

ACADEMY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

Lauralton Hall



American
Celebration
of Music in

ITALY

APRIL 6 - 14, 2023 • MARGY SARGENT, DIRECTOR





An Exclusive Concert Series

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 unequaled 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. Select music ensembles are invited to share their talents with appreciative audiences in glorious venues and spectacular settings throughout Italy as part of this unique concert series.



Advanced Vocal Ensemble & Concert American Celebration of Music in Italy ITINERARY: APRIL 6 - 14, 2023 • 7 NIGHTS/9 DAYS

- Day 1 Thursday, April 6, 2023**
Depart via scheduled air service to Venice, Italy
- Day 2 Friday, April 7 Venice (D)**
Arrive in Venice
Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach
Late afternoon hotel check-in
Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight
Venice is eternally preoccupied with the contemplation of its own beauty. Founded on marshes, it rose to dominate the Adriatic and hold the gorgeous East in fee. At the height of her power in the 16th century, Venice was a wealthy city-republic glorying in feasts and pageants, reveling in the splendor of her painting, sculpture and architecture. Those days of glory are gone, but her art survives and the grace and refinement remain. A visit to Venice will fill your soul
- Day 3 Saturday, April 8 Venice (B,D)**
Breakfast included at the hotel
Transfer to the main island of San Marco via public boat. A morning walking tour includes St. Mark's Square, with entrance to the incredibly rich Basilica of St. Mark and the Doge's Palace 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
Lunch, on own
Enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Venice
Performance at Chiesa della Pietà in Venice as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy*
Evening dinner included, and overnight
- Day 4 Sunday, April 9 Venice / Montecatini (B,D)**
Breakfast included at the hotel, followed by check-out
Morning transfer to Florence
Lunch, on own
Visit the Academy of Fine Arts to see Michelangelo's original David and other sculptures by the great master
Transfer to Montecatini for hotel check-in
Evening dinner included, and overnight
Montecatini is a characteristic medieval village, abounding in historical events culture and illustrious personages. The Montecatini of today, a suggestive outdoor masterpiece, does not retain the image of a sole period. Instead, it is witness to a historical parable of intense experiences, filled with dark moments, almost total destruction and splendor
- Day 5 Monday, April 10 Florence / Montecatini (B,D)**
Breakfast included at the hotel
A half-day orientation tour of Florence includes the Piazza della Signoria, a lovely square in the heart of the city, towered by the lofty Palazzo Vecchio.
Visit the Ponte Vecchio, the bridge across the Arno. See the Baptistery with Ghiberti's Gates of Paradise, the Campanile, and entrance to the Duomo
Lunch, on own
Performance at Santo Spirito in Florence as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy*
Evening dinner included, and overnight



Day 6 Tuesday, April 11 Assisi / Rome (B,D)
Breakfast included at the hotel, followed by check-out
Transfer to Rome via Assisi. Excursion to Assisi for half day guided tour.
The walled city of Assisi is beautifully spread across the slopes of Monte Subasio. A guided tour of Assisi, one of the most important places of pilgrimage in Italy, includes entrance to the Basilica di San Francesco, two superimposed churches
Lunch, on own
Continue to Rome
Evening dinner included, and overnight
Rome - Popes, Vandals, the Borgias and Napoleon, Garibaldi, Michelangelo and Mussolini and, of course, the ancient Romans themselves all have left their physical and spiritual mark on Rome, but though she keeps the glory of an ancient day about her, she remains a wellspring of creative energy; in short, she really is the Eternal City

Day 7 Wednesday, April 12 Rome (B,D)
Breakfast included at the hotel
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
Lunch, on own
Performance at Sant’ Ignazio in Rome as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy*
Evening dinner included, and overnight

Day 8 Thursday, April 13 Rome (B,D)
Breakfast included at the hotel
A half-day guided tour of Religious Rome includes Vatican City, the home of the Pope and the center of Roman Catholicism, as well as the Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel (featuring Michelangelo’s Ceiling Frescos and The Last Judgment) and St. Peter’s Basilica
Lunch, on own
Participate/Sing in Mass at St. Peter’s Basilica*
Evening Farewell Dinner included, and overnight

Day 9 Friday, April 14 Depart for home (B)
Breakfast included at the hotel, followed by check-out Transfer to the Rome Airport for return flight home.

