

American Celebration of Music in Italy



MUSIC CELEBRATIONS
INTERNATIONAL
Concert Tours with Integrity



Ciao, Italia!

Melded from Greek, Etruscan and Roman civilizations, Italian (Roman) culture has influenced Western thought, art, music, literature and civilization more than any other. The senses almost reel from exposure to history, architecture, art (Italy is the repository of a large percentage of the world's greatest art), and beauty unequalled anywhere else in Europe. The creativity, craftsmanship, artistic energy that made Rome great is still in full evidence in the New Millennium.



American orchestras, choirs, and wind ensembles are very popular in Italy. The American Celebration of Music in Italy provides performance opportunities in churches, piazzas, theaters, concert halls, and archaeological ruins, for American performers to share our own vibrant musical culture with enthusiastic Italian audiences.



The American Celebration of Music is a special annual performance-tour program, co-sponsored by local governments, music associations, community organizations, and tourist boards around the globe. In many countries this has developed into a prestigious, recognized, year-long concert-series festival. Recognition of this festival facilitates greater access to performance venues, official publicity, generally very successful concert arrangements, and the ability to touch local cultures in a way that may not be done through other affiliations. This equates to more meaningful musical and emotional experiences for participating performance ensembles.



A concert and music festival experience in Italy is a return to the roots of Western Civilization. Italy presents a glorious feast of all the senses - sound, sight, smell, taste and touch. Regardless of one's musical tastes - classical, church, ballad, opera, chant, symphonic, Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance, Romantic, Baroque - these roots are all found in Italy. Our musical heritage certainly was born in Italy. Italians, with help from the French, invented the system of musical notation used today.

Cremona produced violins by Stradivarius and Guarneri; the piano is an Italian invention. Palestrina, the master of polyphonic music, single-handedly saved sacred church music and composed over 93 masses and many madrigals. Italian composers like Verdi, Gabrieli, Monteverdi, Paganini, Vivaldi, Puccini and Rossini are household names.

Selected American groups are invited to share their talents with appreciative audiences in glorious venues and spectacular settings throughout Italy. All choirs have an opportunity sing a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.



Sample Tour

Day 1

Departure via scheduled air service to Rome, Italy.

Day 2 Rome (D)

Arrive in Rome. Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for transfer into Rome. Enjoy a panoramic tour of Rome's highlights, including stops at Spanish Steps, Piazza Navona, and Trevi Fountain. Evening Welcome Dinner.

Day 3 Rome (B,D)

Half-day guided tour of *Imperial Rome*, including entrance to the Roman Forum and Colosseum. Also view the Pantheon, Baths of Caracalla, and Palatine Hill. ***Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy.***

Day 4 Rome (B,D)

A half-day guided tour of *Religious Rome* includes the Vatican City, the home of the Pope and the center of Roman Catholicism, as well as the Vatican Museum, St. Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel (featuring Michelangelo's Ceiling Frescos and The Last Judgment). ***For choirs only: possible participation/singing in a late afternoon Mass in St. Peter's Basilica.***

Day 5 Rome / Siena / Florence (B,D)

Transfer to Florence via Siena. A guided walking tour of Siena includes the famous Piazza del Campo (famous for its matchless harmony and the famous horse races during the festival Palio delle Contrade), and the Town Hall, built in the 13th Century. A walk through the streets of Siena is an excursion into past history and the glorious Renaissance. Continue on to Florence in the late afternoon.

Day 6 Florence (B,D)

Morning guided tour of Florence's highlights, includes entrance to the Duomo and then on to Academia, the Academy of Fine Arts, to see Michelangelo's original 'David' and other sculptures by the great master (using the whisper system). ***Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy.***

Day 7 Florence / Venice (B,D)

Transfer to Venice, the Queen of the Adriatic. Half-day sightseeing to the main island of San Marco via public boat. A walking tour includes St. Mark's Square, with entrance to incredibly rich Basilica of St. Mark and the Palace of the Doges where the powerful and prosperous dukes of Venice ruled their far-flung empire at its height during the 15th century. Time permitting, visit a glass-blowing factory on one of Venice's many islands.

