

Manchester Choral Society

IRELAND

"Cèad Mìle Failte" - a hundred-thousand welcomes!



Ancient cities and historic seaports... Picturesque countryside and coastlines, spectacular lakes and mountains... A country steeped in history, legends, literature and art: alive with the traditions of proud and wonderfully welcoming people.

June 30 — July 11, 2011

Dr. Daniel R. Perkins, Conductor

Day 1: Thursday, June 30**DEPARTURE**

Depart for an overnight flight across the Atlantic. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service.

Day 2: Friday, July 1**SHANNON ARRIVAL— BUNRATTY — ENNIS**

After customs and immigration formalities at Shannon Airport, meet your driver/guide and transfer a short distance to the village of Bunratty. Visit Bunratty Folk Park, which comprises a collection of farmhouses from different regions of Ireland and a 19th century village street where traditional lifestyles and crafts are demonstrated. Also enjoy an Irish coffee at Mac's Pub before driving a short distance to the lovely town of Ennis. After checking into your hotel, you may like to relax or explore the town's narrow pedestrianised streets with quaint shop fronts and traditional markets

This evening join the fun at the Corn Barn in Bunratty Village for a Traditional Irish Night. Enjoy the company of the local villages' finest singers, dancers and musicians, along with good home-cooked food and drink... you might even learn a step or two! *Overnight in Ennis. (D).*

Day 3: Saturday, July 2**LIMERICK & KILLARNEY**

Depart Ennis and drive east into Limerick for a panoramic tour of the city, which features the sights made famous in Frank McCourt's biography, "Angela's Ashes." Pass the 13th century King John's Castle in the center of the town, which has guarded the River Shannon crossing for the past 700 years. Drive southwest to Adare, which is famous for its thatched houses. After a stop for photos and a walk along the main street, continue into the mountainous country of Kerry and into Killarney, settled beside three lakes in the shadow of Ireland's highest mountains. Set off on an old-fashioned horse-drawn jaunting car through the Killarney National Park, which is closed to motorized vehicles. Then check into your hotel with time to settle in before this evening's dinner and concert. *Overnight in Killarney. (B/D) Concert #1 in Killarney-area.*

Day 4: Sunday, July 3**RING OF KERRY TOUR**

Today explore the Ring of Kerry: 100 miles of marvelous scenery consisting of the highest peaks in Ireland on one side and a coastline scattered with golden beaches and rocky headlands on the other. As you drive, every turn will reveal new vistas of mountains, cliffs and beaches and there will be plenty of photo stops. Travel through the remote villages of Cahirciveen and Waterville at the western end of the peninsula. Stop in the colorful village of Sneem and pause for a look at the Lakes of Killarney at Moll's Gap. Return to Killarney an evening at leisure. *Overnight in Killarney. (B/L)*

Day 5: Monday, July 4**CLIFFS OF MOHER & GALWAY**

Depart Killarney and travel north through the village of Listowel to Tarbert. Take a 20-minute ferry ride across the River Shannon estuary and drive along the coastline of County Clare to view the Cliffs of Moher, one of the country's most magnificent rock formations that rise to heights of almost 700 feet above the churning Atlantic swells. Pass through the Burren Country, an area of rocky limestone hills where a number of unique wildflowers thrive. Continue north to Galway and embark on a panoramic tour to see the principal sights of the city. A drive around will take you to the large modern cathedral set on an island on the River Corrib. See the Spanish Arch in the Claddagh area, formerly a fishing village, the City Museum, National University of Galway and the Cathedral of Our Lady, which is built on the site of the former county jail. Then check into your hotel and enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure. You may choose to relax in your hotel or spend some time around Eyre Square, the hub of the city before tonight's dinner and concert. *Overnight in Galway. (B, D) Concert #2 in Galway.*

Day 6: Tuesday, July 5**CONNEMARA & KYLEMORE ABBEY**

After breakfast travel through the Connemara region to admire the sweeping views of boglands and misty mountains. As you drive along you will see many sheep that graze freely and also tracts of bogland where some people hand-cut peat for home heating. Stop to visit Kylemore Abbey, a 19th century neo-Gothic mansion overlooking Kylemore Lake. Originally a private residence, it is now a prestigious girls' school. Visit the chapel and the restored Victorian gardens, which have won awards. After your visit continue your drive to the town of Moycullen to visit the Connemara Celtic Crystal Factory. This family business specializes in designs based on the shamrock, Claddagh ring and harp, often in colored crystal. Watch a craftsman demonstrate the cutting of designs and see the full range of products in the showrooms. *Overnight in Galway. (B, L)*

