

American Celebration of Music in

Ireland

An exclusive concert series for performance ensembles



Music Celebrations International
Concert Tours With Integrity

The Honorable
Críona Ní Dhálaigh

Lord Mayor of Dublin

together with

Music Celebrations International

cordially invites the

Southwest Michigan Chorale

to represent

Michigan

in performance at the

2017

American Celebration of Music in

Ireland



**MUSIC CELEBRATIONS
INTERNATIONAL**
Concert Tours with Integrity

Southwest Michigan Chorale American Celebration of Music in Ireland

(8 nights/10 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service to Dublin, Ireland

Day 2

Clonmacnoise / Limerick (D)

Arrive in Dublin

Transfer to Limerick via Clonmacnoise. The ancient monastic settlement of Clonmacnoise lies in the heart of Ireland, on high ground above the east bank of the Shannon. The walled precinct of the monastery is like a large and lonely churchyard with its many graves scattered about amid the ruins of buildings and high crosses of the Early Christian and medieval periods

Half-day guided tour of Limerick

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Welcome Dinner and overnight

*Limerick city straddles the Shannon's broadening tidal stream, where the river swings west to join the Shannon Estuary. Despite some unexpected glitz and gloss, it remains an unflinchingly honest town that doesn't shy away from a tough past as portrayed in Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes*. Limerick has an intriguing castle, a lively art museum and contemporary cafe culture to go with its uncompromised pubs*

Day 3

Limerick / Bunratty (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Excursion to Bunratty Castle, the most complete and authentic medieval fortress in Ireland. Built in 1425 it was restored in 1954 to its former medieval splendor. Also visit the Folk Park, a living reconstruction of the homes and environment of Ireland of over a century ago. Stroll from house to house or around the charming village street to experience village life in 19th century Ireland.

Lunch on own

Return to Limerick for a visit to King John's Castle

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Ireland

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 4

Limerick (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

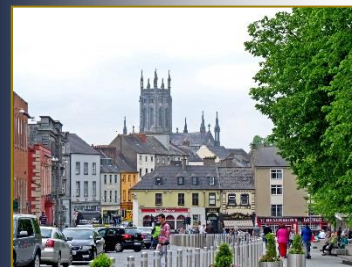
Excursion to the Cliffs of Moher, one of Ireland's most spectacular sights.

On a clear day, the views are tremendous

Lunch on own

Return to Limerick for time at leisure

Dinner and overnight



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Day 5**Killarney / Dingle Peninsula (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Take the Shannon Car Ferry across to County Kerry

Full-day tour of the Dingle Peninsula. Some of the finest coastal scenery to be seen in Ireland can be found in West Kerry. This peninsula is famous for its Celtic, pre-Christian monuments and Christian churches. Dingle town itself is a thriving fishing town and offers the atmosphere of a typical country Irish town with its plentiful pubs, narrow streets and busy harbor.

Lunch on own

Dinner at a local restaurant

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Ireland

Return to hotel for overnight

Renowned for its beauty, famed for the splendor of its scenery, Killarney is one of the world's best-loved tourist spots. Killarney (Cill Airne - The Church of Sloes) became a magnificent town around 1750 when the local magnate, Lord Kenmare, developed the tourist business and four major roads were built to the outside world

**Day 6****Killarney / Ring of Kerry (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Today enjoy a tour of the Ring of Kerry Highlights including Molls Gap and Ladies View. Molls' Gap is a spectacular photographic viewing with a magnificent view of Death Valley. Close by is the famous Ladies View viewing point which gives a different perspective of the countryside, with the three Lakes of Killarney all surrounded by the Kerry Mountains

Lunch on own

Evening dinner and overnight

**Day 7****Killarney / Blarney / Dublin (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

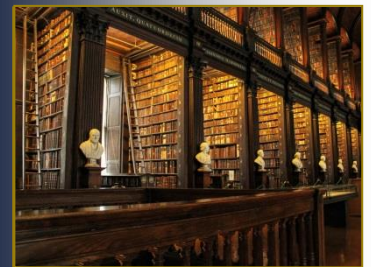
Transfer to Blarney where we will visit the Blarney Castle and Stone. The castle dates from 1446 and is built on solid limestone in beautiful grounds.

Lunch on own

Continue Dublin

Evening dinner and overnight

Dublin is Ireland's capital and its largest, most cosmopolitan city. It wasn't before the Viking raids of the 9th century that Dublin was fully established. The 'boom years' came in the 18th century and the city expanded across the river forming a new Dublin of stately squares, streets and Georgian mansions. Today, with its elegant Georgian streets, gregarious inhabitants and long history, it's little wonder Dublin is a city of writers

**Day 8****Dublin (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a tour of Dublin including St. Stephen's Green, South Bank, College Green, Merrion Square, Liffey Footbridges, Grafton Street, Temple Bar, O'Connell Street, Phoenix Park, and entrance to Trinity College, Ireland's oldest university. Trinity College contains the Book of Kells, which dates from AD 800, making it one of the oldest books in the world.

