



National Festival of the States NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

A unique musical opportunity for performance ensembles



Organized by
Music Celebrations International
Concert Tours with Integrity

AN EXCLUSIVE CONCERT SERIES FESTIVAL

I would give the greatest sunset in the world for one sight of New York's skyline, the sky over New York and the will of man made visible. What other religion do we need? I feel that if a war came to threaten this, I would throw myself into space, over the city, and protect these buildings with my body.

- *Ayn Rand, from The Fountainhead*

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 International has been successfully organizing the National Festival of the States concert series in New York City for the past 15 years.



By far the most populous city in the United States, New York is a world unto itself by virtue of its size, the density and diversity of its population, its dynamic economic activity and its vibrant cultural life. In one visit, you can experience the Empire State Building, listen to jazz in Greenwich Village, see Wall Street where fortunes are gained or lost, watch the Today Show in person, choose to eat any cuisine known to man, feel the atmosphere of Times Square by night, and attend a Broadway Musical.

Now imagine your group performing in St. Patrick's Cathedral, within the bustling milieu of South Street Seaport, underneath the Statue of Liberty, at the United Nations Building, or at the Lincoln Center Plaza. Perhaps your group would participate in a workshop with a famous resident musician or entertain at a community centre.

The National Festival of the States can make these possible for your performing ensemble! Participating groups are chosen on the basis of recommendation from state and national music educators, governors' and senators' offices and by audition. Selected groups perform in prestigious venues with maximum audience potential.



SAMPLE TOUR

3 Nights / 4 Days

Day One

Afternoon arrival in New York City
Meet your Tour Manager for an orientation tour of the City
Sightseeing may include the *Lincoln Center*, *Juilliard School*, *Metropolitan Opera House*, *Madison Square Garden*, and *Central Park*
Check into your hotel in Manhattan or in New Jersey
Evening dinner at a local restaurant
Evening sightseeing includes a trip to the top of the *Empire State Building* for a night view of the Big Apple



Day Two

Breakfast at the hotel
Morning sightseeing includes the *Statue of Liberty* and *Ellis Island*
Lunch, on own
Take a walking tour of Battery Park, Wall Street, Trinity Church, and the Federal Building (where George Washington was sworn in as the First President)
Visit the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, pending availability and advance reservation
Performance or clinic as part of the National Festival of the States
Dinner at *South Street Seaport* with time for shopping and sightseeing

Day Three

Breakfast at the hotel
Morning sightseeing may include the *Lincoln Center*, the *Cathedral of St. John the*

Divine, *Harlem*, and *Central Park*

Lunch, on own

Optional: Attend a matinee or evening Broadway Play/Musical (additional cost)
Sightseeing may include *Grand Central Station* and *United Nations Building Visitors Center & International Shops*

Performance as part of the National Festival of the States

Evening dinner at a Times Square area restaurant



Day Four

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out
Sightseeing or shopping as time permits and could include *Greenwich Village*, *Chinatown*, and *Little Italy*
Afternoon departure for home

This itinerary is very flexible and will allow your ensemble to include other activities while in the "Big Apple," *at an additional cost*, including tours of *Carnegie Hall*, *Lincoln Center* (including participation in the "Meet The Artists" series), the *Metropolitan Museum of Art*, *The Cloisters* (part of the Metropolitan Museum of Art), the *Guggenheim Museum*, the *Lower East Side Tenement Museum*, *Madame Tussauds Wax Museum*, the *Metropolitan Opera House*, the *Museum of Jewish Heritage*, the *Museum of Natural History*, *NBC Studios*, *Radio City Music Hall*, and participation in the *Madison Square Garden "All-Access" Tour*.

Museums are self-tour experiences, except for the Lower East Side Tenement Museum - which is an interactive tour with a costumed docent. Some other guided tours are available on request. Additional museums and cultural institutions may be arranged on request.

Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.



TESTIMONIALS

Having just returned from an excellent tour of New York City with our Alabama Boychoir and Alabama Girls Chorus planned by your company, I want to communicate to you what fine work your team did for us. In all of the preparation communications, we found your staff to be most helpful and available. From the moment we landed in New York, your tour guides were there to greet us and help us through the entire four days without any problems. Beyond that, they went out of their way on more than one occasion to see that we had the best experience possible. The concert venues were most friendly to singers and the workshop at Juilliard was a highlight of the trip for many of our musicians. Congratulations to you and your able staff on a job well done! In over twenty years of touring with choirs, this has been the best organized tour yet. I am sincerely grateful.

~Karen Nicolosi, Alabama Boychoir



The level of attention to details during the planning, the willingness of MCI to meet every request, the fullness of the itinerary, the top quality tour guides and support staff in New York City, the quality of the tour: everything about this tour was first rate. There is no tour package out there that could offer as much quality (and quantity) for the price as your tour offered. Many of the chaperones said that this was an excellent tour for the money. Way to go MCI!

~Nathan Artley, Pine Forest High School Orchestra

Thanks to Music Celebrations, the choir from Temple College had a wonderful time in the 'Big Apple'. The planning details were excellent, which included all the theatre, museum, dinner, and subway tickets, plus plenty of flexibility in the schedule to include many extras. Our performance venue at St. John the Divine, manned by a charming and helpful host, was a magnificent experience. Temple College looks forward to our next trip to be planned by Music Celebrations.

~Roy Finney, Temple College



**MUSIC
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