



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

Vienna, Austria | June 28-July 4, 2025

## Choral Directors Chorus - Vienna

Overall, the 2025 Directors Chorus tour to Vienna promises to be a blend of musical excellence, cultural immersion, and shared experiences, and is sure to be an exciting opportunity for those passionate about choral music and the vibrant city of Vienna.



Co-Artistic Director

**Dr. Pearl Shangkuan**  
Director of Choral  
Activities and Professor  
of Choral Music at Calvin  
University



Co-Artistic Director

**Dr. André J. Thomas**  
Emeritus Professor  
Music, Florida State  
University

# The Setting



## Vienna, Austria

Vienna's historic center is considered one of the most beautiful city landmarks in Europe. Three eras left their mark on the former residence of the Habsburgs: the Middle Ages with Gothic St. Stephen's Cathedral whose spire points toward heaven; the Baroque whose most important achievement is the Imperial Palace with its sumptuous cupolas; and the Ring Boulevard era of the late nineteenth century, when such splendid buildings as the Vienna State Opera and the Museum of Fine Arts were built to replace the former city walls. Music is one of Vienna's legacies. Musical prodigies including Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Joseph Haydn, Ludwig van Beethoven, Franz Schubert, Johannes Brahms, Gustav Mahler, and Arnold Schoenberg have worked there. Art and culture have a long tradition in Vienna, including theatre, opera, classical music, and fine arts.

## Key Highlights of the Tour Include

- **Rehearsals and Performances:** Participants will have the chance to engage in rehearsals led by Dr. Pearl Shangkuan and Dr. Andre Thomas, two highly esteemed choral educators. The opportunity to perform a formal concert at a compelling historic venue adds a prestigious touch to the musical experience.
- **Exclusive Access to Historic Concert Venues:** The tour promises "insider" visits to some of Vienna's most significant music-related venues and sites. This immersive experience provides a deeper understanding of the city's rich musical heritage.
- **Cultural Exploration:** Beyond the musical aspect, participants will have ample time to explore Vienna's cultural treasures. Sightseeing, shopping, dining, and relaxation are all on the agenda, allowing you to soak in the beauty and charm of the city.
- **Exclusive 5-Night Retreat:** The retreat spans five nights, offering an exclusive and focused environment for musical and cultural exploration.
- **Open Invitation for Significant Others:** The inclusive nature of the tour allows significant others to join along, making it a memorable experience for both participants and their companions.

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## 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. Pearl  
Shangkuan**

*Co-Artistic Director*

Dr. Pearl Shangkuan is a highly sought-after conductor, lecturer and clinician who has led performances and workshops on six continents. She is the National President-elect of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), having previously served on the Board of Directors of Chorus America, as well as ACDA central division president and ACDA Michigan state president. Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Music at Calvin University in Grand Rapids, Michigan, she is also the chorus director of the Grand Rapids Symphony, a Grammy-nominated professional orchestra.

Appointed in 2022 as the Editor of Hinshaw Music, a major choral music publisher in North America, she also has a signature choral series with earthsongs and is the music editor of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship Choral series published by GIA. She has conducted several times at Carnegie Hall and other major concert halls in the US and was an invited guest lecturer at the World Symposium for Choral Music held in Seoul, South Korea. Her guest engagements regularly take her to Europe, Asia, and across the United States.

Dr. Shangkuan has served on the jury of several international choral competitions in Europe and Asia and has led conducting masterclasses for the ACDA national conference, Chorus America conferences, the University of Michigan and the University of Illinois Choral Conducting Symposium among many prominent programs, institutions and organizations in the US. She has conducted numerous All State choirs, ACDA national and division honor choirs, and choral festivals nationally and internationally and has headlined several ACDA state and other professional conferences. She has commissioned and premiered numerous choral works and her choirs have performed at ACDA national, division and state conferences.

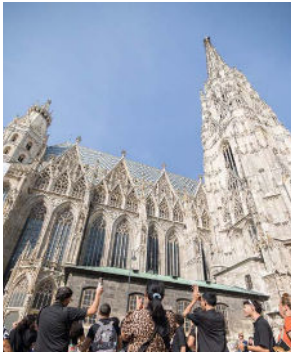
The Michigan YWCA honored her with its Arts Tribute Award in 2007. In 2013, Michigan ACDA honored her with the Maynard Klein Choral Award for “artistic excellence and lifetime leadership in choral music.” In 2020, she received a Calvin University Award for Excellence in Teaching. In 2023, the National Collegiate Choral Organization (NCCO) gave her its Honorary Life Member Award for “distinguished leadership and extraordinary service to the choral community, both nationally and internationally.”



