



CULTURAL TOUR CONSULTANTS

It Starts With An Idea...

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January 12, 2014

Itinerary

VOCALI OF AUSTIN

*Performance Tour to England, Wales
& Ireland*

Dr. Barry Scott Williamson, Director



*The Idea... World Premier Concert of Patricia Long's Welsh Choral Symphony in
in Cardiff - With the Cardiff Polyphonic Choir!*

12 days – 10 nights – June 28-July 9, 2015

Day 1 – Sunday, June 28, 2015

En Route to London

- Afternoon Depart Austin Airport for flights to London.
- Evening Travel overnight to London. Dinner served during the flight.

Day 2 – Monday, June 29

Arrive London – Travel to Bath

- Morning Breakfast on board the aircraft.
Arrive London Heathrow Airport.
Meet Jennifer Hanna, your tour escort.
Load luggage onto the waiting motorcoach.
Travel to nearby Windsor, to enjoy free time in the town and to visit Windsor Castle.
- Afternoon Continue to Bath. Check into the hotel.
Meet tour guides for walking tour of Bath, including a visit to the Roman Baths.
- Evening Dinner at the hotel.



Day 3 – Tuesday, June 30

Bath – Day Trip to Salisbury and Stonehenge.

B

- Morning Breakfast at the hotel.
Depart for Salisbury, to visit Salisbury Cathedral. Built between 1220 and 1258, it is Britain's finest 13th century Gothic Cathedral. Its spire soars to a height of 404 feet and is the tallest in England. Tour the Cathedral and Chapter House where you will also see a copy of the Magna Carta.
- Afternoon **Vocali of Austin will sing informally at Salisbury Cathedral following the noon service.**
Independent lunch in Salisbury
Continue to Stonehenge to view the ancient stone circle.
Return to Bath in the afternoon.
- Evening Independent dinner.



Day 4 – Wednesday, July 1

Travel to Cardiff, Wales - Croeso i Cymru! Welcome to Wales!

B,D

- Morning Breakfast at the hotel. Morning at leisure in Bath. Board coach and travel to Cardiff. A stop could be made at Tintern Abbey en route. (Alternately, Vocali of Austin could sing informally at Bath Abbey before departing.)
- Afternoon Check into a centrally located hotel in Cardiff. Meet Blue Badge Guides for a walking tour of Cardiff, ending with a visit to Cardiff Castle. Originally a Roman fort, it's now a mixture of buildings from all eras. Ultimately, it was the 3rd Marquis of Bute, one of the richest men on the globe, who transformed Cardiff Castle into the mock gothic extravaganza it is today.
- Evening Dinner at the hotel.
Rehearsal at the City United Reformed Church.

Day 5 – Thursday, July 2

Cardiff – At Leisure in Cardiff

B

- Morning Breakfast at the hotel. At leisure in Cardiff, capital city of Wales. In the Cardiff Bay area, you'll find some stunning showpiece buildings; the Millennium Centre, a fantastic arts and cultural venue, the new slate and glass Welsh Parliament Building and in the city center, the Millennium Stadium with its 'Thunderbirds are Go' sliding roof.
- Afternoon Independent lunch. Queen Street is Cardiff's main shopping thoroughfare. One of the finest shopping centres outside London; this is where you'll find all the high street chain stores. There are also six in total Victorian Arcades, stuffed full of quirky and unusual items. For a novel shopping jaunt, visit Jacob's Antique Centre at the bottom of St Mary's Street. The Martin Tinney Gallery, in Windsor Place, specialises in Welsh and Wales-based artists of the highest quality, past and present
- Evening Independent Dinner
Rehearsal with the Cardiff Polyphonic Choir. Social time together with both choirs following rehearsal.



Day 6 – Friday, July 3

Cardiff – Day trip to Caerphilly and Blaenavon.

