



# Building Bridges *and* Transforming Lives *through the* Power of Music

San José, Costa Rica | June 23-27, 2021

## Pura Vida Costa Rica

*A Festival for Women's and Treble Voices*

**Choirs-in-Residence: Coro Cantate & Coro Intermezzo**



Artistic Director

**Dr. Andrea Ramsey**  
Composer, Conductor



Guest Conductor

**Ms. María Guinand**  
Conductor, Professor

# The Setting



## The Artistic Experience

Join Women's and Treble choral ensembles from across the U.S. under the direction of Dr. Andrea Ramsey and Maria Guinand, guest Conductor for a choral festival of International song and friendship. Collaborating with well-known Women and Youth choirs from Costa Rica and culminating in a gala concert at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre in San José, this festival tour will challenge and engage the hearts and minds of every participant and create profound memories to last a lifetime. Additionally, individual performance opportunities are available while in Costa Rica during the optional pre or post festival touring programs to Arenal or Tamarindo.

## Costa Rica

Costa Rica is rich in so many ways, in its history, in its cultural offerings and as a leader in ecology and ecological tourism. Many of Costa Rica's music traditions date back to colonial times when the Spanish brought European rhythms to the country's shores. Over time Spanish beats harmonized with indigenous tempi to create folkloric music unique to Costa Rica. The country boasts many outstanding choral ensembles including the national symphony chorus, many children's choirs, as well as very good school, university, and community choirs. Through Costa Rica's attention to the environment and its development of internationally-recognized ecological science, thousands upon thousands of tourists flock to Costa Rica to enjoy its natural resources, its beaches, its rain forests, its rivers and mountains.



## 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.

# Faculty



**Dr. Andrea  
Ramsey**

*Artistic Director*

Dr. Andrea Ramsey enjoys an international presence as a composer, conductor, scholar, and music educator. Her teaching experiences range from work with adolescent and children's voices to high school and collegiate voices. She enjoys regular opportunities to conduct all-state and divisional level honor choirs, festival events at Carnegie Hall, and serves as a principal conductor for the Pacific International Young Women's Choral Festival in Eugene, Oregon. Before leaping into full time composing and guest conducting, Andrea held positions in music education and conducting at The Ohio State University and the University of Colorado, respectively.

An ASCAPPlus award-winning composer, Andrea believes strongly in the creation of new works. Her compositions are available with traditional publishers and also through MusicSpoke, a digital sheetmusic marketplace. She enjoys residency collaborations with ensembles and festival choirs, some of which have included: the Allegro Choirs of Kansas City, Ithaca College, and the Crescent City Choral Festival in New Orleans.

As a scholar, she has presented for state, divisional, and national conventions of the American Choral Directors Association, the 6th Annual Symposium on Sociology in Music Education, as well as The Phenomenon Singing Symposium in St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada. She has co-authored articles published in the Choral Journal, as well as the Journal of Research in Music Education. A native of Arkansas, she has experienced in her own life the power of music to provide a sense of community, better understanding of our humanity, and rich opportunities for self-discovery.



**Ms. María  
Guinand**

*Guest Conductor*

The Venezuelan choral conductor, María Guinand, was formed as a choral conductor under the tutelage of Alberto Grau. She had her musical studies in Venezuela and England, where she obtained her Bachelor of Music degree in 1976 and her Master of Music degree in 1982 at the University of Bristol. She studied choral and orchestral conducting with Helmuth Rilling and interpretation of Gregorian Chant with Luigi Agustoni (Switzerland) and Johannes Berchmans Goeschl (Germany).

María Guinand is choral director, university professor and director of many choral projects at national and international levels. She has developed an intense teaching activity in the areas of music theory, analysis, history and aesthetics of music, harmony and choral conducting. She has held important positions in national and international choral organizations, and is continuing to deliver workshops, conferences and conduct concerts of symphonic and choral repertoire Latin coral invited.



**June 23-27, 2021**

# Pura Vida Costa Rica

## Tour Itinerary

### **Wednesday, June 23, 2021 - USA to Costa Rica**

You will arrive to the beauty of Costa Rica and be greeted by your festival hosts at the Juan Santamaria International Airport. Your short drive to the hotel will be followed by check-in. Enjoy a festive welcome dinner and traditional folk show of Costa Rica with the other participating choirs.

### **Thursday, June 24, 2021 - San José**

This morning you'll meet our festival directors and start with your first rehearsal, Later this morning, enjoy a tour of a coffee plantation followed by lunch. Afternoon rehearsals. This evening you'll have dinner together with the other participating choirs. Overnight in San José.

### **Friday, June 25, 2021 - San José**

Today will include a visit to Irazú Volcano National Park. Continue to Cartago for lunch and a visit to the Basílica de Nuestra Señora de Los Ángeles. Afternoon rehearsals followed by an evening get together at at the Instituto Costarricense Pro Música Coral. This is a Non-Profit Organization dedicated to music. The choirs will have the opportunity to share music together with members of Coro Cantate (Youth Women's Choir) and Coro Intermezzo and enjoy a Costa Rican night full of culture, friends and music!

### **Saturday, June 26, 2021 - San José**

Following breakfast, enjoy a tour of San José. Lunch followed by an afternoon dress rehearsal. Gala concert at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre. Farewell dinner together with the U.S. choirs and local choirs from Costa Rica.

### **Sunday, June 27, 2021 - Depart San José / Start Post Festival Tour Programs**

Transfer to the airport for return flight home to the U.S. or continue on your post festival tour.

## Pre/Post Festival Tour Programs

Optional pre- and post-tours for groups of 20 and more passengers are available including additional individual performance opportunities for balanced ensembles. All of PI's pre/post tours are fully customized to each choir's specific needs. Following are some examples:

### **Tour B - June 27-29, 2021, Post-Festival Extension to Tamarindo**

Tamarindo is the most developed beach on the Nicoya Peninsula and one of the Costa Rica's best known surf spots. The surfer mecca in the bay of Tamarindo offers all kinds of tourist services, along with some of Costa Rica's best restaurants.

### **Tour C - June 27-July 1, 2021, Post-Festival Extension to Arneal & Tamarindo**

Often simply referred to as "La Fortuna," the town is the gateway to the magnificent Arenal Volcano. Tamarindo is the most developed beach on the Nicoya Peninsula and one of the Costa Rica's best known surf spots. The surfer mecca in the bay of Tamarindo offers all kinds of tourist services, along with some of Costa Rica's best restaurants.