

# American Celebration of Music in Britain

Standard Tour #3 (7 nights / 9 days)

## Day 1

Departure via scheduled air service to Glasgow, Scotland

## Day 2

**Glasgow / Edinburgh (D)**

Arrive in Glasgow

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting motorcoach for transfer to Edinburgh (time permitting take an orientation tour of Edinburgh's highlights) for hotel check-in

Welcome Dinner

*Edinburgh, with its striking medieval and Georgian districts, overlooked by the volcanic sill of Arthur's Seat to the south and the Calton Hill to the north, is widely regarded as one of Europe's loveliest capitals. The city is famous for the arts (it was once known as the "Athens of the North"), a preeminence reflected in its hosting every year of Britain's largest arts extravaganza, the Edinburgh Festival. Its museums and galleries display the riches of many cultures*

## Day 3

**Edinburgh (B,D)**

Half-day guided sightseeing tour of Edinburgh

Tour Edinburgh Castle, which along with its rock, is probably the best known view in Edinburgh. It has been a royal residence since the 11th century, although the majority of buildings you will see are those resulting from its use as a military garrison

See the Honours of Scotland (including the Scottish Crown Jewels) and the Royal Scots Regimental Museum

Also visit Arthur's Seat, Charlotte Square, St. Giles, the Royal Mile, Sir Walter Scott Monument, St. Andrew Square and other landmarks

***Possible afternoon/evening workshop or clinic***

## Day 4

**Stirling / Edinburgh (B,D)**

Full-day excursion to the Scottish Highlands, including a visit to Stirling with entrance to the Castle. Over the centuries Stirling has been a much-disputed stronghold, occupying a strategically important position in the Forth valley northeast of Glasgow. The earliest inhabitants were probably of Welsh descent, and it is thought that the name Stirling is a corruption of the term "Place of Striving". No fewer than 15 battlefields lie within close proximity of the castle

***For choirs only: sing a possible noon recital in Stirling Castle***

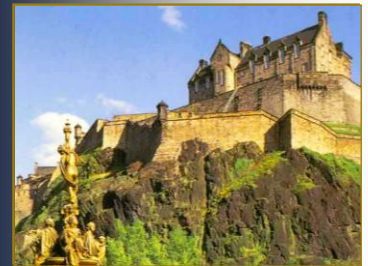
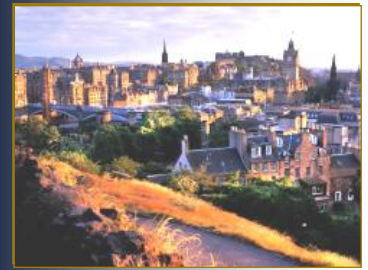
Return to Edinburgh

***Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain***

## Day 5

**Perth / Pitlochery / Inverness (B,D)**

Transfer to Inverness via Perth and Pitlochery



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*Inverness is the administrative center for the Highland region, which consists of Nairn, Ross and Cromarty, Sutherland and Caithness, which are old counties of Inverness. Given the town's favorable location at the gateway to the Northwest Highlands, Inverness has become a busy tourist center and it makes a good starting point for excursions*

**Day 6** **Inverness** **(B,D)**

Enjoy a half-day tour of Inverness, including St. Andrew's Cathedral, the Inverness Museum and Art Gallery, and see Inverness Castle  
Travel 13 miles outside of town to visit Cawdor Castle. With its turreted central tower, moat and drawbridge, Cawdor Castle dates from the late 14th century and was built as a private fortress by the Thanes of Cawdor. It is most famous for being the 11th century home of Shakespeare's MacBeth and the scene of his murder of King Duncan, but it is historically unproven that either actually came here. The medieval tower was built around the legendary hollytree

***Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain***

**Day 7** **Loch Ness / Fort William** **(B,D)**

Transfer to Fort William

Stop at Loch Ness for a one-hour boat cruise. Loch Ness is 23 miles long, 1 mile wide and averages 700 feet deep. Visibility is almost zero, due to the peat content of the water. Loch Ness is undeniably one of the most famous lakes in the world. It is also, certainly, a place of outstanding natural beauty, but it has to be admitted that the worldwide fame of Loch Ness owes more to the legend of its famous occupant, the Loch Ness Monster - or 'Nessie' - than the breathtaking location of the loch itself

Finally, continue on to Fort William

*Fort William lies on the shore of Loch Linnhe in the shadow of Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis. The town makes an ideal touring centre from which to discover the beauty of the surrounding countryside. The fort referred to in the town name was built by William of Orange in the middle of the 17th century but it was demolished in 1890 to make way for the new railroad line. Local people find employment in the aluminum works, a paper factory, the Ben Nevis distillery (founded in 1825 by John MacDonald but now owned by the Japanese firm, Nikka Distillers) and, increasingly, tourism*

**Day 8** **Glasgow** **(B,D)**

Take a gondola from Torlundy to the summit of Ben Nevis (Britain's highest mountain)

Afternoon transfer to Glasgow

Farewell Dinner

**Day 9** **Depart for home** **(B)**

Transfer to Glasgow's International Airport for return flight  
Arrive home in the evening of the same day

***This is a very 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 performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.*

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