

# American Celebration of Music in France

## COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY: THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY AND THE LIBERATION OF FRANCE

Standard Tour #1 (6 nights / 8 days)

### Day 1

Departure via scheduled airline service to Paris, France

### Day 2

Paris / Caen

(D)

Arrive in Paris

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting motorcoach for transfer to Caen

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

*Caen is the capitol of Lower Normandy. Known as The City of the Normans, the architectural heritage reveals the affection for the city felt by William the Conqueror and his Queen, Mathilda. Many of the city's medieval buildings are constructed of "Caen stone," a light creamy-yellow limestone also used extensively in England. Caen was the center of some of the fiercest fighting in the Liberation of 1944. The peace memorial is unquestionably the greatest museum of World War II and a "must-see" for anyone who visits the city*

### Day 3

Caen / Coleville

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy morning sightseeing of Caen, including a visit to the Peace Memorial. The Memorial, to the northwest of the town center, is a modern Peace Museum, built of light-colored sandstone in the form of a square block (architect Jacques Millet). Its themes are the two world wars and the means of ensuring and preserving peace. Also pass the Abbaye-aux-Hommes, built by William the Conqueror and containing his grave

Lunch on own

Then take an excursion to Coleville to **perform a short memorial recital**, and participate in a wreath laying ceremony at the American Cemetery, site of the June 6th Normandy Invasion

***Performance in the Caen area as part of the American Celebration of Music in France***

Evening dinner and overnight

### Day 4

Caen / Rouen / Paris

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning transfer to Paris

Stop in Rouen including a visit to the Cathedral. The ancient capital of Normandy, it is now chief town of the Haute-Normandie region. In the Place de la Cathédrale stands the Gothic Cathedral of Notre-Dame, one of the largest and most magnificent in France. The most striking feature is the elaborately articulated west front which was several times painted by Claude Monet

Lunch on own

Following your visit, continue on to Paris for dinner and overnight



**Music Celebrations International**  
*Concert Tours With Integrity*



*With all its moods, Paris is a city that can exhilarate you, exasperate you and leave you speechless with wonder. Millions of tourists each year come to Paris, 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 5** **Paris** **(B,D)**

---

Breakfast at the hotel

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, and other highlights

Lunch on own

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

Evening dinner and overnight

---

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

---

Breakfast at the hotel

***For choirs only: Late morning performance in Notre Dame Cathedral***

Lunch on own

Enjoy an afternoon tour of *Paris artistique*, including entrance to the Louvre, the largest and greatest art museum in the world

Evening dinner and overnight

---

**Day 7** **Paris / Versailles** **(B,D)**

---

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning guided tour to Versailles Palace. This palace is the creation of the French monarchy at the moment of its greatest splendor. Consisting of the great palace, the gardens and the Trianons, it is a wonderfully harmonious composition of building and landscape, the definitive monument of French classicism

Lunch on own

Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight

---

**Day 8** **Depart for home** **(B)**

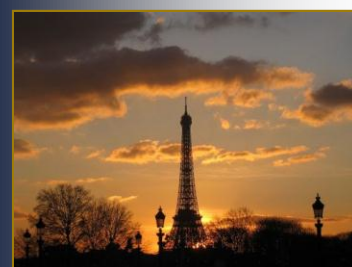
---

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to one of Paris's airports for return flight

***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.

© Music Celebrations International



# American Celebration of Music in France

Standard Tour #2 (7 nights / 9 days)

## Day 1

Departure via scheduled airline service to Paris, France

## Day 2

**Paris / Chartres / Tours (D)**

Arrive in Paris

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting motorcoach for transfer to Tours. Time permitting, stop en route at Chartres for a tour of the magnificent cathedral. Pilgrims have now been coming for almost eight centuries to admire the 175 representations of the Virgin Mary. The 25,000 square feet of stained glass (mostly from the 12th century) depicting 5,000 figures is considered the greatest achievement of this art form in the world. A guided tour by Malcolm Miller, a British scholar who has devoted his life to the study of this cathedral is a highlight

