

Perform INTERNATIONAL

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

Assi & Rome, Italy | June 20-25, 2028

Great Basilicas of Italy Festival



Artistic Director

Dr. Michael Barrett

Conductor, educator, composer & choral clinician

The Setting



The Artistic Experience

The Great Basilicas of Italy is a celebration of choral music, Italian culture, and the country's extraordinary musical and architectural heritage. Mixed voice, community, and church choirs from across the United States will come together for a unique musical experience in some of Italy's most beautiful and historically significant basilicas.

Under the artistic direction of Dr. Michael Barrett, singers will benefit from his extensive international conducting experience and deep understanding of the choral tradition, exploring the richness of musical expression through collaboration and artistic discovery. Through rehearsals, performances, and the opportunity to sing in Italy's magnificent historic spaces, choirs will experience the remarkable connection between music, history, architecture, and culture.

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. Michael Barrett

Artistic Director

DR. MICHAEL JOSEPH BARRETT is an internationally acclaimed conductor, educator, composer, and choral clinician. He was the conductor of the University of Pretoria (TUKS) Camerata and a full-time faculty member in choral conducting at the University of Pretoria's Department of Music from 2013-2025. Since April 2025, he has been appointed as a Research Associate at the University of Pretoria. Dr. Barrett earned his Doctor of Music (DMus) in Choral Performance from the University of Pretoria in 2017. His choirs have received numerous national and international awards, and he is frequently sought after as a guest conductor, lecturer, adjudicator, and choral clinician. His work spans across the globe, with recent engagements including conducting the Texas All-State Choir (TMEA 2024), the Missouri All-State Choir (MMEA 2022), and the Florida ACDA High School Honor Choir (2019). He has held university residencies at institutions such as Missouri State University, Texas State University, San Jose State University, and the University of Washington, among others. Dr. Barrett is also a passionate advocate for collaboration and regularly works with high school festivals and university programs in the United States, Europe and Asia.

Internationally, Dr. Barrett has conducted and presented workshops in countries including the United Kingdom, USA, New Zealand, Singapore, China, Russia, and South Korea. He will debut at Carnegie Hall in April 2026, marking a significant milestone in his career. As the conductor of the TUKS Camerata, an 80-voice choir consisting of full-time students from diverse academic fields, Dr. Barrett had led the group to great success, including winning the prestigious Grand Prix of Nations for Best Mixed Youth Choir in Riga, Latvia, in both 2014 and 2017. The Camerata has also performed at the World Symposium of Choral Music in Barcelona, Spain (2017), and recorded six critically acclaimed albums. Their most recent projects include Light The Whole Sky (2025) and uJehova (2024), while their 2022 tour of the United Kingdom included a performance with the renowned vocal ensemble Voces8. In March 2025, the Camerata performed as a Headline Choir at the American Choral Directors Association National Conference in Dallas, Texas. As a composer and arranger, Dr. Barrett has over 40 works published by Santa Barbara Music Publishers and Walton Music (USA). He has earned a Y2 rating from the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa for his contributions to South African Choral Music Research. Dr. Barrett also serves as the Executive Director and Co-Producer of Capital Singers, South Africa's largest community choir project, further solidifying his commitment to choral music both locally and internationally.













June 20-25, 2028

Great Basilicas of Italy

Tour Itinerary

Day 1 - Tuesday, June 20, 2028 - USA to Italy
You will begin your journey by boarding an international flight to Italy. Meals and snacks will be served on the plane.

Day 2 - Wednesday, June 21, 2028 - 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 and overnight in Assisi.

Day 3 - Thursday, June 22, 2028 - Sightseeing & Rehearsals
After breakfast, enjoy a walking tour of Assisi, including a visit to the Basilica of St. Francis. This afternoon, join the other festival choirs for your first rehearsal. Dinner is included followed by an evening rehearsal. Overnight in Assisi.

Day 4 - Friday, June 23, 2028 - Rehearsals & Gala Concert
Morning rehearsals followed by free time to prepare for this evening's concert. Afternoon dress rehearsal. Dinner is included. Sound check and **Gala Concert at the Basilica**. Overnight in Assisi.

Day 5 - Saturday, June 24, 2028 - 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.

Day 6 - Sunday, June 25, 2028 - 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 18-21, 2028 - 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.

Tour C - June 25-26, 2024 - Extension in Rome
This program includes an additional day and night in Rome, and a visit to the Iconic Coliseum.

Schedule a Call >