



# 2008 Lucerne International Choral Festival

Extension #2 – Festival and more Switzerland (8 nights / 10 days)

## Monday June 30, 2008

Departure from the USA via scheduled airline service to Zürich, Switzerland. Enjoy full meal/beverage service and in-flight entertainment during this trans-Atlantic flight.

## Tuesday July 1 Zürich / Lucerne

Zürich airport arrival assistance. Meet your MCI Tour Manager, then board the awaiting motorcoaches. Stop en route to visit Zürich's Old Town. Once in Lucerne, enjoy a panoramic tour of the city's highlights before arriving at your hotel. Evening Registration and Welcome Dinner with entertainment.



*Lucerne (Lucerne) is the capital of its canton and considered one of the most beautiful cities in Switzerland. The lake resort city sprawls at the foot of Lake Lucerne in the cradle of historic Switzerland. The city's medieval heritage is evident in the fortifying walls and towers, the old churches and houses and the unusual covered bridges that span the Reuss.*



## Wednesday July 2 Lucerne

A walking tour of this picturebook-like town includes the Covered Wooden Bridge, Mussegge Towers, the Lion Monument and the old town. There is also time available for shopping for bargains including Swiss watches, lace, wood carvings and chocolate. *Afternoon rehearsal.* Dinner at the hotel. *Evening rehearsal.*

## Thursday July 3 Lucerne

Today enjoy the scenery of a morning cruise on Lake Lucerne that will end at Alpnachstad. From there travel on the cog-railroad, which runs up through Alpine meadows (orchards) and forests to the passing station at Ämsigen and then continues over the rock-strewn Mattalp and up the steep rock face, through four tunnels, to the upper station on Pilatus-Kulm. From here it is a 6-10 minute climb to the summit of the Esel, the central peak of Pilatus, from which there are magnificent views of the Alps, from Säntis to the Blümlisalp, Lakes Lucerne and Zug, and the Swiss uplands. From the summit, take a cable car down to the Kriens station to meet your motorcoach for return to Lucerne. *Afternoon rehearsal.* Dinner. *Evening rehearsal.*



## Friday July 4 Lucerne

*Mid-morning dress rehearsal with orchestra and soloists in the Kultur und Kongresszentrum Luzern (Lucerne Cultural and Convention Center).*

*Afternoon at leisure. Motorcoach and Tour Manager are at the group's disposal. There is time available for additional sightseeing, shopping, or museum visits. Dinner on own. Evening Finale Festival Concert in the Concert Hall of the Lucerne Cultural and Convention Center.*

## Saturday July 5 Lucerne / Interlaken



**Music Celebrations International**  
*Concert Tours With Integrity*



Transfer to Interlaken via Bern. On the far side of the Nydegg bridge we'll visit one of Bern's great popular attractions, the Bear-Pit (Bärengraben), a deep circular den in which bears, the heraldic animal of Berne, have been kept since 1480. From the road running up to the right (Muristalden) there is a fine view of the Minster and the old town. Above the bridge to the left is the beautiful Rose-Garden (Rosengarten), with views of the Aare and the old town. Continue to Interlaken.



*Interlaken, lies between Lakes Thun and Brienz below the north side of the Jungfrau massif and offers an endless variety of walks, climbs and other excursions, particularly in the mountains of the Bernese Oberland, brought within reach by numerous mountain railroads, cableways, etc. It is one of the oldest, best known and most popular summer holiday resorts in Switzerland, outstandingly well equipped to cater for the needs of visitors. Among the great attractions of the area are its local folk traditions and art.*

### **Sunday July 6 Interlaken**

Day at leisure in Interlaken. Optional excursions (at additional costs) include A) roundtrip overhead cable car from Stechelberg up to the Schilthorn; or B) from Grindelwald, take a train up to Kleine Scheidegg (6762ft. altitude), then transfer via rack railway that climbs up to Jungfraujoch (11,370ft. altitude), the highest resort served by rack railway in Europe. This resort offers not only spectacular views of glaciers and the Alps, but also summer skiing. ***Optional evening concert in Interlaken.***



### **Monday July 7 Interlaken / Geneva**

Transfer to Geneva. En route, stop in the village of Broc to tour the Nestle Chocolate Factory, including an audio-visual presentation and a tasting. Next, visit nearby Gruyères to tour the famous Gruyères Cheese Factory. Continue to Geneva for dinner and overnight accommodations.



*Geneva, the city of Calvin and the center of the Reformation, lies at the southwest end of Lake Geneva (in French Lac Léman). The town is built on moraine hills of varying height on either side of the swiftly flowing Rhône, which here flows out of the lake and is joined on the southwest side of the town by its tributary the Arve, coming down from the Savoy Alps. Geneva enjoys a magnificent situation on the largest of the Alpine lakes, within sight of the majestic peak of Mont-Blanc. As a hub of European cultural life in which French savoir-vivre and Swiss solidity are happily combined, and the venue of high level international meetings, Geneva has a lively and cosmopolitan atmosphere which makes it perhaps the most attractive town in Switzerland that attracts the greatest number of visitors.*



### **Tuesday July 8 Geneva**

Half-day sight seeing in Geneva includes the Old Town, Cathédrale St-Pierre, Quai de Mont-Blanc, Parc Villa Barton, Monument de la Réformation (Geneva is the City of Calvin), and entrance to the Palais des Nations, the second centre of the United Nations. ***Optional evening concert in Geneva.***

### **Wednesday July 9 Depart for home**

Transfer to Geneva's International airport for return flights to the USA. Arrive home in the same day.