



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

Lisbon, Portugal | June 12-17, 2023

## Lisbon Choral Festival



Artistic Director

**Dr. Jeffrey Benson**  
Associate Professor  
& Director of Choral  
Activities  
San José State University



Artistic Director

**Dr. Michael Hanawalt**  
Associate Professor of  
Choral Conducting &  
Music Education  
Florida State University

# The Setting



## The Artistic Experience

Artistic Directors, Dr. Jeffrey Benson, and Dr. Michael Hanawalt invite you to join them in Lisbon, Portugal for the Lisbon Choral Festival. Discover Lisbon, a city full of authenticity where old customs and ancient history intermix with cultural entertainment and hi-tech innovation. This 4-day residency program culminates with a Gala Concert, in one of Lisbon's beautiful church venues and will bring all participating choirs together to sing a joint choir program with local orchestra accompaniment. The Lisbon Choral Festival is a total immersion experience into Portuguese culture from music to architecture, history, food, and language and will challenge and engage the hearts and minds of every participant and create profound memories to last a lifetime.

## Lisbon, Portugal

Lisbon is the stunning capital city of Portugal and is one of the most charismatic and vibrant cities in Europe. A city built over seven hills, on the coast of the Atlantic-Ocean, Lisbon is home to the world's greatest explorers, like Vasco De Gama, Magellan, and Prince Henry the Navigator. The World Heritage Belem Tower, symbol of the age of discovery, is to Lisbon what the Eiffel Tower is to Paris, and along with Jeronimos Monastery, Vasco De Gama's resting place are a must-see in one of Europe's most intriguing capitals. Lisbon's strategic seaside position on Europe's doorstep means a bounty of fresh seafood, and visitors are treated to a bustling "foodie scene" from Michelin-starred restaurants to gourmet-food markets to countless corner tascas (taverns).



## The Organizers: Perform International

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

Music and travel are a powerful combination. That is why Perform International has curated a team with a passion and expertise in both. We desire to bring the transformative power of international travel and performance to your program and your ensemble.

We see every trip and festival as an opportunity to celebrate the unique character of each musician while building a sense of unity and belonging through the universal language of music.

Your passion is our priority. Whether you've begun planning or are still dreaming, **our expertise will make your ideal performance and travel experience a reality.** From our first call until you return home, we will be your proactive partner, allowing you to focus on what matters most—your people and your program.

We look forward to working alongside you to create a memorable, meaningful, and cost effective tour for your choir, band, or orchestra.

# Faculty



**Dr. Jeffrey  
Benson**

*Artistic Director*

Jeffrey Benson is currently Director of Choral Activities at San José State University. The Washington Post hails his choirs for singing “with an exquisite blend, subtlety of phrasing, confident musicianship and fully supported tone...that would be the envy of some professional ensembles.”

Dr. Benson recently made his international conducting debut with the Irish Chamber Orchestra and the SJSU Choraliers in Limerick, Ireland, and he made his Carnegie Hall conducting debut in 2015 with the SJSU Choirs and the New York Festival Orchestra. He has served as cover conductor for the Grammy award-winning Washington Chorus, where he helped to prepare the ensemble for Maestros Julian Wachner, Leonard Slatkin and Marvin Hamlisch.

Choirs under his direction have performed on multiple state and regional conferences of ACDA, NAfME and Chorus America, and have toured throughout the United States and Europe, including invited performances at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, The White House and Washington National Cathedral. Recently Dr. Benson’s choirs have been invited to perform with the Rolling Stones, Josh Groban, Andrea Bocelli, the Los Angeles Festival Orchestra and the Skywalker Orchestra.

Dr. Benson is a published composer and arranger with Colla Voce Music and Santa Barbara Music Publishing, under the Charlene Archibeque Choral Series. He is also the Artistic Director of Peninsula Cantare, a community chorus based in Palo Alto. Previously, Dr. Benson served as Director of Choral Activities and Fine Arts Department Chair at H-B Woodlawn Secondary Program in Arlington, Virginia.

