

University of South Dakota Chamber Singers
Dr. David Holdhusen, Director

March 8-18, 2023

American Celebration of Music in

Italy

An exclusive concert series for performance ensembles



Music Celebrations International
Concert Tours With Integrity



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.



Music Celebrations International
1440 S. Priest Dr., Ste. 102, Tempe, AZ 85281-6954
toll-free) 800.395.2036 | fax) 480.894.5137 | info@musiccelebrations.com
www.musiccelebrations.com

University of South Dakota Chamber Singers American Celebration of Music in Italy

March 8-18, 2023 (9 nights/11 days)

Day 1 Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Depart via scheduled air service to Milan, Italy

Day 2 Thursday, March 9 Milan / Verona / Venice (D)

Arrive in Milan

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach

Transfer to Venice via Verona

Guided tour in Verona (of Romeo and Juliet fame) that includes the Casa di Giulietta (Juliet's House) with its famous Balcony in the inner courtyard. Also see the Arena, a Roman Amphitheater built in the 1st Century that is still used today

Continue to Venice for late afternoon hotel check-in

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 Friday, March 10 Venice (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to the main island of San Marco via public boat. A walking tour includes St. Mark's Square, with entrance to 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

Lunch, on own

Afternoon time at leisure in Venice for personal shopping and sightseeing

Performance at the Church of Santa Maria della Pieta in Venice as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy*

Dinner included, and overnight

Day 4 Saturday, March 11 Lucca / Pisa / Montecatini (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to Montecatini via Lucca and Pisa

Half day guided sightseeing tour in Lucca. The streets and squares of old Lucca are full of atmosphere with their Gothic and Renaissance palaces, their towers of nobility, elegant wrought-iron railings and balconies. See San Michele in Foro, the most photographed view in Lucca

Lunch, on own

Transfer to Pisa to see the Leaning Tower. In the northwest of the town of Pisa, enclosed on two sides by the old battlemented town walls, is the Piazza del Duomo or Campo dei Miracoli, with the cathedral, the Leaning Tower, the Baptistery and the Campo Santo - a harmoniously composed group of buildings of unrivaled beauty



Music Celebrations International
Concert Tours With Integrity

Continue to Montecatini
Dinner included, and overnight

Montecatini is a medieval Tuscan town famous for its thermal waters and is one of the most famous spa towns in Italy. Montecatini was the vacation spot for numerous Italian and international celebrities. Composers often vacationed here, such as Vivaldi and Puccini – who composed part of the opera La Boheme in Montecatini. If there's extra time in the evenings, ride the funicular up the side of the mountain to Montecatini Alto, a medieval village and ancient castle of Romanesque origin. Enjoy a stunning view of the town below and a visit to the shops with traditional Tuscan delicacies in the main square as well as the old castle and watch tower.

Day 5 Sunday, March 12 Florence / Montecatini (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Mass/Church Service participation at S. Croce in Florence*

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 Baptistry with Ghiberti's *Gates of Paradise*, the Campanile, and entrance to the Duomo and the Academy of Fine Arts, to see Michelangelo's original *David* and other sculptures by the great master (using the whisper system)

Lunch, on own

Performance at S. Spirito in Florence as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy*

Dinner included, and overnight

Day 6 Monday, March 13 Assisi / Rome (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to Rome via Assisi

Mass Participation at St. Francis Basilica in Assisi*

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

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 Tuesday, March 14 Rome (B,D)

Breakfast 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

Recital at S. Eustachio in Rome*

Lunch, on own



Mass Participation at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome*

Dinner included, and overnight

Day 8 Wednesday, March 15 Rome (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning 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

Afternoon time at leisure for shopping and sightseeing

Performance at S. Ignazio in Rome as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy*

Dinner included, and overnight

Day 9 Thursday, March 16 Pompeii / Naples (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Naples via Pompeii

Excursion to Pompeii. Entrance fees are included to Pompeii which was buried by an eruption by Mount Vesuvius in August, 79 AD. The excavations, began in the 18th Century have unearthed some of the best artifacts of Roman life

Lunch, on own

Continue to Naples for a guided sightseeing tour of the city

Performance at S. Lorenzo Church in Naples as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy*

Dinner included, and overnight

The south Italian port town of Naples, principal town of the region of Campania and of the province of Nápoli, lies on the north side of the Bay of Naples, on the Tyrrhenian Sea, extending along the lower slopes of attractive hills. The old town with its narrow streets and stepped lanes and its tall balconied houses is fringed on the west and north by extensive villa suburbs. Naples possesses many historical monuments going back almost 3,000 years, particularly the treasures, to be seen in the National Museum, garnered from the cities engulfed by Mount Vesuvius

Day 10 Friday, March 17 Naples / Rome (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Day at leisure in Naples for shopping, sightseeing, and beach time (*with Coach and Tour Manager at groups disposal*)

Lunch, on own

Late afternoon transfer to Rome

Farewell Dinner included, and overnight

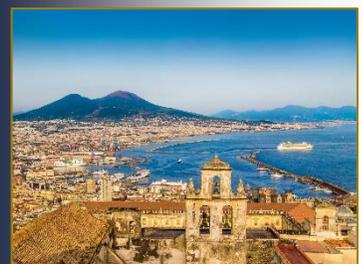
Day 11 Saturday, March 18 Depart for home (B)

Breakfast 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. © Music Celebrations International



AMERICAN CELEBRATION OF MUSIC IN ITALY
MUSIC CELEBRATIONS INTERNATIONAL
Payment & Cancellation Schedules
 USD Alumni

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

\$2,000 per person Due: April 8, 2022
 \$1,000 per person Due: September 15, 2022
 \$1,000 per person Due: December 11, 2022
 Final Payment (remaining balance) Due: January 1, 2023

CANCELLATION SCHEDULE

\$2,000 per person Penalty Begins: May 8, 2022
 \$1,000 per person Penalty Begins: October 1, 2022
 100% per person, of total tour costs Penalty Begins: January 20, 2023

*Amount penalized is % of the **total tour cost**, not % of what has already been paid.*

Please note that the above payment and cancellation schedule is based on the initial deposit date as well as subsequent on-time payments and can be modified with your input and feedback.

This schedule is subject to change should any payment dates be missed.

With Round-trip Airfare from: <u>Omaha Airport, NE</u>	<i>Anticipated Costs Per Person</i>
ITALY TOUR (9 nights/11 days) VENICE, MONTECATINI, ROME, NAPLES	\$5,500

For more information, please visit www.usdalumni.org



MUSIC
CELEBRATIONS
INTERNATIONAL

1440 S. Priest Dr., Ste. 102, Tempe, AZ 85281-6954
toll-free) 800.395.2036 | fax) 480.894.5137 | www.musiccelebrations.com | info@musiccelebrations.com