

Italy In Song

The Great & Grand American Choral Series in Italy
Florence • Verona • Venice • Lake Garda

Thursday, May 30 – Sunday, June 9, 2019

from \$4145 with air / \$2500 without air

Registration Deadline: November 1, 2018

Experience Italy alongside HSU students during a choral festival in Florence, Italy, and surrounding areas. HSU’s Dr. Clell Wright is directing the festival choir in a performance of the Schubert *Mass in G*. The trip is open to **any and all** who want to go.



Florence, Italy

You are welcome to sing in the chorus or simply tag along. Either way, you’ll have a wonderful experience touring Florence, Verona, Lake Garda, and Venice.

If you chose to sing the Schubert, no prior rehearsals are required – familiarize yourself with the piece on your own, then participate in rehearsals after arriving in Italy. (Purchase your copy of the score here: <http://bit.ly/2ofgVBc>.)

The HSU choir will also present a concert in Verona with a repertoire different from the Schubert. If you’d like to sing these pieces with the HSU Choir, you must attend three days of rehearsals in Abilene, immediately prior to departure.

TOUR ITINERARY

(individual tour descriptions are listed below itinerary section)

Day 1 – Thursday, May 30, 2019

Depart DFW (or other airport, as pre-arranged)

Day 2 – Friday, May 31, 2019 - Florence

Arrive in Rome via Frankfurt, Germany. Travel to Florence via motocoach.

Check-in to 4-star hotel* located in central Florence.

7:00 PM-8:00 PM: **Organizational meetings** at Caffè Gilli or Caffè Pawszowski with MidAm and Custom Travel of Firenze staff. Order food on own.

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ITINERARY - *continued*

(tour descriptions are listed below itinerary section)

Day 3 – Saturday, June 1, 2019 – Florence

Breakfast

9:30 AM-12:30 PM: Choir rehearsal of Schubert *Mass* at the hotel. Non-singers: free time.

Lunch on your own.

2:00 PM-5:00 PM: **First Tour:** A guided general tour of Santa Maria Novella Church, Academy of Fine Arts, and Duomo Complex.

Evening free to stroll central Florence and dine.

Day 4 – Sunday, June 2, 2019 – Florence

Breakfast

9:30 AM – 12:30 PM: Choir rehearsal of Schubert *Mass* at the hotel. Non-singers: free time.

Lunch on your own.

2 PM – 5 PM: **Second Tour:** Ponte Vecchio and Uffizi Gallery.

Evening free to stroll central Florence and dine.

Day 5 – Monday, June 3, 2019 – Florence

Breakfast

Morning free. Explore Florence on your own.

3:30 PM-5:30 PM: Rehearsal of Schubert *Mass in G* with full orchestra and soloists.

Non-singers: free time.

Dinner on your own.

7:30 PM: Concert in Basilica di Santa Croce in Florence. Non-singers may attend concert (no cost) or explore Verona on your own.



2015 Performance

Day 6 – Tuesday, June 4, 2019 – Florence

Breakfast

9:30 AM-12:30 PM: Choir Rehearsal of Schubert *Mass in G* at hotel. Non-singers: free time.

Lunch on your own.

2:00-5:00 PM: **Third Tour:** Santa Trinita, Pitti Palace, and Boboli Gardens.

Evening free to stroll central Florence & dine.

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ITINERARY - *continued*

(tour descriptions are listed below itinerary section)

Day 7 – Wednesday, June 5, 2019 – Florence

Breakfast

Morning free. Explore Florence on your own.

3:30 PM-5:30 PM: Rehearsal of Schubert *Mass in G* with full orchestra and soloists. Non-singers have free time.

Dinner on your own.

7:30 PM: Concert in Basilica di Santa Croce in Florence. (*Concert attire--women: black long/ankle-length dress or skirt with black blouse, black shoes; men: white shirt with black jacket, tie, pants, shoes OR tuxedo.*) Non-singers may attend concert (no cost) or explore Verona on your own.

Day 8 – Thursday, June 6, 2019 – Half day Verona tour, Overnight in Verona

Breakfast

7:30 AM: check-out from your residence hotel in Florence

8:30 AM: noon: private coach transfer to Verona, check-in to 4-star Hotel Tower.

2:00 PM-5:00 PM: **Fourth Tour:** Half-day Verona City.

