

# Z. Randall Stroope

**Artistic director**

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Greetings! It gives me great personal pleasure to announce the formation of a choral festival at Wells Cathedral, England, under the auspices of Music Celebrations International. Believe me, I am very selective about touring with students – particularly overseas (I've taken 14 overseas tours) – and feel personally responsible for the welfare and enjoyment of every student on the trip, not to mention the financial investment! I am the Artistic Director of the **Somerset International Youth Choral Festival**, and I guarantee that the staff will do everything in their power to make sure the students will have a very worthwhile and life-changing experience from the first minute they set foot on the grounds of this world-famous site.

Now – for substance: Don't let the fact that you may or may not have heard of Wells Cathedral deter you. No, it doesn't have the "name recognition" of Westminster or Canterbury, but I assure you that the facilities are incredible and superior to most other venues, and its location near Stonehenge, Salisbury, Bath and other sites make putting a tour together easy and efficient (this is important to tour managers, believe me!). The festival will involve both mixed and treble choirs. The mixed and treble groups sing separate literature on the gala finale concert, as well as 2 to 3 treble/mixed combined works. Of course, I know how **very** important it is for choirs to do individual concerts for each other and the English audiences, and that will definitely happen as well.

There it is – I have been to England several times, and I never cease to be amazed at how much every locale, large or small, is bathed in history and is so accessible to visiting groups. I trust that you will consider this concert opportunity, and please feel free to contact us personally if you have questions. I'm not here to sell tours – I **am** here to sell life-changing experiences that will affect organizations for years to come. If that interests you, give us a call.

Best regards,

*Z. Randall Stroope*

Dr. Z. Randall Stroope  
Conductor/composer