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## Final Tour Itinerary Designed Especially for Bay Youth Orchestras Of Virginia



## Performing Across the Emerald Isle

June 22 - June 29, 2018











### ITINERARY OVERVIEW

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- DAY 1 DEPARTURE FROM WASHINGTON-DULLES
- DAY 2 ARRIVE DUBLIN - CLONMACNOISE - GALWAY AREA (2 NIGHTS)
- DAY 3 GALWAY - CONCERT PERFORMANCE
- DAY 4 GALWAY AREA - THE BURREN - CLIFFS OF MOHER - BUNRATTY - ADARE - KILLARNEY AREA (2 NIGHTS)
- DAY 5 THE RING OF KERRY
- DAY 6 KILLARNEY AREA - BLARNEY - CASHEL - DUBLIN (2 NIGHTS)
- DAY 7 DUBLIN - CONCERT PERFORMANCE
- DAY 8 DEPARTURE FROM DUBLIN

## ITINERARY

Ireland: the name conjures a land shrouded in myth and legend, steeped in tradition, and surrounded by beautiful scenery. But as connected as the island is to its past, it has contributed so much to the modern world through literature, art, and music. This rich nation is characterized by an indomitable pride and spirit that is immediately both obvious and irresistible. A visit to Ireland is a visit to the past and a new view of the present. After your time in Ireland, wherever you go and whatever you do, may the luck of the Irish be there with you.

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
|  Educational Tour/Visit |  Cultural Experience |  Festival/Performance/Workshop | Tour Services   |
|  Recreational Activity  |  LEAP Enrichment     |   |      |

### DAY 1 Friday, 22 June 2018

-  Relax and enjoy our scheduled flight from Dulles Intl Airport to Dublin, Ireland  
17:40 KLM flight KL 652 departs from Washington IAD





### DAY 2 Saturday, 23 June 2018

-  07:15 Arrival into Amsterdam AMS  
11:55 KLM flight KL 935 departs Amsterdam  
12:35 Arrival in Dublin
-  Our 24-hour Tour Director, Peter Owens, will meet us at the airport and remain with us until our final airport departure.
-  We will have use of a private coach and driver, while touring for the next six days.
-  Resting silently on the eastern bank of the Shannon, Clonmacnoise is one of Ireland's most profound ancient sites. Founded in 548 AD by St. Ciaran, it soon became one of Europe's great centers of learning and culture.
-  Take a visit to Clonmacnoise Monastery. Clonmacnoise was a great center of learning, and many manuscripts, including the Annals of Tighernach and the Book of the Dun Cow were written here. The site is entered through the visitor center, where a number of cross-slabs are displayed. The centerpiece of the new Interpretative Center is the 9th-century Cross of the Scriptures.
-  Our base for the next two nights will be Galway (area), where breakfast will be provided at the hotel.  
**Eyre Square Hotel**  
**Address: Forster Street, Off Eyre Square, Galway HP1 TCPO**  
**Tel: +353 91 569 633**  
**Website: www.eyresquarehotel.com**
-  The historic city of Galway is strongly associated with Irish language, music, and dance, and is one of the most Irish cities in the country. The lively and bustling university town was very prominent in the Middle Ages, and was the site of a nine-month siege during the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland. With history, culture, and beautiful surroundings, Galway is a favorite of visitors to the west coast.
-  This evening, dinner will be provided in a local restaurant.











### DAY 3 Sunday, 24 June 2018

-  Take a Walking Tour of Galway's city center. We will view many of Galway's most important areas and landmarks, including Eyre Square, Shop Street, the Latin Quarter, Lynch's Castle, the Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas, the Quays, the Cathedral of St. Nicholas, and the Spanish Arch.
-  This evening, an early dinner will be provided in a local restaurant.
- 16:30 -**
-  After dinner we transfer to the Church of St. Nicholas, where tradition holds that Columbus prayed before sailing to the New World. This medieval structure is dedicated to St. Nicholas of Myra, the patron saint of sailors. The church holds a memorial that commemorates the legend of Judge James Lynch, who in the 15th century sentenced his son Walter to death and also served as the hangman when no one else would carry out the sentence.
-  Our first concert performance will take place this evening.
- St Nicholas Collegiate Church**
- 18:00 - Rehearsal / 20:00 - Recital**




