

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER MUSIC INSTITUTES
2017 WALES & ENGLAND, UK
HARP INSTITUTE, CHAMBER MUSIC INSTITUTE & CHOIR INSTITUTE
MANDATORY REHEARSAL PERIOD: JULY 24 – 28 & JULY 31 – AUGUST 4, 2017
TOUR DATES: AUGUST 5-14, 2017

Dear Musicians, Families, and Friends of the International Summer Music Institutes,

Congratulations! Your interest in our 2017 Wales & England International Summer Music Institute is the first step in a remarkable journey! Upon a successful audition, you will have the opportunity to grow as a musician, artist and individual. You will raise your musical abilities through disciplined practice, refined technique, heightened ensemble skills and honed artistry. Your participation in this tour will build a tremendous appreciation for and joy in musical performance as well as a remarkable resume for your future. Over the years, students who have taken part in these performance tours have found them to be among the most memorable and pivotal events of their education.

Families and friends of performers are invited to join the tour to a land of music that includes concerts in distinguished venues such as Southwark, Winchester and St. David's Cathedrals and culminates a series of concerts at Cardigan Castle, the birth place of the Eisteddfod Festival in 1176, one of the oldest and today one of the most highly respected cultural festivals of music, song and performance in the world. The Tour is about providing extraordinary performance opportunities in incredible venues but it is also about immersion in the rich cultures, history and breathtaking natural beauty of England and Wales. All performers will actually live in Cardigan Castle for the Welsh residency portion affording an opportunity to explore all the inventive nooks and crannies of this very magical place. During this time, you will also learn of the rich tradition of music, especially in Wales which is appropriately called the "land of song," of the friendliness of the people and perhaps even a few phrases in Welsh! The full experience- which includes the two week intensive rehearsal period prior to the tour- creates a vibrant experience where young musicians bond through music and travel and life-long friendships blossom!

If you are interested in participating, you will need to submit an application and audition recording by the **deadline of March 15th** to start the process. Upon receipt of your application, you will be notified of your acceptance by April 1st, if not sooner (please do not contact us for results prior to April 1st). After the deadline, if there are still spaces available, additional participants may be added. Please inquire regarding space availability via academy.music@hotmail.com. However, **there are limited student spaces (just 24)** at a greatly-reduced cost, so please reserve your place by returning your contract and deposit as soon as possible (first-come, first-served for the lower price student spots). This tour promises to be an amazing musical adventure and the perfect opportunity to take your musical and cultural understanding to a whole new level!

Kind regards,

Lynnelle Ediger, Artistic Director

2/10/2017

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SUGGESTED ITINERARY

SUNDAY, JULY 23RD BOARDING STUDENTS ARRIVE IN RICHMOND, VA, CAPITAL OF VA



6:30 PM **Welcome!** Boarding students and host families meet at the Academy of Music, 4101 Grove Avenue, Richmond, VA 23221. Boarding students should bring everything needed for two weeks in Richmond and for the European tour. Enjoy an evening of leisure and time to get acquainted.

MONDAY, JULY 24TH- AUGUST 4TH

RICHMOND SUMMER MUSIC INSTITUTE

Monday through Friday, 9:00-4:00 PM (or 5:00 PM depending on Institute). The International Summer Music Institute (ISMI) daily schedule of classes, rehearsals, lessons, coachings, workshops, individual practice and seminars begins! Students perform in a grand finale concert each Friday and a “European Tour Preview Concert” on Sunday afternoon. After the concert on August 3rd, pack and prepare for the tour!



SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2017

DEPART FROM RICHMOND, VIRGINIA



Depart **Richmond** on a motor coach for Dulles Airport. From Dulles board a flight bound for Heathrow airport, **London, England**. Select meals, snacks and refreshments will be served on the flight.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2017

ARRIVE IN LONDON & TOURS

Welcome to **London, England!** Following your early morning arrival in London, meet our hostess for the week, Claire Jones, former Royal Harpist, on the other side of customs. Together, board your waiting motor coach and transfer to London, where you will spend the next two days sightseeing and performing.

Upon arrival in London, meet a local guide and



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embark on a **panoramic tour** of the city. Originally settled by the Romans nearly 2,000 years ago, this ancient city is rich with both history and tradition. Today, **London** is the largest city in Western Europe with a population of over 7 million people, and yet life still goes on as it has for centuries. At the Inns of Court, lawyers follow time-honored precedents as they have for 600 years. Financiers at computers manipulate figures in skyscrapers that rise above the guildhalls of their medieval counterparts, guildhalls that in turn were built over the remains of Roman Londinium. The Prime Minister and his cabinet deliberate in an 18th-century town house off Whitehall.



