

Great Basilicas of Italy

Assisi & Rome, Italy :: July 1-6, 2020

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



DR. GENE PETERSON

Director of Choral Studies at
California Baptist University
Collinsworth School of Music





THE ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE

“Great Basilicas of Italy” celebrates the artistic heritage of two of Italy’s most important churches. A **Gala Concert Performance** (featuring John Rutter’s “Mass of the Children”) at the **Basilica of San Francis of Assisi** and participation in **Mass at St. Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican** will be a life-changing experience for singers from across the United States. Under the inspired leadership of Artistic Director Dr. Gene Peterson the multi-generational festival choir will perform repertoire that is significant to each of these wonderful concert spaces. Assisi is a small town filled with rich culture, history, and charm which will inspire all choristers to perform at their highest level.



BASILICA OF SAN FRANCESCO DI ASSISI

The Papal Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi is the mother church of the Franciscan Order. The grandiose bi-level basilica is one of the world’s focal points of both high art and intense spirituality. Construction of the basilica started in 1228 and it consists of two churches known as the Upper Church and the Lower Church, as well as a crypt where the remains of St. Francis are interred. The basilica is also the home of the famous St. Francis of Assisi Basilica Choir.



ST. PETER’S BASILICA, VATICAN-CITY

The Papal Basilica of St. Peter in the Vatican is the most renowned work of Renaissance architecture and remains one of the two largest churches in the world. St. Peter is regarded as “the greatest of all churches of Christendom.” By Catholic tradition, the Basilica is the burial site of its namesake St. Peter, the first Pope and Bishop of Rome. Tradition and strong historical evidence hold that St. Peter’s tomb is directly below the high altar of the Basilica.



THE ORGANIZERS :: Perform International

“Building Bridges and Transforming Lives through the Power of Music”

Boldly informed by the belief that music inherently speaks as an expression of the human spirit beyond borders and in all cultures, **Perform International** seeks to empower music directors and ensembles to realize meaningful and life-changing immersion experiences and performances around the world.

- We empower music directors, music ensembles and individual musicians to share and grow in their artistic expression and understanding of people and cultures.
- We design and create rewarding performances as well as educational and cultural immersion opportunities by building and maintaining relationships with domestic and international musicians and music education organizations.
- We partner with concert venues, publicity teams, airlines, hotels, and tour guides to plan and implement operational methods that enhance rather than distract from the artistic experience.
- We provide meaningful and life-changing performance tour experiences that are personal, thoughtful, and efficient in the processes of conceptual artistic and educational development.





DR. GENE PETERSON :: Artistic Director

Dr. Gene Peterson, a nationally and internationally recognized conductor, music educator, and church musician, is the Director of Choral Studies at California Baptist University Collinsworth School of Music. Dr. Peterson's primary focus at CBU is in the development of choral arts ensembles, but his diverse and extensive background in both academic and church contexts supports his leadership across the entire choral program at CBU. He also mentors future conductors in CBU's graduate program in choral conducting.



Dr. Peterson's recent appointments include choral and music education faculties at Bethel University and The University of Tennessee. Dr. Peterson previously held posts as music director and conductor for college, high school, church, and community choirs in California, Washington, Tennessee, and Minnesota. Ensembles under his leadership have performed in venues throughout the United States, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand, including the Sistine Chapel, the Sydney Opera House, Chicago Symphony Hall, and Carnegie Hall. Due to his reputation in the international choral community, Dr. Peterson is in high demand as a lecturer, choral clinician and adjudicator for local, regional, and international choral festivals and has conducted numerous honor choirs and all-state choirs.

Dr. Peterson has also held professional leadership roles, serving as High School Standards and Repertoire Chair for the California Choral Directors Association and as Bay Area Choral Representative for the California Music Educators Association. Additional professional posts include Men's Chorus Repertoire and Standards Chair for the Southern Division American Choral Directors Association, and the Southern Division Conference Planning Committee. He has served on the Executive Committee of the International Choral Festival, American Cantat, the Men's Choir Representative for Minnesota ACDA, and, most recently, was appointed to the "Legacy Choir" leadership team for the upcoming National ACDA Convention in Kansas City, MO.

Dr. Peterson holds a Bachelor of Music in Conducting and a Master of Arts in Education from Chapman University in Orange, California, and the Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting from the University of Washington, Seattle.

Dr. Peterson is a consummate choral conductor who combines engaging charisma with musical expression and studied nuance. His breadth of expertise and experience, engaging and articulate teaching, and passion for mentoring the next generation of musicians is most apparent through his work at the Collinsworth School as well as his work around the world.





Great Basilicas of Italy Festival Program - July 1-6, 2020

FESTIVAL TOUR ITINERARY

Wednesday, July 1, 2020 – DEPARTURE USA

USA to Rome.

Thursday, July 2, 2020 - ARRIVAL ROME / ASSISI

Upon arrival transfer to Assisi. Time permitting visit to Orvieto and its magnificent cathedral en-route (time permitting). Welcome dinner & overnight Assisi.

Friday, July 3, 2020 - ASSISI / SPOLETO

Morning rehearsal with Dr. Gene Peterson followed by an excursion to Spoleto. Enjoy a guided walking tour of the Roman Amphitheater and the Tower Bridge. Return to Assisi for a second rehearsal in the late afternoon. Dinner at a local Agriturismo. Overnight Assisi.

Saturday, July 4, 2020 - GALA CONCERT

Morning rehearsal with Dr. Peterson. Afternoon leisure time will be followed by a walking tour of Assisi. Dress rehearsal, sound check & dinner. Evening Gala Concert at the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi. Overnight Assisi.

Sunday, July 5, 2020 - ASSISI / ROME

Morning transfer to Rome. Upon arrival guided tour of the Forum and Coliseum. Sing Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. Farewell Dinner & overnight Rome.

Monday, July 6, 2020 - DEPART ROME

Following breakfast, choirs transfer to Rome Airport for return flight home to the U.S. or start their individual post-tour programs.



PRE & POST FESTIVAL TOUR PROGRAMS

TOUR B - July 6, 2020 - Rome Extension (2-days/1-nights)

This program includes one additional night in Rome after the festival. Enjoy a guided tour of the Vatican Museums.

TOUR C - June 29 – July 2, 2020 and July 6 - 7, 2020 - Florence & Rome Extension (9-days/7-nights)

This program includes two nights in Tuscany prior and an additional night in Rome after the festival. Enjoy a guided tour of Florence's Academia, home to Michelangelo's David, and the city's magnificent Duomo. Also travel through the heart of Tuscany to visit Siena. In Rome enjoy a guided tour of the Vatican Museums.

**Individual concert performance opportunities are available during all pre & post festival extension programs.*