**Subject to confirmation.*

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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COST INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

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- **AIRLINE TRANSPORTATION:** Round-trip transportation by scheduled airline carrier from a New York City Area Airport. Air fares are subject to change pending space availability at the time of group booking.
 - Includes up to \$550 for U.S. Government airline taxes, fees, and estimated fuel surcharge.
- **COACH TRANSPORTATION:** Local modern deluxe motor-coach transportation within Europe upon arrival and available for the entire tour.
- **INSTRUMENT/EQUIPMENT TRANSPORTATION:** Additional instruments and/or equipment will be transported in the storage area underneath the motor coach.
- **CONCERT ARRANGEMENTS:** All performance and workshops are professionally provided in superior venues with attention to technical details and effective publicity. All venues mentioned in this quote are used as reference only and are subject to confirmation.
- **ACCOMMODATIONS:** Hotel accommodations in superior tourist-class (3 & 4-star) hotels chosen for location, reputation, cleanliness, and service. The price is based on double occupancy, all rooms with private facilities. All hotels mentioned in this quote are used as reference only and are subject to availability at group rates at the time of booking. City centre accommodations are available at a supplement upon request. This offer is based on staying at the following accommodations, or similar:
 - Montecatini-Terme: Tuscany Inn
 - Rome: Hotel Bettoja Massimo D Azeglio
 - Venice-Mestre: Hotel Antony
- **MEALS:** Two meals per day (as noted in the Tour itinerary) including breakfast and dinner. Please note that breakfast is not included on day of arrival and dinner is not included on day of departure.
- **ENTRANCE FEES:** The following Entrance fees are included:
 - Tour 2 – Basilica of St. Mark, and the Palace of the Doge’s, Venice Murano Glass Factory, Florence Duomo, Academia, Assisi Basilica of St. Francis, Roman Forum, Colosseum, Vatican Museum, St. Peter’s Basilica
- **TOUR ITINERARIES:** Electronic versions of the tour itinerary are available listing hotel addresses, telephone and websites.
- **TOUR MANAGEMENT:** One full-time, multi-lingual Tour Manager will be on each motorcoach through the entire tour. MCI’s European office staff is easily available 24 hours daily (even on weekends) to render assistance whenever needed.
- **WHISPER SYSTEM:** Quietvox Audio System consisting of a microphone for the guide and a radio receiver for each participant for guided tours.
- **EXCURSIONS:** Conducted by licensed, professional guides as outlined in the day-by-day Tour itinerary.
- **GRATUITIES:** Tips Tour Manager(s), city guide(s), bus driver(s), and hotel personnel (including meals) are included.
- **EACH PARTICIPANT RECEIVES:**
 - 1 Flight bag
 - 2 Luggage tags
 - 1 Souvenir T-shirt
- **TRAVEL NOTES:** Pre-departure Travel Notes are available to each participant containing useful information about travel preparation, destination information, useful packing and cultural conditioning suggestions.
- **LIABILITY INSURANCE:** \$3M MCI Tour Liability Insurance coverage.
- **TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Individual insurance coverage is included in all MCI programs. Summary of coverage:
 - \$10,000 – Travel Accident
 - \$1,000 – Medical Expense
 - \$300 – Baggage Coverage
 - \$600 – Trip Cancellation/Interruption/Delay

COST EXCLUSIONS

- Travel Visa for non-U.S. passport holders.
- Instrument / equipment rental & cartage, if needed.
- Concert programs, if needed.
- Drinks at dinners.
- Daily lunches.
- Airline luggage fees, if applicable.
- Difference between current and actual costs for the airline taxes and the estimated fuel surcharge, if applicable.





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