

# In Flanders Fields: A Festival at Flanders

Ghent, Belgium :: June 19-24, 2019

## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & COMPOSER



### DR. PAUL AITKEN

Director of Music & Worship and  
Composer-in-Residence at the  
*Cathedral of the Rockies* in Boise, Idaho





## THE ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE

“In Flanders Fields” is a famous war poem written during WWI by Canadian physician, Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae. From an early age, Paul Aitken was inspired by this poem and set it for SATB choir for submission to the first-ever Raymond W. Brock Student Composition Competition - a competition Dr. Aitken ultimately won as the first-ever recipient of the prestigious award. In the past 20 years, Aitken’s setting of “Flanders Fields” has sold tens of thousands of copies and is now available for TTBB and SSAA choirs. In Belgium, participating choirs will have the opportunity for a meaningful and educational immersion experience as they learn from the composer-in-Residence and journey through areas of Belgium steeped in historical significance from where this poem emulates. A significant highlight will be a performance and wreath laying at Flanders Field Cemetery as well as participation in the Last Post Ceremony. The tour will culminate with a gala concert in Ghent where choirs will have the opportunity to be part of a massed choral event presenting one of Dr. Aitken’s newest major works, as well as perform “Flanders Fields” under the direction of the composer.



## BELGIUM – MEDIEVAL CITIES & HISTORIC WAR SITES

There is no better way of bringing the history textbooks to life than a visit to the battlefields of Waterloo and Ypres Salient. Sure to provide a thought-provoking and stimulating experience this exciting tour includes visits to the most relevant memorials, cemeteries, trenches and significant battlefield sites from World War 1. There will also be time to discover the fascinating cities of Ghent and Bruges.



## 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. PAUL AITKEN :: Artistic Director & Composer

Dr. Paul A. Aitken (b. 1970) is Director of Music & Worship Arts and Composer-in-Residence at the Cathedral of the Rockies in Boise, Idaho where he oversees more than twenty ensembles and a professional staff of six spanning two campuses.

The first ever winner of the ACDA Brock Student Composition Competition for his piece “Flanders Fields,” this Canadian/American musician is a sought after conductor, composer and clinician. His many commissions include works for the American Guild of Organists, the State of Idaho, the Mid-Columbia Mastersingers, the Boise Philharmonic Master Chorale, and many others in several states. Aitken made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2010 conducting his major work, *And None Shall Be Afraid* with a choir of 200 and the New England Symphonic Ensemble. Aitken now has more than forty compositions to his credit spanning more than two decades of writing.

Aitken is a member of Choral Canada, is a lifetime member of ACDA, and has served at State, Division and National levels, including National Chair of Music in Worship. Dr. Aitken holds degrees from the University of Western Ontario, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and the University of Oklahoma. He and his wife, MacKenzie live in Boise with their four nearly-grown boys, where they not only work and sing together in the musical realm, but they also run a flourishing real estate business as well.



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## TOUR ITINERARY

### Wednesday, June 19, 2019 – DEPARTURE USA

USA to Brussels, Belgium.

### Thursday, June 20, 2019 – ARRIVAL GHENT

Arrival in Brussels and transfer to hotel in Ghent via a stop in Waterloo en route . Welcome dinner and overnight in Ghent.

### Friday, June 21, 2019 – GHENT / BRUGES

Following breakfast there will be a morning rehearsal and workshop with Artistic Director and Composer-in-Residence Dr. Paul Aitken. Afternoon sightseeing in Bruges includes a visit to the Cathedral of Holy Blood and a canal cruise. Evening dinner. Overnight in Ghent.

### Saturday, June 22, 2019 – YPRES EXCURSION

Following breakfast there will be a morning rehearsal and workshop with Artistic Director and Composer-in-Residence Dr. Paul Aitken. Later today there will be an excursion to Ypres area. Visit the Flanders Field Museum and Essex Farm Cemetery. Performance and wreath laying at the Cemetery. Participate in the Menin Gate Last Post Ceremony including a performance opportunity. Dinner and overnight in Ghent.

### Sunday, June 23, 2019 – GHENT / GALA CONCERT

Morning rehearsal and workshop with Artistic Director and Composer-in-Residence Dr. Paul Aitken + rehearsal opportunities for each choir's own spotlight performance. Dress rehearsal at finale concert venue. Dinner. Gala concert including Dr. Paul Aitken's music and an opportunity for spotlight performances from those ensembles that wish to have one.

### Monday, June 24, 2019 – START POST FESTIVAL TOUR PROGRAMS

Transfer to the airport for return flight home or post festival excursions.

## PRE/POST FESTIVAL TOUR PROGRAMS

### TOUR B - June 17-19, 2019 - Pre Tour Amsterdam

This extension includes 2 nights in Amsterdam. Visits to the Anne Frank House and a day trip to Volendam to see the windmills are included. There will be plenty of time to discover the highlights of this small capital city on your own, spending time on the historic canals and delighting in the art museums that the city is famed for. Additional concert opportunities for balanced ensembles are available on request.

### TOUR C - June 24-27 2019 - Post Tour Normandy and Paris

Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of D-Day, this extension tour will include an opportunity to explore the American D-Day sites including the Landing Beaches and the American Cemetery. Ending in Paris, the City of Lights, a visit to the Louvre museum is included as well as free time to explore Paris on your own. Additional concert opportunities for balanced ensembles are available on request.

