



American Celebration of Music in

# Ireland

An exclusive concert series for performance ensembles



*organized by*



MUSIC CELEBRATIONS  
INTERNATIONAL  
*Concert Tours with Integrity*

# An Exclusive Concert Series



The Republic of Ireland consists of over 80% of the “Emerald Isle”. This lush green island is full of thatched cottages, pubs, music, wit and poetry. The relaxed good humor of the people make Ireland a most welcoming place to visit and perform.

Ireland has seen more than its share of wars and disasters, culminating in the Great Famine of 1845-8. Since then, emigration has been part of the Irish way of life. In fact, more people of Irish descent live in the United States than in Ireland itself! This is certainly one reason that so many American groups are interested in visiting this country.

This is the homeland of literary giants such as James Joyce, George Bernard Shaw, Samuel Beckett, Jonathan Swift and Oscar Wilde. Music-wise, who has not heard the unmistakable lilt of an Irish tenor?

Ireland is the only country in the world to have a musical instrument – the harp – as its national emblem. In this land, famous for its love of music, modern forms such as country & western and rock flourish, but it is the traditional music that captures the essence of the country.

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.

Whether you are listening to Gaelic love songs that date back to medieval times or 17th – and 18th-century folk songs with their English and Scottish influences, the music is unmistakably Irish. And dance is an equally important aspect of Irish culture.

Come to the land of St. Patrick to see Neolithic sites, kiss the Blarney Stone, listen for banshees, look for leprechauns, hear Gaelic spoken, and most of all, perform in historic settings to warm, appreciative audiences.

# Sample Tour

Killarney / Blarney / Waterford / Kilkenny / Glendalough / Dublin

## Day One

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- Depart via scheduled air service to Shannon or Dublin, Ireland

## Day Two: Killarney

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- Arrive in Shannon or Dublin
- Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer to Killarney via Bunratty Castle, the most complete and authentic medieval fortress in Ireland. Built in 1425 it was restored in 1954 to its former medieval splendor. The Folk Park is 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
- Continue to Killarney for late afternoon hotel check-in
- Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

## Day Three: Killarney

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- Breakfast at the hotel
- Full-day excursion along the Ring of Kerry, a 179 km road circuit around the Iveragh Peninsula. It has captivating mountain and coastal scenery, dotted with slate-roofed fishing villages. The Ring is one of Ireland's premier tourist attractions
- Lunch on own
- **Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Ireland**
- Evening dinner and overnight

## Day Four: Killarney / Blarney / Waterford / Kilkenny

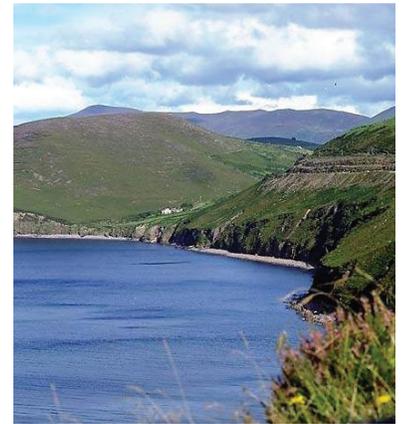
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- Breakfast at the hotel
- Transfer to Blarney where we will visit the Blarney Castle and Stone. The castle dates from 1446 and is built on solid limestone in beautiful grounds. The sacred stone is found at the top of the castle and when you catch a glimpse of it, you may well feel compelled to bend over backwards and kiss it!
- Lunch on own
- Continue to Waterford for a walking tour of the city given by Jack Burtchaell. Jack Burtchaell has for years now charmed and informed visitors on his historic tours. A walled city of Viking origins, Waterford retains much of its medieval character together with the graceful buildings from its 18th century expansion. Reginald's Tower marks the city's Viking heart and the surrounding area is particularly attractive. Also visit the Waterford Glass visitors center to see the famous hand cut crystal
- Then it is off to Kilkenny for dinner and overnight

## Day Five: Kilkenny / Glendalough / Dublin

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- Breakfast at the hotel
- Transfer 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
- Continue to Dublin for dinner and overnight



## Day Six: Dublin

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- 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. Also visit Dublin Castle
- Lunch on own
- **Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Ireland**
- Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight

## Day Seven: Depart for home

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

*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.*

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*"Our recent performance tour to Ireland & Scotland was fantastic! My students sang in castles, an abbey and in beautiful cathedrals. I love working with Music Celebrations. They arranged for us to sing in the most amazing venues. We are now planning our 3rd trip with them. I highly recommend this company for your performing groups!"*

*-Betty Mullett, Riverview High School, Florida*

### Standard Performance Tours in Ireland

**TOUR #1** (5 NIGHTS / 7 DAYS)  
2 nights in Killarney, 1 night in Kilkenny, 2 nights in Dublin

**TOUR #2** (6 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS)  
2 nights in Killarney, 2 nights in Kilkenny, 2 nights in Dublin

**TOUR #3** (7 NIGHTS / 9 DAYS)  
2 nights in Killarney, 2 nights in Waterford, 3 nights in Dublin

**TOUR #4** (8 NIGHTS / 10 DAYS)  
2 nights in Galway, 2 nights in Killarney, 2 nights in Kilkenny, 2 nights in Dublin

**TOUR #5** (8 NIGHTS / 10 DAYS)  
2 nights in Dublin, 1 night in Wexford, 2 nights in Cardiff, 3 nights in London

**TOUR #6** (8 NIGHTS / 10 DAYS)  
2 nights in Dublin, 2 nights in Galway, 2 nights in Derry, 2 nights in Belfast

### Potential Performance Venues

#### **DUBLIN**

St. Patrick's Cathedral  
County Wicklow Shared Performance

#### **GALWAY**

St. Nicholas Collegiate  
St. Augustine Church

#### **KILLARNEY**

St. Mary's Church of Ireland  
St. Patrick's Church

#### **KILKENNY**

St. Canice's  
Castalia Hall  
St. Mary's Cathedral



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