

Festival Tour #3 (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)**

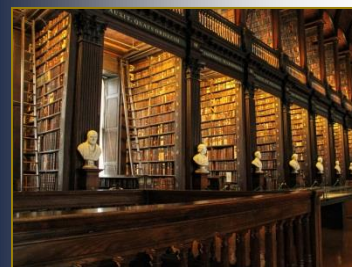
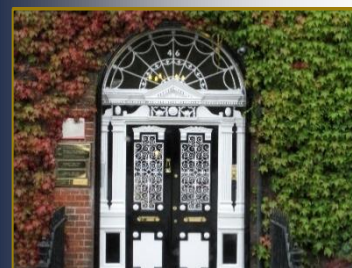
Breakfast at the hotel

*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

**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 / Belfast                      (B,D)**

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Breakfast at the hotel

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 (dates from 1885), Queens University, the Botanic Gardens, Shankill and Falls Road, Belfast City Hall

Lunch on own

Afternoon visit to Crumlin Road Gaol. Grasp the wonderful opportunity to experience the history inside the former prison, Crumlin Road Gaol which dates back to 1845. See the execution cell where 17 men were executed



between 1854 and 1961. Also see the Governor's office and the restored cells of C wing. Walk along the underground tunnel that links the Gaol to the courthouse where the prisoners were led to the Gaol after being sentenced  
**Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Ireland**  
Evening dinner and overnight

*Belfast, capital since 1920 of the six counties of Northern Ireland, is an important industrial city and port. It lies beautifully situated on Belfast Lough in the northeast of Ireland, at the mouth of the River Lagan. The central pedestrianized area on the west bank of the River Lagan makes a pleasant place to stroll. The magnificence of its 19th century buildings earned the city the sobriquet "Athens of the North"*

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

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Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a visit to Titanic Belfast. Titanic Belfast recreates 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

Lunch on own

Return to Dublin for Farewell Dinner and entertainment at Merry Ploughboy's

Overnight at the hotel

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**Day 8      Tuesday, July 11                      Depart for home                      (B)**

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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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