

the Alexandria Singers

July 17 - 23, 2018

American Celebration of Music in

Ireland

An exclusive concert tour for The Alexandria Singers



Music Celebrations International
Concert Tours With Integrity

The Alexandria Singers

American Celebration of Music in Ireland

Tour #1 (5 nights / 7 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service to Shannon or Dublin, Ireland

Day 2

Bunratty / Cork

(D)

Arrive in Shannon or Dublin

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer to Cork via Bunratty Castle, the most complete and authentic medieval fortress in Ireland. Built in 1425 it was restored in 1954 to its former medieval splendor. Also visit the Folk Park, a living reconstruction of the homes and environment of Ireland of over a century ago. Stroll from house to house or around the charming village street to experience village life in 19th century Ireland

Continue to Cork for late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

Cork is a liberal, youthful and cosmopolitan place with spruced-up streets, revitalized stretches of waterfront, and – seemingly – an artisan coffee bar on every corner. The best of the city is happily traditional – snug pubs with live-music sessions, restaurants dishing up top-quality local produce, and a genuinely proud welcome from the locals

Day 3

Cork / Ring of Kerry

(B)

Today will include a Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Ireland

Breakfast at the hotel

Today enjoy a tour of the Ring of Kerry Highlights including Molls Gap and Ladies View. Molls' Gap is a spectacular photographic viewing with a magnificent view of Death Valley. Close by is the famous Ladies View viewing point which gives a different perspective of the countryside, with the three Lakes of Killarney all surrounded by the Kerry Mountains

Lunch on own

Dinner on own and overnight

Day 4

Cork / Blarney / Waterford / Kilkenny

(B)

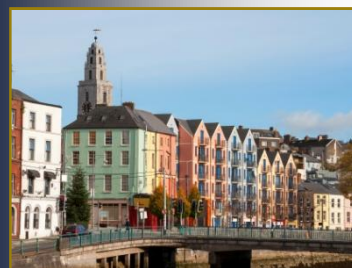
Breakfast at the hotel

Hotel check out

Transfer to Blarney where we will visit the Blarney Castle and Stone. The castle dates from 1446 and is built on solid limestone in beautiful grounds. 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!

Lunch on own

Continue to Waterford for a walking tour of the city given by Jack Burtchaell. Jack Burtchaell has for years now charmed and informed visitors on his historic tours. A walled city of Viking origins, Waterford retains much of its medieval character together with the graceful buildings from its 18th century expansion. Reginald's Tower marks the city's Viking heart and the



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surrounding area is particularly attractive. Also visit the Waterford Glass visitors center to see the famous hand cut crystal
Then it is off to Kilkenny for hotel check in, dinner on own and overnight

Kilkenny is considered by many to be second only to Dublin in its attraction for visitors. Its narrow winding streets lend it an atmosphere of old world charm; its terraces of handsome Georgian houses give it elegance; and with all this it is a busy modern town and market center for a fertile agricultural area

Day 5 **Kilkenny / Glendalough / Dublin** **(B)**

Today will include a Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Ireland

Breakfast at the hotel

Hotel Check out

Transfer 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 Kitchen, and Gatehouse

Continue to Dublin for hotel check in, dinner on own and overnight

Dublin is Ireland’s capital and its largest, most cosmopolitan city. 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 6 **Dublin** **(B,D)**

Today will include a Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Ireland

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a tour of Dublin including St. Stephen’s Green, South Bank, College 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. Also visit Dublin Castle

Lunch on own

Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight

Day 7 **Depart for home** **(B)**

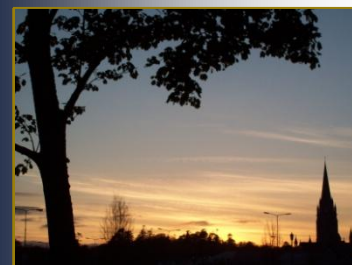
Breakfast at the hotel

Hotel check out

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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Ireland Testimonials



“I would like to thank the Music Celebrations International family for the inspiring and informative trip to the British Isles. The audiences were so very receptive and the opportunity to perform with the men’s choirs in Ireland and Wales was a high light for the members of University Singers. Additionally, the performances at Christchurch Cathedral in Oxford and the Southwark Cathedral in London proved to be very emotional for the students—the architecture and acoustics were beautifully overwhelming. A highlight for me was observing the students as they experienced the worship service at St. Paul’s Cathedral in London—the ceremony, the singing of the choir, and the beauty of the surroundings created an “awe” in them that was truly a privilege to witness.”

