



The Fondazione Amici & The Continuo Arts Foundation present

Idyllic Ireland & Festival Concerto Capella Sistina
February 13 – 23, 2014

with

Principal Conductor: Candace Wicke

Associate Conductors: Tom Colao & Beverly Coulter

Featuring THE CONTINUO ARTS SYMPHONIC CHORUS

with singers from the All Saints Princeton Choir

Brother Mark E. Spencer, Harpist

Special Guest Artists

Rosemary Siemens, violin

Mary Zilba, soloist

TOUR MANAGERS:

Noel & Denis (Ireland)

Massimo & Ambra (Italy)

DAILY ITINERARY

▪ Day 1, February 13, Thursday: Depart for Ireland

Evening: Depart on your overseas journey!
Complimentary meals and beverages will be served aloft. (D,B)

▪ Day 2, February 14, Friday: Arrive Dublin - Limerick

Morning: Arrive at Dublin International Airport. Proceed through passport control, claim your luggage, clear customs, and a Peter's Way Tours tour manager/guide will meet you upon your exit from Customs. Board your comfortable touring bus, and you will be on your way to Limerick. Independent stop will be made en route to Limerick for tea, coffee and scones.

Afternoon: Arrive in Limerick. Check-in at hotel in Limerick. Freshen-up.

Enjoy a panoramic city tour of Limerick. The Vikings founded Limerick in the 9th century as a base for raiding local monasteries and Celtic settlements. It was later colonised by the Anglo-Norman who built the castle in 1210. The City at that time was divided into Irishtown and Englishtown and life was seldom calm between the two groups. Today Limerick is the main city of County Limerick and is Ireland's third largest city with a population in excess of 80,000. It is often referred to as the sporting capital of Ireland because of its excellent sports facilities and passionate devotion to rugby. The city has recently achieved fame as the setting for Frank McCourt's best-selling autobiography 'Angela's Ashes'.

Evening: **Enjoy dinner @ entertainment at Bunratty Castle Medieval Banquet.**

Bunratty Castle, was built in the 15th century by the Earl of Thomond and stands on the banks of the Rathy River. For over 40 years the ladies of the Castle, aided and abetted by the Earl's Butler, have welcomed guests from all over the world to join them at The Earl's Banquet. The evening begins with a mead reception and a four course meal with red & white wine in the Corn Barn. This is followed by entertainment by the world renowned Bunratty Castle Entertainers accompanied by harp and violin. The banquet is held twice nightly during the high season.

Overnight: George Hotel in Limerick. (D)

▪ Day 3, February 15, Saturday: Morning Performance - Burren Region & Cliffs of Moher

- Morning: Irish Breakfast at your hotel.
11:00am: Performance in Limerick at St. Mary's Cathedral.
Independent lunch.
- Afternoon: **After lunch, visit the Cliffs of Moher.** Situated on the Atlantic Ocean and bordering the Burren Area, the Cliffs of Moher are one of Ireland's most spectacular sights. Standing 230 metres above the ground at their highest point and 8km long, the Cliffs boast one of the most amazing views in Ireland. On a clear day, the Aran Islands are visible in Galway Bay as well as the valleys and hills of Connemara. The cliffs reach their highest point just north of O' Brien's Tower built by Cornelius O' Brien, a descendant of Brian Boru, to entertain his lady friends.
Today enjoy a tour of the Burren Region
The Burren landscape covers over 150 square kilometres and is one of Ireland's 6 National Parks. The region is visually similar to a moonscape, yet shelters a mixture of flora and archaeological sites which have attracted visitors for centuries. Man came here over 6000 years ago, cleared the forests and set in motion soil erosion. Centuries of weathering has produced a terrain of fissured limestone pavements, disappearing lakes, terraced mountains, and underground cave systems. For millennia man has left his mark, megalithic tombs and cooking sites litter the pavements, while medieval tower-houses and churches guard the valleys. Today man is absent from most of the upland, leaving behind ancient field systems, route-ways and place-names. Today's visitors to the Burren will find Arctic, Alpine and Mediterranean plants growing together.
- Evening: Dinner and overnight at George Hotel in Limerick. (B,D)

