

CHORAL ODYSSEY

THESSALONIKI, GREECE :: JUNE 28 – JULY 3, 2018

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



EMILY ELLSWORTH

Artistic Director
Anima - Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus

COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE



IVO ANTOGNINI

Composer, Educator, Jazz Pianist





THE ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE

Treble and mixed choirs from across the USA and Canada are invited to join together in Thessaloniki, Greece for a unique choral event featuring a blend of repertoire from both North America and Greece. Under the inspired leadership of Emily Ellsworth, ensembles will have an opportunity for a community service project as well as plenty of time to visit the sights of this ancient port city with its fascinating Byzantine monuments. Culminating in an exciting festival of International song, this choral event is sure to excite the hearts and minds of all that participate.



THESSALONIKI, GREECE

Thessaloniki, Greece's second largest city after Athens has given Greece some of its greatest musicians, artists, poets and thinkers. Host to many cultural events including the Greek Song Festival and the Thessaloniki Film Festival, the center is laced with historic sights, from the Byzantine walls threading its romantic Upper Town to the imposing Rotunda to its stunning beaches. The city is full of splendid concert venues including the Concert Hall of Thessaloniki, the Church of Agia Sofia and the Conservatory of the Ancient Agora. Thessaloniki became a part of the modern state of Greece in 1913, but burned in 1917. Add to this mix the influx of artists from Asia and you have the makings of a musical revolution which took the form of Rembetika music - Greek urban folk music utilizing instruments such as the bouzouki. To this day some of Greece's most creative musicians including Dionysios Savopoulos, and Nikos Papazoglou, come from Thessaloniki.



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.





EMILY ELLSWORTH :: Artistic Director

Nationally recognized as a leader in the field of youth chorus directors, Ms. Ellsworth has served as Artistic Director of Anima – Glen Ellyn Children’s Chorus since 1996. Under her direction, Anima has won several national awards, including the 2013 ASCAP award for Adventurous Programming from Chorus America, the 2013 Tribute Award from Chicago A Cappella, the once-in-an-organizational lifetime Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence from Chorus America (2008), and the 2009 Dale Warland Singers Commissioning Award jointly given by the American Composers Forum and Chorus America.



Ms. Ellsworth has additionally served as Lecturer in Choral Conducting at Northwestern University and serves as the advisor for the Opera Workshop choral series with Boosey & Hawkes publishers. She has served several times on the music panel of the National Endowment for the Arts, and has over 20 years of singing and teaching experience as a voice faculty member in various college and university settings. She has served the American Choral Directors’ Association as the Central Division Repertoire and Standards Chair for Children’s and Community Youth Choirs, and is a long standing member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing. In 2010, she was inducted as a National Honorary Member to the Sigma Alpha Iota Music Fraternity.

In great demand as a guest clinician and conductor, Ms. Ellsworth has conducted all-state choirs and festivals in over 25 states, as well as for the Northwest, North Central, and Southwest divisions of ACDA. She has conducted featured performances at national conferences of ACDA, the Organization of American Kodaly Educators, and Chorus America. She has prepared various ensembles within Anima for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Chicago Bach Project, Grant Park Symphony, the Berlin Philharmonic, Ravinia Festival, Music of the Baroque, Chicago Sinfonietta, and many others. She has appeared as guest conductor of numerous national choirs at Carnegie and Avery Fisher Halls in NYC; internationally she has conducted choral festivals in Ireland, England, Hong Kong, and presented for the national association of choral directors in Brazil.

IVO ANTOGNINI :: Composer-in-Residence

Born in Locarno, Switzerland, Ivo Antognini holds a degree in piano performance, studying with Nora Doallo. He has composed a multitude of music for television and film and released three Jazz albums with his original works. An informal meeting with the Coro Calicantus and its director, Mario Fontana, led him to discover the field of choral music. Ivo presented a series of his compositions at the 8th World Symposium on Choral Music with the Calicantus Choir in July, 2008 in Copenhagen. His choral works won prizes and awards at international competitions, such as the International Competition of Choral Composition “Seghizzi”, the Simon Carrington Chamber Singers Composition Competition, the Vanguard Premieres Choral Composition Contest and the 37th International Composition Contest “Guido d’Arezzo.



He has been appointed Featured Composer of the Schola Cantorum on Hudson for the 2011-2012 concert season. Antognini has been invited by the American Choral Directors Association to present his choral music during the World Choir Games in Cincinnati where he was also one of the adjudicators of the competition. His music has been performed worldwide by top level choirs such as Trinity College Choir of Cambridge, Trinity Wall Street Choir, Artists’ Vocal Ensemble, Vancouver Chamber Choir, Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Cappella Nova, Antioch Chamber Ensemble, St. Lawrence Choir, Kölner Kantorei, Lund University Male Choir, de Angelis Vocal Ensemble, Salt Lake Vocal Artists, Milwaukee Choral Artists, Elektra Women’s Choir, Oriana Women’s Choir and many others.



CHORAL ODYSSEY GREECE :: JUNE 28 - JULY 3, 2018

JUNE 28: USA to Thessaloniki, Greece.

JUNE 29: Welcome to Thessaloniki where you'll meet your driver and tour manager and transfer to your hotel. Time permitting, enjoy a panoramic tour en route. Welcome dinner for all choirs that attend.

JUNE 30: Following breakfast, morning rehearsal with Ms. Ellsworth. Afternoon tour of Thessaloniki including a visit to the Byzantine Museum. After dinner this evening there will be a second rehearsal with the combined chorus.

JULY 1: This morning you'll take part in a community service project in the area. Dinner followed by an evening rehearsal for all choirs.

JULY 2: Enjoy a morning at leisure to rest or explore the city on your own. Afternoon dress rehearsal and sound check at the concert venue. Gala concert performance and farewell dinner.

JULY 3: Begin your journey back to the USA taking with you lifelong memories of performing in Greece or start of the post tours by individual ensembles.

POST FESTIVAL PROGRAMS

Tour B – July 3-6, 2018

Enjoy a 3 night extension that includes a stay in Delphi, one of the best known archeological sites in ancient Greece and continues to Athens for two nights where you'll explore the famous Parthenon. You'll also enjoy a three Island Saronic cruise including stops in Poros, Hydra and Aegina. The extension tour will end with a traditional Greek Folklore show in the Plaka district of Athens.

Tour C – July 3-7, 2018

This 4 night extension will take you to the UNESCO world heritage site of Meteora with its extraordinary monasteries built into huge pinnacles of smooth rock. Continuing to Delphi, one of the best known archeological sites in ancient Greece and then ending in Athens for two nights. In Athens there will be time to explore the famous Parthenon. You'll also enjoy a three Island Saronic cruise including stops in Poros, Hydra and Aegina. The extension tour will end with a traditional Greek Folklore show in the Plaka district of Athens.

**during all post tour programs performances for your individual ensembles can be arranged.*