PARIS CHORAL FESTIVAL

In 1994, Music Celebrations International, partnering with the United States Department of Defense and Department of the Interior, was recognized as the official tour operator to bring performing ensembles from the United States to France to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of D-Day and the Liberation of France. MCI clients performed for WWII Veterans on June 6th at the American Cemetery in Coleville, Normandy. In 2004 and 2014, MCI organized significant tours and events to commemorate the 60th and 70th anniversaries.

To continue this celebration of the centuries-old Franco-American friendship, and to commemorate another milestone anniversary, Music Celebrations International is pleased to announce the Paris Choral Festival taking place on July 2-9, 2019 (75th Anniversary of D-Day and the Liberation of France) under the artistic direction of Dr. Gary Schwartzhoff.

Prior to the finale performance, choirs will journey to nearby Normandy for an Independence Day choral remembrance and wreath-laying at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial – site of the June 6th, 1944 Allied Invasion.

The festival will feature works by Dan Forrest, Fauré, and more to honor the occasion, culminating in a grand musical commemoration for the heroes that fought for freedom during the world’s greatest invasion.

LA MADELEINE

Inaugurated during Napoleon Bonaparte’s reign, L’église de la Madeleine, more commonly known as La Madeleine, is a church in the heart of Paris that was built in the style of a Greco-Roman temple. This Roman Catholic church, dedicated to Mary Magdalene, is one of the best known buildings in Paris, and is host to some of the most important concerts in the city. Its prominent location, along with its tremendous size, allows it to be uniquely set apart against a stunning Parisian backdrop. The interior is lavishly decorated with marble, and has a single nave with three domes. At the altar sits a statue of Mary Magdalene being carried up to heaven by two angels, by the Italian sculptor Baron Charles Marochetti. La Madeleine also has a statue of St. Augustine created by Antoine Etex, as well as two by François Rude - the masterpiece Baptism of Christ, and the baptismal font.
FESTIVAL ITINERARY

Day 1: Tuesday, July 2, 2019
• Depart via scheduled air service to Paris, France

Day 2: Wednesday, July 3
• Arrive in Paris
• Meet Tour Manager who will assist in transfer to Caen region via Rouen
• Stop in Rouen to see the Cathedral. In the Place de la Cathédrale stands the Gothic Cathedral of Notre-Dame, one of the largest and most magnificent in France. The most striking feature is the elaborately articulated west front which was painted several times by Claude Monet. Also see the site of Joan of Arcs execution
• Lunch, on own
• Check-in to hotel, followed by Welcome Dinner, and overnight

Day 3: Thursday, July 4
• Breakfast at the hotel
• Morning excursion to Coleville
• **Participate in a wreath laying ceremony at the American Cemetery, site of the June 6th Normandy Invasion**
• Lunch, on own
• Also enjoy a visit to Point du Hoc where you can see the World War II Pointe du Hoc Ranger Monument. It was erected by the French to honor elements of the American Second Ranger Battalion under the command of Lieutenant Colonel James E. Rudder. During the American assault of Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944, these elements scaled the 100-foot cliff and seized the German-artillery pieces that could have fired on the American landing troops at Omaha Beach. At a high cost of life, they successfully defended against determined German counterattacks
• Dinner at the hotel and overnight

Day 4: Friday, July 5
• Breakfast at the hotel, followed by checkout
• Morning transfer to Paris
• Lunch, on own
• Half-day guided tour of Paris historique, including Notre Dame Cathedral, Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tower, Champs Elysees, Place de la Concorde, Luxembourg Palace and Gardens, Latin Quarter, Place de la Bastille, etc.
• Dinner at the hotel and overnight

Day 5: Saturday, July 6
• Breakfast at the hotel
• **Morning Rehearsal**
• Lunch, on own
• Tour of Paris artistique, including entrance to the Louvre, the world’s largest and greatest art museum

Day 6: Sunday, July 7
• Breakfast at the hotel
• Morning at leisure
• Lunch, on own
• Afternoon at leisure
• **Dinner on own**
• **Evening Rehearsal**

Day 7: Monday, July 8
• Breakfast at the hotel
• **Morning Dress Rehearsal**
• Lunch, on own
• Afternoon at leisure
• Farewell Dinner
• **Evening Paris Choral Festival Performance**
• Return to hotel for overnight

Day 8: Tuesday, July 9
• Breakfast at the hotel
• Transfer to Paris Airport for return flight
Gary R. Schwartzhoff, Professor Emeritus, served as the Director of Choral Activities at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire from 1991 to 2016. In addition to Wisconsin, he taught choral music in Iowa and Missouri during his career. Schwartzhoff received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Central College in Pella, Iowa, a Master of Music Degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa and a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Conducting at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, Missouri.

In 2017-2018, Schwartzhoff marks his forty-fourth year as a music educator. He has been active throughout his professional career in the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) and Intercollegiate Male Choruses (IMC). In ACDA, he served as President of the North Central Division from 1992-94 and served as a member of the IMC Executive Board from 1993-2016. The Wisconsin Choral Directors Association (WCDA) presented him the Outstanding Church Musician Award in 2007 and the Morris Hayes Award for lifetime achievement in the choral art in 2010. Schwartzhoff has presented choirs on over thirty conventions before the state, divisional and national levels of ACDA, IMC and the National Association for Music Education (NAfME). Schwartzhoff has conducted national choral festivals honoring former Presidents of the United States in Washington D.C. in 2009 (Lincoln), 2013 (JFK) and 2016 (FDR). In 2018, Schwartzhoff will be presented the Marshall Bartholomew Award by IMC in Washington D.C. The award is in honor of conductors who have made significant contributions to the field of male chorus music. In 2019, Schwartzhoff will conduct the 75th Anniversary of D-Day and the Liberation of France Choral Festival in Paris, France.

Schwartzhoff conducts The Master Singers in Eau Claire and serves as Director of Music at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Eau Claire, where he conducts the Chancel Choir. Gary is married to Nancy Schwartzhoff and they have two daughters, Jennifer Morgan (Jerry), and Rebecca Johnson (Andy), and grandchildren Brady, Alex, Anna, Emma, and Clare.