

# Albuquerque Civic Chorus

## 2013 American Celebration of Music in Britain

### Custom Tour #1 (8 nights / 10 days)

#### Day 1

Depart from Albuquerque via scheduled air service. The destination is Manchester, England.

#### Day 2 Manchester / York (D)

Arrive in Manchester. Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting motorcoach for transfer to York for an orientation tour including time to walk the walls and ramparts. Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight.

*York - in AD 71, the Roman Ninth Legion built a fortress, Eboracum, later capital of the northern province. Here in AD 306, Constantine the Great was proclaimed Emperor. In AD 866, the Vikings captured the city which became Jorvik. Scandinavian influence, custom and street names continued long after the Norman conquest. Medieval York, its prosperity based on wool, was a city of 10,000 people and forty churches, the richest city in the country after London.*

#### Day 3 York (B,D)

Visit York Minster (the largest medieval cathedral in England). *Possible recital in York Minster.* Also visit the Shambles (the most visited among many streets with overhanging timber-framed houses), and many other attractions. *Evening concert as part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain.*

#### Day 4 York / Stratford (B,D)

Morning transfer to Stratford-upon-Avon via Peak District National Park (Britain's first national park, established in April 1951) in Derbyshire. The Peak District also has many unique and friendly towns, all worth a visit. Whether you're looking to relax with a quiet stroll and lunch in one of the many renowned eateries, or hoping to pick up a bargain in the mix of High Street shops, factory outlets, craft fairs, farmers markets or individual specialist shops, the local towns and villages of Derbyshire are sure to delight.

*Stratford-upon-Avon is a small and delightful Tudor market town beside the River Avon. Stratford is one of Britain's most visited towns due to its association with the playwright William Shakespeare. The timber frames of numerous buildings come from the nearby Arden Forest.*

#### Day 5 Stratford (B,D)

Enjoy a guided tour of the Shakespeare properties. Start with the half-timbered house that is Shakespeare's Birthplace. The house itself is part museum and part shrine and is of course, the house where the bard was born in 1564. Then visit Anne Hathaway's Cottage, which is situated around 1 mile outside Stratford. In truth, the cottage is more a farmhouse than a cottage. See the Hathaway bed in addition to the beautiful gardens, orchard and Shakespeare tree garden. *Concert as part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain.*



**Music Celebrations International**  
*Concert Tours With Integrity*

**Day 6** **Stratford / Bath** **(B,D)**

Half-day sightseeing to Warwick Castle, including entrance. Warwick Castle is a massive fortress, crowned with battlements and belonging to the Earls of Warwick, containing a moat, and a number of gardens, including a peacock reserve and a rose garden. Continue to Oxford. We will visit Christ Church College, founded in 1525 by Cardinal Wolsey. It is Oxford's biggest and grandest Renaissance college. The famous Christ Church College Chapel doubles as a cathedral, the smallest cathedral in England. Transfer to Bath for dinner and overnight.

*Bath is admired the world over for its architectural beauty. It was originally the Roman town Aquae Sulis, established in the first century AD, with a great religious spa at its heart. It was in the 18th century that Bath reached its golden age, creating the city which you will admire today.*

**Day 7** **Bath / London** **(B,D)**

This morning, participate in a guided sightseeing tour of Bath, an ancient Roman spa town. In the Roman era, a hot spring sacred to the Celtic goddess of the waters, Sullis, provided the centerpiece of an extensive bath complex, now restored as the Roman Baths and Museum. The pools, pipes and under floor heating are remarkable demonstrations of the ingenuity of Roman engineering. Also visit the neighboring Abbey Church, renowned for the lofty fifteenth-century vault of its choir. Afternoon transfer to London via Stonehenge. Stonehenge is Europe's most famous prehistoric monument and you can sense the mystery that shrouds the ancient stones that were constructed over 5,000 years ago! Continue to London for overnight.

*London is a cozy city, encompassing some 620 square miles and 7,000,000 hospitable people. Established 1,250 years ago by King Aethelbald, London became an important Roman city. It was resettled by the Saxons in the fifth century, after the end of the Roman occupation. London has been scourged by the plague (1665) and was almost entirely destroyed by the Great Fire (1666). World War II's "Blitzkrieg" tore up the city considerably. She stands today as a monument to perseverance, culture, excitement, history, and greatness.*

**Day 8** **London** **(B,D)**

Morning at leisure. *Lunchtime concert as part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain.* An afternoon guided tour of London includes the residential and shopping districts of Kensington and Knightsbridge. A visit is made to Whitehall and Trafalgar Square with Nelson's Column, past Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament to Buckingham Palace, where we see the Changing of the Guard (schedule permitting). Continue along Fleet Street to St. Paul's Cathedral, and then to the 900-year-old Tower of London, whose construction was initiated by William the Conqueror. Here we also view the Crown Jewels.

**Day 9** **London** **(B,D)**

Day at leisure in London for additional sightseeing, shopping, museum visits or other planned activities (motorcoach and Tour Manager are at the group's disposal). Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight.

**Day 10** **Depart for home** **(B)**

Transfer to one of London's International Airports for return flight to Albuquerque. Arrive home in the evening of the same day.



**Music Celebrations International**  
*Concert Tours With Integrity*