See **Buckingham Palace** and **St. Paul's Cathedral**, the site of Winston Churchill's funeral and the site of the wedding of the Prince and late Princess of Wales in 1981. Travel through **Trafalgar Square**, the point from which all distances from London are officially measured. See **Big Ben**, the famous tower, which rises above the **Houses of Parliament**. Pass by **Westminster Abbey**, the most ancient of London's great churches, and pass by the tombs as pilgrims did after the Norman Conquest. Britain's monarchs have been crowned here since the coronation of William the conqueror on Christmas day in 1066.



At the end of the city tour, you will have an opportunity to stretch your legs and enjoy lunch. After lunch you may have an option to tour the state rooms and gardens of **Buckingham Palace**. Former Royal Harpist, Claire Jones will give us a personal tour and will show where she played for royal events, including the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton. From there we return

to the **Palace of Westminster** which houses the British **Parliament**. We may have an opportunity for an exclusive tour of the Parliament building at this time. One of Claire's harp students is Baroness Olivia Bloomfield, a British life peer and member of the **House of Lords** of the United Kingdom, the upper



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house of the Parliament. Members of the House of Lords are appointed by the Queen upon recommendation of the Prime Minister or are hereditary. The first English **Parliament** was held in 1295 and today is still the supreme legislative body of the UK. During this tour, you will learn gain an insider's viewpoint from the Baroness.

At the conclusion of the tours, we will head to our hotel, the Crowne Plaza Hotel Heathrow, Stockley Road, West Drayton, Middlesex, UB7 9NA, to unload our luggage, check into our rooms and refresh. This evening we will enjoy a **Welcome Dinner** at the hotel. After dinner, we may have a short rehearsal but then you will have the evening at leisure and the opportunity to get some rest after your busy first day!

MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2017 DAY IN LONDON: PERFORMANCE AT SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL*



Enjoy breakfast then we depart by coach for our rehearsal and performance at **Southwark Cathedral**, close to London Bridge. Southwark Cathedral is the mother church of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark and has been a place of worship for over 1,000 years making it the oldest Cathedral in London.

Tentatively performers will rehearse in the morning, will break for a box lunch (provided) and will return at 2:00 pm for a 2:30-4:30 pm **Concert in Southwark Cathedral**. While performers are in rehearsal, families and friends will have free time to explore the city and visit such iconic attractions as the **Tower of London (which house the Crown Jewels)**, the **London Eye**, the **Globe Theater**, **Harrod's Department Store**, the **British Museum**, **Covent Garden Market** and much more prior to the concert.



Following your performance enjoy a free evening exploring the beautiful city of London, having dinner on your own, before meeting and returning to the hotel for the night.

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2017

TOURING AND WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL CONCERT*



Enjoy breakfast in your hotel then load onto the motorcoach for our next stop, **England's "Ancient Capital" city of Winchester** situated on the River Itchen in Hampshire (travel time, about 1 hour and 15 minutes from London). Arrive at **Winchester Cathedral** and load in for rehearsal. While performers are rehearsing, family and friends may choose to explore **Winchester Castle to see the 13th century Arthurian Round Table,**

the ruins of Wolvesey Castle, the 14th-century buildings of Winchester College, the South Down national park, follow in the footsteps of Romantic poet John Keats on the 'Keats Walk' or simply soak up the beautiful and historic surroundings by visiting the shops or stopping in a coffee shop.

We will enjoy lunch at the Cathedral prior to **our concert, in collaboration with former Royal Harpist Claire Jones and Composer and Percussionist Chris Marshall,** which takes place from 1:00 pm- 2:00 pm. Following your performance, the Cathedral is hosting a **special reception** for the performers and our group. After the reception, you will have an opportunity to **tour Winchester Cathedral** and learn about one of the longest and most storied medieval cathedrals in Europe. Many famous individuals are buried in the cathedral including the **author Jane Austen.** You will also have the opportunity to learn how Winchester developed from an Iron Age center to a Roman town to the seat of the Saxon leaders starting with the coronation of Alfred the Great in 871 and how it remained the capital of England through the Norman conquest in the eleventh century.



At the conclusion of the tour, we will load onto the motorcoach and **depart for Wales.** We will stop en route for dinner at **Toby Carvery Restaurant, Cardiff Gate Cedar House, in Cardiff, the Capital of Wales.** There we will have the opportunity to try a traditional meal of full roast dinner and pudding (other options available). After dinner, load onto the coach and continue to our home for the week, the city of Cardigan Wales.