Dr. Kevin Fenton, Florida State University Singers, Florida

“Wonderful musical experiences! Lovely scenery, interesting sight-seeing (in spite of the rain), excellent hotel accommodations, great meals and wonderful concerts. All in all, a very positive tour to Ireland. I thought that all performances were wonderful - lovely venues; enthusiastic, appreciative audiences; warm receptions, with metaphorical arms wide open; lovely, embracing people. I am happy to serve as a reference source for MCI. We have been very happy with our three international tours you have arranged.”

Tim & Carol Thomas, Indian Springs School Chamber Choir, Alabama

“Our two weeks in Ireland were filled with special experiences. We found the people to be tremendously receptive to us and our music and they very willing to go out of their way to assure us the very best of times. Music Celebrations International arranged terrific concert venues which were well publicized and well attended. The young people in the ensemble were able to meet and converse with many locals their own age. It was a very revealing and uplifting experience for all of us to personally be involved in Irish cultural events. I can honestly say that our tour to Ireland was a wonderful experience in all respects; musically and culturally. It was just another example of how MCI takes special care in all their arrangements. I look forward to traveling there again in the very near future.”



William Silvester, All American Youth in Concert, Pennsylvania



“Our recent tour to Ireland and Scotland was a great success. This was our third tour with Music Celebrations. Our tour manager was the best we have ever had. Both he and the bus driver became part of our group and quickly became dear friends. Our concerts were fantastic! The concert in Bray (south of Dublin) was a ball! This was definitely our performance highlight. Full house (300 people) and we developed a relationship with the audience that seldom happens.”

Elaine Ostrander, Worthington Civic Band, Ohio



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“Our performance venues were beautifully selected for their historic and acoustic elements. We performed in four concerts, two of which were shared performances with local musicians. All four of our concerts were warmly received. Because our performances were publicized well in advance, we drew an audience from the native townspeople as well as the USA, including our home state of New Mexico. Our personal highlights included a demonstration of working sheepdogs, impromptu singing at Knockmoy Abbey and in the Glendalough church, and learning and performing some of the traditional Irish music. We had a wonderful guide and bus driver that made our tour even more memorable. Both men sang for our bus several times and were very knowledgeable of Ireland’s history, as well as blarney. All in all, our singing trip to Ireland was unforgettable and we appreciate being so well taken care of.”

Virginia Nickels, Caliente Community Chorus, New Mexico



“Thanks to all of you for your hard work. We were well taken care of. Your on-site staff was superb (can’t say enough nice things about our tour manager!) and my interaction with your office was great as always! This tour was what I have come to expect from MCI – EXCELLENCE!!!”

Dr. Bud Clark, Missouri Southern State University

“The ‘luck of the Irish’ followed The CHORALE through their Emerald Isle tour! Well . . . Music Celebrations had their professional hand in the success of this, our third international tour, as well! Our concert in the Gothic Cathedral at Kylemore was a spiritual and acoustical treat. In St.Mary’s in Killarney, the audience wouldn’t let us go home. We sang

encore after encore and met folks from our own home state. Some of that audience actually followed us to Dublin to catch our noontime concert at 1:00 the following Saturday. A music director is so busy taking care of the needs of all the singers, that it’s very special to feel taken care of by others. Our tour guide and the entire MCI staff did what they do so well - - took away our concerns and made us feel as though we were on vacation. Thanks MCI for your caring ways.”

Julie Beyler, The CHORALE, Illinois

“I want to take a moment to thank all of my friends at Music Celebrations for organizing yet another fantastic tour. Of the many international tours I have led over the years, MCI has produced the best by far, and they keep getting better. The concert in Kylemore Abbey was such a neat experience. This tour had one of the best assortments of venues in terms of variety that I can ever remember. To me it’s most important for my kids to sing in great venues, and you’ve done that yet again. As always, everyone at MCI was very helpful. I really enjoy all of the conference calls, so when we arranged those I felt like you were really keeping me informed and were on top of everything. I also love MCI because you allow me to more or less create my own itinerary - something that few other tour companies out there truly know how to do.”

Betty Mullett, Former Director, Riverview High School Choir & Sarasota Singers, Florida

