



NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF THE STATES WASHINGTON, D.C.



Part of the
150TH COMMEMORATION *of the*
AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

2011 - 2015

A unique musical opportunity for choirs



Organized by
Music Celebrations International
Concert Tours with Integrity



NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF THE STATES - *An Exclusive Concert Series*



The *National Festival of the States* is an annual concert series developed by Music Celebrations in various cities throughout the United States. These performance tours are supported by local government offices, community organizations, tourist boards, and the like. Such affiliations offer a more memorable musical, cultural and educational experience for recommended ensembles (both instrumental and vocal) to perform in different venues in the most historic cities and celebrate the founding, history, and institutions of the United States! Music Celebrations has been successfully organizing the National Festival of the States concert series in Washington, D.C. for the past 15 years. In conjunction with the National Park Service, the Armed Forces

Retirement Home, and the U.S. Navy Memorial, Music Celebrations International invites choirs, bands, and orchestras of the highest quality throughout the country to take part in this concert series event, which features these ensembles in the most prestigious venues available with the greatest potential for audiences. **The 2013 concert series is part of the official 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg.**

From its celebrated symbols of patriotism to its undiscovered neighborhoods, the sights and sounds of the nation's capital inspire millions of visitors every year. Packed with famous sights, free attractions, and an endless calendar of special events, Washington, D.C. offers year-round inspiring experiences.

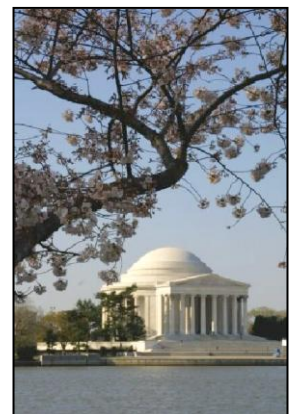
Washington, D.C. is a town of much renown: it is a government town, a company town, a scandalous town and the political capital of the world. But Washington also has another significant distinction – it is a musical town. In a city that claims *Duke Ellington*, *Pearl Bailey*, *Jelly Roll Morton* and *Shirley Horn*, it is expected that jazz not only be appreciated, but showcased. *John Philip Sousa*, “The March King”, was a native of D.C. and conducted the U.S. Marine Band for 12 years. The city’s proximity to the Appalachian Mountains led to bluegrass and country first finding a large forum in the Washington, D.C. area. The first nationally televised country music concert was broadcast from Constitution Hall in 1948. Opera and classical music is the entertainment for dignitaries, diplomats, the sophisticated and the romantic. Washington, D.C. is home to one of the best opera companies in the world, the *Washington National Opera*. The Washington, D.C. area is also the capital of choral music, with more than 70 choral groups throughout the region.



Imagine your choir performing at the *Abraham Lincoln Memorial*, at *Washington National Cathedral* or George Washington’s *Christ Church*, in a concert hall for decorated military veterans, or performing works in any one of the many gorgeous cathedral settings D.C. has to offer! The *National Festival of the States* can make these possible for your choir!

A choir director said this about his recent experience in Washington, D.C. ~

“On this trip to Washington, we planted seeds in the minds and hearts of our students. We have no way of knowing what those seeds will bear twenty or thirty years from now. We may have students who are inspired to become great musicians. We may have teachers or civil servants. We may have politicians or members of the military. We may have senators or admirals. I do know that we will have strong, dedicated, patriotic citizens. The end of this trip is not the end of the journey, it is only the beginning.”



SAMPLE CHOIR TOUR – *3 nights / 4 days*

DAY ONE – THURSDAY – WASHINGTON, D.C.

Afternoon arrival in Washington, D.C.

Meet your Tour Manager, who will escort your group through the duration of your activities

Take a panoramic motorcoach tour of Historic Washington, D.C.

Check into your hotel

Attend a free 6pm concert on the Millennium Stage at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

Dinner at the Kennedy Center Café

Take an evening walking tour of the Jefferson Memorial and the Iwo Jima Marine Memorial

Return to your hotel for overnight

DAY TWO – FRIDAY – WASHINGTON, D.C.

Breakfast at the hotel

Visit Ford's Theater, where Lincoln was shot, and the Peterson House, where Lincoln passed away

Take a tour of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Lunch, on own

Take a walk along Pennsylvania Avenue for a view of the White House

Visit the National Archives Building

Visit Arlington National Cemetery and participate in a special wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier*

Dinner at a local restaurant

*Warm-up rehearsal and clinic with a distinguished choral conductor. Alternatively, perform for American Military Veterans as part of the National Festival of the States**

Take an evening walking tour of the Jefferson Memorial and the Iwo Jima Marine Memorial

Return to your hotel for overnight

DAY THREE – SATURDAY – WASHINGTON, D.C. | GETTYSBURG

Breakfast at the hotel

Board your motorcoach for a drive to Gettysburg

Arrive in Gettysburg

A member of the Licensed Battlefield guides will escort you on a two-hour tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield

*Participate in a commemorative performance as part of Gettysburg 150**

Lunch, on own

Visit Gettysburg's historic buildings, homes and local curio shops

Dinner at a local restaurant

Board your motorcoach and return to Washington, D.C.

