



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

Dublin, Ireland | June 16-20, 2027

Dublin Choral Festival



Artistic Director
& Composer-in-
Residence

Mr. Ryan Main
Composer, Director and
Clinician



Poet & Choral
Lyricist

**Mr. Charles Anthony
Silvestri**
Poet, Lyricist, Composer,
Speaker

The Setting



The Artistic Experience

Join youth choirs from Ireland, and the U.S. for an inspiring festival at The Lark Theatre, home of the Irish Institute of Song & Music. The centerpiece of the 3-night residency will be the world premiere of Ryan Main's first major choral work. This new composition will feature an original text by the celebrated poet and lyricist Charles Anthony Silvestri, whose writing has shaped many of the most beloved choral works of our time. For this project, Tony will draw inspiration from the ancient myths and legends of Ireland, crafting a new text commissioned especially for this festival. His presence throughout the residency will make the experience even more meaningful as we bring his new words to life alongside a professional chamber orchestra.

Dublin, Ireland

Dublin is a city where history, creativity, and music are everywhere you turn. Its lively streets, colorful neighborhoods, and welcoming spirit make it an exciting place for young singers to explore. From world-famous museums and galleries to centuries-old pubs known for their cozy trad-music sessions, the city invites curiosity and adventure. Just up the coast in Balbriggan, the Lark Theatre - home of the Irish Institute of Song and Music - offers an inspiring stage for young choristers. Ireland's long tradition of communal singing, from ancient folk melodies to contemporary choral works, lives vibrantly here. Visiting choirs will feel how deeply choral music is woven into Irish life, where voices blend to tell stories of the land, community, and shared history. Whether discovering Dublin's iconic landmarks, hearing local choirs lift their voices, or performing together at the Lark, students will experience a culture where singing is not just an art form - it's a way of life. It's the perfect place for young choirs to grow, connect, and add their voices to Ireland's enduring musical tapestry.



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. Ryan Main

*Artistic Director &
Composer-in-Residence*

Composer, director and clinician, **Ryan Main** writes music for choirs and bands at all levels. An award-winning composer, his compositions are performed internationally and frequently featured at national and regional American Choral Directors Association Conferences, festivals, Carnegie Hall, and other distinguished events around the world.

Main was born (1984) in Independence, Missouri. His post-secondary education in music began at the Conservatory of Music and Dance at the University of Missouri–Kansas City (2003-2006). There he received a bachelor of music in Music Composition, then pursued graduate studies at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University from (2006-2009) earning a Masters of Music in music composition and a Masters of Music in music education. His teachers at the Peabody Institute included Kevin Puts and Michael Hersch. He has also studied with composer Chen Yi.

Ryan is sought-after honor choir director and clinician, and a regular presenter on topics such as leadership strategies, choral classroom engagement, composition processes, and choral literature. He has been a guest on the Choralosophy podcast, the Music (Ed) Matters podcast, the Choir Director Corner podcast, the Choir Ninja podcast, and the Choral Catalogue podcast.

Passionate about quality music education for all, Ryan founded and serves as artistic director of the Youth Chorus of Kansas City, a non-profit organization serving youth of all socio-economic and cultural backgrounds throughout the Kansas City metro area. In addition, he remains engaged with aspiring composers, maintaining mentoring relationships with young creators.

He is a member of the American Choral Directors Association, the Missouri Choral Directors Association, the National Association for Music Education and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. He currently serves on the National Association for Music Education's Council on Music Composition.



**Mr. Charles
Anthony Silvestri**

Poet & Choral Lyricist

Described as “the preeminent choral lyricist of our time,” poet, author, composer, and speaker **Charles Anthony Silvestri** has worked with other artists from all over the world to create texts tailor-made for their commissions and specific artistic needs. He enjoys the challenge of solving these creative problems and has provided custom choral texts, opera libretti, program notes and other writing for composers including Eric Whitacre, Ola Gjeilo, Kim Arnesen, Christopher Tin, and Dan Forrest; and for ensembles ranging from high schools to the Houston Grand Opera, from the King's Singers to the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, from Westminster Choir College to Westminster Abbey.

Having retired from the classroom after 38 years, now as a clinician Silvestri speaks to choirs, classes, and concert audiences about his works, the creative process, the marriage of words and music, and about his collaborative relationships with composers. He is the author of three books, several published essays, and scores of choral octavos. He currently lives, writes, and makes music in Lawrence, KS.



June 16-20, 2027

Dublin Choral Festival

Festival Tour Itinerary

Day 1 - Wednesday, June 16, 2027 - Departure USA

The journey to Ireland begins by boarding an overnight flight to Dublin.

Day 2 - Thursday, June 17, 2027 - Arrival Dublin

Arrive in Dublin. Meet your driver guide and transfer to city centre for panoramic tour with driver guide and lunch on your own. Check into Dublin City University where you'll be accommodated in university dorms. Dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight at Dublin City University.

Day 3 - Friday, June 18, 2027 - Rehearsals & Dublin Sightseeing

Morning rehearsals (3-hours) with Ryan Main at Irish Institute of Music and Song. Afternoon Dublin sightseeing including Trinity College and the Book of Kells. Early dinner followed by rehearsals (3-hours) at Irish Institute of Music and Song. Overnight at Dublin City University.

Day 4 - Saturday, June 19, 2027 - Rehearsals & Gala Concert at Lark Concert Hall

Morning rehearsals at the Irish Institute of Music and Song. Lunch on your own in the area. Dress rehearsals at the Institute with Irish orchestra and possibly an Irish guest choir. Dinner is included. Perform the evening gala concert at the Lark Concert Hall. Overnight at Dublin City University.

Day 5 - Sunday, June 20, 2027 - Depart Dublin / Start Post Festival Tour Programs

Transfer to the airport in Dublin to begin your journey back to the U.S. or start your customized 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. Following are some examples:

Tour B

Tour B features a memorable 2-night stay in Galway. Wander Galway's colorful streets, cruise down the scenic River Corrib, visit Kylemore Abbey in scenic Connemara and stand in awe at the world-famous Cliffs of Moher. The tour wraps up with a final evening in vibrant Dublin - your chance for a last taste of Irish music, culture, and charm before heading back to the USA.

Tour C

Tour C includes a 1-night adventure in Galway, complete with a relaxing River Corrib cruise and an unforgettable visit to the iconic Cliffs of Moher. Your journey concludes in Dublin with one final overnight to soak in the city's excitement before returning home.