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A home for music

HOME of Joseph Haydn, the 18th-century Eszterháza Castle in Hungary (*below*) may yet resonate with music, for there are plans to establish an International Music Academy on the estate. It is one of the most ambitious ventures for a central European country house to date.

New York architects Joseph Pell Lombardi and Associates, with the World Monuments Fund and the Prague Mozart Foundation, visited the castle last week. They

are assessing how much the castle needs to be restored, and how the academy could be housed on the estate without ruining the fabric of the historic building. At present, it is cared for by the Hungarian Office for the Protection of Monuments.

The venture would seem to be an appropriate one for Eszterháza. Built in the 1760s by the Hungarian Prince Miklos Eszterházy, the castle was inspired by Versailles. Indeed, it was designed to rival it. In 1761 the Prince employed Haydn as conductor of the palace orchestra and director of musical productions; the composer stayed for 29 years.



John Hodder/Comstock

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