**Day 7: Wednesday, July 6****DRUMCLIFFE CHURCHYARD & DONEGAL**

Leaving Galway travel through County Mayo and into the scenic County Sligo, an area associated with the great poet, W. B. Yeats. Visit Drumcliffe Churchyard in the shadow of Ben Bulbin Mountain to view his grave. Then, continue north around Donegal Bay to Donegal. Check into your hotel with some time to freshen up before this evening's dinner and concert. *Overnight in Donegal. (B/D) Concert #3 in Donegal-area.*

Day 8: Thursday, July 7**DERRY & GIANT'S CAUSEWAY**

Today travel through Strabane and pass the scenic Sperrin Mountains to Derry. Upon arrival embark on a walking tour to see the principal sights of the city. See the 17th century city walls, which are some of the best-preserved in Europe, and the Diamond, the main central square. Also pass the 17th century St. Columb's Cathedral, the Tower Museum with local history displays and the Guildhall where the history of Derry is depicted in stained-glass windows. Continue on to visit the Giant's Causeway, an impressive area of hexagonal columns formed over 60 million years ago by cooling lava which has given rise to many legends. Return to Donegal in time for dinner. *Overnight in Donegal.* (B/D)

Day 9: Friday, July 8**BELLEEK CHINA FACTORY & CABRA CASTLE**

Drive around the shores of Donegal Bay to Belleek to tour the Belleek China Factory. Here you can watch skilled craftspeople mold and decorate the clay to form delicate and highly decorative pieces. See the full range in the showrooms and also a historic exhibit with pieces from when the factory first opened. Travel along the beautiful shores of Lower Lough Erne to Enniskillen. Drive through the lake-studded region of Cavan. Arrive at your castle hotel in Kingscourt where your afternoon is at leisure. In the evening join your MCS for dinner in the hotel restaurant. *Overnight in Kingscourt.* (B, D)

**Day 10: Saturday, July 9****DUBLIN**

Depart Kingscourt and drive through the midlands of Ireland where you can see how many Irish people make their living from agriculture and into Dublin, Ireland's capital. Dublin is one of the liveliest capitals in Europe but there are plenty of historical places also. See the main thoroughfares of O'Connell Street and Nassau Street, the shopping streets and some lovely public parks. *Overnight in Dublin.* (B, D) **Concert #4 in Dublin.**

Day 11: Sunday, July 10**DUBLIN**

This morning enjoy a city sightseeing tour of Dublin, an elegant and artistic city with spacious Georgian squares. Stop to tour St. Patrick's Cathedral, which is almost as old as the city itself and famous for its connections with the brilliantly eccentric Dean Jonathan Swift. Next visit the Guinness Storehouse to see exhibits on how this world famous stout was first created and why it is so popular today. Finish your visit in the roof-top bar, "Gravity," overlooking the city center where you can sample a draft Guinness and enjoy the view of the city. The balance of the afternoon is free. *Overnight in Dublin.* (B, Farewell D)

Day 12: Monday, July 11**DUBLIN**

Transfer to Dublin Airport in plenty of time to check in for your flight, clear security and claim your VAT refund. Clear U.S. Immigration before boarding the aircraft for your flight to Boston. (B)

Please Note: *This itinerary is subject to change based on choral concerts and the site inspection report.*

TOUR ACCOMODATIONS

ENNIS: 1 night, The *Temple Gate Hotel* (or similar) is a charming family owned and run hotel in the heart of Ennis, Co. Clare. The hotel offers the perfect location to wander the cobblestone streets of Ennis.

KILLARNEY: 2 nights, The *Killarney Plaza Hotel* (or similar) is located in the center of town with all the shops and pubs close by. It is conveniently positioned within easy reach of all the wonderful scenic locations of Killarney.

GALWAY: 2 nights, The *Galway Bay Hotel* (or similar) is beautifully situated along the coast road in Salthill overlooking the Galway Bay and Clare Hills. Salthill is Galway's seaside resort and is the perfect spot for fine sandy beaches.

DONEGAL: 2 nights, The *Mill Park Hotel* (or similar) is situated on its own tranquil grounds and is within a few minutes walk from the center of Donegal Town. The hotel boasts the theme of an old mill.

