

A Choral & Spiritual Retreat in Scotland

Iona, Scotland :: June 7-15, 2020

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



TOM TRENNEY

Conductor / Composer





THE ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE

Under the inspired leadership of composer, conductor, and teacher Tom Trenney, singers will spend five nights on the Isle of Iona reflecting, singing and exploring all the beauty that this unique retreat oasis has to offer. Culminating in a Hymn Festival at a glorious venue in Edinburgh, this journey will challenge and engage the heart and mind of every participant and create profound memories to last a lifetime.

IONA, SCOTLAND

Iona is the spiritual birthplace of Celtic Christianity and the home of St. Columba, the 6th century Monk who founded a great monastic center of learning and art on this tiny Hebridean Island.

Musically, the Iona Community has not been without influence either. Iona's Wild Goose Worship Group has seen its gentle, meditative, a capella music spread around the worshipping world. This retreat experience is the ideal way to immerse yourself in Celtic song, prayer and reflection as we discover this profoundly spiritual Island together. Our time on Iona will include a pilgrimage of the Island's most significant holy sites, a visit to nearby Staffa (weather permitting) to see Fingal's Cave as well as plenty of unprogrammed time for individual exploration.



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.





TOM TRENNEY :: Artistic Director

Tom Trenney shares his passion as pastoral musician, composer, and teacher in worship with his home congregation, in the college classroom, and in performances, hymn festivals, choral and organ workshops and master classes all around the country. Since 2009, he has been blessed to serve as Minister of Music to First-Plymouth Church (United Church of Christ) in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he shepherds three adult choirs, accompanies the congregation on the Schoenstein organ, preaches sermons, and guides the Abendmusik at First-Plymouth Concert Series. In 2015-16, three of First-Plymouth's choirs were honored to perform at conventions of the Nebraska Choral Directors Association, the Nebraska Music Educators Association, and the North Central American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). In March 2017, First-Plymouth's chamber choir, Cantorei, sang two worship services at the national ACDA convention in Minneapolis.



In Fall 2018, Tom served as visiting conductor of the Wartburg Choir and Ritterchor Men's Chorus at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. His semester in residence included leadership of the annual Christmas With Wartburg festival. In Spring 2019, Tom will serve as visiting conductor of the Doane Choir at Doane University in Crete, Nebraska, preparing the choir to sing in a performance of Brahms' *A German Requiem* which he will conduct with the Abendmusik Chorus and Nebraska Wesleyan University Choir in April 2019.

In addition to his ministry at First-Plymouth, Tom is Music Director of *sounding light* — a chamber choir which he founded in southeastern Michigan in 2003. *sounding light* was honored with the invitation to perform at the national convention of the ACDA in March 2017. In spring 2019, *sounding light* will offer the Michigan and Ohio premieres of John Muehleisen's moving and meaningful *Pietà*.

Tom's choral compositions have been published by Augsburg Fortress, Beckenhurst Press, E.C. Schirmer/Galaxy, Morningstar, MusicSpoke, Pavane, and G. Schirmer. His music has been sung in churches and colleges around the country. Tom's CD recordings with First-Plymouth and *sounding light* have been featured on national public radio's *Pipedreams*, *With Heart and Voice*, and *Sing for Joy*.

Most notably, Tom has been blessed to perform and teach at regional and national conventions of the American Guild of Organists (AGO), the ACDA, the Organ Historical Society, the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, the Sewanee Church Music Conference, and the Calvin Institute of Worship.

A graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Eastman School of Music, Tom is grateful for the inspiration of his teachers and mentors — especially Anton Armstrong, David Davidson, Craig Hella Johnson, (Mister) Fred Rogers, William Weinert, Anne Wilson and Todd Wilson.





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TOUR ITINERARY

Sunday, June 7, 2020 – DEPARTURE USA

Depart the U.S. for Glasgow, Scotland.



Monday, June 8, 2020 – ARRIVAL SCOTLAND

Arrive in Scotland and transfer to Iona via Oban/Mull, stopping on the way for a Loch Lomond cruise. Dinner in Iona. Overnight in Iona.

Tuesday, June 9, 2020 – IONA

Following breakfast, we'll gather together to meet with Tom Trenney and a member of the Iona Community. Lunch on own. Afternoon free for independent exploration. Dinner included. Evening rehearsal and gathering with Mr. Trenney. Participation in Evening Liturgy at Iona Abbey. Overnight Iona.



Wednesday, June 10, 2020 – PILGRIMAGE OF THE ISLAND

Breakfast followed by a Pilgrimage of the Island, led by local members of the Iona Community. Picnic lunch included. Afternoon rest and reflection on own. Dinner on own. Evening gathering for rehearsal and reflection with Mr. Trenney. Attend informal Communion Service at Iona Abbey. Overnight Iona.

Thursday, June 11, 2020 – STAFFA ISLAND

Weather permitting, boat trip to nearby Staffa Island. Lunch on your own or purchase a packed lunch to take with you on the trip. Afternoon rest and reflection on own. Dinner and rehearsal with Mr. Trenney. Attend Evening Liturgy at Iona Abbey, possibly singing for the service. Overnight Iona.



Friday, June 12, 2020 – IONA

Breakfast followed by morning gathering for teaching /rehearsal and sharing, led by Mr. Trenney. Lunch on own. Afternoon free for hiking, reflection and exploring on your own. Dinner followed by rehearsal with Mr. Trenney. Attend Evening Liturgy at Iona Abbey, possibly singing for the service. Overnight Iona.

Saturday, June 13, 2020 – GLASGOW

Breakfast. Transfer to Glasgow today. Dinner and overnight in Glasgow.



Sunday, June 14, 2020 – EDINBURGH

Morning sightseeing in Edinburgh including a visit to Edinburgh Castle. Lunch on own. Dress rehearsal this afternoon in Edinburgh to prepare for this evening's Hymn Festival. Dinner on own. Evening Hymn Festival in Edinburgh. Overnight.

Monday, June 15, 2020 – DEPARTURE

Check out and depart Scotland for the US.

