

National Festival of the States in Memphis



National Festival
of the States



Music Celebrations International
Concert Tours With Integrity



An Exclusive Concert Series



The largest city on the grand Mississippi river, Memphis is a slice of true Americana. As a visitor here you'll never be stuck for things to do, and there's something to appeal to every interest. A favored excursion is a slow ride on an authentic riverboat. Taking a tranquil trip down the mighty Mississippi at sunset is unforgettable in itself, but throw in some mouthwatering crispy pulled pork, a tall glass of sweet tea and a live house band, and you've got the recipe for a perfect Memphis evening.

Memphis is also home to some of America's most intriguing historic sites. A visit to the National Civil Rights museum is a must for anyone with a passion for the past. Located in the infamous Lorraine motel, the site of Martin Luther King's tragic assassination in 1968, this museum tells the story not only of Dr. King but the struggles that both preceded and followed his life. The Memphis Pink Palace Museum is another high point, housing a number of artefacts and exhibitions on the cultural history of the American South.

Music and Memphis go hand in hand, and no musical tour would be complete without a pilgrimage to Graceland, Elvis Presley's mansion and a listed national historic landmark. Set between rolling hills, and secluded in a grove of oaks, a visit to Graceland is sure to help you tap into the immortal spirit of 50's Rock 'n' Roll, and give you a unique insight into the King's life – you'll even get a look at his shopping list! Combine this with a trip to Sun Studios, the famous stomping ground of Elvis, B.B. King, and Jerry Lee Lewis: the godfathers of modern Rock 'n' Roll.



Finally, top off your stroll down Memphis's musical history with a visit to the Rock 'n' Soul Museum. Experience firsthand the political and racial struggles that underpinned some of the most progressive and culturally important music in U.S. history.

The spirit of Memphis musical era is alive and kicking today; we recommend you visit and discover the city for yourself.

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 for the past 15 years.

Sample Itinerary

Day One:

- Afternoon arrival in Memphis
- Meet your Tour Manager who will be with you for the duration of the tour
- Enjoy an orientation tour of Memphis. Learn about the “Home of the Blues, Birthplace of Rock’n Roll” and explore Memphis’ diverse heritage
- Visit the Bass Pro Shop at the Pyramid and explore the shops and attractions (some attractions cost additional)
- Visit the Graceland Mansion, former home of Elvis Presley. See the many mementos of Elvis and relive a great part of music history
- Evening dinner at a local restaurant
- Check-in to the hotel for overnight

Day Two:

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Visit Sun Studios where Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, B.B. King and many others first created the hot, new sounds that became known as “Rock’n Roll”
- Lunch, on own
- ***Performance or clinic as part of the National Festival of the States***
- Evening dinner at a local restaurant (Mississippi Riverboat dinner cruise with live music may be arranged at additional cost)
- Return to the hotel for overnight

Day Three:

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Visit the National Civil Rights Museum, site of the Lorraine Motel where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968. The museum traces the history of the American Civil Rights Movement and honors its leaders through interactive displays, collections, and historical exhibits
- Lunch, on own
- ***Performance as part of the National Festival of the States***
- Visit the Rock ‘n’ Soul Museum. Created by the Smithsonian Institution, this exhibition tells the story of the birth of rock and soul music, and the musical pioneers who overcame racism and economic hardships to create it
- Evening dinner at a local restaurant
- Return to the hotel for overnight

Day Four:

- Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out
- Spend time on Beale Street, famous for its iconic shops such as A. Schwab and Lanksy Bros. Clothier to the King (Elvis Presley), and many famous customers such as the Beach Boys, Robert Plant, Carlos Santana, Carrie Underwood, and many more
- Lunch, on own
- Afternoon departure for home





Thank you to everyone that had a hand in our trip. It was beyond our expectations and we had the best of times. I have nothing but positive things to say about how everything was planned. Our schedule worked out to the minute and no time was wasted. Thanks again – it was the experience of a lifetime.

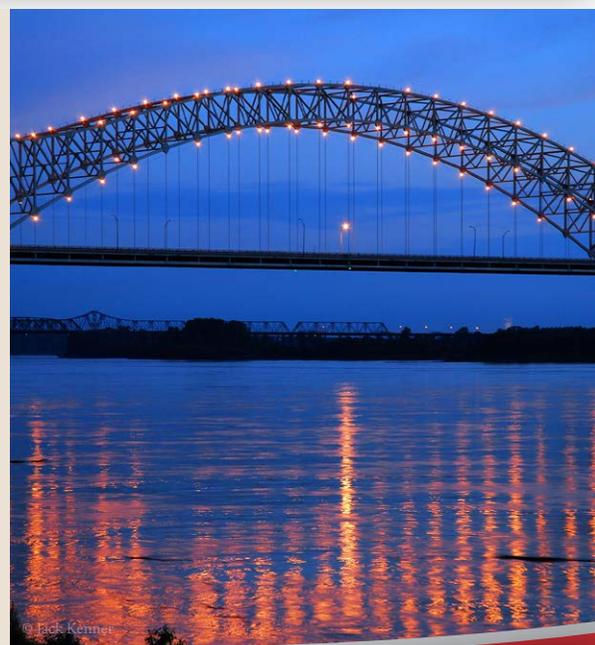
**Michael Townsend, Choir Director
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“I have only the highest praise for the folks at Music Celebrations. I have travelled four times with them and every trip has been impeccably prepared. You will find your concerts to be well organized and that their long-standing reputation throughout the world will give you access to wonderful venues. As many of our tours have required a great deal of customization, I can attest first hand to their flexibility. We have considered every tour with them a resounding success and I would not hesitate to offer my highest recommendation on their behalf. “

**Dan Monek, Professor of Choral & Vocal Music
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