5:30 PM-7:00 PM: Choir rehearsal in Sant’Anastasia in Verona

7:30 PM: A Cappella concert in Sant’Anastasia for HSU Choir and all others who rehearsed additional repertoire prior to departure. Non-singers may attend concert or explore Verona on your own.

Post-Concert: Dinner on your own



Verona, Italy



Venice, Italy

Day 9 – Friday, June 7, 2019 – All day Venice tour, return to Verona overnight

Breakfast

9:00 AM: Travel from Verona to Venice on private coach with tour guide

10:30 AM: arrive Venice, transfer to Private Motor boats, and start **Fifth Tour:** Venice City Tour.

Lunch on your own during Tour.

8:00 PM: finish city tour, transfer by private motor boats to bus for transfer back to Verona

10:00 PM: arrive at Hotel Tower in Verona

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ITINERARY - continued

(tour descriptions are listed below itinerary section)

Day 10 – Saturday, June 8, 2019 – All day Lake Garda

Breakfast

9:30 AM: check-out and store the luggage on private coach

10:00 AM: arrive Sirmione, **Sixth Tour:** Half-day Lake Garda Tour. Entrance fee, bus, professional guide, personal broadcast microphones, and hearing devices are all included.

2:00 PM-4:30 PM: lake cruise with tour guides

Included lunch in a restaurant in Sirmione

Check-in to Lake Garda/Milan area 4-star hotel.

Evening and Dinner on your own.

Day 11 - Sunday, June 9, 2019 – Departure

Breakfast

Check-out and depart by coach for Milan airport to return home.



Basilica di Santa Croce in Firenze



Sant'Anastasia in Verona

For this exciting trip, HSU is partnering with several tour operators: MidAm International Inc. (festival, accommodations, board, excursions) alongside Custom Travel of Italy (a company whose expertise is in concert music travel for incoming ensembles) AND Music Celebrations International / MCI (airfare and motorcoach to/from airport in Italy).

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TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

Tour 1: Saturday, June 1, 2019 – Florence

Santa Maria Novella Church – Academy of Fine Arts – Duomo Complex

Entrance fee, bus, professional guide, personal broadcast microphones, and hearing devices are all included.

A short walk from the hotel and you will be at Santa Maria Novella that ranks just behind Santa Croce, Florence’s most important Church. The mother church of the city’s Dominican order was founded in 1246. Both the façade and the interior are outstanding, the latter home to a trio of captivating fresco cycles and one of the most influential paintings of the early Renaissance.

The first fresco cycle lies in Cappella Strozzi. Sponsored by the banker Filippo Strozzi (1489), the paintings are by Filippino Lippi and deal with episodes from the life of Strozzi’s namesake. The second and most important cycle, a work by Ghirlandaio is ranged around the chancel. Commissioned by a banker Giovanni Tornabuoni, the themes are “Life of John the Baptist” and “Life of the Virgin” (1485).

Masaccio’s fresco “The Trinity” (1427) was one of the Renaissance works in which the new idea of mathematical proportion was successfully employed.

From Santa Maria Novella, a walk through the elegant and fashionable shopping area (formerly the banking area during the Renaissance) and you reach the Academy of Fine Arts. Only the Uffizi is more visited than the Galleria dell’Accademia, whose crowds are lured by the most famous Renaissance image of them all: Michelangelo’s David.

Carved from a single piece of thin and fault-riddled marble by Michelangelo at the age of 26 in 1501, the statue remained in Piazza Della Signoria until 1873. Its theme of David and Goliath was chosen for its parallels with Florence’s recent history, evoking the city’s belated liberation and its ability to withstand more powerful foes. Away from David the gallery contains other Michelangelo’s works, “St Matthew”, and four “Slaves”, all uncompleted and intended for the tomb of Pope Julius II.

The Tour will finish at Piazza del Duomo and the great Cathedral.

(Tour descriptions courtesy of Custom Travel of Firenze, Italy)

Tour 2: Sunday, June 2, 2019 – Florence

Ponte Vecchio – Uffizi Gallery

Entrance fee, bus, professional guide, personal broadcast microphones, and hearing devices are all included.

A short walk along the bank of Arno River, you will be facing Ponte Vecchio, built in 1345. With its load of overhanging shops and buildings, this is one of Florence’s most familiar images.