Continue to Tours for late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

*Tours was an important center of trade and administration under the Romans, but is presently most famous for its location in the heart of the Chateaux Country of France — also known as the "garden of France." Kings and courtiers and magnates built famous Renaissance chateaux such as Blois, Chambord, Chenonceaux, Azay-le-Rideau in this gentle valley*

## Day 3

**Tours (Loire Valley) (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a guided tour of the Loire Valley, including entrance to one of the most famous Chateaux. *Chateau Chenonceau* is perhaps the finest of all of the castles in the region. It straddles a river and was constructed in the 1520's, once the home of Diane de Poitiers, Catherine de Medici and other luminaries

Lunch on own

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

Evening dinner and overnight

## Day 4

**Tours / Mont St. Michel (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

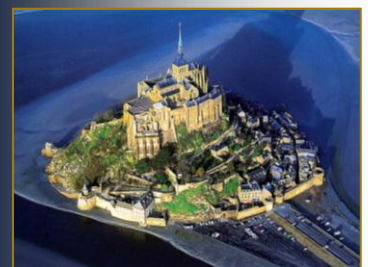
Morning transfer to Mont St-Michael

Lunch on own

Half-day sight-seeing includes entrance to the Abbaye, La Merveille (the incredible grouping of buildings on the north side of the Mount), the Abbaye Gardens and the Refectory

Evening dinner and overnight

*Mont St-Michel is one of the most striking sights that France has to offer. Perched on its rocky islet and surrounded by walls and bastions, this old abbey has the appearance of a fortified castle*



**Music Celebrations International**  
*Concert Tours With Integrity*



**Day 5****Mont St. Michel / Coleville / Caen (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Caen via Coleville (*perform a short memorial recital and participate in a wreath-laying ceremony at the American Cemetery at Omaha Beach*)

Lunch on own

***Performance in the Caen area as part of the American Celebration of Music in France***

Evening dinner and overnight

*Caen is the capitol of Lower Normandy. Many of the city's medieval buildings are constructed of "Caen stone," a light creamy-yellow limestone also used extensively in England. Caen was the center of some of the fiercest fighting in the Liberation of 1944. The peace memorial is unquestionably the greatest museum of World War II, a "must-see" for anyone who visits the city*

**Day 6****Caen / Paris (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning guided tour of Caen, including a visit to the Peace Memorial. The Memorial, to the northwest of the town center, is a modern Peace Museum, built of light-colored sandstone in the form of a square block (architect Jacques Millet). Its themes are the two world wars and the means of ensuring and preserving peace. Also pass the Abbaye-aux-Hommes, built by William the Conqueror and containing his grave

Lunch on own

Afternoon transfer to Paris for evening dinner and overnight

*With all its moods, Paris is a city that can exhilarate you, exasperate you and leave you speechless with wonder. Millions of tourists each year come to Paris, 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 7****Paris (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

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, and other highlights

Lunch on own

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

Evening dinner and overnight

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

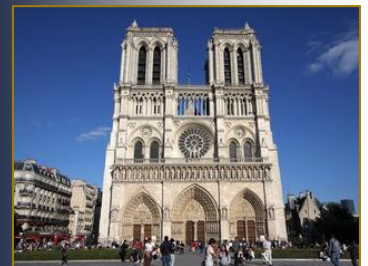
Breakfast at the hotel

***For choirs only: Late morning performance in Notre Dame Cathedral***

Lunch on own

Enjoy an afternoon tour of *Paris artistique*, including entrance to the Louvre, the largest and greatest art museum in the world

Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight

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

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to one of Paris's airports for return flight



**Music Celebrations International**  
*Concert Tours With Integrity*



# American Celebration of Music in France

## COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY: THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY AND THE LIBERATION OF FRANCE

Standard Tour #3 (8 nights / 10 days)

### Day 1

Departure via scheduled airline service to Paris, France

### Day 2

**Paris / Chartres / Tours (D)**

Arrive in Paris

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting motorcoach for transfer to Tours. Time permitting, stop en route at Chartres for a tour of the magnificent cathedral. Pilgrims have now been coming for almost eight centuries to admire the 175 representations of the Virgin Mary. The 25,000 square feet of stained glass (mostly from the 12th century) depicting 5,000 figures is considered the greatest achievement of this art form in the world. A guided tour by Malcolm Miller, a British scholar who has devoted his life to the study of this cathedral is a highlight

