American Celebration of Music in the Baltics

An exclusive concert series for performance ensembles
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.

Located in the heart of coastal Northeastern Europe are the three Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Bordering the Baltic Sea on the east, these three countries have a combined population of just over six million, and a total area nearly the size of the American state of Florida. Though their cultures and languages are all different, the three nations share common artistic origins, especially in vocal and instrumental folk music and dance that are still vibrant parts of the regional culture today. The respective capital cities of Tallinn, Riga, and Vilnius all boast breathtaking scenery and artistic traditions that performing groups are sure to enjoy.

Imagine walking in the footsteps of famous Baltic composers, such as Estonian Rudolf Tobias, Latvian Jāzeps Vītols, and Lithuanian Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis, all prolific, conservatory-trained musical pioneers in their own countries. The Baltic States have especially rich choral traditions that continue to thrive through living composers like Estonians Arvo Pärt and Veljo Tormis, who worked to preserve their musical culture even through the Soviet occupation of the mid twentieth century. The three nations routinely host a variety of choral and folk music events, including the Estonian Song Festival, Tallinn International Choir Festival, Latvian Song and Dance Festival, and the Lithuanian Song and Dance Celebration. Participants will be exposed to the region’s vast musical history and many performance opportunities, all amidst the celebrated artistic culture of the Baltic States.
Sample Itinerary

RIGA / JURMALA / TALLINN

DAY ONE: ARRIVE
Depart via scheduled air service to Riga, Latvia

DAY TWO: RIGA
Arrive in Riga
Meet your MCI Tour Manager who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer to the hotel via orientation tour of Riga’s highlights en route
Late afternoon hotel check-in
Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight at hotel

DAY THREE: RIGA
Morning walking tour through Riga visiting the old town, surrounded by a water channel, with the famous Dome cathedral, St. John and St. Peter churches, the Freedom Monument, National Opera, Parliament, Castle and the cozy spacious squares, remarkable Art Nouveau district
Performance in Riga as part of the American Celebration of Music in Latvia

DAY FOUR: RIGA / JURMALA
Morning excursion to Jurmala, a beautiful Latvian resort, situated at the Baltic Coast and known for its splendid wooden architecture. Free time to enjoy the Baltic Sea, and wandering around the streets
Afternoon return to Riga
Performance in Riga as part of the American Celebration of Music in Latvia

DAY FIVE: RIGA / TALLINN
Morning transfer to Tallinn. On the way, stop in Gauja National park, surrounded by hilly river banks and sandy caves. Visit the 13th century Turaida castle, built under the order of Teutonic knight and Riga’s bishop
Continue to Tallinn

DAY SIX: TALLINN
Morning walking tour through Tallinn visiting the upper (Toompea fortress and Parliament, Orthodox and Lutheran cathedrals, panoramic viewpoint) and lower (Town Hall square, Merchant Guild Houses) parts of the old town
Afternoon at leisure for sightseeing, shopping or other activities

DAY SEVEN: TALLINN
Excursion to “Rocca al Mare” open air museum. The museum houses authentic homes, farmsteads, windmills, wooden churches and fishing villages which represent different regions of Estonia through the last three centuries. On the way to the museum you will also pass the beautiful Kadriorg park with its palace, the seaside area to have a look at Russalka monument and the Tallinn Song Festival Grounds where the famous song festivals take place
Performance in Tallinn as part of the American Celebration of Music in Estonia
Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight at hotel

DAY EIGHT: DEPART FOR HOME
Transfer to Tallinn’s International Airport for return flight
Potential Performance Venues

ESTONIA
Tallinn-St. John’s Church
Tallinn-Estonian Concert Hall
Tallinn-St. Mary the Virgin

LATVIA
Riga-St. Peter’s Church
Riga-University Great Hall
Riga-St. John’s Church
Riga-Dome Cathedral

LITHUANIA
Vilnius-St. Catherine’s Church
Vilnius-St. John’s Church
Vilnius-Congress Concert Hall
Vilnius-St. Casimir’s Church
Vilnius-Museum of Applied Arts

Standard Performance Tours in the Baltics

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tour</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Itinerary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tour 1</td>
<td>6 Nights / 8 Days</td>
<td>3 nights in Latvia, 3 nights in Estonia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tour 2</td>
<td>7 Nights / 9 Days</td>
<td>3 nights in Lithuania, 2 nights in Latvia, 2 nights in Estonia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tour 3</td>
<td>8 Nights / 10 Days</td>
<td>3 nights in Lithuania, 2 nights in Latvia, 3 nights in Estonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tour 4</td>
<td>8 Nights / 10 Days</td>
<td>3 nights in Riga, 3 nights in Tallinn, 2 nights in Helsinki</td>
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*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.*