

# Dublin

## Choral Festival

June 22 - 26, 2016

Kevin Fenton, Artistic Director



# About the Festival

**F**acing 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 inaugural Féile Córúil Dublin will celebrate this great heritage of Celtic musical inspiration.

The festival will take place June 22-26, 2016, 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 oldest medieval cathedral in Ireland, Christ Church Cathedral Dublin.

The festival chorus will perform thrilling choral literature under the direction of esteemed Artistic Director Dr. Kevin Fenton - Professor of Choral Conducting and Ensembles at Florida State University.

## Price Starting At \$1,542 USD Per Person

Airfare not included, but may be arranged at an additional cost. Price is based on a minimum of 45 paying participants per European deluxe motorcoach. Please contact Music Celebrations for more details.

Cost includes:

- Participation in all Dublin Festival events.
- All festival and concert production and publicity.
- Local deluxe motorcoach transportation on arrival, and available for the entire tour.
- Four nights hotel accommodations in Dublin.
- Four breakfasts and four dinners.
- Full-time professional tour management.
- Guided sightseeing tours.
- Tips to hotel personnel.
- One flight bag, two luggage tags, one souvenir Photo Video, and one souvenir festival t-shirt, for each participant.
- Travel insurance coverage.



# Sample Itinerary

## Day One: Tuesday, June 21, 2016

- Depart via scheduled air service to Dublin, Ireland



## Day Two: Wednesday, June 22

- 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 23

- 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 24

- Breakfast at the hotel
- *Morning rehearsal*
- Lunch on own
- Afternoon at leisure for shopping or to take part in an optional activity
- **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 25

- 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 Christ Church Cathedral*
- Overnight at the hotel



## Day Six: Sunday, June 26

- 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.

