

Madrid, Spain | June 13-17, 2028

Madrid Choral Festival



Artistic Director

Ms. Mary Biddlecombe
Artistic Director of Vanderbilt Youth Choirs, Senior Lecturer - Vanderbilt University, Director of Blair Academy

The Setting



The Artistic Experience

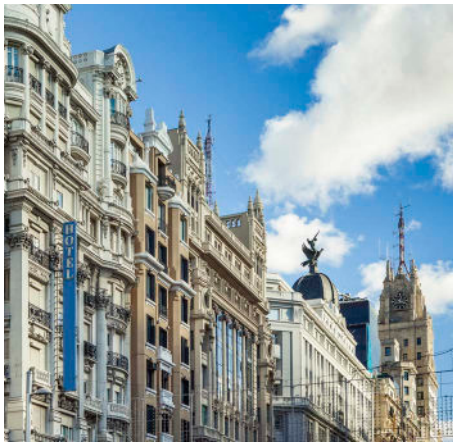
This choral festival celebrates the power of music through a program of works curated by our artistic director and brought to life under the direction of Mary Biddlecombe. Community youth and high school mixed and treble ensembles will come together for a memorable concert experience in the heart of Madrid. With a thoughtfully planned rehearsal schedule, participants can immerse themselves in the music while discovering the artistic treasures, vibrant culture, and rich traditions of Spain. Ensembles may also extend their journey with a custom pre- or post-festival tour, designed around the unique interests and aspirations of each group.

The City

Madrid, Spain's dynamic capital, is situated in the heart of the Iberian Peninsula. Known for its grand boulevards, elegant plazas, and remarkable architectural heritage, Madrid blends centuries of history with a lively contemporary spirit. Once the center of the powerful Spanish Empire, the city flourished under the Habsburg and Bourbon monarchies, leaving behind magnificent landmarks such as the Royal Palace, Plaza Mayor, and the grand avenues of the historic center. Today, Madrid is celebrated for its world-class museums, welcoming atmosphere, vibrant neighborhoods, and celebrated culinary traditions.

Spain has played an influential role in the development of European music, with a rich heritage spanning sacred polyphony, Renaissance and Baroque compositions, zarzuela, and passionate regional traditions. Madrid has long been an important center for musical life, home to historic concert halls, renowned orchestras, and distinguished composers and performers. Its enduring artistic spirit makes it an inspiring setting for young singers to share their music.





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



Ms. Mary Biddlecombe

Artistic Director

MARY BIDDLECOMBE is a nationally renowned specialist in choral music for developing voices, specializing in contextual music literacy, symphonic repertoire, and pedagogy through creative collaboration.

A member of the faculty at Vanderbilt University Blair School of Music since 2012, she serves as artistic director of the Vanderbilt Youth Choirs program and teaches collegiate classes in choral studies and music education. Vanderbilt Youth Choirs tour annually and frequently collaborate with the Nashville Symphony Orchestra. Performance highlights have included Britten's *War Requiem*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Adams' *On the Transmigration of Souls*, Mahler's *Symphony No. 8*, and Bernstein's *Symphony No. 3, "Kaddish."* Internationally, the VYC has presented concerts in Budapest, Costa Rica, Ireland, Italy, and Prague. She also serves as director of the Blair Academy, a comprehensive precollegiate music program serving approximately 800 families in the Nashville community.

Mrs. Biddlecombe maintains a busy schedule of conducting honor choirs throughout the country. Her unique approach invigorates students and enlightens choral directors on creative rehearsal techniques. The past several years have yielded state wide conducting engagements in Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, New York, North Carolina, New Jersey, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. Regional credits include engagements with the Southwest and Southern Regions of the American Choral Directors Association. She also mentors collegiate students studying choral music education through their participation as teaching assistants in the eight graded ensembles of the Vanderbilt Youth Choirs program. In addition, Mary is co-founder of the Vanderbilt Choral Scholars, a bi-annual cohort of collegiate students who travel to the United Kingdom engaging with cathedral youth choirs and boychoirs in Leeds and Liverpool.

Biddlecombe holds the MM in Choral Conducting from The Florida State University and a BME from the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam. She enjoys singing professionally with Vocal Arts Nashville, and with the all-volunteer Nashville Symphony Chorus under the direction of her husband, Tucker Biddlecombe, director of choral studies at Vanderbilt.













June 13-17, 2028

Madrid Choral Festival

Tour Itinerary

Day 1 - Tuesday, June 13, 2028 - USA to Madrid
You will begin your journey by boarding an international flight to Madrid, Spain's central capital. Meals and snacks will be served on the plane.

Day 2 - Wednesday, June 14, 2028 - Arrival Madrid
Arrive in Madrid and meet your Tour Manager and driver. Transfer to your hotel and settle in before gathering for dinner with the other participating festival choirs. Overnight in Madrid.

Day 3 - Thursday, June 15, 2028 - Rehearsals & Prado Museum
After breakfast, join the other festival choirs for your first rehearsal. This afternoon, enjoy a visit to the renowned Prado Museum, home to one of the world's finest collections of European art. Dinner is included, followed by an evening rehearsal. Overnight in Madrid.

Day 4 - Friday, June 16, 2028 - Rehearsals & Gala Concert
Begin the day with rehearsals, followed by some time at leisure. This afternoon, gather at the concert venue for the dress rehearsal in preparation for the evening's performance. After dinner, change into concert attire and take the stage for the festival's Gala Concert—a memorable opportunity to share your music with fellow singers and audiences in Madrid. Overnight in Madrid.

Day 5 - Saturday, June 17, 2028 - Depart Madrid / Start Post Festival Tour Programs
Depart Madrid or begin your selected post-festival tour program.

Pre/Post Festival Tour Programs

Optional pre- and post-festival extensions are available for groups of 20 or more passengers. These fully customized programs are designed around each choir's specific interests and needs and may include additional performance opportunities for ensembles.

Tour B - Valencia & Barcelona
Extend your journey with one night in Valencia and two nights in Barcelona. Highlights include a visit to Valencia Cathedral and the magnificent Sagrada Família in Barcelona.

Tour C - Granada & Seville
Add three nights to your journey and discover the beauty and heritage of southern Spain. Explore Granada's magnificent Alhambra and Seville's impressive cathedral, along with the distinctive architecture, culture, and atmosphere of these two celebrated Andalusian cities.

Schedule a Call >