

# TEXAS YOUTH ORCHESTRA & CHOIR

Dr. Deborah Perkins, Ms. Lynne Jackson, Mrs. Penelope Meitz, Mr. Albert Torres, Ms. Amber Evans, Directors

*Summer European Music Study 2012*

July 9-21, 2012 (12 nights / 14 days)

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**Day 1 Monday, July 9**

Depart from Dallas via scheduled air service to London, England

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**Day 2 Tuesday, July 10 London (D)**

Arrive in one of London's airports

After passport and customs clearance, meet your MCI Tour Manager who will assist you to awaiting motorcoach for a transfer to the hotel via panoramic tour of London's highlights including Whitehall and Trafalgar Square with Nelson's Column, guarded by four lion statues at its base

We will proceed past Big Ben and the House of Parliament, to Buckingham Palace, the official London residence of the British monarch where we see the Changing of the Guard

Evening Welcome Dinner

*London is a cozy city, encompassing some 620 square miles and 7,000,000 hospitable people. Established 1,250 years ago by King Aethelbald, London became an important Roman city. It was resettled by the Saxons in the fifth century, after the end of the Roman occupation. London has been scourged by the plague (1665) and was almost entirely destroyed by the Great Fire (1666). World War II's "Blitzkrieg" tore up the city considerably. She stands today as a monument to perseverance, culture, excitement, history, and greatness*

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**Day 3 Wednesday, July 11 London (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

We awaken in a place described as the flower of all cities. Our tour of London includes Kensington and Knightsbridge, known for their shopping, museums, and wealthy residential areas

We will see Westminster Abbey, a Gothic monastery church that is the traditional place of coronation and burial for English monarchs

We'll continue along Fleet Street to St. Paul's Cathedral, and then to the 900-year old Tower of London, which was founded towards the end of 1066 as part of the Norman Conquest of England. The White Tower was built by William the Conqueror in 1078, and played a prominent role in English history

Afternoon excursion to Windsor. Built in 1078 for William the Conqueror, Windsor Castle is the official summer residence of the Queen. Tour includes a visit to the State Apartment or St. George's Chapel as well as the opportunity to admire the castle itself and the surrounding parkland  
Return to London for overnight



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*Concert Tours With Integrity*

**Day 4 Thursday, July 12 London (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

***Morning clinic/masterclass in the Recital Hall of the Royal College of Music***

Afternoon at leisure for additional sightseeing, shopping, museum visits or other planned activities

***Evening concert as part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain***



**Day 5 Friday, July 13 London / Bath / Cardiff (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Stonehenge, located on the beautiful Salisbury Plain. It is Europe's most famous prehistoric monument and you can sense the mystery that shrouds the ancient stones that were constructed over 5,000 years ago!

Continue to Bath for a guided sightseeing tour

Visit the Roman Baths. The pools, pipes and under floor heating are remarkable demonstrations of the ingenuity of Roman engineering

Also see the neighboring Abbey Church, renowned for the lofty fifteenth-century vault of its choir

Then it is off to Cardiff for overnight



*Cardiff, the capital city of Wales since 1955, is one of Europe's fastest growing cities. It has developed from being a pleasant capital with a fine maritime history into a vibrant state-of-the-art city with an exciting future. It is also an ancient city, and the legacy left by the Romans, Normans, and the Industrial Revolution is clearly visible*

**Day 6 Saturday, July 14 Cardiff (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a morning guided tour of Cardiff Castle, which stands in the very center of the city. The castle contains some of the most important historic interiors in Britain and occupies the site where a Roman fort once stood. The extraordinary interiors were designed by William Burges in 1868 and are in the Arab, Gothic and Greek styles. In the grounds of the castle see the 12th century Norman keep

Also visit the Museum of Welsh Life. Here, travel back in time and experience how life in Wales would have been at various stages over time

***Evening concert as part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain***



**Day 7 Sunday, July 15 Cardiff / Oxford / Stratford (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Stratford-upon-Avon via Oxford

Half-day sightseeing includes a visit to Christ Church College, founded in 1525 by Cardinal Wolsey. It is Oxford's biggest and grandest Renaissance college. The famous Christ Church College Chapel doubles as a cathedral, the smallest cathedral in England. It was in the Great Hall of Christ Church where various Harry Potter movies were filmed

Continue to Stratford for a guided tour of the Shakespeare properties. Start with the half-timbered house that is Shakespeare's Birthplace. The house itself is part museum and part shrine

Then visit Anne Hathaway's Cottage. See the Hathaway bed in addition to the beautiful gardens, orchard and Shakespeare tree garden



*Stratford-upon-Avon is a small and delightful Tudor market town beside the River Avon. Stratford is one of Britain's most visited towns due to its association with the playwright William Shakespeare. The timber frames of numerous buildings come from the nearby Arden Forest*

**Day 8      Monday, July 16                      Stratford / Edinburgh                      (B,D)**

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Breakfast at the hotel  
Transfer to Edinburgh via York for a quick lunch on own

*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, Edinburgh 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 9      Tuesday, July 17                      Edinburgh                      (B,D)**

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Breakfast at the hotel  
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. We will 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  
***Afternoon/evening concert as part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain***

**Day 10      Wednesday, July 18                      Edinburgh / Stirling / Inverness                      (B,D)**

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Breakfast at the hotel  
Transfer to Stirling to visit the castle  
Over the centuries Stirling has been a much-disputed stronghold. It occupies a strategically important position in the Forth valley. No fewer than 15 battlefields lie within close proximity of the castle  
Continue to Perth and Pitlochry to enjoy the beautiful scenery  
Also make a short stop in Aviemore  
Then it is off to Inverness for overnight

*Inverness is the administrative center for the Highland region, which consists of the old counties of Inverness, Nairn, Ross and Cromarty, Sutherland and Caithness. The town has benefitted from its sheltered position at the mouth of the Moray Firth and at the northeastern end of the Caledonian Canal. 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 11      Thursday, July 19                      Inverness                      (B,D)**

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Breakfast at the hotel  
Half-day tour of Inverness, including St. Andrew's Cathedral, 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

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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

*Evening concert as part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain*

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**Day 12    Friday, July 20                      Inverness / Glasgow                      (B,D)**

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Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Drumnadrochit and Loch Ness, including a one-hour cruise. Loch Ness is undeniably one of the most famous lakes in the world and a place of outstanding beauty

Continue to Fort William for a short visit

Then it is off to Glasgow for Farewell Dinner and overnight

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**Day 13    Saturday, July 21                      Depart for home                      (B)**

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Breakfast at the hotel

Depart Glasgow for return flight to Dallas

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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