

# Z. Randall Stroope Invitational Choral Festival

March 18 - 21, 2010

## New York City

The Church of  
St. Paul the Apostle



Festival Artistic Director

## Dr. Z. Randall Stroope



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# Welcome to the Inaugural Z. Randall Stroope Invitational Choral Festival

Music Celebrations is pleased to announce the inaugural *Z. Randall Stroope Invitational Choral Festival* in New York City. This festival, designed to feature compositions of America's foremost composers, will bring together specially-invited choirs by the maestro himself from across North America to sing in the most exciting city in the western hemisphere.

The rehearsals and the finale performance will take place in historic *Church of St. Paul the Apostle*.

## The Setting

### New York City

The setting for this festival will be the world stage of New York City. 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. Participating choirs will be able to enjoy many of the sights and activities of the Big Apple in between rehearsals and performances.

### The Church of St. Paul the Apostle

The Church of St. Paul the Apostle is a massive Roman Catholic Church on Ninth Avenue between 59th and 60th streets, in Manhattan, New York City, New York.

Inspired by the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> century early Christian basilicas in Ravenna, Italy, the church is 284 feet long, 121 feet wide, and 114 feet to the highest point of the towers, which are 38 feet square. The grand exterior of the church reflects 13<sup>th</sup> century Old Gothic. To decorate and beautify the interior of St. Paul's, Father Hecker engaged the eminent American artists John LaFarge, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, Lumen Winter, Stanford White, and later, William Laurel Harris. Their combined majestic artwork can be seen throughout the church in its beautiful stained glass windows, murals, and sculptures.

The church also contains a world-class organ. This fine instrument, replacing an earlier Skinner organ, was constructed in 1965 by the M.P. Moller Company, and restored by the Peragallo Pipe Organ Company in 2000. It has 4 manuals, 82 ranks, 78 stops, and 4965 pipes. The Moller organ has attracted many famous organists eager to play this fine instrument.<sup>1</sup>

## The Artistic Director



### Z. Randall Stroope

Z. Randall Stroope is one of the most active choral conductors and composers working today, with recent conducting engagements at the American School in Singapore, Canterbury Cathedral, England, Salzburger Dom in Salzburg, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., Vancouver Symphony (British Columbia), and two performances at the Vatican in the past year. His compositions sell over 200,000 copies a year, and are performed regularly by esteemed ensembles throughout the world, including professional ensembles in France, Holland, Hong Kong, Spain, Japan, Australia, the Czech Republic, and Canada. Dr. Stroope has personally conducted/recorded 13 professional compact discs, and recordings of his music are heard frequently on radio and television broadcasts, including National Public Radio.

Stroope studied conducting at Arizona State University and with Margaret Hillis, Chorus Master of the Chicago Symphony. He is the Director of Choral and Vocal Activities at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, where he conducts the Concert Chorale and Chamber Choir, and coordinates the undergraduate and graduate choral conducting program at the University. Dr. Stroope is also the Artistic Director of a summer international choral festival in Rome, Italy. Choral groups under his direction have taken 15 international tours, including China, Russia, Japan, Sweden, and South Africa. Dr. Stroope has conducted 33 all-state choirs in the United States.

<sup>1</sup>The Church of St. Paul the Apostle, <http://www.stpaultheapostle.org/about-thechurch.html>

# Festival Tour Itinerary



## **Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

Afternoon arrival in New York City

Meet your MCI Tour Manager for and orientation tour of the city

Sightseeing may include the Lincoln Center, Juilliard School, Metropolitan Opera House, Madison Square Garden, and Central Park

Check into the your hotel in Manhattan or in New Jersey

Welcome Dinner

*7:00 – 10:00pm Evening massed rehearsal*

Return to hotel for overnight

## **Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

Breakfast at the hotel

*9:00am – 12:00pm Morning massed rehearsal*

Half-day tour of Lower Manhattan, including Wall Street, Greenwich Village, Ground Zero, South Street Seaport and a Harbor Cruise or an excursion out to the Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island

Dinner at a local restaurant

Return to hotel for overnight



## **Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

Breakfast at the hotel

Half-day tour of midtown Manhattan, including Rockefeller Center, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Times Square, Lincoln Center, Central Park, Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and more

*12:30 – 2:00pm Full dress rehearsal*

Afternoon at leisure

Dinner at a local restaurant

***8:00pm Festival Finale Concert in the Church of St. Paul the Apostle***

Return to hotel for overnight



## **Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010**

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out

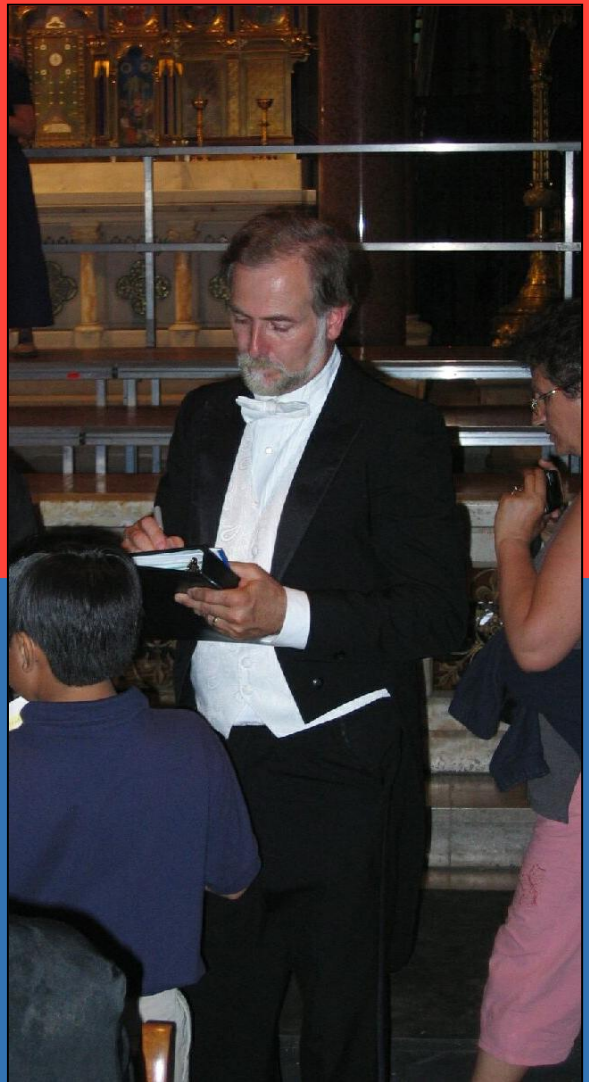
Free time at leisure for shopping and exploring the city

Afternoon departure for home

***This is a flexible itinerary.*** 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 festival and the sightseeing schedule, the festival schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

***Longer tour itineraries are possible – just ask!***





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1440 S. Priest Dr., Ste. 102 | Tempe, AZ 85281-6954  
800.395.2036 | [www.musiccelebrations.com](http://www.musiccelebrations.com) | [info@musiccelebrations.com](mailto:info@musiccelebrations.com)