

Dublin

Choral Festival

Ryan Beeken, Artistic Director

Festival Tour #4 (8 nights/10 days)

Day 1 Tuesday, June 23, 2020

Depart via scheduled air service to Dublin, Ireland

Day 2 Wednesday, June 24 Dublin (D)

Arrive in Dublin

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting motorcoach for a panoramic tour of Dublin's highlights including St. Stephen's Green, Merrion Square, Liffey Footbridges, Grafton Street, Temple Bar, O'Connell Street, and Phoenix Park. Also visit Dublin Castle. Dublin Castle once functioned as a military fortress, a prison, treasury, courts of law and the seat of English Administration in Ireland for 700 years. Dublin Castle is now used for important state receptions and presidential inaugurations

Late afternoon hotel check-in
Evening dinner and overnight

Dublin is Ireland's capital and its largest, most cosmopolitan city. It wasn't before the Viking raids of the 9th century that Dublin was fully established. The "boom years" came in the 18th century and the city expanded across the river forming a new Dublin of stately squares, streets and Georgian mansions. Today, with its elegant Georgian streets, gregarious inhabitants and long history, it's little wonder Dublin is a city of writers

Day 3 Thursday, June 25 Dublin (B,L)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning rehearsal

Festival Welcome Lunch and entertainment at Taylors Three Rock
Visit St. Patrick's Cathedral built in honor of Ireland's patron saint. St. Patrick's is the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland

Attend Evensong in St. Patrick's Cathedral

Dinner, on own

Evening rehearsal

Overnight at the hotel

Day 4 Friday, June 26 Dublin (B,D)

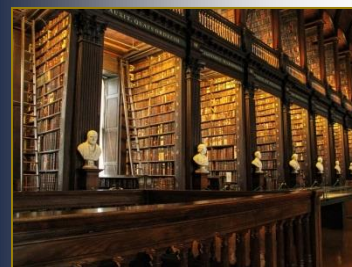
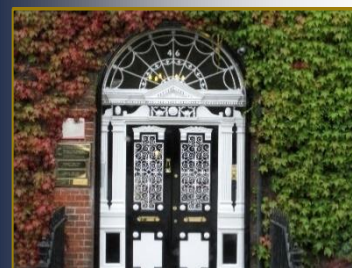
Breakfast at the hotel

Morning rehearsal

Lunch, on own

Afternoon at leisure for shopping or to take part in an optional activity offered to each choir (choirs choose one)

Option 1: Excursion 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,



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we see the Round Tower, Cathedral, St. Kevin's Cross, and Gatehouse

Option 2: Travel north to the picturesque maritime village of Malahide for some time in the village or on the beach. Here, we will visit Malahide Castle, one of Ireland's oldest and most historic castles. Return to Dublin via Howth. Howth is a fishing and yachting port, and popular suburban resort on the north side of Howth Head. Howth Head gives fine views of Dublin Bay, the Wicklow Mountains, and Boyne Valley

Option 3: Visit the Guinness Storehouse. Visitors will discover what goes into the making a pint of Guinness - the ingredients, the brewing process, the time, the craft and the passion. Following the tour, enjoy a pint of Guinness. Continue the tour with a visit to the Teeling Whiskey Distillery, Dublin's newest whiskey distillery. Walk through the history of Dublin distilling before taking the tour of the operational distillery. Enjoy the Craft Whiskey Comparison at the ultimate taste test

Option 4: Visit the GAA Museum established to commemorate, recognize and celebrate the GAA's enormous contribution to Irish sporting, cultural and social life. Exhibits share insight into the origins of hurling, Gaelic football and the role played by the GAA in the Irish cultural revival and nationalist movement. Also take a tour of Croke Park Stadium that recreates the experience of the magic of a match day at one of the most historic and modern sporting arenas in the world. Enjoy a skyline tour at Croke Park Stadium. Ascend to a walkway 145 feet above the ground to take in views of the Irish Capital from five different viewing platforms

Dinner at the hotel

Evening rehearsal

Overnight at the hotel

Day 5 Saturday, June 27 Dublin (B)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning guided tour and entrance to Trinity College, Ireland's oldest university. Trinity College contains the Book of Kells, which dates from 800 AD, making it one of the oldest books in the world

Lunch, on own

Afternoon dress rehearsal with orchestra

Dinner, on own

Dublin Choral Festival Finale Concert in St. Patrick's Cathedral

Overnight at the hotel

Day 6 Sunday, June 28 Dublin / Galway (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning transfer to Galway for a guided tour of this medieval city. Enjoy a visit to Knockmoy Abbey. Picturesquely situated on a small lough, are the ruins of Knockmoy Abbey (National Monument), a Cistercian house founded in 1190. On the north wall is one of Ireland's few examples of medieval wall painting, dating from about 1400

Lunch, on own

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Ireland

Evening dinner and overnight

Galway is picturesquely situated at the northeast end of Galway Bay. With its narrow streets, old stone and wooden shopfronts, good restaurants and bustling pubs, it is one of Europe's fastest growing cities and ranks fourth in size in Ireland, after Dublin, Cork and Limerick

Day 7 Monday, June 29 Galway / Bunratty / Killarney (B,D)



Breakfast at the hotel
Excursion to the Cliffs of Moher, one of Ireland's most spectacular sights. On a clear day, the views are tremendous
Lunch, on own
Transfer to Killarney via Bunratty for a visit to Bunratty Castle, the most complete and authentic medieval fortress in Ireland. Also visit the Folk Park, a living reconstruction of the homes and environment of Ireland of over a century ago
Evening dinner and overnight

Renowned for its beauty, famed for the splendor of its scenery, Killarney is one of the world's best-loved tourist spots. Killarney (Cill Airne - The Church of Sloes) became a magnificent town around 1750 when the local magnate, Lord Kenmare, developed the tourist business and four major roads were built to the outside world

Day 8 Tuesday, June 30 Killarney (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel
Today, enjoy a tour of the Ring of Kerry Highlights including Molls' Gap and Ladies View. Molls' Gap is a spectacular photographic viewing point with a magnificent view of Death Valley. Close by is the famous Ladies View viewing point which gives a different perspective of the countryside, with the three Lakes of Killarney all surrounded by the Kerry Mountains
Lunch, on own
Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Ireland
Evening dinner and overnight

Day 9 Wednesday, July 1 Killarney / Blarney / Dublin (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel
Transfer to Blarney where we 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 Dublin
Evening Farewell Dinner and entertainment at Merry Ploughboy's
Overnight at the hotel

Day 10 Thursday, July 2 Depart for home (B)

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

This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

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