▪ Day 4, February 16, Sunday: Blarney Castle - Waterford

- Morning: Irish Breakfast at your hotel.
This morning depart Limerick and travel to County Cork.
Visit Blarney Castle. Attracting visitors from all over the world, Blarney Castle is situated in Blarney village, 8 km from Cork City. An ancient stronghold of the McCarthy's, Lords of Muskerry, it is one of Ireland's oldest and most historic castles, and indeed one of the strongest fortresses in Munster. Built in 1446, Blarney Castle is famous for its Blarney stone, The Stone of Eloquence, which is traditionally believed, to have the power to bestow the gift of eloquence on all those who kiss it. Many legends tell the story of the Stone, but why not kiss it and find out the truth behind the legend. The Castle gardens covering 60 acres of land are under constant change and over the past few years, a water garden, fern garden and poison garden have been developed and are all open to the visitor.
- Afternoon: Independent lunch.
Enjoy some free time for shopping at Blarney Woollen Mills. The presence of the Woollen Mills during the famine shielded Blarney from the worst effects of the famine, due to its employment of local workers. The success story at the mills continued until a disastrous fire in 1869. By August 1871, the mill was once again operational with a labour force of 222. In 1976 Chris Kelleher, himself a mill worker, bought the old mill property. Within a short period of time Chris and his family transformed the mill into what is perhaps the largest quality craft shop in Ireland.
- Overnight: Dinner and overnight at Fitzwilson Hotel in Waterford. (B,D)

▪ Day 5, February 17, Monday: Wicklow - Dublin

- Morning: Irish Breakfast at your hotel.
Visit Waterford Crystal Visitor Centre. The Waterford Crystal visitor centre has moved in 2010 to a magnificent new home in the heart of Waterford City. A unique highlight of a visit is the factory tour which gives an up close insight into the centuries-old tradition of Waterford Crystal making. Feel the heat of the furnace and marvel at the skills of the craftsmen. The factory tour includes the following traditional production areas; wooden mould making, crystal blowing and furnace, crystal cutting and quality inspection and finishing. After the tour visitors can browse the world's most famous crystal in a lavish retail store, which houses the largest collection of Waterford Crystal found anywhere in the world. The centre includes the retail store, exhibition and crystal installation areas, coffee shop and worldwide shipping facility. Factory tours last about 50 minutes.

- Day 5, February 17, Monday: (continued)

Today depart Waterford and travel to Wicklow region. Known as “the Garden of Ireland” it is home to Powerscourt, Mount Usher and Russborough, to name a few of its many houses and gardens. This region features all the various types of scenery that makes Ireland so beautiful. The coastline is bordered by charming sea resorts such as Bray or Greystones. In the heart of its gentle and rounded hills are nestled Enniskerry and Avoca, both very picturesque villages. Discover its romantic and quiet beauty, the deserted mounts where nothing but heather grows, the small forests and the lush prairies illuminated by yellow gorse in spring. Glendalough, a 6th century monastic site and Powerscourt house and gardens are a must for any visit to Wicklow.

Independent lunch.

Afternoon:

Visit Glendalough. The English name Glendalough originated from the Irish “Gleann Dá Locha”, which translates as "The valley of the two lakes". It was here that St. Kevin, son of the king of Leinster, founded a monastery in the 6th century. From a simple beginning the site grew to become famous as a centre of learning throughout Europe. Standing for 600 years it was destroyed in 1398. Much of what is to be seen today dates from the 10 to 12th century. One of the most attractive features is the fine 34m high round tower. A cathedral, stone churches and decorated crosses also survived albeit as ruins. Beautifully scenic walking trails take visitors on a circular route by the lakes from the Car park. Glendalough has an excellent visitor's centre and display area, which is located at the entrance to the Valley. It houses a very comprehensive exhibition on Glendalough detailing the history, archaeology and wildlife of this area of Wicklow. An entrance charge applies to the visitor centre. Continue to Dublin for hotel check-in.

Overnight:

Dinner and overnight at Ashling Hotel in Dublin.

(B,D)

- Day 6, February 18, Tuesday: Dublin’s Fair City – Noon/Performance

Morning:

Irish Breakfast at your hotel.