Take an evening walking tour of the Lincoln, Vietnam, Korean, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Martin Luther King, and National World War II Memorials, as well as the Washington Monument

Return to your hotel for overnight

DAY FOUR – SUNDAY – WASHINGTON, D.C.

Breakfast at the hotel

Hotel check-out and board motorcoach

Sing in a morning church service at one of the renowned churches/cathedrals in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area*

Take a tour of the Smithsonian Institute's American History Museum, Natural History Museum, or Air & Space Museum

Afternoon departure for home

THIS ITINERARY IS VERY FLEXIBLE - LONGER OR SHORTER LENGTH TOURS ARE POSSIBLE – JUST ASK!

***All performances/ceremonies/workshops are subject to confirmation**

Further musical activities you may enjoy include:

- Concert at Wolf Trap Park for the Performing Arts in Vienna, VA
- Musical at the National Theater
- Hear the U.S. Air Force Band perform
- Hear the U.S. Navy Band perform
- Hear the U.S. Naval Academy Band perform
- Marine D&B Corps Tuesday performance at the Iwo Jima Memorial
- Tour Brucker Hall, home of the U.S. Army Band, in Ft. Myer, VA
- Travel to Ft. Meade, home of the U.S. Army Field Band

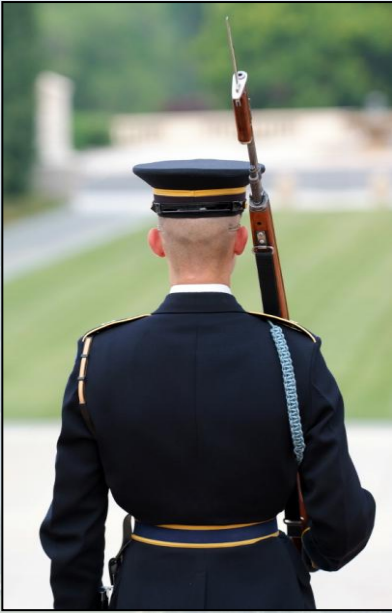
Nearby areas you may visit include:

- The "Historic Triangle" (Williamsburg/Jamestown/Yorktown)
- Gettysburg
- Philadelphia
- Six Flags Amusement Park
- Kings Dominion Amusement Park

Other site-seeing opportunities include:

- Bureau of Engraving and Printing
- Embassy Row
- George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens
- International Spy Museum
- National Arboretum
- National Archives Building
- National Gallery of Art
- National Museum of the Marine Corps
- National Zoo
- Medieval Times Dinner
- President Lincoln's Cottage
- Potomac River Cruise
- United States Holocaust Museum
- Washington National Cathedral

TESTIMONIALS



The whole trip seemed to be guided by the hand of God. It couldn't have been much smoother. We were well received at the venues, and I do not have enough superlative words in my vocabulary to match what I want to say about the experience of singing in the National Cathedral. It couldn't get any better! We were very impressed by the arrangements made by Music Celebrations. I am so impressed with all your staff. Every person has treated us like royalty. All have acted like we are the only tour they have had this year. Everything was done ahead of time and with class. Thank you for all you have done for us. We appreciate it deeply. Thumbs up to all of you. Of course I will recommend you - your service was wonderful!

~Jeanne Rosendahl, Washington High School Choral Program, Ohio

I just wanted to let you know our trip went off without a hitch!!! Having an east coast representative really helped things roll smoothly at performance venues....of course we did have the greatest tour guide in all of Washington D.C.! St. Patrick's is a WONDERFUL venue, the acoustics are splendid. I highly recommend this venue for choirs!!! I am so pleased that things ran smoothly. My students and I had a wonderful time and I just wanted you to know!

~Lori Knapke, Eastern High School Choir, Kentucky

MCI delivered the exact trip that was promised in the pre-planning with a wonderful trip coordinator, very knowledgeable tour guides, great accommodations, meals, tours, and performance opportunities. Everything went very smoothly and many memories were created. Every aspect of our trip was successful because of the work done by MCI. The trip to Washington D.C. is still talked about by our singers and parents. It brought the choir together in a very special way, a way that only a tour of this kind can accomplish. *Trust in the company you work with is essential and I trust MCI completely to make our trips enjoyable and successful.*

~Toni Hess, York Area Children's Choir, Nebraska



**MUSIC
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INTERNATIONAL

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