



FESTIVAL CORALE INTERNAZIONALE DI
ROMA

Z. RANDALL STROOPE
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
JUNE 21-25, 2018





The Rome International Choral Festival is one of Rome's premier annual summer music events. The tenth-annual festival will feature Mass participation at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican and a formal finale concert at Rome's famed Saint Mary above Minerva Basilica on June 24th, 2018. The festival chorus will include mixed-voice singers and choirs from across North America that will come together to rehearse and perform en masse under the baton of maestro Z. Randall Stroope. Tour and festival production is produced by Music Celebrations International.

BASILICA DI SAN PIETRO IN VATICANO

St. Peter's Basilica is one of four major basilicas of Rome. It is the most prominent building inside the Vatican City and built on the ruins of Old Saint Peter's Basilica. Directly to the east of the church is St. Peter's Square (Piazza di San Pietro), built by Gianlorenzo Bernini between 1636 and 1667. It is surrounded by an elliptical colonnade with two pairs of Doric columns which form its breadth, each bearing ionic entablatures.



BASILICA DI SANTA MARIA SOPRA MINERVA

The Basilica of Saint Mary Above Minerva is considered the only Gothic church in Rome, and is the city's principal Dominican church. The basilica gets its name because like many early Christian basilicas, it was built directly over (sopra) the foundations of a temple dedicated to the goddess Minerva. Behind a self-effacing facade, its arched vaulting is painted with brilliant red ribbing, and blue with gilded stars, a 19th century restoration in the Gothic taste. The basilica is located on the small piazza Minerva close to the Pantheon, in the rione Pigna.

SAMPLE ITINERARY

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2018

- Depart via scheduled air service. The destination is Rome, Italy

DAY 2: THURSDAY, JUNE 21

- Arrive in Rome
- Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who assists the group to the awaiting chartered motorcoach for an orientation tour of Rome, stopping at sites such as Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain and Piazza Navona (lunch on own)
- Late afternoon transfer to the hotel for Welcome Dinner and overnight

DAY 3: FRIDAY, JUNE 22

- Breakfast at the hotel
- *Morning rehearsal*
- Lunch on own
- After the rehearsal, depart for a half-day guided tour of *Imperial Rome*, including entrance to the Roman Forum and Colosseum. Also view the Pantheon, Baths of Caracalla and Palatine Hill
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- *Evening rehearsal*
- Return to hotel for overnight

DAY 4: SATURDAY, JUNE 23

- Breakfast at the hotel
- *Morning rehearsal*
- Lunch on own
- After the rehearsal, depart for a half-day guided tour of *Religious Rome*. Visit Vatican City, the home of the Pope and the center of Roman Catholicism, as well as the Vatican Museum (using the whisper system), St. Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel (featuring Michelangelo's Ceiling Frescos and *The Last Judgment*)
- Evening dinner and overnight

DAY 5: SUNDAY, JUNE 24

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Morning at leisure for sightseeing, shopping or other planned activities
- Lunch on own
- *Afternoon Dress Rehearsal in the Basilica di Santa Maria sopra Minerva*
- Transfer to St. Peter's Basilica the Vatican
- *Combined choirs participate/sing in a late afternoon Mass in St. Peter's Basilica*
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- *Festival Finale Concert in the Basilica di Santa Maria sopra Minerva*
- Late return to hotel for overnight

DAY 6: MONDAY, JUNE 25

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Transfer to Rome's International Airport for return flight



FESTIVAL TOUR EXTENSIONS

Through our years of experience, we at Music Celebrations know most choirs that participate in a European festival will want to spend additional time in Europe before or after a festival in order to explore and experience the rich musical and cultural heritage Europe has to offer. Through our exclusive association with various governmental and tourist offices, MCI is able to help choirs perform in stand-alone concerts as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy concert series. The following are examples of possible pre or post-festival tour extensions to consider. Remember that MCI is more than happy to use these itineraries as a starting point to then create a completely customized tour for any choir.



TOUR 2: NAPLES / SORRENTO (ADD TWO NIGHTS)

Transfer to the Naples/Sorrento area. Visit the ruins of Pompeii which was buried by an eruption by Mount Vesuvius in August, 79 AD. Evening concert in Naples. Full-day guided tour of the Amalfi Coast, visiting Sorrento Peninsula, Positano, Furore Valley and Salerno. Late afternoon transfer to Rome for an evening Farewell Dinner and overnight.

TOUR 3: FLORENCE / PISA (ADD TWO NIGHTS)

Transfer to Florence. A half-day orientation tour of Florence includes the Piazza della Signoria, the Ponte Vecchio, and the Academy of Fine Arts to see Michaelangelo's original 'David' and other sculptures by the great master. Evening concert in Florence. Transfer to Rome via Pisa for sightseeing. See the Piazza del Duomo or Campo dei Miracoli, with the cathedral, the Leaning Tower, the Baptistery and Campo Santo.

TOUR 4: FLORENCE / MONTECATINI / VENICE / VERONA (ADD FOUR NIGHTS)

Transfer to Florence. A half-day orientation tour of Florence includes the Piazza della Signoria, the Ponte Vecchio, and the Academy of Fine Arts to see Michaelangelo's original 'David'. Take a half-day orientation tour of Florence. Excursion to Pisa to see the Piazza del Duomo or Campo dei Miracoli, with the cathedral, the Leaning Tower, the Baptistery and the Campo Santo. Evening concert in Florence. Transfer to Venice via Montecatini. Tour the main island of San Marco via public boat to see St. Mark's Square with entrance to the Basilica of St. Mark and the Doge's Palace. Evening concert in Venice. Transfer to Milan via Verona to see the Roman Arena and Juliet's Balcony.

TOUR 5: FLORENCE / MONTECATINI / PISA / LUCERNE (ADD FOUR NIGHTS)

Transfer to Florence. A half-day orientation tour of Florence includes the Piazza della Signoria, the Ponte Vecchio, and the Academy of Fine Arts to see Michaelangelo's original 'David'. Take a half-day orientation tour of Florence. Continue to Montecatini for overnight. Morning excursion to Pisa for sightseeing. See the Piazza del Duomo with the cathedral, Leaning Tower, and Baptistery. Then drive to Fiesole overlooking Florence before driving back into the city. Transfer to Lucerne. Take a walking tour of this picturebook-like town includes the Covered Wooden Bridge, Mussoge Towers, the Lion Monument and the old town. Evening concert in Lucerne. Farewell Dinner.



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