B

- Morning Breakfast at the hotel. Depart for a day trip, heading towards the Brecon Beacons National Park. Visit the town of Caerphilly and the main feature of the town, the 13th Castle with its leaning tower. From there head to Llancaiach Fawr, a living history museum where you step back in time to the year 1645. Continue to the Big Pit Museum in Blaenavon, testimony to the importance of South Wales during the Industrial Revolution of the 19th Century. Many of the original furnaces, foundry and workers houses can still be seen and visitors today can take a trip underground at nearby Big Pit colliery.
- Afternoon Independent lunch en route. Return to Cardiff.
Vocali of Austin will give an informal concert at the Millenium Center.
- Evening Independent dinner.
Rehearsal at the City United Reformed Church.



Day 7 – Saturday, July 4

Cardiff – World Premier Concert of the Welsh Choral Symphony.

B

- Morning Breakfast at the hotel
- Afternoon Dress rehearsal at Hoddinott Hall.
- Evening **This evening Vocali of Austin and the Cardiff Polyphonic Choir will perform the Welsh Choral Symphony, the Duruflé Requiem and more at Hoddinott Hall.**
- A social time for both choirs, with light refreshments will be held at the hotel.

Day 8 –Sunday, July 5

Travel to Ireland via Irish Sea Ferry – Overnight in Kilkenny

B,D

- Morning Breakfast at the hotel.
Board coach and travel to Pembroke Harbor for the ferry crossing to Ireland.
- Afternoon Ferry departs. Independent lunch aboard the ship.
Ferry arrives at the Port of Rosslare.
Board your Irish coach and travel to Kilkenny, set on the banks of the Nore. The county town, is the most outstanding medieval city in Ireland. The castle and the cathedral dominate the town centre from either side, where the narrow alleys still follow their medieval paths. Check into your centrally located hotel.
- Evening Dinner at the hotel.



Day 9 – Monday, July 6

Kilkenny

B

- Morning Irish breakfast at the hotel. Later this morning travel to the Rock of Cashel, just a few kilometers from Kilkenny. The Rock of Cashel is Ireland's Acropolis, evoking Celtic Christianity and the high kings of Ireland. Visit Brú Ború Cultural Centre, a celebration of Irish music, song, dance and theatre.
- Afternoon Return to Kilkenny. Independent lunch and free time to explore Kilkenny on your own.

Evening Independent dinner. Party tonight at the Tynan River Pub, a classic Irish pub with brass gas lanterns, a horse shoe shaped bar and gorgeous antiques.

Day 10 – Tuesday, July 7

Travel to Dublin.

B

Morning Breakfast the hotel.
Board coach and depart for travel to Dublin.
Upon arrival, enjoy a brief panoramic tour of the city and visit Trinity College and the Book of Kells.

Afternoon Check into the hotel and enjoy an afternoon at leisure. You may wish to visit the Guinness Storehouse, Christchurch Cathedral, the Temple Bar area, the Kilmainham Gaol, or one of the many museums.

Evening Independent Dinner.

Vocali of Austin may perform while in Dublin at St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral.



Day 11 – Wednesday, July 8

Dublin.

B,D

Morning Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to St. Patrick's Cathedral to rehearse for a noontime recital. *St. Patrick's Cathedral was founded in 1191. Jonathan Swift was Dean from 1713-1745, and it was during this period that he scorned the appalling social conditions in Ireland. He was also Dean when Handel's Messiah received its first performance in 1742, sung by the combined choirs of Saint Patricks' and Christ Church Cathedrals.*

Afternoon *Vocali of Austin will give a Recital at St. Patrick's Cathedral.*
Balance of the afternoon at leisure to explore Dublin on your own.

Evening A special farewell dinner will be planned for the evening..It may be an evening of Irish music and dinner at the Abbey Tavern, a candlelight dinner at the Brazen Head Pub, with a presentation of Irish folklore, or a private dinner with your group at the hotel, or a local resaturant.



Day 12 – Thursday, July 9, 2015

Return to U.S

B

Morning Breakfast at the hotel. Check out and transfer to the Dublin Airport.
Check in for your return flight(s) to Austin, TX.

Early Evening Arrival at Austin Airport.