Continue to Tours for late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

*Tours was an important center of trade and administration under the Romans, but is presently most famous for its location in the heart of the Chateaux Country of France — also known as the "garden of France." Kings and courtiers and magnates built famous Renaissance chateaux such as Blois, Chambord, Chenonceaux, Azay-le-Rideau in this gentle valley*

### Day 3

**Tours (Loire Valley) (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a guided tour of the Loire Valley, including entrance to one of the most famous Chateaux. *Chateau Chenonceau* is perhaps the finest of all of the castles in the region. It straddles a river and was constructed in the 1520's, once the home of Diane de Poitiers, Catherine de Medici and other luminaries

Lunch on own

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

Evening dinner and overnight

### Day 4

**Tours / Mont St. Michel (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

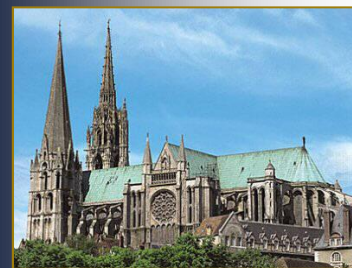
Morning transfer to Mont St-Michael

Lunch on own

Half-day sight-seeing includes entrance to the Abbaye, La Merveille (the incredible grouping of buildings on the north side of the Mount), the Abbaye Gardens and the Refectory

Evening dinner and overnight

*Mont St-Michel is one of the most striking sights that France has to offer. Perched on its rocky islet and surrounded by walls and bastions, this old abbey has the appearance of a fortified castle*



**Music Celebrations International**  
*Concert Tours With Integrity*



**Day 5** **Mont St. Michel / Coleville / Caen (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel  
Transfer to Caen via Coleville (*perform a short memorial recital and participate in a wreath-laying ceremony at the American Cemetery at Omaha Beach*)  
Lunch on own  
Evening dinner and overnight

*Caen is the capitol of Lower Normandy. Many of the city's medieval buildings are constructed of "Caen stone," a light creamy-yellow limestone also used extensively in England Caen was the center of some of the fiercest fighting in the Liberation of 1944. The peace memorial is unquestionably the greatest museum of World War II, a "must-see" for anyone who visits the city*

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

Breakfast at the hotel  
Guided tour of Caen, including a visit to the Peace Memorial. The Memorial, to the northwest of the town center, is a modern Peace Museum, built of light-colored sandstone in the form of a square block (architect Jacques Millet). Its themes are the two world wars and the means of ensuring and preserving peace. Also pass the Abbaye-aux-Hommes, built by William the Conqueror and containing his grave  
Lunch on own  
***Performance in the Caen area as part of the American Celebration of Music in France***  
Evening dinner and overnight

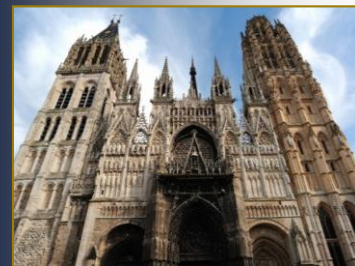
**Day 7** **Caen / Rouen / Paris (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel  
Morning transfer to Paris  
Stop in Rouen including a visit to the Cathedral. The ancient capital of Normandy, it is now chief town of the Haute-Normandie region. In the Place de la Cathédrale stands the Gothic Cathedral of Notre-Dame, one of the largest and most magnificent in France. The most striking feature is the elaborately articulated west front which was several times painted by Claude Monet  
Lunch on own  
Following your visit, continue on Paris for dinner and overnight

*With all its moods, Paris is a city that can exhilarate you, exasperate you and leave you speechless with wonder. Millions of tourists each year come to Paris, 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 8** **Paris (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel  
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, and other highlights  
Lunch on own  
***Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in France***  
Evening dinner and overnight



Day 9

Paris

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

***For choirs only: Late morning performance in Notre Dame Cathedral***

Lunch on own

Enjoy an afternoon tour of *Paris artistique*, including entrance to the Louvre, the largest and greatest art museum in the world

Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight

Day 10

Depart for home

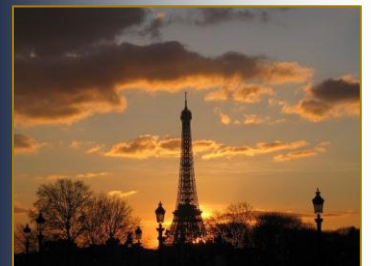
(B)

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to one of Paris's airports for return flight

***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.

© Music Celebrations International



Music Celebrations International  
Concert Tours With Integrity



# American Celebration of Music in France

With visits and performances in Belgium and The Netherlands

## COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY: THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY AND THE LIBERATION OF FRANCE

Standard Tour #4 (8 nights / 10 days)

### Day 1

Departure via scheduled airline service to Paris, France

### Day 2

Paris

(D)

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 including stop at the Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tower, and Latin Quarter (time permitting)

Stop for lunch on your own before a late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

*With all its moods, Paris is a city that can exhilarate you, exasperate you and leave you speechless with wonder. Millions of tourists each year come to Paris, 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

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

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, and other highlights

Lunch on own

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

Evening dinner and overnight

### Day 4

Paris

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

***For choirs only: Late morning performance in Notre Dame Cathedral***

Lunch on own

Enjoy an afternoon tour of *Paris artistique*, including entrance to the Louvre, the world's largest and greatest art museum

Evening dinner and overnight

### Day 5

Paris / Brussels

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

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



**Music Celebrations International**  
*Concert Tours With Integrity*





Lunch on own  
Evening dinner and overnight

*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. Brussels has an unusually active cultural life and is home to highly-acclaimed museums, a large number of theaters and other places of entertainment*

---

**Day 6** **Brussels / Bruges** **(B,D)**

---

Breakfast at the hotel  
Excursion of Bruges, 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, Bruges 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  
Lunch on own  
***Afternoon/evening performance in Bruges or Brussels***  
Evening dinner and overnight



---

**Day 7** **Brussels / Den Haag / Delft / Amsterdam** **(B,D)**

---

Breakfast at the hotel  
Transfer to Amsterdam through Den Haag, the nation's governmental center  
Continue on to Delft, stopping to visit one of its famous porcelain factories  
Lunch on own  
Then it is off to Amsterdam for dinner and overnight

*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** **(B,D)**

---

Breakfast at the hotel  
Morning guided tour of Amsterdam includes the Begijnhof, the Bloemenmarkt (Flower Market), and entrance to the Anne Frank House  
Lunch on own  
***Afternoon/evening performance in Amsterdam***  
Evening dinner and overnight



---

**Day 9** **Amsterdam / Alkmaar** **(B,D)**

---

Breakfast at the hotel  
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)

Lunch on own

Return to Amsterdam for an afternoon tour of the Rijksmuseum (renowned for its Dutch Masters, particularly Rembrandt's "Night Watch")

Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight

**Day 10**

**Depart for home**

**(B)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Amsterdam's International Schiphol Airport for return flight

***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.

© Music Celebrations International



**Music Celebrations International**  
Concert Tours With Integrity



# American Celebration of Music in France

With a visit and performances in Heidelberg, Germany

## COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY: THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY AND THE LIBERATION OF FRANCE

Standard Tour #5 (8 nights / 10 days)

### Day 1

Departure via scheduled airline service to Paris, France

### Day 2

Paris

(D)

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 including stop at the Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tower, and Latin Quarter (time permitting)

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

*With all its moods, Paris is a city that can exhilarate you, exasperate you and leave you speechless with wonder. Millions of tourists each year come to Paris, 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

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

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, and other highlights

Lunch on own

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

Evening dinner and overnight

### Day 4

Paris

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

***For choirs only: Late morning performance in Notre Dame Cathedral***

Lunch on own

Enjoy an afternoon tour of *Paris artistique*, including entrance to the Louvre, the world's largest and greatest art museum

Evening dinner and overnight

### Day 5

Paris / Versailles

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Day excursion to Versailles Palace. This palace is the creation of the French monarchy at the moment of its greatest splendor. Consisting of the great palace, the gardens and the Trianons, it is a wonderfully harmonious composition of building and landscape, the definitive monument of French classicism



