in the former Sopron county.

His father discovered Ferenc Liszt's talent, and he made it his life's goal to let his son teach and develop his talent. In October 1820, when the boy was only nine years old, *his first public appearance* took place in the former Old Casino (Petőfi Square 3).

On February 17, 1840, he held *his second concert* in Sopron, again in the building of the Old Casino. Petőfi, who was doing his military service in the city at that time, fled from the barracks in Halász Street to hear the young genius' concert. The next day, at the invitation of the family, Liszt gave an important private concert in the Bezerédj Palace. The Sopron Music Society (founded in 1829 as the first music society in Hungary) elected him an honorary member, and then on February 22, 1840 the city of Sopron awarded Ferenc Liszt the title of honorary citizen.

On August 3, 1846, he gave *his third sold-out concert* in the Old Casino in Sopron. The city gave the artist a silver conductor's baton as a sign of their high esteem.

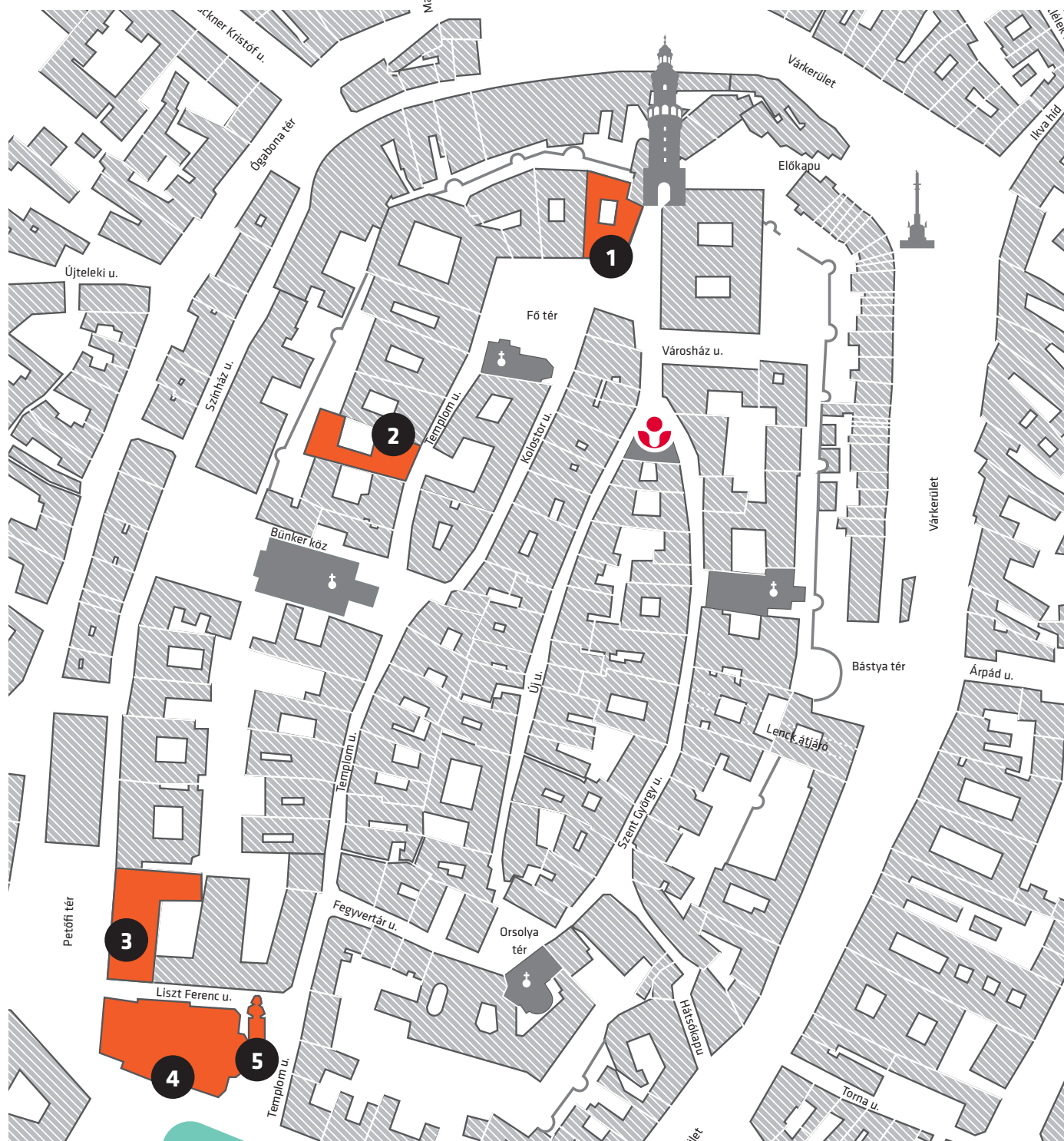
In the first half of the 1870s he was three times a guest in the castle of Count Imre Széchenyi in Sopronhorpács.

On February 12, 1874, *he performed for the fourth time* before the Sopron audience in the New Casino (today the Liszt Ferenc Cultural Centre).

April 1881 was *his fifth and last concert* in the New Casino, which was also his last visit to Sopron.

In 1886, on the occasion of the death of Ferenc Liszt, the following dispatch came to János Finck, the mayor, from the mayor of Rome: To the mayor of the city of Sopron, Hungary. **To you, as representative of the city, considered the birthplace of Ferenc Liszt,** Rome sends its respectful condolences at this moment when so much light has gone with his life. He was such a valuable guest of Rome and was inspired by its lofty ideals. Rome, which loved him, which admired him as a brilliant artist, now mourns him with the whole world as for his own son. Sindicus Bastianelli“

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Liszt Memorials

- 1 STORNO HOUSE** – 8 Main Square (Fő tér)
 Ferenc Liszt was a guest here in 1840 and 1881.
- 2 BEZERÉDJ PALACE** – 6 Church Street (Templom utca)
 In February 1840 Ferenc Liszt gave a private concert here as a guest of the Bezerédj family. During the concert, a young lady took one of the artist's gloves, which was torn to pieces by the fans. Kneeling, Ferenc Liszt presented the other unhurt glove to Etelka Schlachta, who recorded this moment in her memoir.
- 3 PETŐFI SQUARE 3** (the building of the former Old Casino)
 In 1820, Ferenc Liszt, who always called himself a Hungarian, gave his first public concert here and began his journey to conquer the world. The first public appearance of the 9-year-old child genius was followed by two further benefit concerts in the old casino, which has since been dismantled.
- 4 LISZT FERENC CONFERENCE AND CULTURE CENTER** – Liszt Ferenc Street
 The New Casino, built in 1872 in an eclectic style, was the place where the elderly Ferenc Liszt gave concerts twice (1874 and 1881).
- 5 LISZT STATUE** – Liszt Ferenc Street
 The composer's bust was inaugurated in 1893 on today's Petőfi Square. The bust was placed in front of the Liszt Ferenc Cultural Center in 1977.