

Festival Tour #2 (6 nights/8 days)

**Day 1 Tuesday, July 4, 2017**

Depart via scheduled air service to Dublin, Ireland

**Day 2 Wednesday, July 5 Dublin (D)**

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

*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, July 6 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, July 7 Dublin (B,D)**

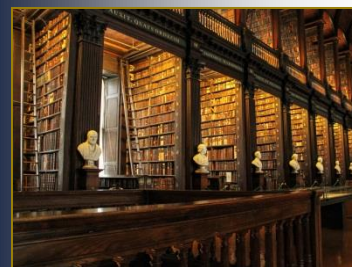
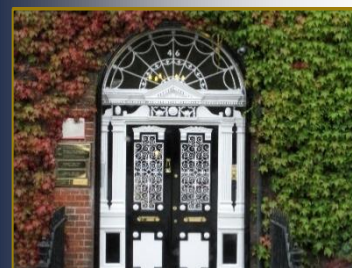
Breakfast at the hotel

*Morning rehearsal*

Lunch on own

Afternoon at leisure for shopping or to take part in an optional activity offered to each choir

**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 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 the 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

**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 with its many historic structures, famous pubs and eateries  
Dinner at the hotel

*Evening rehearsal*

Overnight at the hotel

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**Day 5      Saturday, July 8                      Dublin    (B)**

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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

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**Day 6      Sunday, July 9                      Dublin / Galway / Burren / Limerick(B,D)**

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Breakfast at the hotel

Morning transfer to Galway City for some time at leisure. Galway is both a picturesque and lively city with a wonderful avant-garde culture. The city has many relics of its medieval past and is worth taking time to explore

Lunch on own

Continue through the Burren Region to the Cliffs of Moher, one of Ireland's most spectacular sights. On a clear day, the views are tremendous

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Then it is off to Limerick

***Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Ireland***

Evening dinner and overnight

*Limerick city straddles the Shannon's broadening tidal stream, where the river swings west to join the Shannon Estuary. Despite some unexpected glitz and gloss, it remains an unflinchingly honest town that doesn't shy away from a tough past as portrayed in Frank McCourt's Angela's Ashes. Limerick has an intriguing castle, a lively art museum and contemporary cafe culture to go with its uncompromised pubs*

**Day 7    Monday, July 10                    Limerick / Tipperary / Dublin                    (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Return to Dublin via visit to Ballyowen House, one of the finest remaining examples of neo-Classical Georgian architecture for a large Irish country house. Dating back to 1750, it is set in an elegant and elevated parkland setting near Cashel town in Tipperary. See the main rooms of the beautiful Ballyowen House and the stabling and grounds outside

Lunch on own

Evening Farewell Dinner and entertainment at Merry Ploughboy's

Overnight at the hotel

**Day 8    Tuesday, July 11                    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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