



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

Florence, Italy | June 6-10, 2024

## Florence Choral Festival



Artistic Director  
& Composer-in-  
Residence

**Michael Trotta**  
Composer &  
Conductor



Artistic Director

**Larry Bach**  
Director of Choirs,  
North Central  
University



Artistic Director

**Brian Kittredge**  
Director of Choral  
Activities at  
the University  
of Alabama,  
Birmingham

# The Setting



## The Artistic Experience

Artistic Directors, Brian Kittredge, and Larry Bach, along with esteemed Composer-in-Residence and conductor, Michael Trotta invite you to join them in Florence, Italy in June 2024. In a gala performance featuring Trotta's a cappella works, along with his "Te Deum" and "Requiem", accompanied by orchestra, this total immersion experience of Trotta's music will challenge and engage the hearts and minds of every participant and create profound memories to last a lifetime.

## Florence, Italy

Florence's museums, palaces, and churches house some of the greatest artistic treasures in the world. The most popular and important sites in Florence includes the Cathedral, the Baptistery, the Uffizi, the Bargello, and the Accademia. The churches of Santa Maria Novella and Santa Croce are veritable art galleries, and the library of San Lorenzo is a magnificent exhibition of Michelangelo's architectural genius. Wander some of the oldest streets in the city until you reach the Arno River, cross the Ponte Vecchio, and experience the "newest" area of Florence, the Oltrarno. When you grow weary of museums and monuments, head outdoors. Spend a day at the Boboli Gardens or climb the hill to the church of San Miniato al Monte to experience an enchanting view of Florence.



## 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



## Michael Trotta

***Artistic Director  
& Composer-in-  
Residence***

Fueled by a passion to share new music that engages conductors, ensembles, and audiences alike, Michael John Trotta (b. 1978) is fast becoming one of the most exciting and prominent new composers of choral music. Drawing on his experience as a conductor and clinician, he brings artistry and excellence within reach for thousands of musicians each year.

From Carnegie Hall to classrooms all over the world, Trotta's unique blend of engaging and artistic music creates opportunities to experience new music and empowers individuals to realize their artistic potential. His engaging style fuses tradition and innovation to create moments of beauty that "effectively carry out a dialogue between the [music] and the modern listener." (Choral Journal)

Prior to his work as a full-time composer, his experience as an educator at the elementary, middle school, high school, and university levels – as well as a church music director – infuses his works with an intimate knowledge of the human voice and a rare sensitivity to the capabilities of a choral ensemble. This, combined with his degrees in music education and a doctorate in choral conducting, have grounded his style in tradition, which blend with his modern sensibilities to "inform the thoughts and aspirations of the people and the time" (Choral Scholar) and to create "tender harmonies and a palette of glowing vocal and instrumental colors." (Gramophone)



## Larry Bach

***Artistic Director***

Larry Bach, in his 30th year at North Central University, currently serves as the Artistic Director for the University. Bach conducts the Chorale, the University's premiere choir, and teaches conducting classes. The Chorale has completed 15 overseas tours, performed multiple times for the American Choral Association and has performed at Carnegie Hall. Bach received his Vocal Performance Degree from West Virginia Wesleyan College, and a M.M. in Conducting from the University of Minnesota. Bach is also a doctoral candidate (abd) in Conducting at the University of Iowa. He also studied at the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria.

Bach has had a 20-year association with the Dale Warland Singers, a Minneapolis based professional choir, which has been acclaimed both nationally and internationally. Bach has also sung under the prominent conductors Helmuth Rillig, Eric Erickson, and Robert Shaw. Bach has traveled extensively throughout the United States as a clinician and guest conductor for churches, schools, and professional organizations.

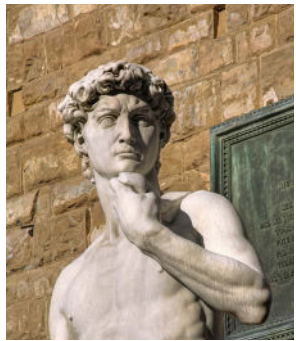


## Brian Kittredge

***Artistic Director***

Brian Kittredge joined the University of Alabama at Birmingham faculty in 2010. The UAB choirs under his direction have been selected as the recording choir for the MorningStar Publication series, featuring premiere performances of K. Lee Scott's "Gloria" and Michael Trotta's "I Shall See." The UAB Concert Choir was invited to perform in the Championship Competition at the Interkultur World Choir Games in Riga, Latvia, in July 2014, and was the featured ensemble in the world premiere performance of Glenn McClure's "Songs of Freedom," a project commemorating the anniversaries of the Civil Rights Movement and the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Prior to his appointment at UAB, Kittredge served on the faculty at Louisiana State University, where he taught courses in choral conducting and conducted the LSU Schola Cantorum. Kittredge is an active clinician and guest conductor. He is currently serving as the Youth and Student Activities Coordinator for the Alabama Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association and serves on the artistic faculty at the New York State Summer School of the Arts. Kittredge has studied under the mentorship of Kenneth Fulton, William Weinert, and Peggy Dettwiler.



**June 6-10, 2024**

# Florence Choral Festival

## Tour Itinerary

### **Day 1 - Thursday, June 6, 2024 - Departure USA**

The journey to Italy begins by boarding an international flight to Florence.

### **Day 2 - Friday, June 7, 2024 - Arrival Florence**

Upon arrival take a panoramic tour of Florence, time permitting. Dinner and overnight in Florence.

### **Day 3 - Saturday, June 8, 2024 - Florence Rehearsals & Sightseeing**

Morning rehearsal followed by a guided sightseeing tour of Florence with guided visits to the Accademia and the Duomo. In the late afternoon you will have another rehearsal. Dinner on your own and overnight in Florence.

### **Day 4 - Sunday, June 9, 2024 - Gala Concert**

Morning at leisure with an opportunity to explore Florence on your own. In the afternoon you will have a dress rehearsal with orchestra. Dinner followed by Gala concert at a historic church venue in Florence. Overnight in Florence.

### **Day 5 - Monday, June 10, 2024 - Depart Florence / Start Post Festival Tour Programs**

Morning transfer to Florence airport for your return flight to the USA or start your post festival tour program.

## 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 - Extension to Rome**

This program includes an extension to Rome, with visits to the Iconic Coliseum, and the Vatican Museums & St. Peter's Basilica. Individual concert performance opportunities are available in Rome.

### **Tour C - Extension to Venice**

Travel to Venice, stopping in Pisa on the way. Visits in Venice include St. Mark's Cathedral, and The Doges Palace. Individual concert performance opportunities are available in Venice.