KINGSCOURT: 1 night, The *Cabra Castle Hotel* (or similar) dates back to 1760. Its proud history is reflected in the opulent and elegant staircases, magnificent hallways and in the castle's richly furnished rooms.

DUBLIN: 2 nights, The *Ashling Hotel* (or similar) is located on the River Liffey in the heart of Dublin city just a short distance from the Guinness Storehouse, Phoenix Park, Dublin Zoo and the bustling Temple Bar area. Adjacent to the hotel is Dublin's state of the art light rail transit system providing direct transportation to the city center in 5 minutes.

Reservations, Payment and General Information

ENROLLMENT:

A deposit of \$250 per person is required to reserve your place by September 15, 2010. Make check payable to **Plymouth Travel** and send along with the application form to: **Plymouth Travel, 13A Town West Road, Plymouth, NH 03264.**

TOUR COST: The anticipated cost of the tour is \$3,319 per person, double occupancy. The single supplement is \$575. Prices in this brochure are based on 40 participants. Every effort will be made to maintain the published tour price. Levels of participation, exchange rates, airline surcharges, and other factors beyond our control, may affect the final price.

TOUR INCLUSIONS: Roundtrip air transportation from Boston, all transportation within Ireland, first-class or better hotels, concert arrangements, travel and health insurance, gratuities, meals as indicated, admissions and excursions as published in the brochure.

INCLUDED INSURANCE: All members are covered by a group travel assurance policy. Coverage limits are as follows:

- \$30,000 medical and dental benefit
- \$100,000 emergency Medical Transportation
- \$25,000 accident coverage
- \$1,000 baggage coverage
- \$750 travel/trip delay / missed connection coverage
- \$200 baggage delay insurance

NOT INCLUDED: Transportation to/from airport, passport fees, airport taxes, ticket taxes (currently \$120), meals and beverages not specified on the itinerary; cancellation insurance; items of a personal nature.

EXTENDED INSURANCE COVERAGE: Cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. Participants are urged to review their insurance requirements with their insurance agent or consider the Access America policy available from Plymouth Travel. Access America provides extended coverage for cancelled and interrupted trips. The Access America policy is self-administering. If you would like to purchase coverage, call them direct at (800)-824-8300 or visit their web-site at www.accessamerica.com

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

September 15, 2010	Initial deposit \$250 per person
November 15, 2010	2nd installment \$1,000 per person
January 15, 2011	3rd installment \$1,000 per person
March 1, 2011	Final payment due

A final invoice will be sent to all participants by Feb 15, 2011

Note: Please make checks payable to Plymouth Travel.

Regrettably, credit cards will not be accepted.

DOCUMENTATION: U.S. citizens must have a passport valid for a minimum of six months beyond their intended departure date. Non-U.S. citizens are responsible for their compliance with all entry requirements.

CANCELLATION: All notices of cancellation must be received in writing to Plymouth Travel. The cancellation fees (per person) are as follows:

<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Prior to</u>	<u>Cancellation Fee</u>
Deposit	November 14, 2010	\$250
November 15, 2010	January 14, 2011	\$500
January 15, 2011	February 28, 2011	\$1,000
March 1, 2011	Departure	No refunds

HEALTH PRECAUTIONS: To meet the rigors generally associated with a concert tour and to enjoy the experience, choral members and guests should be in good physical condition to meet late evening engagements, in addition to daytime sightseeing activities. Be prepared for walking, often over hilly and uneven surfaces. For up-to-date health requirements and recommendations, travelers should check with their local health provider.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Plymouth Travel Inc. (PTI) act only as agents for the tour members in making arrangements for transportation, accommodations, sightseeing, and other services. PTI is not responsible for deficiencies on the part of hotels, restaurants, airlines or any other company providing tour inclusions. PTI, or any of its representatives shall not become liable or responsible in any way in connection with means of transportation or other services for any loss, injury, or damage, or in respect of, person or property however caused or arising. PTI reserves the right to change any arrangements herein set forth should conditions necessitate, offering substitutes of equal value, or to cancel any scheduled tour. PTI is not responsible for delays, extra expenses or any other inconveniences to participants due to weather conditions, mechanical breakdowns, terrorism, war, declared or not, or other "Acts of God." PTI reserves the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of a tour at any time.

***For up-to-date information
& questions on this tour, refer to
www.plymouth-travel.com***

***or contact
wanda@plymouth-travel.com***

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