

# VIVA LA AMISTAD CHORAL FESTIVAL

CUBA :: July 2-7, 2018

## ARTISTIC DIRECTORS



**DR. TIM SHARP**  
Executive Director  
American Choral Director's  
Association



**DIGNA GUERRA**  
Director, National Choir of Cuba  
President, Choral Music Development  
Program, The Cuban Institute of Music





## THE ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE

Be a part of history and perform during the first amistad (friendship) choral festival in Cuba. Perform side-by-side with Cuban and American singers under the inspired direction of Dr. Tim Sharp and Digna Guerra, Director of the National Choir of Cuba. Learn to dance Salsa with Cuban dancers, attend a demonstration on afro-Cuban rhythms in Matanzas and explore the rich history of Cuba during a visit to the Museum of the Revolution and a sightseeing convoy of 1950s classic cars through the winding streets of Havana. The highlight will be a Gala Concert Performance in Havana co-conducted by Dr. Sharp and Digna Guerra. Additional performance opportunities are possible in Matanzas and Havana for balanced choirs.



## HAVANA

Havana is one of the most culturally rich urban centers in the world. The city's appreciation of its glorious colonial past is on display at a dizzying array of castles, cathedrals, mansions and museums. The historic neighborhood of Old Havana is a fascinating UNESCO World Heritage site, with over 900 landmarks, including the Presidential Palace and Cathedral Square. But while history is treasured in Havana, culture is celebrated, shared and exuberantly enjoyed here. Cuba's love of music and dance spills out in clubs, cabarets and impromptu street-side salsas. The city boasts some of the world's best ballet schools and dance companies, and its theatre community is unrivaled in the Caribbean. Your visit will include a tour of Old Havana, a classic convertible car ride around this historic city and the 18th century cannon ceremony.



## 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. TIM SHARP :: Artistic Director

Tim Sharp is Executive Director of the American Choral Directors Association and also in his fifth season as Artistic Director of the Tulsa Oratorio Chorus, Tulsa, where critics characterize his performances as having “stunning power” and “great passion and precision”. Before coming to ACDA, Sharp was Dean of Fine Arts at Rhodes College, Memphis, where he conducted the Rhodes Singers and MasterSingers Chorale. Earlier, he was Director of Choral Activities at Belmont University where he conducted the Belmont Chorale and Oratorio Chorus.



Sharp’s publications include *Mentoring in the Ensemble Arts*, *Precision Conducting*, *Up Front! Becoming the Complete Choral Conductor*, *Achieving Choral Blend and Balance*, *Memphis Music Before the Blues*, *Nashville Music Before Country*, *Jubilate! Amen!*, *Collaborative Creativity*, and a variety of articles, essays, and CD liner notes. His most recent publication is the historical-critical edition *Johannes Herbst: Hymns to be Sung at the Pianoforte*. Published compositions and arrangements exhibit his interest in conceptual programming as seen in the collections *Salvation is Created*, *An Early American Service of Lessons and Carols*, the young voices series including *Christmas Messiah for Young Voices*, his own choral series through Gentry Publications, and *A High Lonesome Bluegrass Mass*, in which he regularly performs as a guest banjo player.

Tim received undergraduate degree at Belmont University, and his MCM and DMA degree from The School of Church Music, Louisville, KY. His post-doctoral work has taken place at the Aspen Music School, Aspen; the NEH Medieval Studies program at Harvard University; throughout Belgium on a Rotary Scholarship; and at Cambridge University, where he is a Clare Hall Life Fellow.

## DIGNA GUERRA :: Artistic Director

Ms. Digna Guerra has become an internationally-respected name in the choral community for her passion and artistic creativity. Her early career included degrees from the Havana Conservatory, Havana Choral School, and the Hanns Eisler College of Music in Germany. During these times she has studied under such artists and scholars as Esther Ferrer, Manuel Ochoa, Horst Müller, Eberhardt Rebling.



Ms. Guerra saw early success after being named the conductor of the Coro de ICRT in 1965 and later the Coro de la Ópera Nacional de Cuba and as technical director of the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional. At this time she also assumed the post of professor and department chair in Choral Conducting at the Escuela Nacional de Arte.

Since 1975, Ms. Guerra has been the General Director of the Coro Nacional de Cuba and founded the chamber choir “Entrevoces” in 1981, with which she has developed cultural diffusion work in choral music of the highest level. She is currently the president of the Cuban Association of Choirs and a member of the International Federation for Choral Music. Moreover, she is titular professor at the Instituto Superior de Arte, a member of the National Council of UNEAC, and the president of the América Canta International Festival.

Ms. Guerra also maintains an active life away from her ensembles. As a solo vocalist she has performed in works such as Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, Vivaldi’s Gloria, Pergolesi’s Stabat mater, Michel Legrand’s Concerto Oratorio, and Mikis Teodorakis’ Canto General. Her curriculum includes two publications: *El Canto* and *El Director*, with the latter volume serving as a reference work for specialists in choral conducting. She is also in high demand as a clinician, leading workshops and courses in Jamaica, Barbados, Nicaragua, Peru, Curaçao, Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico, Spain, Yugoslavia, Poland, France, Sweden, Norway, the Canary Islands, and the United States.

# FESTIVAL PROGRAM OPTIONS



## VIVA LA AMISTAD CHORAL FESTIVAL PROGRAM :: JULY 2-7, 2018

**Monday, July 2:** Welcome to where music is a way of life! Arrive in Havana, meet your tour guide, and transfer to your hotel. Welcome Dinner and salsa lesson. Overnight Havana.

**Tuesday, July 3:** Morning Old Havana sightseeing tour incl. a visit to the Museum of the Revolution. Afternoon 1st rehearsal of festival choir followed by dinner & overnight Havana.

**Wednesday, July 4:** Morning 2nd rehearsal together with the Cuban Guest-Choir followed by a 1950s car convoy through Havana. Some time at leisure. Late afternoon 3rd choir rehearsal. In the evening attend Cannon Ceremony. Dinner & overnight Havana.

**Thursday, July 5:** Day excursion to Matanzas including visit to the Fort Museum which documents the history of the African slaves arriving in Cuba. Enjoy a demonstration of Santeria, afro Cuban music and dance. Option for individual performances in Matanzas. Alternatively, time at leisure along the beautiful coast line. Evening return to Havana for dinner & overnight.

**Friday, July 6:** Morning orchestra rehearsal followed by dress rehearsal by all choirs and the orchestra. Some time at leisure. Evening Gala Concert followed by a farewell dinner & overnight Havana.

**Saturday, July 7:** Transfer to the Airport for your trip home.