Lunch on own

Lunchtime recital at St. Patrick's Cathedral*

Evening Dinner and entertainment at Merry Ploughboy's

Overnight at the hotel



Day 9

Dublin / Glendalough

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a tour of Dublin including St. Stephen's Green, South Bank, College Excursion to Glendalough and the Wicklow Mountains. The steep wooded slopes of Glendalough the "valley of the two lakes" harbor one of Ireland's most atmospheric monastic sites — established in the 6th century. Here we see the Round Tower, Cathedral, St. Kevin's Cross and Kitchen, and Gatehouse

Lunch on own

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Ireland

Return to Dublin

Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight



Day 10

Depart for home

(B)

Breakfast at the hotel

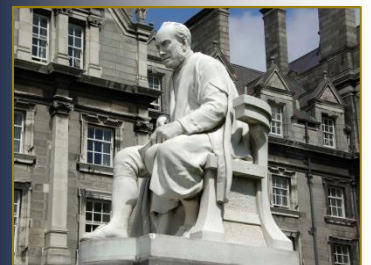
Transfer to Dublin's airport for return flight

**Subject to confirmation*



This is a very flexible itinerary.

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AMERICAN CELEBRATION OF MUSIC IN IRELAND
MUSIC CELEBRATIONS INTERNATIONAL
Cost Estimates
SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN CHORALE

With Round-trip Airfare from: Chicago, IL	<i>Airfare Season*</i>	<i>45-47 Travelers</i>	<i>40-44 Travelers</i>	<i>35-39 Travelers</i>	<i>30-34 Travelers</i>
IRELAND TOUR (8 nights/10 days) LIMERICK, KILLARNEY, DUBLIN	Shoulder	\$3,357	\$3,416	\$3,441	\$3,535
Land Only (self-arranged air)		\$2,101	\$2,160	\$2,185	\$2,279

**Travel season dates are generally as follows: Low (11/1 – 3/31), Shoulder (4/1 – 6/15, 9/1 – 10/31), High (6/16 – 8/31). Travel seasons are subject to change without notice from the airline.*

All prices are per person and are based on the number of paying participants in each 49-passenger motorcoach staying in double occupancy. Airline surcharges for weekend (Fri, Sat, or Sun) and holiday travel may apply. Airfare is based on 2016 rates and is subject to change once 2017 rates are known.

The costs vary, depending upon the total number of paying participants sharing certain fixed overhead costs which include *chartered motorcoach, Tour Manager, guides, concert costs*, etc. Please consult the Cost Inclusions (located on the following page) which have been used as the basis for our offer.

King John's Castle - Limerick



AMERICAN CELEBRATION OF MUSIC IN IRELAND
MUSIC CELEBRATIONS INTERNATIONAL
Cost Inclusions & Exclusions
SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN CHORALE

COST INCLUSIONS

- **AIRLINE TRANSPORTATION:** Round-trip transportation by scheduled airline carrier. 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 motorcoach transportation within Europe upon arrival and available for the entire tour.
- **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 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. This offer is based on staying at the following accommodations, or similar:

Limerick: [Clarion Hotel](#) Killarney: [Killarney Heights](#) Dublin: [Green Isle Hotel](#)
- **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 3** – Clonmacnoise, Bunratty Castle & Folk Park, King John's Castle, Blarney Castle, Trinity College, and Glendalough visitor centre
- **TOUR ITINERARIES:** Electronic versions of the tour itinerary are available listing hotel addresses, telephone and fax numbers.
- **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.
- **EXCURSIONS:** Conducted by licensed, professional guides as outlined in the day-by-day Tour itinerary.
- **GRATUITIES:** Tips to hotel personnel (including meals) are included. Tips to tour manager(s), licensed guides, and motorcoach driver(s) are not included.
- **EACH PARTICIPANT RECEIVES:**
 - 1 Flight bag • 2 Luggage tags • 1 Souvenir Photo Video • 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:** \$2M MCI Tour Liability Insurance coverage.
- **TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Individual insurance coverage is included in all MCI programs with MCI arranged airline transportation.
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.
- Tips to Tour Manager(s), city guides and motorcoach driver(s).
- Instrument / equipment rental & cartage, if needed.
- Concert programs, if needed.
- Transportation to and from departure airport.
- 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.

Ireland Testimonials



“I would like to thank the Music Celebrations International family for the inspiring and informative trip to the British Isles. The audiences were so very receptive and the opportunity to perform with the men’s choirs in Ireland and Wales was a high light for the members of University Singers. Additionally, the performances at Christchurch Cathedral in Oxford and the Southwark Cathedral in London proved to be very emotional for the students—the architecture and acoustics were beautifully overwhelming. A highlight for me was observing the students as they experienced the worship service at St. Paul’s Cathedral in London—the ceremony, the singing of the choir, and the beauty of the surroundings created an “awe” in them that was truly a privilege to witness.”

Dr. Kevin Fenton, Florida State University Singers, Florida

“Wonderful musical experiences! Lovely scenery, interesting sight-seeing (in spite of the rain), excellent hotel accommodations, great meals and wonderful concerts. All in all, a very positive tour to Ireland. I thought that all performances were wonderful - lovely venues; enthusiastic, appreciative audiences; warm receptions, with metaphorical arms wide open; lovely, embracing people. I am happy to serve as a reference source for MCI. We have been very happy with our three international tours you have arranged.”

