



Advent Choir Tours

In Europe, the build-up to Christmas officially starts on the first Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the new church year. This period leading up to Christmas is widely celebrated and there are many old customs that go with it. The word 'advent' has its origins in Latin: *adventus*, meaning 'arrival'. Advent is the time of preparation for and expectation of the arrival of Christ. As long ago as the 6th century, Pope Gregory decided that there should be four Advent Sundays, referring to the 4,000 years which, in the church's view, mankind had to wait for the return of its savior.

The magic of Christmas starts with the December arrival of the advent calendar. Advent starts on the first Sunday after November 26th. This time is devoted to preparations for Christmas. Cities all throughout central Europe set up booths and stalls in their market squares where you can buy everything you need for Christmas – decorations for the tree, candles, crib figures, delicious traditional Christmas treats, and presents

for Christmas Eve. Walking through such a decorated, festive market is really an exceptional experience that will always be remembered.

With Advent come opportunities to sing! During this time of the year, millions the world over get into the “Christmas spirit” by singing carols and hymns that uplift spirits and reflect on the birth of the Christ Child. The most famous of these, *Stille Nacht* (or *Silent Night*), was written outside of Salzburg in the little village town of Oberndorf, where groups can visit and perform this hymn in the little memorial Chapel. In addition to ensembles performing on their own, most of the major cities in central Europe put on Advent Choir Festivals sponsored by the local municipalities. Music Celebrations has the ability to insert select American choirs into these festivals. Whether it's Prague, Germany, Austria, northern Italy, or Switzerland, you can be assured that your singers will cherish the memories of performing in Europe's most prestigious venues during this magical time of the year.



Standard Advent Choir Tour Itineraries

Tour #1

(6 nights / 8 days) – Performing in Munich, Salzburg, and Vienna
4 nights in Salzburg (with an excursion to Munich) and 2 nights in Vienna

Tour #2

(6 nights / 8 days) – Performing in Rothenburg, Nürnberg, and Prague
1 night in Rothenburg, 1 night in Nürnberg, and 4 nights in Prague

Tour #3

(6 nights / 8 days) – Performing in Trento, Bolzano, Milan, and St. Gallen
3 nights in Trento (with excursions to Venice and Bolzano), 1 night in Milan, and 2 nights in St. Gallen

Tour #4

(7 nights / 9 days) – Performing in Trento, Bolzano, Milan, and St. Gallen
Same as Itinerary #3, except 3 nights in St. Gallen (with excursion to Lucerne)



“The experiences of the chorus members were treasurable. As I have told you personally, the Karlskirche in Vienna had scores of persons in standing-room only for the entire concert, which concluded with standing ovations, all of our encores, and a protracted applause as I led the chorus to the rear of the enormous Baroque church....I think you have a thorough picture of my pleasure with MCI.”

**- Alan Heatherington,
Chicago Master Singers, Illinois**

These and all our other Standard Tours may be viewed on our website at www.musiccelebrations.com
Music Celebrations International would also be happy to create a custom tour to meet your specific wishes and interests.



“In 36 years as a conductor, there are many concerts in my memory banks, but a few stand out as extraordinary. One of these is undoubtedly the concert (MCI) arranged for us in the magnificent Basilica di San Miniato overlooking Florence. All the concert sites were perfect places for our cappella chamber choir. The audiences were so friendly, so responsive. I’ve taken a lot of tours in my day, the first in 1974. I have to tell you, for concert sites, hotels, meals, guide, personal attention – nothing can beat what you arranged for us in Italy.”

**- Lucy Carroll,
William Tennent Madrigal Singers**



Music Celebrations International
1440 S. Priest Dr., Ste. 102, Tempe, AZ 85281-6954
toll-free) 800.395.2036 | fax) 480.894.5137
www.musiccelebrations.com | info@musiccelebrations.com