Day 8 Venice (B,D)

Day at leisure in Venice. Motorcoaches and Tour Managers are at the group's disposal. Round-trip vaporetto tickets included for transfers to and from islands. There is much to do in Venice itself and in the surroundings. Verona, Padua, Bolzano are nearby. Museums, churches, unique architecture, shopping, exploring Venice by water taxi - all of these activities beckon. This city is singular among the world's cities - it encompasses 118 islands separated by more than 150 canals. Its incomparable art treasures alone justify its renown. ***For choirs only - participate in a Mass in St. Mark's Cathedral.***

Day 9 Venice / Milan (B,D)

Transfer to Milan. Half day guided tour of Milan includes entrance to La Scala, the best-known opera house in the world. Also visit the Duomo, the largest Gothic cathedral in Italy. Evening Farewell Dinner.

Day 10 Depart for home (B)

Transfer to Milan's international airport for the return flight home.





A Short Listing of Potential Venues

ROME

St. Peter's Basilica
 St. Paul's-within-the-Walls
 St. Eustachio
 St. Maria sopra Minerva
 S. XII Apostoli
 Sala Baldini

FLORENCE

S. Stefano Church
 S. Maria de Ricci

VENICE

St. Mark's Cathedral
 Madonna dello'Orto
 S. Agostino
 S. Maria in Formosa

ASSISI

Basilica of St. Francis
 S. Maria degli Angeli

SIENA

S. Maria in Provenzano
 Siena Duomo

MILAN

S. Maria del Carmine
 Milan Duomo

Standard Performance Tours in Italy

TOUR #1 (6 nights / 8 days)

3 nights in Rome, 2 nights in Florence, and 1 night back in Rome

TOUR #2 (6 nights / 8 days)

3 nights in Naples and 3 nights in Rome

TOUR #3 (7 nights / 9 days)

3 nights in Rome, 2 nights in Florence, and 2 nights in Venice

TOUR #4 (8 nights / 10 days)

3 nights in Rome, 2 nights in Florence, a visit to Cremona, 2 nights in Venice and 1 night in Milan

TOUR #5 (8 nights / 10 days)

3 nights in Rome, 2 nights in Florence, 2 nights in Venice and 1 night in Milan

These and all our other Standard Tours can be viewed on our website at www.musiccelebrations.com

Music Celebrations International would also be happy to create a custom tour to meet your specific wishes and interests.

What others have said -

"Our memories of Italy are sure to be of beautiful cities and countryside, friendly people, and outstanding concert experiences! Thank you for helping to coordinate our Tour and for the many details MCI handled for our trip. The hotels, concert venues, and our guides were just wonderful. It was an unforgettable experience all around; thank you so much."

- Marguerite McCormick, Children's Chorus of San Antonio

"In 36 years as a conductor, there are many concerts in my memory banks, but a few stand out as extraordinary. One of these is undoubtedly the concert (MCI) arranged for us in the magnificent Basilica di San Miniato overlooking Florence. The acoustics were celestial, the Basilica was filled, the sight overlooking the city of Florence was breathtaking, and the audience simply would not stop applauding. They even made us sing outside afterwards! All the concert sites were perfect places for our a cappella chamber choir. The audiences were so friendly, so responsive. I've taken a lot of tours in my day, the first in 1974. I have to tell you, for concert sites, hotels, meals, guide, personal attention – nothing can beat what you arranged for us in Italy."

- Lucy Carroll, William Tennent Madrigal Singers

"What a pleasure it was to conduct my orchestra in top professional level venues with great audiences in five of the world's greatest cities – Rome, Florence, Venice, Salzburg and Vienna. I really appreciate MCI's professional way of working with orchestras and providing us with the best possible concert tour. To any conductor, most important is the music and the performance experience. In this area MCI excels! You have top professionals arranging the venues, promoting the concerts, and providing the best performance experiences possible with the highest regard to professional standards."

- John Koshak, Orange County Youth Symphony Orchestra



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**1440 S. Priest Drive, Suite 102
 Tempe, AZ 85281-6954**

voice 480.894.3330 • toll-free 800.395.2036 • fax 480.894.5137

website: www.musiccelebrations.com | e-mail: info@musiccelebrations.com