

Dublin

Choral Festival

June 24-28, 2020

Dr. Ryan Beeken
Artistic Director





About the Festival

Facing the haunting outline of the majestic Wicklow Mountains, Ireland's Fair City holds true to a 1,000-year Celtic heritage that inspires her music and artistry to this day. The Dublin Choral Festival will celebrate this great heritage of Celtic musical inspiration.

The festival will take place June 24-28, 2020, and will feature mixed-voice choirs and individual singers from a variety of background joining together to sing en masse. Three days of rehearsals will lead participants to a grand finale performance in the historic, stunning, and iconic St. Patrick's Cathedral. Founded in 1191, St. Patrick's Cathedral is also known as the National Cathedral and Collegiate Church of St. Patrick and is the largest church in Ireland.

The festival chorus will perform thrilling choral literature under the direction of esteemed Artistic Director Ryan Beeken, Director of Choral Activities at Wichita State University.



Sample Itinerary

Day One: Tuesday, June 23, 2020

- Depart via scheduled air service to Dublin, Ireland



Day Two: Wednesday, June 24

- Arrive in Dublin
- Meet your MCI Tour Manager, 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, 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
- Late afternoon hotel check-in
- Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

Day Three: Thursday, June 25

- 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 Four: Friday, June 26

- Breakfast at the hotel
- *Morning rehearsal*
- Lunch on own
- Afternoon at leisure for shopping or your choir may take part in one of the optional activities
- **Option 1:** Excursion to Glendalough and the Wicklow Mountains.
- **Option 2:** Travel north to the picturesque maritime vil-

lage of Malahide for some time in the village or on the beach. Return to Dublin via Howth.

- **Option 3:** Visit the Guinness Storehouse. Continue the tour with a visit to the Teeling Whiskey Distillery, Dublin's newest whiskey distillery.
- **Option 4:** Visit the GAA Museum established to commemorate, recognize and celebrate the GAA's enormous contribution to Irish sporting, cultural and social life. Also take a tour of Croke Park Stadium.
- **Option 5:** Afternoon cruise out of the city to experience the freedom of the magnificent Dublin Bay. Travel down the River Liffey south to the historic Dalkey Island and arrive at Dun Laoghaire. Time at leisure to take a stroll to Dalkey village.
- Dinner at the hotel
- *Evening rehearsal*
- Overnight at the hotel

Day Five: Saturday, June 27

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Morning guided tour of 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
- 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 Six: Sunday, June 28

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Transfer to Dublin's 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 Ireland 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 : Limerick (add two nights)

Following the festival, take a morning transfer to Galway City for some time at leisure. Galway is both a picturesque and lively city with a wonderful avant-garde culture. Continue through the Burren Region to the Cliffs of Moher, one of Ireland's most spectacular sights, then it is off to Limerick. Perform as part of the American Celebration of Music in Ireland. Return to Dublin via a visit to Ballyowen House, one of the finest remaining examples of neo-Classical Georgian architecture for a large Irish country house. Enjoy an evening farewell dinner at Merry Ploughboy's, then return to the hotel for a final overnight and a transfer to Dublin International Airport for a return flight home.

Tour 3 : Belfast (add two nights)

Following the festival, take a morning transfer to Belfast for a guided tour, including the leaning Albert Memorial Clock tower (Ireland's answer to the Tower of Pisa), the Opera House, The Crown Bar, Queens University, the Botanic Gardens, Shankill and Falls Road, and Belfast City Hall. Perform in Belfast as part of the American Celebration of Music in Ireland. Take an afternoon visit to Crumlin Road Gaol, a former prison and now a museum. Enjoy a visit to Titanic Belfast, where they recreate the story of the world's most famous ship in a new iconic, six floor building right beside the historic site of the original ship's construction. Return to Dublin for a farewell dinner and entertainment at Merry Ploughboy's, then back to the hotel for a final overnight and transfer to the airport for a return flight home.

Tour 4 : Galway & Killarney (add four nights)

Following the festival, take a morning transfer to Galway for a guided tour of this medieval city, then enjoy a visit to Knockmoy Abbey. Perform in Galway as part of the American Celebration of Music in Ireland. Take an excursion to the Cliffs of Moher, one of Ireland's most spectacular sights. Transfer to Killarney via Bunratty for a visit to Bunratty Castle. Also visit the Folk Park, a living reconstruction of the homes and environment of Ireland of over a century ago. Enjoy a tour of the Ring of Kerry highlights, including Molls Gap and Ladies View. Transfer to Blarney where we will visit the Blarney Castle and Stone. 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! Transfer back to Dublin for an evening farewell dinner and entertainment at Merry Ploughboy's, then back to the hotel and transfer to the airport for a return flight home.

Tour 5 : Cardiff & London (add four nights)

Following the festival, transfer from Dublin via ferry across the Irish Sea and continue to the Welsh capitol of Cardiff via motorcoach. Enjoy a morning guided tour of Cardiff Castle, and visit the Museum of Welsh Life at St. Fagan's on the western outskirts of the city. Transfer to London via Stonehenge, Europe's most famous prehistoric monument constructed over 5,000 years ago. Perform in London as part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain. Enjoy an afternoon guided tour of London including the residential and shopping districts of Kensington and Knightsbridge, and Westminster Abbey. Take an excursion to Windsor for a tour of Windsor Castle. Return to London for a leisurely afternoon, farewell dinner, and overnight. Transfer to one of London's airports for a return flight home.



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Dr. Ryan Beeken proudly serves as Director of Choral Activities at Wichita State University. Dr. Beeken previously was the Director of Choral Studies at Indiana University of Pennsylvania where he conducted the University Chorale, Chorus, and Chamber Singers. In addition, he teaches graduate and undergraduate choral conducting and supervises student teachers. Beeken also served as Artistic Director for the Blair Concert Chorale, whose mission includes fostering a growing appreciation of quality choral music for the population of south-central Pennsylvania. He received Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and Bachelor of Music Education degrees from Drake University and Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts Degrees in Choral Conducting from Michigan State University.

Dr. Beeken's choirs have performed at State, Regional, and National Conventions of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) and for state and regional NAFME conferences as well. A frequent clinician and festival director, Dr. Beeken is regularly engaged as a conductor, clinician, and adjudicator throughout the United States; recent engagements include All-States and Honor Choirs in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and also in the Czech Republic, and Austria. He has served on the executive committee of the American Choral Directors Association at both the state and regional level and is currently serving as District 3 President for the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association. Beeken regularly presents sessions for symposia on topics including repertoire, rehearsal techniques, motivation, conductor - student relationships, and program building. Recent presentations include the 2018 Together We Sing Session for the Eastern ACDA Division Conference, 2017 International Conference on Arts and Humanities, 2016 and 2015 National NAFME teacher in-service, 2013 Southwest ACDA Regional Conference, and state conferences in Alabama, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, West Virginia, and Wisconsin and a residency at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Prior to his appointment at IUP, Dr. Beeken taught at Michigan State University where he conducted the Women's Glee Club and while residing in Des Moines, Iowa, directed the Drake Chorale at Drake University. He also taught elementary, middle school, and high school music for sixteen years, most recently serving as Director of Vocal Music for Waukee Schools in suburban Des Moines where he lead a program of over 300 students and twelve ensembles to national distinction.