



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

Assisi & Rome, Italy | June 19-24, 2024

Great Basilicas of Italy



Artistic Director

Dr. Gene Peterson
Director of Choral
Studies, California Baptist
University Collinsworth
School of Music



Composer-in-
Residence

Ms. Elaine Hagenberg
Composer & Clinician

The Setting



The Artistic Experience

The “Great Basilicas of Italy” is a celebration of the music of composer Elaine Hagenberg and will also include spotlight performances for participating choral ensembles. Multi-generational mixed choirs will have the opportunity to perform Elaine Hagenberg’s “Illuminare” coached by the composer and conducted by Dr. Gene Peterson as part of the festive gala concert in the famous St. Francis Basilica in Assisi.

Artistic Director Gene Peterson and Composer-in-Residence Elaine Hagenberg will work with the participating conductors to create a program that will unite singers and audience, creating an immersive experience for all participants. Fully balanced choirs will also have the opportunity for a spotlight performance during the gala concert. Additionally, the festival choir will sing during Mass at St. Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican.

The Venues

The Papal Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi is the mother church of the Franciscan Order. The grandiose bi-level basilica is one of the world’s focal points of both high art and intense spirituality. Construction of the basilica started in 1228 and it consists of two churches known as the Upper Church and the Lower Church, as well as a crypt where the remains of St. Francis are interred. The basilica is also the home of the famous St. Francis of Assisi Basilica Choir.

The Papal Basilica of St. Peter in the Vatican is the most renowned work of Renaissance architecture and remains one of the two largest churches in the world. St. Peter’s is regarded as “the greatest of all churches of Christendom.” By Catholic tradition, the Basilica is the burial site of its namesake St. Peter, the first Pope and Bishop of Rome. Tradition and strong historical evidence hold that St. Peter’s tomb is directly below the high altar of the Basilica.



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. Gene
Peterson**

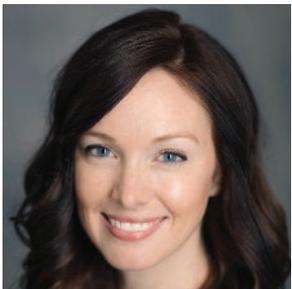
Artistic Director

Dr. Gene Peterson, a nationally and internationally recognized conductor, music educator, and church musician, is the Director of Choral Studies at California Baptist University Collinsworth School of Music. Dr. Peterson's primary focus at CBU is in the development of choral arts ensembles, but his diverse and extensive background in both academic and church contexts supports his leadership across the entire choral program at CBU. He also mentors future conductors in CBU's graduate program in choral conducting.

Dr. Peterson's recent appointments include choral and music education faculties at Bethel University and The University of Tennessee. Dr. Peterson previously held posts as music director and conductor for college, high school, church, and community choirs in California, Washington, Tennessee, and Minnesota. Ensembles under his leadership have performed in venues throughout the United States, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand, including the Sistine Chapel, the Sydney Opera House, Chicago Symphony Hall, and Carnegie Hall. Due to his reputation in the international choral community, Dr. Peterson is in high demand as a lecturer, choral clinician and adjudicator for local, regional, and international choral festivals and has conducted numerous honor choirs and all-state choirs.

Dr. Peterson holds a Bachelor of Music in Conducting and a Master of Arts in Education from Chapman University in Orange, California, and the Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting from the University of Washington, Seattle.

Dr. Peterson is a consummate choral conductor who combines engaging charisma with musical expression and studied nuance. His breadth of expertise and experience, engaging and articulate teaching, and passion for mentoring the next generation of musicians is most apparent through his work at the Collinsworth School as well as his work around the world.



**Ms. Elaine
Hagenberg**

Composer-in-Residence

Elaine Hagenberg's music "soars with eloquence and ingenuity" (ACDA Choral Journal). Her compositions have been performed by universities, community choirs, schools, and church choirs throughout the United States and abroad. Her music has been featured at All-State festivals, national and regional American Choral Directors Association Conferences, the National Youth Choir at Carnegie Hall, the Melbourne International Choral Festival in Australia, and the International Children's Choir Festivals in Canterbury and London. With over forty commissioned works, she has composed new music for the American Choral Directors Association Women's Choir Consortium, colleges and universities, community choirs, and churches.

In addition to composing, Elaine has been the guest artist and clinician for numerous conferences and festivals including the Heartland Youth Choir Meet the Composer Festival, the Alleluia Conference at Baylor University, the Voices Unite Festival, the Birmingham First Composer Festival, and the Incanto Mediterraneo International Choral Festival in Milazzo, Italy.

Elaine has music in print with various publishers including Oxford University Press, Hal Leonard, G. Schirmer, and Hinshaw Music. Currently, she publishes her church anthems with Beckenhorst Press and self-publishes her concert music through Elaine Hagenberg Music.





June 19-24, 2024

Great Basilicas of Italy

Tour Itinerary

Wednesday, June 19, 2024 - Departure USA

The journey to Italy begins by boarding an international flight.

Thursday, June 20, 2024 - Arrival Rome

Upon arrival, meet with your Tour Manager and transfer by bus to Assisi. Time permitting visit to Orvieto and its magnificent cathedral en route. Welcome dinner & overnight in Assisi.

Friday, June 21, 2024 - Sightseeing & Rehearsals

Morning rehearsal under Dr. Peterson and Ms. Hagenberg. This afternoon, enjoy a walking tour of Assisi. Late afternoon rehearsal followed by dinner at a local Agri-turismo. Overnight in Assisi.

Saturday, June 22, 2024 - Rehearsals / Gala Concert

Morning rehearsals followed by free time to prepare for this evening's concert. Afternoon dress rehearsal. Dinner at your hotel. Sound check, and Gala Concert at the Basilica. Overnight in Assisi.

Sunday, June 23, 2024 - Assisi / Rome

Morning transfer to Rome. Upon arrival guided tour of the Vatican Museum & Sistine Chapel. Sing Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. Farewell dinner, and overnight in Rome.

Monday, June 24, 2024 - Depart Rome / Start Post Festival Tour Programs

Begin your journey back to the USA, taking with you lifelong memories of performing in Italy or continue on an extension 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 17-20, 2024 - Extension to Florence

This program includes two nights in Florence prior to the festival. Enjoy a guided tour of Florence's Academia, home to Michelangelo's David, and the city's magnificent Duomo. Also travel through the heart of Tuscany to visit Siena. Individual concert performance opportunities are available in Florence.

Tour C - June 24-25, 2024 - Extension in Rome

This program includes an additional day and night in Rome, and a visit to the Iconic Coliseum. Individual concert performance opportunities are available in Rome