



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

Rome, Italy | June 11-15, 2027

## Rome Choral Festival



Artistic Director

**Mr. Alex Gartner**

Composer and Artistic &  
Executive Director of the  
Pensacola Children's Chorus

# The Setting



## The Artistic Experience

This choral festival brings to life works curated by our artistic director and performed in one of Rome's most historic and breathtaking churches. Conducted by Alex Gartner, community youth and high school mixed and treble ensembles will present a once-in-a-lifetime concert experience in the very heart of this legendary city. With a carefully planned rehearsal schedule, participants can fully immerse themselves in the sights, sounds, and rich cultural treasures of Rome and its surrounding regions. Ensembles may also enhance their journey with a custom pre- or post-festival tour, thoughtfully crafted to reflect the unique passions and interests of each group.

## The City

Rome is one of Europe's most historic capitals, located in the central-western part of the Italian Peninsula along the Tiber River. The city's metro area extends to the Tyrrhenian coast, and its rich history spans thousands of years, making it one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. Rome was famously founded, according to legend, by Romulus and Remus and later became the heart of the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire. Julius Caesar and other key historical figures shaped the city, leaving a legacy of monumental architecture, civic planning, and cultural influence that endures to this day.

Italy has a long and celebrated musical tradition dating back to ancient times, which profoundly shaped the development of European music. Rome played a central role in the evolution of sacred and secular music, from early Gregorian chant to Renaissance and Baroque masterpieces, many of which are preserved in its historic churches and archives.



## 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



**Mr. Alex Gartner**

*Artistic Director*

**ALEX GARTNER** is an award-winning conductor, composer, author, clinician, collaborative pianist, and passionate advocate for the arts. Through his work from the podium, the piano, and on printed music, he seeks to illuminate the transformative potential of music to empower one's truest self, shed light on relevant social issues, and create environments and experiences that propel music education and the arts across generational, socioeconomic, and perceptual lines.

Mr. Gartner serves as the Artistic & Executive Director of the Pensacola Children's Chorus (FL), a community-based youth choir comprised of 9 resident ensemble and 5 regional choirs that account for 300 singers. His innovative leadership of the organization earned him the 2025 Louis Botto Award for Innovation and Entrepreneurship granted Chorus America, becoming the first leader of a youth organization to receive the award in its 27-year history.

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Mr. Gartner previously served as the Richard W. Wesp Assistant Director of the Cincinnati Youth Choir (CYC). Under the mentorship of Robyn Lana, founder and artistic director, Gartner discovered the potential that exists in young voices, one that has underpinned his career.

An active composer, Mr. Gartner's choral works have been described as both simple and intricate simultaneously. His pieces often examine issues that lie close to the heart. Past subjects have included cancer, gun violence, and memory loss. With a passion for children's and treble voices, he is careful to approach these subjects through the lens of the singers so that they might be able to appropriately incorporate their own emotions and experiences through the learning and performance of his works. These pieces among many others are published through Santa Barbara Music Publishing, the Lorenz Corporation, Choristers Guild, Alfred Music Publishing, and MusicSpoke.

Mr. Gartner earned his Master of Music in Music Education from the University of Florida, where he conducted research to identify successful methods to develop musicianship within the performance-driven environments among successful and respected children's and youth choirs. He earned his Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

Outside of the sphere of children and youth, Mr. Gartner has served as a leader in many community choirs and church music departments. Presently serving as the Principal Organist for First Baptist Church of Pensacola (FL), he has held positions as Director of Traditional Music at Epiphany United Methodist Church (Loveland, OH) and Director of Music at St. James Episcopal Church (Westwood, OH). He also directed choirs in the Forest Hills School District (Anderson Township, Ohio), taught general music for an independent school in Mason, Ohio, and served as the Artistic Director for the Forest-Aires Women's Chorus (Anderson Township, Ohio). These experiences, combined with his considerable work with children's and community youth choirs, helped Mr. Gartner develop an appreciation and proclivity for the administrative aspects of running community-based choirs, a cause he champions in his book *The Business of Choir* with co-author Emily Williams Burch (GIA Publications, June 2022).

Gartner has held leadership positions with numerous national arts organizations. Presently, he serves chairperson of the national Advocacy & Collaboration Committee of the American Choral Directors Association through which he works alongside his committee members and with national leadership to highlight issues related to advocacy for music education and the choral field. He previously served as the Repertoire and Resources Chair for Children and Community Youth for ACDA's southern region, a role in which he facilitated dialogue and resource-sharing among choir directors across 11 states. He also was a member of the national arts education council for Americans for the Arts (2020-2021). During this tenure, he and his colleagues were a catalyst for organizational reform that prioritized equitable access to the arts.



June 11-15, 2027

## Rome Choral Festival

### Tour Itinerary

#### Day 1 - Friday, June 11, 2027 - USA to Rome

You will begin your journey to Italy by boarding an international flight to Rome, the capital city. Meals and snacks will be served on the plane.

#### Day 2 - Saturday, June 12, 2027 - Arrival Rome

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

#### Day 3 - Sunday, June 13, 2027 - Rehearsals & Rome Sightseeing

After breakfast you will have a morning rehearsal with the other festival choirs. In the afternoon, enjoy a sightseeing tour of the Forum and the Coliseum. Dinner is included. Rehearsals this evening following dinner. Overnight in Rome.

#### Day 4 - Monday, June 14, 2027 - Rehearsals & Gala Concert

Rehearsals this morning followed by some time at leisure. Dress rehearsal this afternoon will be at the concert venue. Eat dinner and change into concert attire before this evening's Gala Concert performance. Overnight in Rome.

#### Day 5 - Tuesday, June 15, 2027 - Depart Rome / Start Post Festival Tour Programs

Depart from Rome 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.

#### Tour B

This extension includes 2 nights in Tuscany, where you can explore towns such as Siena, and Florence. Transfer back to Rome (stopping in Assisi en route) for a final evening/overnight before heading back to the USA.

#### Tour C

Add 4 additional overnights and explore Tuscany and Venice, including highlights such as Siena, Florence, Pisa and Venice.

[Schedule a Call >](#)