Tim & Carol Thomas, Indian Springs School Chamber Choir, Alabama

“Our two weeks in Ireland were filled with special experiences. We found the people to be tremendously receptive to us and our music and they very willing to go out of their way to assure us the very best of times. Music Celebrations International arranged terrific concert venues which were well publicized and well attended. The young people in the ensemble were able to meet and converse with many locals their own age. It was a very revealing and uplifting experience for all of us to personally be involved in Irish cultural events. I can honestly say that our tour to Ireland was a wonderful experience in all respects; musically and culturally. It was just another example of how MCI takes special care in all their arrangements. I look forward to traveling there again in the very near future.”



William Silvester, All American Youth in Concert, Pennsylvania



“Our recent tour to Ireland and Scotland was a great success. This was our third tour with Music Celebrations. Our tour manager was the best we have ever had. Both he and the bus driver became part of our group and quickly became dear friends. Our concerts were fantastic! The concert in Bray (south of Dublin) was a ball! This was definitely our performance highlight. Full house (300 people) and we developed a relationship with the audience that seldom happens.”

Elaine Ostrander, Worthington Civic Band, Ohio



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“Our performance venues were beautifully selected for their historic and acoustic elements. We performed in four concerts, two of which were shared performances with local musicians. All four of our concerts were warmly received. Because our performances were publicized well in advance, we drew an audience from the native townspeople as well as the USA, including our home state of New Mexico. Our personal highlights included a demonstration of working sheepdogs, impromptu singing at Knockmoy Abbey and in the Glendalough church, and learning and performing some of the traditional Irish music. We had a wonderful guide and bus driver that made our tour even more memorable. Both men sang for our bus several times and were very knowledgeable of Ireland’s history, as well as blarney. All in all, our singing trip to Ireland was unforgettable and we appreciate being so well taken care of.”

Virginia Nickels, Caliente Community Chorus, New Mexico



“Thanks to all of you for your hard work. We were well taken care of. Your on-site staff was superb (can’t say enough nice things about our tour manager!) and my interaction with your office was great as always! This tour was what I have come to expect from MCI – EXCELLENCE!!!”

Dr. Bud Clark, Missouri Southern State University

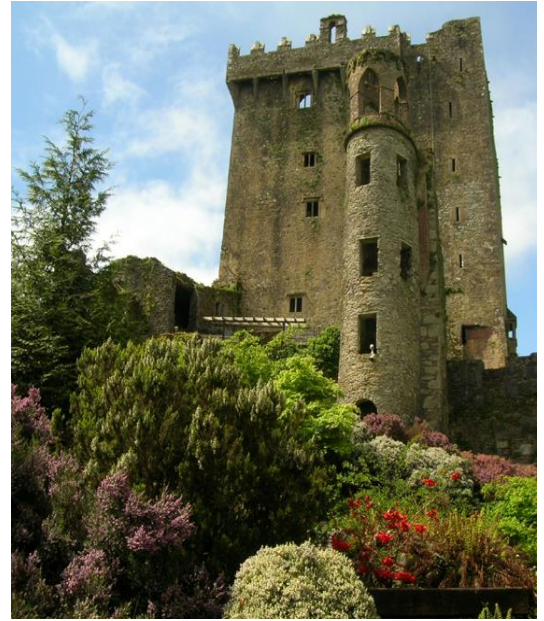
“The ‘luck of the Irish’ followed The CHORALE through their Emerald Isle tour! Well . . . Music Celebrations had their professional hand in the success of this, our third international tour, as well! Our concert in the Gothic Cathedral at Kylemore was a spiritual and acoustical treat. In St.Mary’s in Killarney, the audience wouldn’t let us go home. We sang

encore after encore and met folks from our own home state. Some of that audience actually followed us to Dublin to catch our noontime concert at 1:00 the following Saturday. A music director is so busy taking care of the needs of all the singers, that it’s very special to feel taken care of by others. Our tour guide and the entire MCI staff did what they do so well - - took away our concerns and made us feel as though we were on vacation. Thanks MCI for your caring ways.”

Julie Beyler, The CHORALE, Illinois

“I want to take a moment to thank all of my friends at Music Celebrations for organizing yet another fantastic tour. Of the many international tours I have led over the years, MCI has produced the best by far, and they keep getting better. The concert in Kylemore Abbey was such a neat experience. This tour had one of the best assortments of venues in terms of variety that I can ever remember. To me it’s most important for my kids to sing in great venues, and you’ve done that yet again. As always, everyone at MCI was very helpful. I really enjoy all of the conference calls, so when we arranged those I felt like you were really keeping me informed and were on top of everything. I also love MCI because you allow me to more or less create my own itinerary - something that few other tour companies out there truly know how to do.”

Betty Mullett, Former Director, Riverview High School Choir & Sarasota Singers, Florida



Safe Travels!



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