### DAY 4 Monday, 25 June 2018

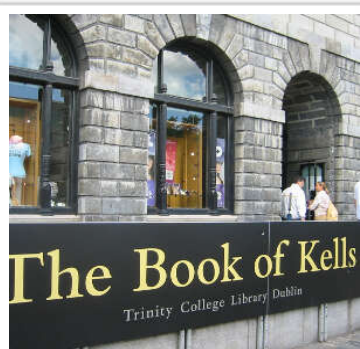
-  Today we will travel from Galway to Killarney. En route, stop at The Burren, Cliffs of Moher, Bunratty & Adare.
-  Enjoy one of Ireland's and Europe's most interesting and scenic areas, The Burren. Carved by nature from carboniferous limestone, the view manages to be both desolate and beautiful. Sheets of rock jut out and seem to undulate in a kind of moonscape as far as the eye can see. We will stop to view the unique rock formations, as well as the Poulnabrone Dolmen, a portal tomb dating back to 2500 BC. Somehow delicate wildflowers and curling ferns thrive in this strange landscape that was created 300 million years ago.
-  Spend time at the Cliffs of Moher, a series of dramatic undulating cliffs plunging 700 feet down to the Atlantic Ocean, offering unforgettable views of Ireland's west coast. On a clear day we may be able to see the Aran Islands in Galway Bay as misty shapes off in the distance. Those who choose may climb O'Brien's Tower (at own expense), a viewing point built for the benefit of Victorian tourists.
-  Discover Bunratty Castle, a formidable castle built in the 15th century. It has been preserved just as it would have looked in the 1500s. A tour of the castle will include the Great Hall, Main Guard and South Solar. We will then visit the adjoining Folk Park, an authentic re-creation of life in Ireland at the turn of the 20th century.
-  Adare has claimed the title of Ireland's prettiest village, due to its neat stonework, thatched roofs, and lovely ruins, all within a picturesque woodland setting. Located in County Limerick, the town traces its history to 1200 AD, with the present form dating to the early 19th century. Walking among the medieval streets lined with small shops, visitors get the sense of being frozen in time.
-  Enjoy a Walking Tour of Adare.
-  Renowned for its beauty and famed for the splendor of its scenery, Killarney is one of Ireland's best-loved spots. The idyllic town, located in County Kerry, is filled with friendly faces and surrounded by an incredible number of sites and activities.
-  Our base for the next two nights will be Killarney (area), where breakfast and dinner will be provided at the hotel.
- Scotts Hotel**
- Address: Scotts Street, Killarney**
- Tel: +353 646631060**
- Website: www.scottshotelkillarney.com**









#### DAY 5 Tuesday, 26 June 2018

-  Discover the famed Ring of Kerry as we take the beautiful drive around the Iveragh Peninsula. We will enjoy a splendid variety of outstanding coastal panoramas and magnificent mountain views, and have the opportunity to stop and explore many small towns and villages on the peninsula. We will visit a lovely small village with brightly painted cottages. (Visits are subject to weather conditions on the day)
-  Enjoy a tasty 3 course Irish themed dinner at Major Colgan's Traditional Irish Pub located in the heart of Killarney National Park.
-  This will be followed by traditional live music performed by "Onora" who are joined by local Irish dancers.



