



# IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARTIN LUTHER

## 500 years of the Reformation

### 2012 – THE YEAR OF REFORMATION AND MUSIC

Martin Luther was a simple monk, who - through his stand of conscience - started an ecclesiastical shock wave that changed the course of Western history. This great Protestant revolutionary held such a strong belief in his faith that eventually he overthrew the all-powerful Catholic Church and reshaped Medieval Europe.

Music Celebrations International has created itineraries that will have your group visiting many of the locations so important in the life and times of Luther, from Eisleben to Worms to Wittenberg and Leipzig, where you will see his homes, churches, and sanctuaries he used in his darkest hours, where he translated the Bible into the vernacular.

In addition to walking in the footsteps of Luther, your choir will have the opportunity to honor both past and present musical heritage produced so prominently in Germany. Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Gluck, Händel, Mendelssohn, Pachelbel, Schumann, Stockhausen, Wagner, and von Weber are a short and impressive list of German composers who have contributed to the world musical canon. These composers, the culture of their times and their influences are part of the organized educational sightseeing. The musical experience is enhanced by other sensory experiences and the fact that Germany boasts incredible scenery, art, architecture, and a rich history.

The Luther decade from 2008 to 2017 invites you to take part in various events and tours in order to search for traces of the original scenes of the Reformation. It will commemorate the 500th anniversary of the nailing of the theses, with which Luther set the Reformation in motion in Wittenberg on 31 October 1517. Exhibitions, concerts, church services, festivals and theatre productions will highlight the importance of the Reformation and the role Martin Luther played in the places he lived and worked.

**2012 – The Year of Reformation and Music.** The Reformation laid the foundations for European music culture - from congregational singing to music in the home. This is demonstrated by composers such as Bach, Schütz, Telemann and Händel, and also the Leipzig Thomanerchor (St. Thomas Choir) which celebrates its 800th anniversary in 2012. It is important to keep this rich tradition alive and explore new avenues.

A summary of the theme years:

- 2008 The start of the Luther decade
- 2009 Reformation and Confession
- 2010 Reformation and Education
- 2011 Reformation and Freedom
- 2012 Reformation and Music
- 2013 Reformation and Tolerance
- 2014 Reformation and Politics
- 2015 Reformation – Image and Bible
- 2016 Reformation and the One World
- 2017 The anniversary of the Reformation

# 2012 Reformation Tours

## TOUR #1 – IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARTIN LUTHER

(6 nights / 8 days)

Wittenburg, Leipzig, Eisenach, Eisleben, Berlin

## TOUR #2 – MARTIN LUTHER AND JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

(7 nights / 9 days)

Eisenach, Erfurt, Leipzig, Eisleben, Wittenberg, Berlin

## TOUR #3 – THE HISTORY OF THE REFORMATION

(7 nights / 9 days)

Berlin, Juterborg, Wittenberg, Eisleben, Leipzig, Dresden, Prague

## TOUR #4 – THE LUTHER PATH

(8 nights / 10 days)

Berlin, Juterborg, Wittenberg, Torgau, Leipzig, Eisleben, Erfurt, Eisenach, Mainz

These tours may be viewed on our website at [www.musiccelebrations.com](http://www.musiccelebrations.com)

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

### A SHORT LIST OF POTENTIAL VENUES

#### BERLIN

Berliner Dom  
Auenkirche  
Heiligkreuzkirche  
Passionkirche  
Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church

#### HEIDELBERG

Heiliggeistkirche

#### PRAGUE

St. Nicholas Church

#### DRESDEN

Lukaskirche  
Dreikönigskirche  
Freuenkirche

#### LEIPZIG

Thomaskirche  
Nikolaikirche  
Lukaskirche

### *What others have said -*

*Perhaps the most reliable indicator of a successful tour for the director is the amount of negative feedback that comes one's way during and after the journey. I am pleased to say that with MCI tours, one grows accustomed to hearing extravagant praise and virtually no complaints at all. Certainly this was the case for our 2010 Germany tour. The Chicago Master Singers go on international performance tours every two years, and our intention to remain with MCI for our 2012 tour is a unanimous consensus of singers, board members and the director. We cannot recommend the organization highly enough, nor could we imagine a finer experience in Germany than the one we had in 2010.*

- Alan Heatherington, Music Director, Chicago Master Singers

*The Alabama Boychoir and Girls Chorus spent a week touring Germany and Austria. Undoubtedly, it will be a lifelong memory for them, largely due to the management of Music Celebrations. The concert venues were some of the finest in Europe and the publicity for the concert in Vienna brought an audience that more than filled Karlskirche. In addition to excellent performance experiences, Music Celebrations chose hotels that were very comfortable. In all, I was more than pleased with the work that Music Celebrations did for us and plan to contract with them again next year!*

- Karen Nicolosi, Director, Alabama Boychoir & Girls Chorus



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

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