

# Savannah Children's Choir American Celebration of Music in Ireland

(6 nights/8 days)

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**Day 1 Tuesday June 7, 2016**

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Depart via scheduled air service to Dublin, Ireland

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**Day 2 Wednesday June 8 Bunratty / Limerick (D)**

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Arrive in Dublin

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer to Rathbaun Farm for a visit. The Burke and Connolly family have been farming the 80 acres of land for over 200 years and Fintan Connolly continues this tradition today. Visitors become enchanted by its thatched cottage home, turf fire, stone walls and an array of animals. Time spent here gives a glimpse into the daily workings of a sheep-farm with plenty of time to see the animals, feed the lambs in season, talk to the family and explore the farmyard

Continue to Limerick via Bunratty Castle, the most complete and authentic medieval fortress in Ireland. Built in 1425 it was restored in 1954 to its former medieval splendor. Also visit the Folk Park, a living reconstruction of the homes and environment of Ireland of over a century ago. Stroll from house to house or around the charming village street to experience village life in 19th century Ireland

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

*Limerick city straddles the Shannon's broadening tidal stream, where the river swings west to join the Shannon Estuary. Despite some unexpected glitz and gloss, it remains an unflinchingly honest town that doesn't shy away from a tough past as portrayed in Frank McCourt's Angela's Ashes. Limerick has an intriguing castle, a lively art museum and contemporary cafe culture to go with its uncompromised pubs*

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**Day 3 Thursday June 9 Limerick (B,D)**

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Breakfast at the hotel

Morning visit to King John's Castle. King John's Castle is situated on 'King's Island' in the heart of medieval Limerick City. The Castle overlooks the majestic river Shannon. It was built between 1200 and 1210 and was repaired and extended many times in the following centuries. The interpretative centre at the Castle contains an imaginative historical exhibition which tells the story of the Castle.

Lunch on own

***Tin Whistle workshop\****

Early dinner at the hotel

***Concert in Limerick as part of the American Celebration of Music in Ireland\****

Return to the hotel for overnight



**Day 4 Friday June 10 Limerick / Blarney / Waterford (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Blarney where we will visit the Blarney Castle and Stone. The castle dates from 1446 and is built on solid limestone in beautiful grounds. The sacred stone is found at the top of the castle and when you catch a glimpse of it, you may well feel compelled to bend over backwards and kiss it!

Lunch on own

Continue to Waterford for a walking tour of the Viking Triangle given by Jack Burtchaell. Jack Burtchaell has for years now charmed and informed visitors on his historic tours. A walled city of Viking origins, Waterford retains much of its medieval character together with the graceful buildings from its 18th century expansion. Reginald's Tower marks the city's Viking heart and the surrounding area is particularly attractive. Also visit the Waterford Glass visitors center to see the famous hand cut crystal

Evening dinner and overnight

*Waterford lies near the southeastern tip of Ireland on the River Suir. The river at this point is broad and deep, and has thus enabled the town to develop into a seaport of considerable importance. The town has a variety of industries, but is particularly known for its glass. Waterford glass was famous in the early 19th century, and since its revival in 1947 again enjoys an international reputation. Most of the principal sights of Waterford can be seen by going down various streets and lanes opening southwards off the Quay*



**Day 5 Saturday June 11 Waterford / New Ross / Kilkenny (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Excursion to New Ross for a visit to the Dunbrody Famine Ship. Enjoy an audio-visual presentation, which gives the historic background to the Great Famine, and the reason why so many people were forced to emigrate on sailing ships like Dunbrody to America in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Then follow in the footsteps of a group of Famine emigrants as you board the Dunbrody with your own personal ticket and explore the ship, fitted out exactly as it would be for a voyage. You will encounter actors, playing the role of emigrants, in their cramped quarters. This authentic recreation will transport you back in time leaving a lasting impression

Transfer to Kilkenny

Lunch on own

*Sing a recital at St. Canice's Cathedral \**

Return to Waterford

*Concert in Waterford as part of the American Celebration of Music in Ireland\**

Evening dinner and overnight



**Day 6 Sunday June 12 Waterford / Glendalough / Dublin (B,L,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Wicklow

Lunch at Brockagh Centre

*Concert in the Brockagh Centre as part of the American Celebration of Music in Ireland\**

Visit to Glendalough and the Wicklow Mountains. The steep wooded slopes of Glendalough the "valley of the two lakes" harbor one of Ireland's most atmospheric monastic sites — established in the 6th century. Here we see the Round Tower, Cathedral, St. Kevin's Cross, and Gatehouse

Continue to Dublin for dinner and overnight



*Dublin is Ireland's capital and its largest, most cosmopolitan city. The 'boom years' came in the 18th century and the city expanded across the river forming a new Dublin of stately squares, streets and Georgian mansions. Today, with its elegant Georgian streets, gregarious inhabitants and long history, it's little wonder Dublin is a city of writers*

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**Day 7      Monday June 13                      Dublin    (B,D)**

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Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a tour of Dublin including St. Stephen's Green, South Bank, College Green, Merrion Square, Liffey Footbridges, Grafton Street, Temple Bar, O'Connell Street, Phoenix Park, and entrance to Trinity College, Ireland's oldest university. Trinity College contains the Book of Kells, which dates from AD 800, making it one of the oldest books in the world

Lunch on own

In the afternoon, take the time to experience the Gaelic Games. Here we will have the chance to learn more about, and then play, the unique Irish games of Hurling, Gaelic Football and Handball. In Ireland, Gaelic Games, music, dance and the language lie at the heart of what it is to be Irish. The games, are exhilarating, exciting and engaging

***Drum workshop\****

Evening Farewell Dinner and entertainment at Merry Ploughboys

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**Day 8      Tuesday June 14                      Depart for home    (B)**

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Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Dublin's airport for return flight

***\*Subject to confirmation***

***This is a very flexible itinerary.*** *Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable.*

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