

ST. PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL & INTERNATIONAL BAND COMPETITION

DUBLIN & LIMERICK :: MARCH 14-19, 2018

Come celebrate **St. Patrick's Day** in true Irish style by taking your marching band to Dublin to participate in the prestigious **Dublin St. Patrick's Day Parade** on March 17, 2018 followed by the **47th Limerick International Band Parade and Competition** held on March 18, 2018, in Limerick.



THE HISTORY

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADES

Saint Patrick's Day or the Feast of Saint Patrick (Irish: Lá Fhéile Pádraig, "the Day of the Festival of Patrick") is a cultural and religious holiday celebrated on March 17. It is named after Saint Patrick, the most commonly recognized of the patron saints of Ireland.

The first St. Patrick's Day parade was not recorded until 1762 and was held by Irish soldiers in the British army stationed in the 13 Colonies. The early parades were often military celebrations, at first of the Irish in the British army, and later of the Irish agitating for independence. The shortest St Patrick's Day parade in the world takes place in Dripsey, Cork. The parade lasts just 100 yards and travels between the village's two pubs. Saint Patrick's Day has come to be associated with everything Irish: anything green and gold, shamrocks and luck. Most importantly, to those who celebrate its intended meaning, St. Patrick's Day is a traditional day for spiritual renewal and offering prayers for missionaries worldwide.

So, why is it celebrated on March the 17th? One theory is that this is the day that St. Patrick died. Since the holiday began in Ireland, it is believed that as the Irish spread out around the world, they took with them their history and celebrations. The biggest observance of all is, of course, in Ireland. With the exception of restaurants and pubs, almost all businesses close on March 17. Being a religious holiday as well, many Irish attend Mass, where March 17 is the traditional day for offering prayers for missionaries worldwide before the serious celebrating begins.



THE SETTING

THE FESTIVAL :: The 2018 St. Patrick's Day Festival & International Band Competition

Bands play a very important part in the St. Patrick's Day Celebrations in Dublin and throughout the St. Patrick's Festival itself. Bands from Ireland and around the world have thrilled audiences with their musical mastery and flair down through the years and we want you to be part of the future celebrations. The parade is attended by the President of Ireland and Lord Mayor of Dublin. The marching route is approximately 1.7 miles long and takes about 90 minutes to complete the parade route. The parade consists of marching bands, theatrical presentations and ceremonial elements. The parade is attended by over half a million people and viewed by millions of people all over the world.

The Limerick International Band Parade and Competition is held on the Sunday closest to St. Patrick's Day allowing your band to enjoy the festivities and participate in both the Dublin St. Patrick's Day Parade and the Limerick International Band Parade and Competition. All participating international bands are highlighted in media releases and given a special welcome by the mayor and citizens of Limerick. The parade route is approximately .93 miles long down the main thoroughfare of O'Connell Street. We have designed an itinerary that includes time in Limerick where you can explore much of Ireland's scenic West Coast.



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.



FESTIVAL ITINERARY & OPTIONS



6 Days/4 Nights - Dublin & Limerick, Ireland

WEDNESDAY, March 14, 2018 - DEPARTURE USA

Flight from USA to Dublin, Ireland.

THURSDAY, March 15, 2018 - DUBLIN

Arrive in Dublin and be greeted by the Perform International staff. En-route to the hotel, enjoy a panoramic tour of the city. Overnight in Dublin.

FRIDAY, March 16, 2018 - DUBLIN

Sightseeing in Dublin including a visit to the Book of Kells exhibition at Trinity College, considered a "must see" for any visitor to Dublin. The afternoon will be unscheduled for you to enjoy at your leisure and prepare for next day's St. Patrick's Day Parade. Overnight in Dublin.

SATURDAY, March 17, 2018 - ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE - DUBLIN

St. Patrick's Day Parade at noon. You will be marching in the parade with bands from the U.S., Canada and Europe, cheered by over 500,000 parade watchers of all nationalities. After the parade, transfer to Limerick for dinner and overnight.

SUNDAY, March 18, 2018 - LIMERICK BAND FESTIVAL

Today march in the Limerick International Band Festival and Competition Parade. Ireland's oldest established band parade, it will be marking its 48th year in 2018. In the afternoon transfer to Dublin for your last overnight on the Emerald Isle. Overnight in Dublin.

MONDAY, March 19, 2018 - DUBLIN TO USA

Transfer to Dublin Airport to begin your journey back to the USA. You will take with you lifelong memories of the exquisite beauty and fascinating history of Ireland.



Options

If your group would like to spend more time exploring Ireland they might enjoy extensions for their customized tours before or after the parades.