A **panoramic tour** is the ideal introduction to “Dublin’s Fair City”. The tour will introduce you to the principal sites, which you may then revisit at your leisure. You will visit the elegant Georgian squares, famous for its architecture and of course its famous –doors. Pass by Trinity College, with the 8th century *Book of Kells* and the long room with its 200,000 books. Continue to St Patrick’s Cathedral. You will also see Christchurch, built by the Anglo-Norman’s in 1172 to replace an earlier Church built by the Vikings in 1038, on your way to the Phoenix Park with its many monuments including the Papal cross. Return to the city centre via the Quays, passing by the Guinness brewery, and Collins Barrack, now part of the national museum, before arriving back into O’Connell Street and the city centre.

Visit to Trinity College with Book of Kells. Thomas Burgh built the Old Library building in the 18th century. Today it houses one of Ireland’s most illustrious books, the 9th century “Book of Kells”. Before viewing the famous book visitors pass through an excellent exhibition based on the book of Kells and other important books written in monasteries around Ireland from the 9th century. After viewing the book of Kells visitors are invited to visit the long room built in 1745. Once the principal library of the University, it now contains over 200,000 books and manuscripts of the Trinity’s oldest volumes. Brian Boru’s harp said to be the “oldest harp in Ireland” and a copy of the 1916 proclamation, one of the most important documents relating to Irish history are also on display in the long room.

Visit St. Patrick’s Cathedral. Built in honour of Ireland’s patron saint, Saint Patrick’s Cathedral stands adjacent to the famous well where tradition has it Saint Patrick baptized converts on his visit to Dublin. The parish church of Saint Patrick on this site was granted collegiate status in 1191, and raised to cathedral status in 1224. The present building dates from 1220. The Cathedral is today the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland (a church of the Anglican communion). St Patrick’s is Gothic in style and its splendid interior is adorned with funeral monuments, such as The Boyle Family Memorial and the grave of Dean Jonathan Swift (author of Gulliver’s Travels). Swift was dean here until his death in 1745. The Chancel has ornate stained-glass windows, and spectacular choir stalls, once used by the knights of St Patrick, adjoin the Altar. The massive west towers, houses a large peal of bells whose ringing tones are so much part of the character of Dublin.

12:15pm: Rehearsal at St. Patrick’s Cathedral

1:00pm – 2:00pm: Concert at St. Patrick’s Cathedral

Afternoon:

The balance of the day is at leisure in Dublin.

Overnight:

Dinner and overnight at Ashling Hotel in Dublin.

(B,D)

▪ Day 7, February 19, Wednesday: Dublin – Rome – Concert at Sistine Chapel

- Morning: Leave Dublin to Rome.
Upon arrival at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport, proceed through Passport Control, claim your luggage, and a Peter's Way Tours tour manager will meet you upon your exit from Customs. Board your comfortable motor coach and soon you will be on your way for an orientation ride of the "Eternal City." On to your hotel for Check-in.
- Afternoon: At leisure.
- Evening: After early dinner you will be transferred to the **Sistine Chapel in Vatican City for the first Concerto Capella Sistina with The Continuo Arts Symphonic Chorus, Singers from All Saints Princeton, Candace Wicke & Tom Colao conductors, Mark Spencer harpist, Rosemary Seimens, violinist and Mary Zilba, soloist.**
- Overnight: Overnight at Cardinal Hotel in Rome. (B,D)

▪ Day 8, February 20, Thursday: AM/Vatican Museums; Sistine Chapel; St. Peter's Basilica – PM/Leisure

- Morning: Breakfast at your hotel.
After breakfast, begin your morning of sightseeing with a visit to one of the great art collections in the world, the Vatican Museums. Walk in the footsteps of the Princes of the Church through the richly decorated galleries. Continue on to the Sistine Chapel, the private chapel of the Popes, where Michelangelo best expressed his genius in monumental frescoes. End your morning tour in St. Peter's Basilica. Take in the astounding architecture and the statuary adorning this largest of all Christian churches, including Michelangelo's magnificent "Pieta." Pray at the new tomb of Blessed John Paul II, in St. Sebastian's Chapel. On your own, with time permitting, you may wish to go to the Vatican Crypt to see and pray near the tomb of St. Peter and where numerous pontiffs are buried, among incredible works of art. Independent lunch. Return to hotel to freshen-up.
- Evening: Evening free. Independent dinner.
- Overnight: Overnight at Hotel Cardinal in Rome. (B)

