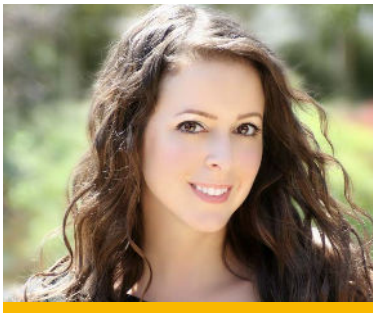
Perform INTERNATIONAL

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. Irene Messoloras
Director of Meridian
Director of Choral Activities
at the University of
California, Irvine

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. Irene Messoloras, singers will benefit from her 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.





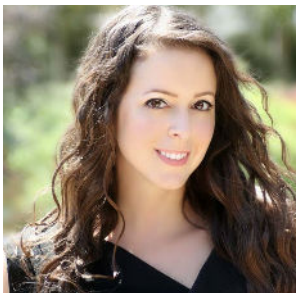
The Organizers: Perform International

"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. Irene Messoloras

Artistic Director

Dedicated to inspiring musicians and audiences through a determined passion for musical excellence, **IRENE MESSOLORAS** is a Greek-American conductor who maintains an active career as a music educator, clinician, and adjudicator. Her ensembles have delivered meaningful and passionate performances across the United States and on the international stage in both Europe and Asia.

Irene Messoloras is the conductor of Meridian, a London-based professional choir whose recordings can be found on Signum Records. Additionally, Messoloras is the Director of Choral Activities at the University of California, Irvine and currently serves as the Associate Chair of the Music Department.

Under Messoloras's leadership, her choirs have been recognized among the finest in the United States, earning invitations to perform at the American Choral Directors Association National Conferences in 2021 and 2023. Upcoming engagements in 2026 include Carnegie Hall, Oslo Concert Hall, and the Barbican Centre, with recent performances at Lincoln Center and Beijing Concert Hall.

Irene Messoloras is the recipient of numerous awards for creative programming, diversity and inclusivity, community engagement, and conducting. Recently, Dr. Messoloras was awarded the Grand Prize for conducting at the World Classical Music Awards (2023), the Vivaldi International Music Competition Grand Prize Winner (2023), and received first place with special recognition at the Bach International Music Competition (2023).

In 2025, Messoloras's UCI Chamber Singers received first place in The American Prize for Best Choral Performance, university division, following a 2024 first-place win in The American Prize's Ernst Bacon Memorial Award for the performance of American music.

Irene Messoloras received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in choral conducting from the University of California, Los Angeles at the Herb Alpert School of Music.













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, join the other festival choirs for your first rehearsal. This afternoon, enjoy a walking tour of Assisi, including a visit to the Basilica of St. Francis. 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 >