**Music Celebrations International**  
*Concert Tours With Integrity*



Lunch on own  
Return to Paris for dinner and overnight

---

**Day 6** **Paris / Reims / Strasbourg** **(B,D)**

---

Breakfast at the hotel  
Transfer to Strasbourg via a stop in Reims. Visit the Reims Cathedral, coronation site for over 25 French kings  
Lunch on own  
Evening dinner and overnight

*Strasbourg holds a unique position in both French and German history. One of the earliest documents in both languages is the Strasbourg Oaths sworn by two of the sons of Louis the Pious (himself the son of Charlemagne). Today Strasbourg is the headquarters of both the multinational Council of Europe and the European Parliament*

---

**Day 7** **Strasbourg** **(B,D)**

---

Breakfast at the hotel  
This morning is devoted to exploring Strasbourg. "La Petite France" is the name given to the well-preserved and pedestrianized medieval quarter with its high gabled gingerbread houses on narrow streets old canals. Enjoy a canal ride through this medieval city. Also visit the Notre-Dame Cathedral (and Museum) which recalls the city's early ecclesiastical importance and the several centuries of struggles between bishops and citizens  
Lunch on own  
**Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in France**  
Evening dinner and overnight

---

**Day 8** **Strasbourg / Heidelberg** **(B,D)**

---

Breakfast at the hotel  
Morning transfer to Heidelberg  
Lunch on own  
Enjoy an afternoon at leisure  
**Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Germany**  
Evening dinner and overnight

*The jewel of the Neckar River is Heidelberg, with town, castle and wooded hills rising above the river. A close runner-up to the castle is Germany's oldest university forever immortalized in The Student Prince. It is as delightful as any operetta with its student inns, student prison and the narrow streets of the old town. There are a variety of boat trips available from Heidelberg on some of the loveliest stretches of the Neckar and Rhine Rivers*

---

**Day 9** **Heidelberg** **(B,D)**

---

Breakfast at the hotel  
A half-day tour of Germany's oldest university town includes entrance to the Schloß (castle) offering a splendid view of the city beneath. In the castle, see the Great Barrel, the Courtyard and the Pharmaceutical Museum. Also see the old university itself, the Cathedral of the Holy Ghost, the Old Bridge and the Jesuit Church. This is an enchanting city in which to stroll!  
Lunch on own  
Enjoy an afternoon at leisure  
Evening Farewell Dinner

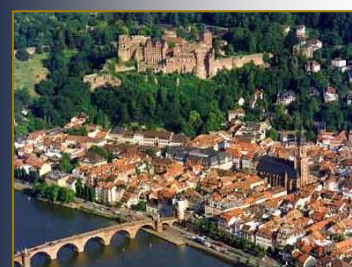
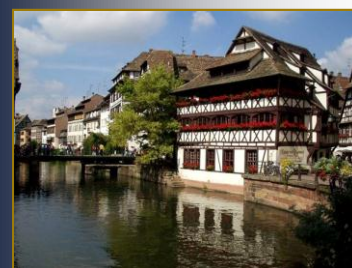
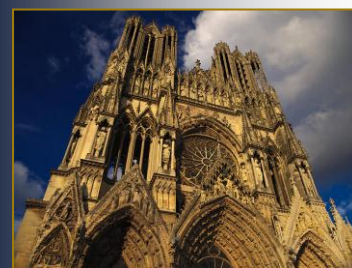
---

**Day 10** **Depart for home** **(B)**

---

Breakfast at the hotel  
Transfer to Frankfurt's International Airport for return flight

---



**Music Celebrations International**  
*Concert Tours With Integrity*



# American Celebration of Music in France

## COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY: THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY AND THE LIBERATION OF FRANCE

Standard Tour #6 (8 nights / 10 days)

### Day 1

Departure via scheduled airline service to Marseille, France

### Day 2

Marseille / Arles

(D)

Arrive in Marseille

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer to Arles for late afternoon hotel check-in  
Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