▪ Day 9, February 21, Friday: AM/Tour of Ancient Rome – PM/Mass at St. Peter's Basilica

- Morning: Breakfast at your hotel.
Begin our day with a visit to the Church of St. Peter in Chains to see the original chains in which St. Peter was brought captive to Rome and the statue of Moses, one of Michelangelo's greatest masterpieces. Then, we continue to the ancient Roman Forum. See the Arch of Titus and the Arch of Constantine and proceed to the outside of the Coliseum for a fascinating explanation of its history. Continue on to the grandiose white marble monument of King Victor Emmanuel II, often called the "Wedding Cake." See the Trajan Column and the Market (the ancient Roman equivalent of a department store). Independent lunch.
- Afternoon: **Around 4:00pm, you will be transferred to St. Peter's Basilica for the 5:00pm Scheduled Mass.**
- Evening: **Gala dinner at Benito Restaurant in Rome.**
- Overnight: Overnight at Hotel Cardinal in Rome. (B)

▪ Day 10, February 22, Saturday: Full day excursion to Assisi

- Morning: Breakfast at your hotel.
After breakfast, leave Rome and board our comfortable motor-coach for the trip to the ancient mountaintop city of Assisi. It's a town of narrow lanes, numerous shrines of Saint Francis, and an extraordinary amount of art dedicated to its young friar – a rich young man who turned to God after an illness, and whose subsequent life has inspired millions. Visit the Basilica of St. Francis – a "double" Basilica with two extraordinary basilicas built one on top of the other. We'll tour the dramatic Romanesque lower basilica, where the body of the Saint is buried. In the soaring Gothic upper basilica we will marvel at the world-famous Giotto frescoes depicting scenes from the life of St. Francis. Independent lunch.
- Afternoon: **4:00 – 5:00pm: Rehearsal at the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi.**
5:30pm: Concert at the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi.
- Overnight: Return to Rome. Independent dinner.
Overnight at Hotel Cardinal in Rome. (B)

■ Day 11, February 23, Sunday: Return from Rome

Morning: Breakfast at your hotel.
Return to the USA.

****Unexpected circumstances may require alteration to the details outlined in this itinerary****



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Specializing in Custom Performance Tours and Pilgrimages

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CURRENCY CHEAT SHEETS

Euro (EUR) to US Dollar (USD)

Including 4% typical cash exchange margin

Friday, January 10, 2014

EUR	USD	EUR	USD	EUR	USD
1 =	1.41	10 =	14.13	100 =	141
2 =	2.83	15 =	21.20	200 =	283
3 =	4.24	20 =	28.26	300 =	424
4 =	5.65	25 =	35.33	400 =	565
5 =	7.07	30 =	42.39	500 =	707
6 =	8.48	35 =	49.46	600 =	848
7 =	9.89	40 =	56.53	700 =	989
8 =	11.31	45 =	63.59	800 =	1131
9 =	12.72	50 =	70.66	900 =	1272
		55 =	77.72	1000 =	1413
		60 =	84.79	5000 =	7066
		65 =	91.85		
		70 =	98.92		
		75 =	105.99		
		80 =	113.05		
		85 =	120.12		
		90 =	127.18		
		95 =	134.25		

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Interbank rate
Euro (EUR)
US Dollar (USD)
Friday, January 10, 2014

US Dollar (USD) to Euro (EUR)

Including 4% typical cash exchange margin

Friday, January 10, 2014

USD	EUR	USD	EUR	USD	EUR
1 =	0.77	10 =	7.65	100 =	77
2 =	1.53	15 =	11.48	200 =	153
3 =	2.30	20 =	15.31	300 =	230
4 =	3.06	25 =	19.13	400 =	306
5 =	3.83	30 =	22.96	500 =	383
6 =	4.59	35 =	26.79	600 =	459
7 =	5.36	40 =	30.61	700 =	536
8 =	6.12	45 =	34.44	800 =	612
9 =	6.89	50 =	38.27	900 =	689
		55 =	42.09	1000 =	765
		60 =	45.92	5000 =	3827
		65 =	49.75		
		70 =	53.57		
		75 =	57.40		
		80 =	61.23		
		85 =	65.05		
		90 =	68.88		
		95 =	72.70		

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Interbank rate
US Dollar (USD)
Euro (EUR)
Friday, January 10, 2014