Over the centuries it has survived countless floods and the havoc of war and civil strife. In World War II it was the only bridge spared during the Nazi retreat from the city.

Galleria degli Uffizi holds the world’s finest collection of Renaissance paintings. All famous names of Italian art are here, not only the Renaissance masters but also painters from the country’s early medieval, Baroque, and mannerist heyday. The building that houses the collection was built in 1560 and spreads across some 80 rooms. Any brief description can only touch on its absolute highlights.

The prelude to the collection starts with the medieval Giotto and Cimabue’s “Maestà”, followed by the gothic works of Simone Martini and Gentile da Fabriano who paved the way for the Renaissance with Masaccio, Paolo Uccello, Piero della Francesca, and Filippo Lippi precursor of the sophisticated Botticelli’s “Primavera” and “Birth of Venus”. Leonardo’s mystery will appear in his “Annunciazione” and the unfinished “Adoration of the magi”.

As you progress and walk through the centuries, you will see not only the painting by Michelangelo, the “Tondo Doni”, but also Raphael’s early work “Madonna del Cardellino” and the mature portrait of Pope Leo X. Influenced by Raphael, Titian’s “Venus of Urbino”, one of the most explicit nudes in Western art is also here. Caravaggio’s “Medusa” and “Sacrifice of Abraham and Isaac” bear the standard in marked contrast and introspective portraits. *(Tour descriptions courtesy of Custom Travel of Firenze, Italy)*

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TOUR DESCRIPTIONS - continued

Tour 3: Tuesday, June 4, 2019 – Florence

Ponte Santa Trinita – Pitti Palace – Boboli Gardens

Entrance fee, bus, professional guide, personal broadcast microphones, and hearing devices are all included.

Walk across Ponte Vecchio keeping an eye at the Corridoio Vasariano, the covered passage-way built for Cosimo dei Medici to link Palazzo Vecchio, political residence to Palazzo Pitti, private residence.

Few palaces are as colossal as the Palazzo Pitti. Built in 1460 by the Pitti family, a banking dynasty, the project was so financially draining that the family was forced to sell it; it was bought and further enlarged by Cosimo I Medici. Today it contains a cluster of museums, of which the most important is Galleria Palatina, home to much of the Medici's collection.

Orientation around the gallery's many rooms can be confusing. The collection's real highlights lie in the ornate state rooms where the paintings are arranged four or six deep. The Gallery has no fewer than 12 works by Raphael, among which are "Madonna of the Chair" and the "Veiled Woman".

Several penetrating portraits figure among the 14 paintings by Titian. The most celebrated is "Portrait of English Man" and "Mary Magdalen". The many other painters represented include Caravaggio, Filippo Lippi, Andrea del Sarto, Rubens, and Tintoretto.

Behind the Palazzo Pitti lies Florence's principal park. Giardino di Boboli was created by Cosimo I Medici in 1549 and open to the public in 1766. The park's trees, formal gardens, walk-ways, and fountains provide a green and peaceful retreat.

(Tour descriptions courtesy of Custom Travel of Firenze, Italy)

Tour 4: Thursday, June 6, 2019 - Verona

Entrance fee, bus, professional guide, personal broadcast microphones, and hearing devices are all included.

Refined, relaxed and romantic, Verona is the northeast Italy's second most alluring historic city after Venice. It is also one of the country's most prosperous cities thanks to its position along trade routes to the north, south, east and west. In the past it was a thriving Roman colony for the same reason, and later became a prominent city-state under the rule of the Scaligeri, its medieval overlords. Rule by Milan's Visconti and the Venetian Republic followed, with Venice retaining control until the arrival of Napoleon. From then on, Verona remained under the yoke of Austrian rule until Italian unification.

Exploring the old city is straightforward and enjoyable. Museums and monuments abound, most of them within easy walking distance of one another. The Piazza Bra is home to the Verona Arena, the third largest amphitheater in the Roman world. The Piazza delle Erbe, the hearth of the city in medieval times, contains the site of the original Roman forum. Sant'Anastasia, built between 1280 and 1400, stands as Verona's largest gothic church built for the Dominican Order.