**Dr. André J.  
Thomas**

*Co-Artistic Director*

**André J. Thomas** is a Visiting Professor of Conducting and Interim Conductor of the Yale Camerata. Thomas is an Emeritus Professor of Music at Florida State University. He previously served as a faculty member at the University of Texas, Austin. He received his degrees from Friends University (B.A.), Northwestern University (M. M.), and the University of Illinois (D.M.A.). Dr. Thomas has conducted choirs at the state, division, and national conventions of the Music Educators National Conference (NAfME) and the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). His international conducting credits are extensive. They include conductor/clinician for the International Federation of Choral Musicians’ summer residency of the World Youth Choir in The Republic of China and the Philippines. He was also the conductor of the World Youth Choir’s winter residency in Europe and a premier performance by an American choir (Florida State University Singers) in Vietnam. He has been the guest conductor of such distinguished orchestras and choirs as the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in England, guest Conductor for the Berlin Radio Choir and the North German Radio Choir in Germany, the Netherlands Radio Choir, The Bulgarian Radio Choir and Orchestra, the Charlotte Symphony, Tallahassee Symphony, China’s People’s Liberation Orchestra, and the Czech National Symphony Orchestra. In 2011, the African Diaspora Sacred Music honored Dr. Thomas as a Living Legend. Also in 2011, Thomas’ dedication to and accomplishments in the choral arts was recognized by his peers in Chorus America when the organization presented Dr. Thomas with its Distinguished Service Award. In March of 2017, ACDA presented Thomas with its highest honor the Robert Shaw Award, and in November of 2017, NCCO (National Collegiate Choral Organization) presented Thomas with its Lifetime Achievement Award.



**June 28-July 4, 2025**

# Choral Directors Chorus

## Tour Itinerary

### Day 1 - Saturday, June 28, 2025 - Departure USA

The journey to Austria begins by boarding an international flight to Vienna (not included in this package).

### Day 2 - Sunday, June 29, 2025 - Arrival Vienna

Arrive in Vienna. Transfer on your own from the airport and check into the hotel. Short afternoon rehearsal at the hotel with Dr. Thomas and Dr. Shangkuan. Welcome dinner and overnight in Vienna.

### Day 3 - Monday, June 30, 2025 - Vienna / Sightseeing / Recital

Private tour of St. Stephen's Cathedral and perform a lunchtime recital there. Afternoon free. Optional evening concert attendance (additional cost) at the Musikverein or Konzerthaus (schedule of concerts will be made available closer to the time). Dinner on own and overnight in Vienna.

### Day 4 - Tuesday, July 1, 2025 - Vienna / Rehearsal / Sightseeing / Informal Singing

Morning rehearsal with Dr. Shangkuan and Dr. Thomas. Afternoon private guided tour of the Musikverein. Informal singing opportunity in the Golden Hall, Brahms-Saal or other location. Dinner on own and overnight in Vienna.

### Day 5 - Wednesday, July 2, 2025 - Vienna / Optional Eisenstadt Excursion

Join Dr. Shangkuan and Dr. Thomas on an optional full-day excursion (additional cost) to Eisenstadt where Joseph Haydn served the Esterhazy Princes as Hofkapellmeister and composer for over 40 years. Entrances included to Esterhazy Palace (possible singing opportunity included subject to confirmation), Haydn Church and Haydn House. Dinner on own and overnight in Vienna.

### Day 6 - Thursday, July 3, 2025 - Vienna / Concert Performance

This morning – optional attendance at a choral workshop at the Music University of Vienna, given by Dr. Thomas, Dr. Shangkuan and Saul Zaks. Later in the day you'll perform a final concert at the Peterskirche, under the direction of Dr. Thomas and Dr. Shangkuan. Farewell dinner together at a typical Heuriger in Grinzing. Overnight in Vienna.

### Day 7 - Friday, July 4, 2025 - Depart Vienna

This morning following breakfast, you'll bid farewell to your fellow choir director friends, and travel back to the USA (airport transfers on your own but can be arranged on request for an additional fee).

## FINANCIALS

Cost Per Person Double Occupancy: \$1,960\*

Cost Per Person Single Occupancy: \$2,455\*

Optional Eisenstadt Extension: \$235\*\* per person

*\*payable in installments, airfare not included, pricing based on 40 paying passengers*

*\*\*pricing based on 25 people attending*

To sign up for this extraordinary opportunity to perform in Austria, please [CLICK HERE](#) or type the following URL into your browser: <https://tri.ps/FMGk9>