2/10/2017

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Upon arrival, performers will get settled at **Cardigan Castle** and families and friends at the **Cliffs Hotel and Spa**. **Croeso I Gymru! Welcome to Wales!**



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2017

TOURING AND ST. DAVID'S CATHEDRAL CONCERT*



In the morning, enjoy breakfast at the hotel and castle before departing for **St. David's** for your performance. Enjoy a morning at leisure, sight-seeing in the city and soaking up the history, architecture and culture of the area. Enjoy a lunch that has been arranged for the group. In the afternoon, prepare for a **rehearsal and concert on a well-known concert series at St. David's Cathedral**. St. David's Cathedral has an extraordinary history. Established in the 6th century, it survived numerous raids in the 10th and 11th centuries by Vikings and was rebuilt again starting in the 11th century. We will have buffet dinner as a group prior to the concert which takes place from 7:30 pm to 8:45 pm. After the concert, head back to the Castle/Hotel and enjoy an evening at leisure.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2017

LUNCH-TIME CONCERT AT THE CASTLE AND FREE TIME*



In the morning, enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the hotel and castle before meeting Welsh musical peers who will join us for rehearsal and lunch at the castle.

After rehearsal, we will do a **lunch-time concert at Cardigan Castle**. After the concert, the

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afternoon is free to explore the castle grounds, tour the castle, museum and castle shop. **Cardigan Castle**, the birth place of the Eisteddfod Festival in 1176, one of the oldest and today one of the most highly respected cultural festivals of music, song and performance in the world. Or, enjoy the the **City of Cardigan**, which is filled with shops, cafes and other sites of interest. Some may also chose to do a possible **boat trip on Cardigan Bay** to taking in the natural beauty and spot wildlife specific to the area. Others

may opt for a bus trip to see local attractions such as a visit to 12th century **Llandudoch Abbey** which is 10-15 minutes by bus from the castle. Dinner will be provided for the group at the Castle. After dinner, performers will enjoy time to rehearse and socialize with their new Welsh friends, family and friends can enjoy time in the city or a relaxing evening at their beautiful hotel and spa.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2017

REHEARSAL AND FREE TIME



In the morning, enjoy breakfast at the hotel and castle before meeting Welsh musical peers who will join us for rehearsal and lunch at the castle. In the afternoon, some may chose to do the **Preseli Mountains/ Bluestone walk** with a guide, others may elect to stay in town to enjoy more of the city, and some may chose to stay at the Cliffs Hotel to play a round of golf, visit the spa or hike the trails to the beach.

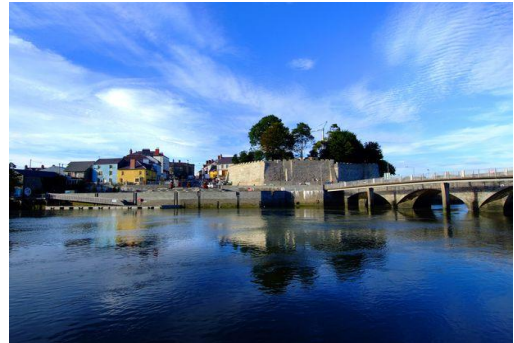
In the evening, the group with gather at the Cliff Hotel for dinner and a typical UK activity- a **Quiz Night and Disco!** After the festivities, return to your rooms and the castle for a good night's rest in preparation for the big concert tomorrow.



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SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2017 CLASSICAL SPECTACULAR CONCERT AT CARDIGAN CASTLE*

In the morning, enjoy breakfast at the hotel and castle then spend the morning and afternoon in rehearsal at the castle. Lunch and dinner will also be provided at the castle this day. The harps, choir and chamber ensembles will be featured as the prelude and during the main evening concert. The **Classical Spectacular Concert**, nicknamed “Proms in the Park,” is a massive event with over 1,000 in attendance. The castle grounds will be transformed into an outdoor concert hall. Claire, her husband Chris, and three celebrity singers are the headliners. The concert will be broadcast. The concert begins with the prelude at 7:30 pm and will go from 8:00 pm to 10:30 pm.



SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2017

FEATURE FESTIVAL CONCERTS*



In the morning, enjoy breakfast at the hotel and castle then spend the morning preparing for your **two feature concerts on the festival program**. The group will eat lunch at the castle. Following lunch, final preparation will take place for the two concerts at 3:00 pm and 3:45 pm during tea time. These concerts will feature the choir, the chamber ensembles and the harps in a joint concert with the **Claire Jones International Harp School**. In the evening, a festive

Farewell Dinner is arranged for your group at the Castle. There will be ample opportunity to recount the highlights of your tour! After dinner, take time to pack for our departure Monday morning.

MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2017

DEPARTURE

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and castle and depart for London’s Heathrow Airport (approx. five hours) and your return flight to the **United States**. Lunch will be on your own this day and we will stop en route. If time allows, we will stop in Cardiff for two hours of sights/shopping on the way.



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**All concert opportunities proposed in this itinerary are pending final confirmation and availability at time of booking. Your group's final program will be determined by confirmed times and locations for concerts, workshops, lectures and other activities. Although your ensemble's exact itinerary will vary to accommodate performance schedules, the same type of concerts, activities and caliber of venue will be included in your ensemble's final concert tour program.*

2/10/2017