The Casa di Giulietta (Juliet's House) located close to the Scaligeri tombs and complete with balcony and a statue of the famous heroine, transports visitors back into the classic tale of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. The house dates from the 13th century and the family coat of arms can still be seen on the wall. A slight problem is the balcony itself, which overlooks the courtyard – it was added in the 20th century. But that's of no matter to the hundreds of girls who every year step out onto it and gaze below seeking their Romeo among the meandering tourists.

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TOUR DESCRIPTIONS - continued

Tour 5: Friday, June 7, 2019 - Venice

Entrance fee, bus, professional guide, personal broadcast microphones, and hearing devices are all included.

The world's most beautiful city rarely disappoints. "I'd rather be in Venice on a rainy day than in any other capital on a fine one," exclaimed author Herman Melville in 1857, capturing the allure of a city whose magic casts its spell year-round - whether you visit in the depths of winter, an icy mist spreading chill over the encircling lagoon, or in the shimmering, energizing heat of summer when the canals, ancient churches, and endless palaces are dappled with the shifting light of the Mediterranean sun. The city remains as close as the real world gets to a fairy tale.

Venice is divided into sestieri or districts, three on either side of the Grand Canal. There can be no more beautiful urban thoroughfare than the Grand Canal, the broad waterway that winds in a mesmerizing and serpentine loop through the ancient heart of Venice, by far the best introduction to the city. Wherever and however you arrive in the city, your first thought should be to board one of the lumbering vaporetti, or water-buses, that ply its palace-lined length - an unforgettable odyssey of sights and sounds and an eye-opening glimpse of daily life in Venice - before plunging straight into St. Mark's Square.

St. Mark's Square is "the most beautiful drawing room in Europe," said Napoleon of Piazza San Marco, which provides the setting for some of the city's foremost buildings, such as St Mark's Basilica, the Doge's Palace, the Campanile, and the Correr Museum, whose displays provide a fascinating insight into Venice's long history. Afterwards, escape the crowds of St. Mark's Square for one of the city's smaller squares. Campo Santo Stefano or Campo Santa Margherita are the best to sample intimate areas of the city not yet typically crowded with tourists.

Tour 6: Saturday, June 8, 2019 - Lake Garda

Entrance fee, bus, professional guide, personal broadcast microphones, and hearing devices are all included.

Lake Garda is Italy's largest and most scenically diverse lake. Its green and verdant southern coast extends to the hillier slopes and cliffs of its northern edges, before returning in the shadow of its mountain-backed eastern flanks. The village of Peschiera, nestled in a snug harbor and dominated by a formidable Venetian fortress, sits at the southeastern end of the lake, while the hotel Sirmione remains the most popular resort among tourists, jutting out into the lake itself from its southern shore. Boats embark here for most of the lakeside villages which offer the most breathtaking views of the lake, villas and gardens invisible from the road. Desenzano, Garda's largest town on the southwestern coast of Lake Garda is renowned for its famous wines. The hotel Gardone, on the western coast and once the lake's most elegant resort, marks the start of Lake Garda's most spectacular upland scenery. Riva del Garda is Lake Garda's best-known resort at its northern tip.

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INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

INCLUSIONS: ACCOMMODATIONS, FESTIVAL, EXCURSIONS COSTS

(events, accommodations, transfers, & all local tips, gratuities, and VAT taxes described below)

