



Music Celebrations International, L.L.C.

1440 S. Priest Drive, Suite 102, Tempe, AZ 85281-6954
(480) 894.3330 (800) 395.2036 Fax (480) 894.5137
info@musiccelebrations.com

WASHINGTON, D.C. SAFETY & SECURITY

Music Celebrations International (MCI) has a long history of producing parades, world-class concerts, recitals, special commemorative events, and performance opportunities for thousands of ensembles during our 28+ year history in Washington, DC. To perform in Washington, DC, with its rich history as our nation's capital — and the unparalleled access to free museums, national monuments, libraries, historical documents, exposure to institutions that play a role in our daily lives — makes Washington, DC one of the best investments as a destination that any musician, group, team, or ensemble can make.

Considering the availability of great concert halls, churches, public monuments, auditoriums, local and civic theaters, museums— and many, many special events, Washington, DC is a top contender as a performance tour destination. Recent events have prompted us to question the advisability of travel to Washington, DC because of apprehension about safety, security, health, and well-being. Is it safe to travel? Is it safe to go there myself? Is it safe for me to send my loved one there?

MCI has nearly 30 years of experience dealing with legitimate concerns relating to terrorist incidents, demonstrations, political rallies, natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, epidemics/pandemics (SARS, Ebola, Swine Flu, Bird Flu, etc.), volcano eruptions, floods, etc. Our approach is to deal directly, quickly, and professionally with each situation to assess and then advise clients based on experience, research, network and connections to our many agencies based in Washington, D.C.

Additionally, MCI has a track record of being extremely sensitive to any potential dangers that clients might encounter. Over 6,500 ensembles have traveled with MCI, and we have never sent anyone into harm's way. We have altered itineraries, destinations, schedules, timing if we have ever been advised by the U.S. State Department, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, or Washington, DC Security (remember, we work with the National Park Police, Metro Police, Department of Defense Security for all official events that we manage in Washington, DC) of any potential danger.

During the National Memorial Day Parade and the National Independence Day Parade, both co-produced by Music Celebrations International, in association with the American Veterans Center and the National Park Service, there are several extra layers of security. Every branch of the United States Armed Forces is in attendance, the Capitol Police are involved and stationed along the parade route/staging areas, supplemented by the presence and security of the D.C. Police, United States Marshals Service, United States Park Police, United States Capitol Police, Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, United States Secret Service, District of Columbia Protective Services Division, and many other agencies. All roads that connect to the parade route and staging areas are blocked by buses and police vehicles, with police stationed at each corner. An abundance of Fire, EMS and Medical Personnel are always present. Great measures are taken to ensure a safe and successful production for all parade participants and spectators (numbering in the hundreds of thousands).

There are few surprises in Washington, DC. If demonstrators (and Washington has always had demonstrations, ever since Washington, DC was founded for every possible cause, campaign, protest imaginable) need to organize an event, they have to obtain an official permit, and all safety security forces are equipped to manage or deal with the crowds of demonstrators. MCI's local staff and guides know of any scheduled events, and alter itineraries to avoid any situations that would prevent any normal flow of traffic, or access to museums and monuments.

Music Celebrations works with thousands of professional, community, school, and children's performing ensembles who participate in international or domestic festivals and highly customized concert tours. These performers range in size and variety from small jazz and chamber ensembles which travel with 15 – 25 participants to the Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square which travels with over 500+ participants. MCI has safely traveled over 350,000 travelers and over 6,500 high-caliber performing ensembles have worked with MCI over the 28+ years that MCI has been in business.

Music Celebrations International is an active member of the following professional organizations which require adherence to a strict code of ethics and business practices:

- Better Business Bureau (BBB)
- American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA)
- International Airlines Travel Agent Network (IATAN)
- International Festivals and Events Association (IFEA)
- Student & Youth Travel Association (SYTA)
- American Bus Association (ABA)
- Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA)
- National Association for Music Education (NAFME)
- Chorus America
- American Choral Directors Association (ACDA)
- Association of Concert Bands (ACB)
- American School Band Directors Association (ASBDA)
- American String Teachers Association (ASTA)
- League of American Orchestras
- World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE)

MCI has never sent (nor will we in the future) clients into harm's way. Our links and close contact to the U.S. State Department, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, and others, keep us apprised on a daily and hourly basis of any potential danger, advisories, warnings, and notices. MCI's insurance policy (included in all tours with round-trip air transportation) includes protection for cancellation due to terrorism (exact provisions are that a terrorist incident takes place in a city included in the itinerary within 30 days prior to travel; or U.S. State Department issues a travel warning) — but the availability of premium protection (at an additional cost) allows for cancellation for any reason, up to 72-hours prior to travel. This "cancel for any reason" clause protects up to 75% of non-refundable payments. This premium protection is currently the best way to protect your financial investment from an epidemic/pandemic/travel notice. This premium protection offers a higher level of peace of mind. The premium for this coverage must be paid prior to your tour being paid in full.