Dr. Benson is an active member of the National Association for Music Education, the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), and the National Collegiate Choral Organization, where he currently serves as California National Board Representative. ACDA recognized Benson with the first annual Colleen Kirk Award for his outstanding achievement as a young conductor.

Benson received his Masters degree and his Doctorate in Choral Conducting/Music Education from The Florida State University and his Bachelors degree in Music Education from New York University.



**Dr. Michael  
Hanawalt**

*Artistic Director*

Michael Hanawalt is the Associate Professor of Choral Conducting and Music Education at Florida State University, where he conducts the Chamber Choir, teaches graduate courses in conducting and choral literature, and serves as Artistic Director for the Tallahassee Community Chorus. Dr. Hanawalt was a founding member of the professional male vocal ensemble Cantus, serving as both its Executive Director and singing as part of the touring ensemble. Throughout his tenure with the organization, he recorded 12 CDs and performed in or oversaw the booking of over 500 concerts, including collaborations with the King’s Singers, the Boston Pops, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, and the Minnesota Orchestra. Dr. Hanawalt is active as a tenor soloist and has won competitions sponsored by the Schubert Club and Thursday Musical. Recent solo performances include Mozart’s Requiem at Tarleton State University (TX) and Westfield State University (MA), Evangelist in Bach’s Matthäus-Passion at the Bethany College Messiah Festival of the Arts, and Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony with the Wichita Symphony Orchestra. He regularly serves as guest conductor for honor choirs, and his choral arrangements are published by Boosey & Hawkes, the Niel A. Kjos Music Company, and Colla Voce. Dr. Hanawalt holds the BM in Vocal Performance from St. Olaf College, the MM in Choral Conducting from Michigan State University, and the PhD in Choral Music Education from Florida State University.



**June 12-17, 2023**

# Lisbon Choral Festival

## Tour Itinerary

### **Day 1 - Monday, June 12, 2023 - USA to LISBON**

You will begin your journey to Portugal by boarding an international flight to Lisbon, Portugal's hilly, coastal capital city. Meals and snacks will be served on the plane.

### **Day 2 - Tuesday, June 13, 2023 - ARRIVE LISBON**

Upon arrival in Lisbon, meet your Tour Manager and charter coach and enjoy a panoramic tour of city highlights. Check in and have dinner with the other festival choirs. Overnight in Lisbon.

### **Day 3 - Wednesday, June 14, 2023 - LISBON**

After breakfast, you'll have a morning rehearsal with the other festival choirs in Lisbon. In the afternoon, enjoy a sightseeing tour of Lisbon. The tour will include Belem Tower and St. Jeronimo's Monastery. St. Jeronimo is a church built in the 1500's as part of a magnificent monastery. Its cloisters are considered among the most beautiful in the world and it is the resting place of explorer Vasco da Gama. Dinner will be followed by an evening rehearsal and overnight in Lisbon.

### **Day 4 - Thursday, June 15, 2023 - CASCAIS & ESTORIL EXCURSION**

Take an excursion today to visit the coastal towns of Cascais and Estoril. Cascais is a fishing town that historically was a favorite with nobility and elite. Today it is an elegant blend of grand 19th century architecture and traditional Portuguese charm. Estoril is famed as a luxury entertainment destination on the Portuguese Riviera. Traveling between the two you will see many of this area's best beaches along with the sea walls, shops and historical buildings. Return to Lisbon for an afternoon of leisure before an evening rehearsal. Dinner and overnight in Lisbon.

### **Day 5 - Friday, June 16, 2023 - LISBON / GALA CONCERT**

This morning will be free for choirs to explore on their own. Dress rehearsal this afternoon. You will perform the Gala Concert tonight in Lisbon at Sao Jorge Church (or similar). Dinner and overnight in Lisbon.

### **Day 6 - Saturday, June 17, 2023 - DEPART LISBON / START POST FESTIVAL TOUR PROGRAMS**

Depart from Lisbon today to return to the USA or begin a 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.