*The ancient town of Arles is an important center of Provençal life, proud of its traditions and famed for both its Roman and its early-medieval heritage. It lies on the Rhône south of the point where the river divides into two arms - the Grand Rhône to the east and the Petit Rhône to the west. Though the painter van Gogh resided here in 1888-89; the famous "Bridge of Arles" in his picture no longer exists, and Arles possesses none of his works*

### Day 3

Arles

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Take a half-day sightseeing tour of Arles, focusing on the old Roman portion. Visit the Théâtre Antique, a Roman theater that was once a fortress. Its stones were later used for other buildings; its remaining columns are called the "two widows." Also visit the Arènes, the Roman Amphitheater that is one of the best-preserved monuments of Roman Provence. Each arch is supported by Doric and Corinthian columns. In summer there are bullfighting contests in the 20,000-seat arena. The top tier provides a panoramic view of Arles

Lunch on own

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

Evening dinner and overnight

### Day 4

Arles / Avignon

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Excursion to Avignon. Enjoy a guided tour of Avignon, including entrance to the Palais des Papes, the site of the Papal Court during much of the 1300's. Seven "official" popes reigned here, followed by three "anti-popes". Also visit the famous Pont St-Bénézet (best known from the children's round "Sur le pont d'Avignon"), built in 1177, and for centuries the only stone bridge over the Rhône

Lunch on own

Afternoon at leisure for sightseeing, shopping or other activities

Return to Arles for dinner and overnight



**Music Celebrations International**  
*Concert Tours With Integrity*



**Day 5** **Arles / Isle-sur-la-Sorgue / Gordes / Roussillon (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Excursion to the northeast of Arles

Travel first to the charming town of Isle-sur-la-Sorgue. One of “the most beautiful country towns of Provence,” the village rests on the banks of the river Sorgue and is filled with shops, cafes and museum-quality antique stores

Lunch on own

Then we will take a scenic journey through the beautiful countryside, viewing fields of lavender, sunflowers and poppies, stopping at the famed and picturesque Abbaye de Sénanque, a characteristic Cistercian abbey in a remote site. Next visit Gordes, a spectacularly sited village whose buildings rise in sun-soaked tiers up rocky slopes

Then it is off to the enchanting town of Roussillon for an **evening concert as part of the American Celebration of Music in France**

Return to Arles for dinner and overnight



**Day 6** **Arles / Nimes (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Full-day excursion to Nimes. First visit Pont du Gard, the 2000 year-old bridge that is a major feat of Roman engineering. See the bridge and take a walk on the 157-foot high waterway. Continue to Uzès, source of the springs that traveled over the Pont du Gard. This charming town has an arcaded marketplace and several fine medieval towers

Lunch on own

In Nîmes, visit the world-famous Arènes (amphitheater) and the Maison Carrée, the purest and best-preserved of all Roman temples

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

Evening dinner and overnight



**Day 7** **Arles / Aix-en-Provence (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning visit to the towns of Les Alpilles. Visit the deserted citadel of Les Baux-de-Provence. Enjoy time to explore the Val d’Enfer (Infernal Valley)

Continue to St-Remy, where Vincent Van Gogh created 150 of his works. It was also the birthplace of Nostradamus in 1503

Lunch on own

Visit the Roman ruins of Glanum. In 1921, St-Remy found new fame when archaeologists uncovered the fascinating Roman ruins

Continue to Aix for dinner and overnight



**Day 8** **Aix-en-Provence (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

A guided tour of Aix includes entrance to the 13th century Cathédrale de St-Sauveur, noted for its 16th century walnut doors, Merovingian baptistry and Romanesque cloisters. Also tour the Atelier de Cézanne, the perfectly preserved studio of Paul Cézanne, Aix's most famous son, and the Cours Mirabeau, one of the most pleasant boulevards in all of France, with its overarching trees, rows of old mansions and numerous street cafes

Lunch on own

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

Evening dinner and overnight



**Day 9** **Aix-en-Provence / St-Topez / Cannes** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel  
Day excursion to various famous beach resorts of St-Topez, Cannes and others  
Lunch on own  
Return to Aix for Farewell Dinner and overnight

**Day 10** **Depart for home** **(B)**

Breakfast at the hotel  
Transfer to Marseille's International Airport for return flight

***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.

© Music Celebrations International

