

National Festival of the States in Charleston & Savannah



National Festival
of the States



Music Celebrations International
Concert Tours With Integrity



An Exclusive Concert Series



Charleston and Savannah are two iconic Southern cities that are preserved in time and are quintessential examples of charm and hospitality. Both cities have played a large role in the history of the United States from Civil War battles to the nation's fight for equality.

Charleston – a seaport city in the state of South Carolina features an historic downtown that lies on a peninsula formed by two rivers, Ashley and Cooper, flowing into the Atlantic, and protected from the open ocean by surrounding islands. Charleston was captured in the Civil War without much property damage, so the historic part of town has buildings that are hundreds of years old. The current downtown skyline, with practically no tall buildings due to the city's height restriction ordinance, is dominated by church steeples and the stunning Arthur Ravenel cable-stay bridge completed in 2005 over the Cooper River. The city is a major port on the eastern seaboard and a popular destination for domestic and international tourists.

Savannah – the historic riverside birthplace of Georgia, was settled in 1733 by British colonists led by General James Oglethorpe and Colonel William Bull. In 1864, when General William Tecumseh Sherman marched in, the mayor of Savannah gave Sherman's men run of the city in exchange for leaving it untouched. As a result, Savannah is one of the few major cities in the South with Southern charm and architecture remaining intact. Savannah has the largest national historic districts in the country.



The National Festival of the States is an annual concert series developed by Music Celebrations in various cities throughout the United States. These performance tours are supported by local government offices, community organizations, tourist boards, and the like. Such affiliations offer a more memorable musical, cultural and educational experience for recommended ensembles (both instrumental and vocal) to perform in different venues in the most historic cities and celebrate the founding, history, and institutions of the United States! Music Celebrations has been successfully organizing the National Festival of the States concert series for over 20 years.

Sample Itinerary

Day One:

- Afternoon arrival in Charleston
- Meet your full-time MCI Tour Manager, who will escort you through the duration of your activities and remain with you for your entire time in Charleston and Savannah
- Enjoy a guided tour of downtown Charleston including centuries-old cobblestone streets, well-preserved homes representing a range of architectural styles from the Revolutionary War period to stately mansions, Citadel, Battery, College of Charleston, Rainbow Row, Old Exchange Building, City Market, and more
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Check-in to the hotel for overnight

Day Two:

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Fort Sumter Tour – Transfer via a narrated boat tour along the harbor with a guided tour of the Fort. It was here on April 12, 1861 that Confederate troops fired the first shots of the Civil War
- Lunch, on own
- Afternoon tour of Middleton place – A National Historic Landmark and one of America’s oldest, landscaped gardens in Charleston. Designed in 1741, this plantation’s vast gardens are the oldest in the US. The grounds are a mix of classic formal French gardens and romantic woodland, bounded by flooded rice paddies and rare-breed farm animals. Union soldiers burned the main house in 1865; a 1755 guest wing, now housing the house museum, still stands
- ***Performance or clinic as part of the National Festival of the States in Charleston***
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Return to your hotel for overnight

Day Three:

- Breakfast at the hotel and check-out
- Transfer to Savannah (approx. 108 miles; 2 ½ hours non-stop), home of the largest National Historic Landmark district in the United States
- Late morning arrival in Savannah
- Lunch, on own, at City Market - a mixed-use project in the nation’s largest National Landmark Historic District in downtown Savannah. The rehabilitation of the four-block area began in 1985. The result is a physical facility that economically could not be replicated today. City Market has established itself as a destination for entertainment, dining, art and retail in downtown Savannah
- Walk through Chippewa Square, one of the best known squares in all of Savannah and the original filming location for the Forrest Gump “Bench” scenes. See the famous park bench from the movie “Forrest Gump”
- Afternoon Trolley tour that takes you past many of the highlights of Savannah including Forsythe park, Cathedral of St. John, Pirate’s House, Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace (founder of the Girl Scouts), City Market, Savannah’s park-like squares, the Old Exchange Bell, City Hall, and the Savannah River with its charming River Street District and iconic



Waving Girl statue.

- *Performance as part of the National Festival of the States in Savannah*
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Check-in to hotel for overnight

Day Four:

- Breakfast at the hotel and check-out
- Visit and tour the Telfair Museums – with one ticket, visit the Jepson Museum (contemporary art and photography), the Telfair Gallery (paintings and sculptures by the great masters) and the Owens-Thomas House (a historically preserved stately mansion).
- Transfer to North Beach and visit Tybee Island. Facing due east, this Georgia barrier island has been a popular vacation spot since the late 1800s. Home to wide, clean beaches with warm and gentle waves, Tybee Island is the perfect escape for those who need a healthy dose of sand, sun and seaside bliss.
- Lunch, on own
- Enjoy some afternoon time at leisure for shopping, beach time and seeing the Tybee Island Lighthouse. Possible dolphin boat tour (cost additional) in the predator-free bay waters that attract over 200 dolphins year-round. While viewing dolphins in their natural habitat, enjoy panoramic views of the Cockspur Lighthouse, Fort Pulaski National Monument, and the Tybee Island Lighthouse
- Late afternoon departure for home



“I have worked with other touring companies with my choir, and the thing that sets MCI apart from the others is the personal attention, detail, and feel that I got from this tour. Everyone that we worked with was incredibly friendly to my students. I had great tour experiences with MCI when I was in various collegiate choirs. Since I had only experienced MCI when in college, it didn't occur to me right away that this would be a great group to work with for high school ensembles as well. This was the third trip I took my high school students on, but the first trip with MCI. I'm so glad I went with MCI for this trip. This tour was by far my favorite tour for my students. We all had an amazing time!”

Johnathan Turba, Choir Director
Iola-Scandinavia High School Chorus



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