



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

Derry-Londonderry, Northern Ireland | June 23-28, 2024

Derry Choral Festival



Artistic Director,
Co-Conductor &
Composer

Dr. Shane Lynch
Director of Choral
Activities, Washington &
Lee University



Co-Conductor

Mr. Maurice Kelly
Musical and Artistic
Director of Orchestra
NorthWest, Allegri
Ladies and Allegri
Junior Choirs

The Setting



The Setting: Derry-Londonderry

Stand on the city walls in Derry-Londonderry and you'll feel it. History is all around you. The very walls beneath you were built over 400 years ago. Look over to the city's Bogside area and you'll see history literally written on the walls in those famous murals. Traditional music spills out onto the streets from cozy pubs, museums tell stories of times past, and people still celebrate ancient festivals. Discover the county's literary side with a visit to Seamus Heaney Homeplace in Bellaghy, which celebrates the life and legacy of the Nobel prizewinning poet. Derry is a staple in the cultural hub that makes up Northern Ireland. The city was celebrated in 2013 as the UK's very first City of Culture and is host to the annual City of Derry International Choral Festival. Derry has been named 'Friendliest Destination in Northern Ireland' so you will be guaranteed the warmest of welcomes and, of course, it's home to the popular Netflix show "Derry Girls"!

The Venue: The Guildhall

Sitting within reach of the famous 400-year-old Walls is one of the City's most recognizable, and arguably one of the most stunning landmarks, the Guildhall. An integral part of Derry's history since 1887, this beautifully ornate building has played host to presidents, playwrights, and poets over the years. The Guildhall's most arresting feature is its collection of stunning stained-glass windows. Donated by London Companies, they represent everything from fishmongers to musicians. The building's staircase, main hall organ and corridors give a fascinating insight into this distinctive building's history.

The Artistic Experience

Come sing in Northern Ireland with conductors/composers Shane Lynch and Maurice Kelly. Centered in Londonderry and featuring Irish composers such as Derry native Sean Doherty, multi-generational mixed choirs will have the chance to perform the world premiere of music based on the history and natural beauty of the area. Dr. Lynch will compose works about the legendary Amazing Grace valley nearby, giving choirs the chance to work with him on the music and visit the actual valley to understand how the work came into being originally.



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.

Faculty



**Dr. Shane
Lynch**

***Artistic Director,
Composer, and
Co-Conductor***

Shane Lynch, a noted conductor, composer, and music educator, assumed the position Director of Choral Activities at Washington and Lee University in the Fall of 2009. He conducts the University Singers and the Glee Club, and oversees W&L's innovative and unique conductor mentorship/teacher preparation program.

Dr. Lynch is a sought-after clinician and guest conductor, having worked with groups throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. Quite interested in musical scholarship, some of his recent research includes trends of Neo-Impressionism in modern American choral music and eurhythmic movements in the choral rehearsal and performance setting. He is also noted for conducting large-scale productions, including operas, oratorios, and festival concerts.

Dr. Lynch has led choirs on several national and international tours, including featured performances in Scotland, South Korea, Italy, and Ireland.

Dr. Lynch has received numerous awards as an educator, including the Junior Faculty Member of the Year at Monmouth College and the Outstanding Faculty Service Award at the University of Wisconsin—Barron. An active composer interested in a wide variety of compositional styles and mediums, he has commissioned compositions ranging from octavos to choral/orchestral works. His piece *Joseph and Grace* premiered in Ireland for the 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising and won the 2017 National Collegiate Choral Organization composition contest, and he recently served as Composer-in-Residence for the Every Voice Festival of the City of Derry International Choir Festival.

Prior to his appointment at Washington and Lee, Dr. Lynch served as Visiting Director of Choral Activities at Monmouth College (Illinois) and Director of Choral Activities at the University of Wisconsin—Barron as well as several past positions in church music and teaching high school science. Shane Lynch graduated from Concordia College (Moorhead, Minnesota), with degrees in Music and Physics, received the Master of Music degree in Conducting from the University of Northern Colorado, and completed his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting at the University of Washington.



