

American Celebration of Music in France

With visits and performances in *Belgium* and *The Netherlands*

Standard Tour #4 (8 nights / 10 days)

Day 1

Departure via scheduled airline service to Paris, France. Enjoy full meal/beverage service and in-flight entertainment during this trans-Atlantic flight.

Day 2 Paris

Arrive in Paris. Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting motorcoach for a transfer to a conveniently located hotel with a panoramic introductory tour of Paris en route. Depending on arrival time, stop at the Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tower, and Latin Quarter. Stop for lunch on your own before a late afternoon hotel check-in. Welcome Dinner.

They've all come to Paris. The Gauls, the Romans, Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Pablo Picasso, Dwight Eisenhower, the Czar of Russia, Lenin, the Queen of England, Benjamin Franklin and George Gershwin. Some have even tried to capture the city. And now everyone wants to come to Paris -- millions of tourists each year, motivated by the desire to see the most beautiful city in the world. But Paris is more than a city. It is a place that breathes history and legend, a combination of the modern and the ancient.

Day 3 Paris

Half-day guided tour of *Paris historique*, including Notre-Dame Cathedral, Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tower, Champs Elysees, Place de la Concorde, Luxembourg Palace and Gardens, Latin Quarter, Place de la Bastille, Invalides Hospital (with entrance to the Royal Chapel to see Napoleon's Tomb) and other highlights. **Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in France.**

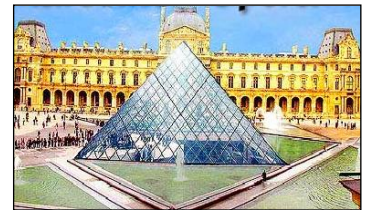
Day 4 Paris

For choirs only: Late morning performance in Notre Dame Cathedral (or similar). Enjoy an afternoon tour of *Paris artistique*, including entrance to the Louvre, the world's largest and greatest art museum.

Day 5 Brussels

Transfer to Brussels. Upon arrival, take a guided tour of the highlights of Brussels, including the Grand Place (surrounded by the Hotel de Ville, Maison du Roi and Maisons des corporations), Manneken Pis, Atomium, Eglise Notre Dame, and entrance to the Musée Instrumental du Conservatoire de Musique.

Brussels is the capital of Belgium, a royal residence, and the seat of the European Communities (EU, Euratom, ECSC) and of NATO. This very busy city incorporates a world of contrasts: (1) the linguistic contrast between the Walloon and Flemish communities (2) the contrast between urban Brussels and its grand avenues offering uncluttered views and leading to buildings of historic interest, and its mazes of little streets lined with gabled houses (3) the contrast between its immense parks and the modern districts with their tall tower blocks such as the World Trade Center (4) the contrast between the city's commercial function and its role as a cultural center. Brussels has an unusually active cultural life and is home to highly-acclaimed museums, a large number of theaters and other places of entertainment.



Music Celebrations International
Concert Tours With Integrity

Day 6 Brussels/Brugges

Excursion of Brugges, one of the most beautiful medieval cities in Europe. The houses are built of brick, worn smooth by the passing years. There are also majestic buildings and churches. All of these huddle the banks of canals. It is a center of Flemish painting, art, and architecture. Less known than Brussels, the capital city, Brugges is a rival to Venice and Amsterdam in beauty, atmosphere, and great art treasures. Enjoy a canal ride for great views and an orientation to this unique city. Visit the Markt (Grand-Place), Belfort-Halien (covered market), and the Basilica of the Holy Blood. Stop to visit the Memling Museum, located in the old St. John's Hospital. The most outstanding of Hans Memling's works can be found adorning the walls of the chapel, including the St. Ursula Shrine. The serenity of his works echoes the tranquility to be found throughout the city. **Conduct an afternoon/evening concert in Brugges or Brussels.**



Day 7 Amsterdam

Transfer to Amsterdam through Den Haag, the nation's governmental center. Continue on to Delft, stopping to visit one of its famous porcelain factories. Finally, arrive in Amsterdam.



Although Amsterdam is the capital of the Netherlands, it is not the seat of government. The town is built on the banks of the Ij and the Amstel. It is a port city of great character and charm, with its network of canals resembling a spider's web, its tall narrow brick houses with richly ornamented gables, its port, and its busy streets, numerous cultural events and museums.

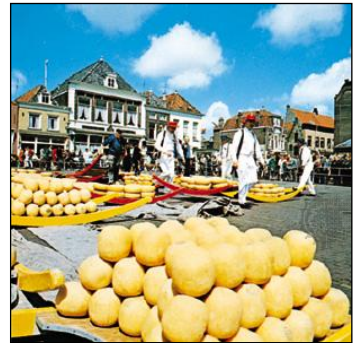
Day 8 Amsterdam

Morning guided tour of Amsterdam includes a canal boat ride, the Begijnhof, the Bloemenmarkt (Flower Market), and entrance to the Anne Frank House. **Conduct an afternoon/evening concert in Amsterdam.**



Day 9 Amsterdam/Alkmaar

Morning excursion to Alkmaar. The village of Alkmaar's chief tourist attraction is its cheese market, which is held, strictly in accordance with tradition, every Friday from mid-April to mid-September between 10am and noon in front of the Weigh-House in the Waagplein. The square is almost completely covered with large round cheeses (over 23 tons of Edam and Gouda cheese). Return to Amsterdam for an afternoon tour of the Rijksmuseum (renowned for its Dutch Masters, particularly Rembrandt's "Night Watch"). Evening Farewell Dinner.



Day 10 Depart for Home

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

