



American Celebration of Music in

# Italy

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An exclusive concert series for performance ensembles



*organized by*



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 unequalled 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.

# Sample Tour

## Florence / Montecatini / Siena / Rome

### Day One

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- Departure via scheduled air service to Rome, Italy

### Day Two: Rome / Florence / Montecatini

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- Arrive in Rome
- Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for transfer to Florence for an orientation tour of Florence's highlights
- Continue to Montecatini for late afternoon hotel check-in
- Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

### Day Three: Montecatini / Florence

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- Breakfast at the hotel
- A half-day guided 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 and the Academia, 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 as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy**
- Evening dinner and overnight

### Day Four: Montecatini / Siena / Rome

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- Breakfast at the hotel
- Transfer to Rome via Siena. A guided walking tour of Siena includes the famous Piazza del Campo (famous for its matchless harmony and the famous horse races during the festival Palio delle Contrade), the Town Hall, built in the 13th Century, and the Duomo (cathedral). A walk through the streets of Siena is an excursion into past history and the glorious Renaissance
- Lunch on own
- Continue on to Rome in the late afternoon for dinner and overnight

### Day Five: Rome

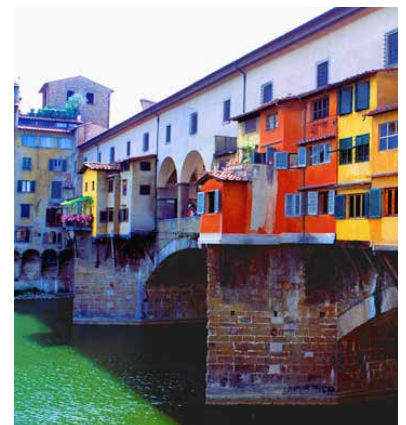
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- Breakfast at the hotel
- Half-day guided tour of Imperial Rome, including entrance to the Roman Forum and Colosseum. Also view the Pantheon, Baths of Caracalla, and Palatine Hill
- Lunch on own
- **Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy**
- Evening dinner and overnight

### Day Six: Rome

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- Breakfast at the hotel
- A half-day guided tour of Religious Rome includes the Vatican City, the home of the Pope and the center of Roman Catholicism, as well as the Vatican Museum, St. Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel (featuring Michelangelo's Ceiling Frescos and The Last Judgment)



- Lunch on own
- For choirs only: participate/sing in Mass at St. Peter's Basilica
- Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight

## Day Seven: Depart for home

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Transfer to Rome's airport for return flight home

*These and all other Standard Tours may be viewed on our website at [www.musiccelebrations.com](http://www.musiccelebrations.com). Fully-customized tours may also be created to meet your specific needs and interests.*



*"In 36 years as a conductor, there are many concerts in my memory banks, but a few stand out as extraordinary. One of these is undoubtedly the concert (MCI) arranged for us in the magnificent Basilica di San Miniato overlooking Florence. The acoustics were celestial, the Basilica was filled, the sight overlooking the city of Florence was breathtaking, and the audience simply would not stop applauding. They even made us sing outside afterwards! All the concert sites were perfect places for our a cappella chamber choir. The audiences were so friendly, so responsive. I've taken a lot of tours in my day, the first in 1974. I have to tell you, for concert sites, hotels, meals, guide, personal attention – nothing can beat what you arranged for us in Italy."*

*- Lucy Carroll,  
William Tennent Madrigal Singers*

### Standard Performance Tours in Italy

**TOUR #1** (5 NIGHTS / 7 DAYS)  
2 nights in Montecatini, 3 nights in Rome

**TOUR #2** (6 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS)  
4 nights in Rome, 2 nights in Montecatini

**TOUR #3** (6 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS)  
3 nights in Naples, 3 nights in Rome

**TOUR #4** (7 NIGHTS / 9 DAYS)  
3 nights in Rome, 2 nights in Montecatini, 2 nights in Venice

**TOUR #5** (8 NIGHTS / 10 DAYS)  
3 nights in Rome, 2 nights in Montecatini, 2 nights in Venice, 1 night in Milan

### Potential Performance Venues

#### **ROME**

St. Peter's Basilica  
St. Paul's-within-the-Walls  
St. Eustachio  
St. Maria sopra Minerva  
S. XII Apostoli  
Sala Baldini

#### **FLORENCE**

S. Stefano Church  
S. Maria de Ricci

#### **VENICE**

St. Mark's Cathedral  
Madonna dello'Orto  
S. Agostino  
S. Maria in Formosa

#### **ASSISI**

Basilica of St. Francis  
S. Maria degli Angeli

#### **SIENA**

S. Maria in Provenzano  
Siena Duomo

#### **MILAN**

S. Maria del Carmine  
Milan Duomo



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