

A wide-angle photograph of a large-scale musical performance in a church sanctuary. The ceiling is dark with a pattern of large, light-colored stars. The stage is filled with a large choir in black robes and an orchestra in blue uniforms. An American flag is on the left, and a podium is on the right. The audience is visible in the foreground.

SUMMIT CHORAL SOCIETY NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY CHORAL FESTIVAL

COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF
D-DAY AND THE LIBERATION OF FRANCE

MAY 24-27, 2024



MUSIC CELEBRATIONS

INTERNATIONAL

Concert Tours with Integrity

ABOUT MUSIC CELEBRATIONS

- MCI is a full-service concert tour and festival organizing company
- John Wiscombe (owner) founded MCI in 1993. As a youth, he spent several years as a tour manager throughout Europe. He has now been in the music travel business for over 45 years.
- Our Staff is composed of a unique blend of musicians, music educators, and travel industry professionals
- We are musicians serving musicians
- MCI staff has a combined 300+ years experience in designing and operating concert tours



A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S VETERANS

Memorial Day (originally known as Decoration Day) is much more than a three-day weekend that marks the beginning of summer. To many people, especially the nation's thousands of combat veterans, this day, which has a history stretching back all the way to the Civil War, is an important reminder of those who died in the service of their country.

Music Celebrations International and the American Veterans Center are pleased to sponsor and produce a unique Musical Tribute in our Nation's Capital that honors veterans past and present who have sacrificed so much for the liberties we enjoy in our country – as well as around the world. The setting for this commemoration historically is the Concert Hall at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.



A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S VETERANS



Dr. Craig Jessop, Artistic Director

An uplifting and inspired program of patriotic music is selected each year by Dr. Craig Jessop, the Festival Artistic Director. Dr. Jessop is a former music director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir; Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force music programs, where he served as director of the U.S. Air Force Singing Sergeants in Washington, D.C.; commander and conductor of the Band of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe at Ramstein, Germany; and commander and conductor of the Air Combat Command Heartland of America Band. Previous guest conductors have included Lt. Col. John Clanton, Col. Larry Lang, Col. (Ret.) Arnald Gabriel, and Weston Noble.

NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY CHORAL FESTIVAL

Friday, May 24, 2024

- Morning chartered motorcoach departure from Akron, Ohio for Washington, D.C. Stopping en route for rest breaks and meals, on own, as needed
- Lunch, on own
- Arrive in Washington, D.C.
- Meet your full-time MCI Tour Manager, who will escort the group through the duration of the tour, for an orientation tour of Historic Washington, D.C. Sightseeing of Historic Washington, D.C., including a visit to the National Archives, to see the founding documents of the United States – the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Emancipation Proclamation. Also visit Lafayette Square for a view of the White House
- Check-in to the centrally-located 4-star festival hotel, the *Hyatt Regency Washington On Capitol Hill*, with free-time to freshen up and relax
- *Festival Welcome Dinner with introductions and welcome speeches*
- *Evening Festival Chorus Rehearsal*
- Overnight at the hotel



NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY CHORAL FESTIVAL

Saturday, May 25

- Full buffet breakfast included at the hotel
- *Morning Festival Chorus rehearsal*
- Lunch, on own
- Enjoy an afternoon walking tour of the Lincoln, Korean, Eisenhower, National World War II, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Martin Luther King, and Vietnam Memorials, as well as the Washington Monument
- *Present a custom Summit Choral Society wreath at the Ohio state pillar of the National WWII Memorial with a short Memorial Recital*
- Enjoy some free-time to explore and National Mall and visit one or more of the Smithsonian museums
- Dinner included at a local restaurant
- *Evening Festival Chorus Rehearsal*
- Overnight at the hotel



NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY CHORAL FESTIVAL

Sunday, May 26

- Full buffet breakfast included at the hotel
- *Festival Dress Rehearsal with the United States Air Force Symphony Orchestra at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts*
- Lunch included at the KC Café, located on the roof-top terrace of the Kennedy Center with stunning panoramic views of Washington, D.C.
- Enjoy a guided tour of the Kennedy Center, opened in 1971 as the United States' National Cultural Center and named as a memorial to President John F. Kennedy
- *National Memorial Day Choral Festival Performance in the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts*
- Dinner included at a local restaurant
- Attend the official *National Memorial Day Concert* on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol (first-come, first-served open seating – not reserved seating), featuring the National Symphony Orchestra, national musical acts, invited celebrity guests and feature guest artists – all broadcasted live on PBS. This *Memorial Day Concert* will finish with a breathtaking fireworks display over D.C. presented by the Presidential Salute Guns Battery of the 3rd United States Army Infantry Regiment
- Return to the hotel for overnight



NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY CHORAL FESTIVAL

Monday, May 27

- Full buffet breakfast included at the hotel, followed by check-out
- Board your motorcoach for transfer to the pre-parade staging area on the National Mall
- *Sound-check and technical rehearsal at the National Archives Building*
- Enjoy some morning time to visit and explore one or more of the Smithsonian Museums (*The most visited Smithsonian museums are: The National Museum of American History, The National Air and Space Museum, The National Museum of Natural History, the National Museum of African American History and Culture*)
- Boxed lunch, provided
- *Festival Chorus Performance at the National Archives Building for the Opening Ceremonies of the National Memorial Day Parade on Historic Constitution Avenue*
- Celebrate Memorial Day by attending America's *National Memorial Day Parade*
- Afternoon visit and tour of Arlington National Cemetery and attend a special Changing of the Guard Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Also visit and tour the Welcome Center, the Kennedy Gravesites and the John F. Kennedy Eternal Flame, the Space Shuttle Challenger Memorial, and other important sites within Arlington
- Late afternoon or early evening chartered motorcoach departure for home, Stopping en route for rest breaks and meals, on own, as needed



Music Celebrations International
looks forward to providing the Summit
Choral Society with a truly memorable
musical and cultural experience
of a lifetime in Washington, DC!

NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY CHORAL FESTIVAL
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