

# **Manchester United Methodist Church Festival Choir**

*2005 American Celebration of Music in Britain*

ITINERARY

June 5 - 14, 2005

## **June 5 (Sunday)**

Departure from St. Louis via scheduled airline service to London, England. Enjoy full meal/beverage service and in-flight entertainment during this trans-Atlantic flight.

## **June 6 (Monday)**

London airport arrival assistance. Meet MCI Tour Managers and transfer to hotel w/panoramic tour of London's highlights en route. If feasible, see Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace. Mid-afternoon hotel check-in.

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.

## **June 7 (Tuesday)**

A six-hour tour of London includes the residential and shopping districts of Kensington and Knightsbridge. A visit is made to Westminster Abbey, where most English Kings and Queens have been crowned since 1066, and where many are buried. Pass Whitehall and Trafalgar Square with Nelson's Column, past Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament to Buckingham Palace. Continue along Fleet Street past 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.

## **June 8 (Wednesday)**

This morning our Methodist heritage sightseeing will start with a tour of London's Wesley related sights. We will begin with a visit to Sir Christopher Wren's masterpiece St. Paul's Cathedral. Even now, the cathedral's enormous dome (second in size only to St. Peter's in Rome) dominates the city skyline. St. Paul's is the fifth cathedral to stand on this site, and was completed in 1708. John Wesley worshiped in the chancel on several occasions in 1738, and we will see his statue in the north-west corner of the churchyard. We will then visit Wesley's Chapel on City Road, which is the mother church of world Methodism, built in 1778. The tomb of John Wesley is in the churchyard. We will also see the nearby house where John Wesley lived his last 12 years, which has been refurbished to as it was in Wesley's day. The Museum of Methodism tells the story of Methodism from the 18th to the 20th century. *Evening concert in London as part of the 2005 American Celebration of Music in Britain.*

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### **June 9 (Thursday)**

Day at leisure in London. Motorcoach and Tour Manager are at the group's disposal for additional sightseeing, shopping or other excursions. You may like to visit a museum, perhaps do some shopping, or simply take in the atmosphere of this cosmopolitan city. Ask your guide how to get to the shops of Oxford and Bond Street, or perhaps Harrods! Alternatively, spend time in bustling Leicester Square, Trafalgar Square or Piccadilly Circus, or in the relatively quiet confines of the Natural History Museum. The city is yours! *Lunchtime or evening concert in London as part of the 2005 American Celebration of Music in Britain.*

### **June 10 (Friday)**

Transfer to Stratford-upon-Avon, stopping en route in Oxford. Oxford is the city where John Wesley first started the Methodist movement while he was a fellow of Lincoln College. We will see Christ Church College (where Wesley was an undergraduate) and its chapel, which doubles as the cathedral of Oxford. We will also see Lincoln College, with its Wesley Memorial Room and beautiful chapel. Continue on to Stratford to enjoy an afternoon guided tour of the Shakespeare properties, including Ann Hathaway's Cottage, Shakespeare's birthplace and Holy Trinity Church, where the bard was baptized and is buried.

*Stratford-upon-Avon*, one of the most famous towns in England, is situated on the west bank of the River Avon, in the heart of the Midlands. It dates back to at least Roman times, but its appearance today is that of a small Tudor market town, with mellow, half-timbered architecture and tranquil walks beside the tree-fringed Avon. This image belies its popularity as the most visited tourist attraction outside London, with eager hordes flocking to see buildings connected to William Shakespeare or his descendants.

### **June 11 (Saturday)**

Transfer to Edinburgh. Stop en route to visit Coventry Cathedral. Time permitting, perform a short recital in the Cathedral, before continuing on to Edinburgh.

*Edinburgh*, the capital and cultural center of Scotland for over 500 years, occupies one of the most beautiful locations. Sometimes described as the "Athens of the North", the famous festival city boasts Doric columns on Calton Hill, a wide choice of museums and art galleries as well as a host of other historical gems. Edinburgh actually consists of two cities. The castle, set on high basalt rock, dominates the densely populated old town, a labyrinth of narrow alleys, rows of houses and back yards. The famous "Royal Mile" links the castle with the Palace of Holyroodhouse. The Georgian new town, itself a masterpiece of town planning from the 18th century, is characterized by grand squares, wide avenues and elegant facades. Evening **concert** in Edinburgh as part of the 2005 *American Celebration of Music in Britain.*

### **June 12 (Sunday)**

Morning church service — sing for the service, plus a short recital following the service. (details TBA)

Enjoy an afternoon guided tour of Edinburgh. Edinburgh Castle, along with its rock, is probably the

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best known view in Edinburgh. It has been a royal residence since the 11th century, although the majority of buildings you will see are those resulting from its use as a military garrison. We will see the Honours of Scotland (including the Scottish Crown Jewels) and the Royal Scots Regimental Museum. Also tour the Abbey and the Palace of Holyroodhouse, situated at the east end of the Royal Mile amongst the green slopes of Holyrood Park. The abbey was founded in 1128 and the palace is the official residence of the monarch in Scotland. It features the lavishly decorated state apartments and 16th century round tower, which has close associations with Mary Queen of Scots. Also visit Arthur's Seat, Charlotte Square, St. Giles, John Knox House, the Royal Mile, Sir Walter Scott Monument, St. Andrew Square and other landmarks.

**June 13 (Monday)**

Full-day excursion to the Scottish Highlands, including a visit to Stirling with entrance to the Castle. Over the centuries Stirling has been a much-disputed stronghold. It occupies a strategically important position in the Forth Valley 28 miles northeast of Glasgow. The earliest inhabitants were probably of Welsh descent and it is thought that the name Stirling is a corruption of the term "Place of Striving". No fewer than 15 battlefields lie within close proximity of the castle. Continue to Dunblane for a concert in the 13th century Gothic Cathedral. The cathedral in the little town of Dunblane (pop. 7,500; 6 miles to the north of Stirling) was consecrated by Bishop Clement in 1228, although the foundation stone had been laid in the previous century by David I. The ground-plan of the church is remarkable in that the chancel has no side aisles or transept, unlike the main nave, which was fully restored by Sir Roland Anderson in 1893. The once freestanding church tower (12th century) has been incorporated into the south side. In the interior, the highly-acclaimed, oval window by John Ruskin and the 15th century choir stalls merit a closer inspection. Return to Edinburgh for dinner/overnight. *Evening concert as part of the 2005 American Celebration of Music in Britain.*

**June 14 (Tuesday)**

Transfer to Glasgow's International Airport for return flight to St. Louis. Arrive home in the evening of the same day.

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