**Mr. Maurice
Kelly**

Co-Conductor

Maurice Kelly is a choral director, orchestra conductor, animateur and highly skilled pedagogue and workshop facilitator from Derry in the northwest of Ireland. With an impressive and diverse range of experience spanning almost 30 years, he has a strong reputation locally and nationally while continuing to grow his international profile.

His current roles include Musical and Artistic Director of Orchestra NorthWest, Allegri Ladies and Allegri Junior choirs and also Creative Director of the annual Every Voice Festival – a community-based festival offering dynamic music experiences for singers and audiences in the North West region of Ireland with the ethos that “every voice matters.” He also works as Principal Accompanist and Aural Skills Tutor for the Education Authority (Western Region) Music Service.

In September 2021 Mr. Kelly was appointed to the role of Resident Conductor of the orchestra and Faculty Member for Opera Hibernia, an exciting new opera studio festival to be held annually in the northwest of Ireland.

He has recently been appointed as Northern Ireland Ambassador for the International Choral Conductors Federation and is also a member of MDBrunch, the UK-based collective (an initiative of Project Get Singing). He has trained with organizations such as Doreen Rao's Choral Music Experience Institute, Europa Cantat, Association of British Choral Directors and Amy Bebbington's Choral Leadership and Pedagogy series and also as a member of CHORALSPACE – International Academy for Choral Arts.



June 23-28, 2024

Derry Choral Festival

Tour Itinerary

Sunday, June 23, 2024 - Departure USA

The journey to Northern Ireland begins by boarding an international flight to Dublin.

Monday, June 24, 2024 - Arrival Derry

Upon arrival in Dublin, meet with your Tour Manager and transfer by bus to Derry. Enjoy a festive Welcome Dinner with participating choirs. Overnight in Derry.

Tuesday, June 25, 2024 - Sightseeing & Rehearsals

Breakfast followed by a morning rehearsal with Dr. Lynch and Mr. Kelly. Afternoon sightseeing including highlights such as the Ramparts, the iconic Peace Bridge, the City Murals, and the Derry Craft Village. Rehearsal in the evening. Dinner and overnight in Derry.

Wednesday, June 26, 2024 - Sightseeing & Rehearsals

Breakfast followed by a morning rehearsal with Dr. Lynch and Mr. Kelly. Afternoon sightseeing including a visit to the home of poet Seamus Heaney. Rehearsal in the evening. Dinner and overnight in Derry.

Thursday, June 27, 2024 - Dress Rehearsal & Gala Concert

Enjoy the morning at your leisure. After lunch take part in a dress rehearsal at the concert venue. Enjoy dinner before getting ready for tonight's festive gala concert at the Guildhall. Overnight in Derry.

Friday, June 28, 2024 - Depart Derry / Start Post Festival Tour Programs

Begin your journey back to the USA, taking with you lifelong memories of performing in Derry or start of post tours by the individual ensembles

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 28-July 1, 2024

From Derry-Londonderry, head north along the Antrim Coast and explore the UNESCO world heritage site of the Giants Causeway and the Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge. Stop to visit some of the filming location of "Game of Thrones." Enjoy a sightseeing tour of the Titanic quarter in Belfast and see the city's murals and peace walls. Two nights in Dublin will include visits to Trinity College to view the Book of Kells and a fun interactive entertainment dinner with traditional music and Irish dancing.

Tour C - June 28-July 1, 2024

From Derry-Londonderry, explore Donegal, including Sliabh Liag and the Glencolmille Folk Village. Excursion to Sligo and Drumcliff to see W.B. Yeats Grave. Enjoy an "Atlantic Sheepdog" experience. The final afternoon in Dublin will include visits to Trinity College to view the Book of Kells and a fun interactive entertainment dinner with traditional music and Irish dancing.