

American Celebration of Music in

Spain

An exclusive concert series for performance ensembles



Music Celebrations International
Concert Tours With Integrity



An Exclusive Concert Series

Spain, a land of jeweled Moorish palaces, sun-drenched beaches, terraced vineyards, sleepy fishing villages, primeval corridas (bullfights) and sensuous flamenco has become the sophisticated playground of Europe, and a premier destination of art, music and literature lovers. The vitality and excitement of today's Spain have made it popular worldwide.

As the inheritors of a great and ancient civilization dating from before the Roman Empire, Spaniards live in a land as culturally rich as it is geographically varied, with wooded sierras, and plateaus, and sandy beaches. It is this exciting variety in landscape as well as in art, architecture, music, and cuisine that makes Spain one of the top countries in the world to visit.

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.

Spanish cultural life has been reinvigorated, particularly in the years since the death of General Franco. The performing arts, once restricted by lack of facilities, have received major investments including new venues, regional arts centers and new

symphony orchestras. The country has produced many remarkable opera singers, including Montserrat Caballé, Alfredo Kraus, Plácido Domingo and José Carreras. Spain now boasts some of the world's greatest opera houses and concert halls.

Spain's music is the embodiment of rich cultural influences from church (Gregorian plainchant reached its pinnacle in Spain), Moorish culture, and Spain's diverse groups such as Catalans, Basques, Gallegos in the northeast to the quintessentially Spanish in Castile or Andalusia. Composers like Manuel de Falla, Isaac Albeniz, Fernando Sor, Tomás Luis de Victoria, Gabriel Balart, Oscar Espla and others have left their definite mark on the world canon of music literature.



Suggested Itinerary

MADRID / EL ESCORIAL / ARANJUEZ /
TOLEDO

DAY ONE: ARRIVE

Depart via scheduled air service to Madrid, Spain

DAY TWO: MADRID

Arrive in Madrid

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer to the hotel via panoramic tour of Madrid's highlights including Plaza Mayor (site of tournaments, bullfights and Inquisition trials), Plaza de Cibeles, Plaza de España, etc

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner

DAY THREE: MADRID

Today, we will see many of Madrid's remarkable landmarks including Buen Retiro Park, the immense Royal Palace and entrance to the Prado Museum which hosts one of the finest art collections in the world including important Spanish paintings, classical statues purchased from Italy, medieval religious treasures and even some Romanesque frescoes

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Spain

DAY FOUR: MADRID / EL ESCORIAL

Half-day excursion to El Escorial, the magnificent palace and monastery built by Phillip II. Visit the Royal Apartments and the Basilica.

For choirs: noon recital at El Escorial

A few miles away, view the Valley of the Fallen

Return to Madrid for afternoon at leisure

DAY FIVE: MADRID / ARANJUEZ

Half-day excursion to Aranjuez to visit the Palace (built in 1561 by King Philip II as a royal summer residence). Continue to Chinchon (made famous in *Around the World in 80 Days*) to see a typical Spanish village

Return to Madrid for time at leisure

DAY SIX: MADRID / TOLEDO

Full-day excursion to Toledo. Toledo is one of the great jewels of Spain! It stands out dramatically against the often luminously blue Castilian sky, a golden city rising from a granite eminence, encircled by a steep ravine filled by the green waters of the Tagus. This historic city is a notable place of pilgrimage. "Holy Toledo" isn't just a popular expression

Enjoy a guided tour including a visit of the magnificent Cathedral (with the El Greco paintings and other valuable relics) and the Church of St. Tomé (El Greco's *The Burial of the Count of Orgaz*)

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Return to Madrid for Farewell Dinner

DAY SEVEN: DEPART FOR HOME

Transfer to Madrid's airport for the return flight



Potential Performance Venues

MADRID

Monastery El Escorial
Iglesia de San Gines
Basilica de San Francisco El Grande
Auditorio Alfred Kraus

SEVILLE

Iglesia de La Magdalena
Seville Cathedral
Basilica de La Macarena
Teatro Maestranza

GRANADA

Granada Cathedral
Auditorio Manuel de Falla
Iglesia de Perpetuo Soccorso

TOLEDO

Iglesia de San Juan de los Reyes
Teatro de Rojas

BARCELONA

Iglesia del Pi
Barcelona Cathedral
Cotxeres de Santa – Centro Cultural

LISBON

Monastery Jeronimus
Mafra Palace
Sintra



Suggested Performance Tours in Spain

Tour 1 5 Nights / 7 Days

5 nights in Madrid with excursions to El Escorial, Aranjuez, and Toledo

Tour 2 5 Nights / 7 Days

5 nights in Barcelona with excursions to Montserrat, Tarragona, and Salou

Tour 3 6 Nights / 8 Days

6 nights in Madrid with excursions to Aranjuez, Toledo, El Escorial, Avila, and Segovia

Tour 4 7 Nights / 9 Days

1 night in Madrid, 1 night in Toledo, 2 nights in Seville, 1 night in Granada, 2 nights in Madrid

Tour 5 7 Nights / 9 Days

3 nights in Barcelona, 2 nights in Valencia, 2 nights in Madrid

Tour 6 8 Nights / 10 Days

3 nights in Barcelona, 3 nights in Arles, 2 nights in Aix-en-Provence

*These and all other Suggested Tours may be viewed on our website at www.musiccelebrations.com.
Fully-customized tours may also be created to meet your specific needs and interests.*



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