- **Two major public performances** at Santa Croce in Florence on June 3 and June 5 with professional accompanists and language coaches
 - The first concert on June 3 will feature the visiting guest conductors and their 60 voice choirs with Orchestra da Camera Fiorentina and world-class soloists.
 - The second concert on June 5 will combine all of the choirs in a major oratorio with Orchestra da Camera Fiorentina and world-class soloists under a special guest conductor.
 - Both of these concerts and the related rehearsal are open to all guests traveling with HSU.
- **One a cappella concert** presented by institutional choirs in Verona on June 6. If you'd like to sing these pieces with the HSU Choir, you are invited to attend three days of pre-tour rehearsals in Abilene, immediately prior to departure.
- **Four-star accommodations**, based on double occupancy.
 - Six (6) nights in Florence,
 Specific hotel assignments will be set by February 1, 2019.
 Hotel will be one of: **Hotel Adriatico** (<http://www.hoteladriatico.it/en/>),
Adler Hotel (<http://www.hoteladlercavalieri.com/>),
Hotel Glance (<http://www.glancehotelflorence.com/en/>)
 - Two (2) nights in Verona at **Hotel Tower** (www.montresorgroup.com)
 - One (1) final night in Lake Garda/Milan area.
 - Single supplement occupancy is €1300 additional. Note that single rooms are limited.
 - Triple rooms are occasionally available and the cost per person is the same as double occ.
- **Ten Meals:** Nine (9) breakfasts. One (1) lunch in Sirmione (June 8)
- **Six Tours** (each includes entrance fees, buses, professional English-speaking guides, all local tips, and personal hearing devices)
 - Florence: Santa Maria Novella Church, Academy of Fine Arts, and Duomo Complex
 - Florence: Ponte Vecchio and Uffizi Gallery
 - Florence: Santa Trinita, Pitti Palace, and Boboli Gardens
 - Verona: City tour
 - Venice: City tour
 - Lake Garda: City and lake cruise
- **Bus transfers** between Florence, Verona, Venice, Lake Garda/Milan. Bus transfers to all tours, rehearsals, and concerts; as needed. Escorts on buses from all locations.
- **On-Site personnel** provided at hotel(s) by MidAm International, Inc., the operator managing all travel details during the tour alongside Custom Travel of Italy, a company whose expertise is in concert music travel for incoming ensembles.

INCLUSIONS: AIRFARE AND AIRPORT COACH COSTS

- **Airfare:** Round-trip transportation by scheduled airline carrier. Air fares are subject to change pending space availability at the time of group booking. Includes up to \$550 for U.S. Government airline taxes, fees, and estimated fuel surcharge.
- **Transportation from/to Rome:** Local modern deluxe motorcoach transportation upon arrival for transfer from Rome airport to Florence.
- **Liability Insurance:** \$3M MCI Tour Liability Insurance coverage.

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INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS - *continued*

EXCLUSIONS: ACCOMMODATIONS, FESTIVAL, EXCURSIONS COSTS

- Cost does not cover any lunches or dinners other than the lunch in Sirmione on June 8.

EXCLUSIONS: AIRFARE AND AIRPORT TRANSFER COACH COSTS

- Cost does not include: travel visa for non-U.S. passport holders; transportation to and from DFW Airport; airline luggage fees, if applicable; difference between current and actual costs for the airline taxes and the estimated fuel surcharge, if applicable, nor tips to airport transfer motorcoach driver.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Date	Flight	Origin	Departure	Destination	Arrival
May 30, 2019 (Thurs.)	LH0439	Dallas, Texas (DFW)	3:55 PM	Frankfurt, Germany (FRA)	8:35 AM, May 31 (Fri)
May 31, 2019 (Fri.)	LH0232	Frankfurt, Germany (FRA)	10:45 AM	Rome, Italy (FCO)	12:30 PM
June 9, 2019 (Sun.)	LH0259	Milan, Italy (MIL)	6:40 AM	Frankfurt, Germany (FRA)	7:55 AM
June 9, 2019 (Sun.)	LH0438	Frankfurt, Germany (FRA)	10:10 AM	Dallas, Texas (DFW)	2:00 PM

PAYMENT & PAYMENT SCHEDULE OPTIONS

IMPORTANT: All deposits and payments are non-refundable and non-transferable to the group's unpaid balance, should an individual cancel their participation. Cancellation insurance, therefore, is recommended.

OPTION A: Airfare from/to DFW, motorcoach from/to airport in Italy, Accommodations, Partial Board, Excursions, & Festival

First Payment – November 1, 2018.....	\$815.00
Second Payment – January 1, 2019.....	\$815.00
Third Payment – March 1, 2019.....	\$915.00
Last Payment – April 15, 2019	\$1600.00

TOTAL	*\$4145.00
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**OPTION B: Accommodations, Partial Board, Excursions, & Festival
(Airfare and airport transfers not included)**

First Payment – November 1, 2018.....	\$400.00
Second Payment – January 1, 2019.....	\$400.00
Third Payment – March 1, 2019.....	\$500.00
Last Payment – April 15, 2019	\$1200.00

TOTAL	*\$2500.00
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*Exact amounts may fluctuate depending on current Euro-USD conversion rates. All tour prices quoted for transportation and land arrangements herein are based on rates (including foreign exchange rates) in effect at the date of this offer and are subject to change. Adjustments may be made if the exchange rate varies more than 5%.