#### DAY 6 Wednesday, 27 June 2018

-  Today we will travel from Killarney area to Dublin. En route, we will stop at Blarney & Cashel.
-  Visit Blarney Castle, one of the most haunting and striking castles in Ireland. The remains of this impressive fortification include a massive square tower and the famous Blarney Stone, wedged underneath the battlements. It is traditional to kiss the stone to ensure the gift of eloquence. We will also have time to stroll through the gardens and along Blarney Lake before having the opportunity to visit Badger Cave and adjacent dungeons, which penetrate the rock at the base of the castle.
-  Cashel lies in the heart of Tipperary. The town's rich history is reflected in its prehistoric raths, medieval castles and monasteries, fortified town houses, and Georgian quarter.
-  See the Rock of Cashel, an extraordinary ruined abbey at the top of a hill near the town center of Cashel. This outcrop of limestone, stretching 197 feet into the sky, possesses sixteen centuries of history. It was the castled seat of the kings of Munster as far back as 360 AD and remained a royal fortress until 1101. Today there are ruins of a two-towered chapel, a cruciform cathedral, a round tower, and a cluster of other medieval monuments. Inside the cathedral, ancient carvings survive in excellent condition.


For the next two evenings we will enjoy the convenience of our centrally-located Dublin hotel, where daily breakfast will be included.

##### **Grand Canal Hotel**

**Address: Grand Canal Street Upper, Ballsbridge, Dublin**

**Tel: +353 1 646 1000**

**Website: [www.grandcanalhotel.ie](http://www.grandcanalhotel.ie)**

-  Dublin is a complex small city, whose 19th-century architecture conceals a modern place filled with trendy shops, pubs, restaurants and boutiques. Long perceived to be stuck in the past, Dublin has experienced a rebirth that has brought new life to the historic, modern, charming, and entertaining city. Spend time wandering the Victorian streets, visiting the incredible churches and museums, exploring the vibrancy of the Temple Bar area, and discovering why Dublin is one of the most popular destinations for Europeans and the world.

-  Take an Introductory Walking Tour of Southeast Dublin. We will begin outside the Bank of Ireland, one of Dublin's most treasured landmarks, then stroll along Grafton Street, the spine of Dublin's most popular and stylish shopping district. After viewing the Molly Malone statue, we continue to St. Stephen's Green, a beautiful 22 acre park in the heart of Dublin, filled with beautifully landscaped flowerbeds, fountains, a lake, and memorials to important Dubliners. Our tour concludes with a walk around Merrion Square, a marvel of Georgian architecture known for its colorful doors and for the famous literary figures that once lived here, including Yeats and Wilde.
-  Tonight we will enjoy dinner in a local restaurant.





#### DAY 7 Thursday, 28 June 2018



Discover Trinity College, the oldest university in Ireland. Trinity was founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth I. The beautiful campus features cobbled squares, gardens, a picturesque quadrangle and buildings that date from the 17th to 20th centuries. Trinity College is also home to the Book of Kells, an 8th-century version of the four Gospels decorated with elaborate scripting and illumination. We will view this famous treasure and other early Christian manuscripts in the Colonnades, an exhibition area on the ground floor of the Old Library.



Your second concert performance will be today.

##### ***Christ Church Cathedral***

##### ***11:15-11:45 - Rehearsal / 13:30-14:30 - Recital***



Visit St. Patrick's Cathedral, the national cathedral of the Church of Ireland. It is said that St. Patrick baptized converts on this site. Consequently, a church has stood here since 450 AD, making it the oldest Christian site in Dublin. The cathedral's design is primarily Early English in style, and features a 300-foot-long interior and a square medieval tower that houses the largest ringing peal bells of Ireland. St. Patrick's is closely associated with Jonathan Swift, who was dean from 1713 to 1745, and whose tomb lies in the south aisle.



We will dine this evening in the lively Temple Bar area. Some of Dublin's best nightlife, restaurants, and unusual shops line these narrow streets between the Bank of Ireland and Christ Church Cathedral.

#### DAY 8 Friday, 29 June 2018



Our rewarding and enjoyable tour comes to an end as our Tour Director accompanies us to the airport on our final day.



08:55 KLM flight 934 departs from Dublin DUB

11:35 Arrival in Amsterdam AMS

13:20 KLM flight KL 651 departs from Amsterdam

15:40 Arrival in Washington IAD