



**ITALIAN ALPINE
CHORAL FESTIVAL**
in South Tyrol, Italy
June 20 – 24, 2018

**Festival begins June 20; return home
June 25 at the earliest*

 MUSIC CONTACT INTERNATIONAL





ITALIAN ALPINE CHORAL FESTIVAL

Since its inception, more than 1,000 choirs have performed at the annual Italian Alpine Choral Festival amidst the enchanting scenery of the Dolomites in South Tyrol, Italy. In 2018, choirs from all over the world will attend the 21st edition of the festival to share their music at fascinating outdoor and indoor venues throughout the valley of Pusteria. With its dramatic peaks and jewel-like lakes, it is little wonder Gustav Mahler chose this UNESCO World Heritage Site for his private composing cottage.

The festival is open to all types of choirs and offers performance opportunities in theaters, concert halls and churches across the Val Pusteria region, as well as open-air, lofty performances at alpine huts, music pavilions, castles and lakes. Repertoire is free of choice—there are no compulsory pieces and all musical periods and music styles are welcome!

You will get to know your fellow participating singers during daily social events that take place throughout the week including: a festival opening concert, the “Fiesta di Benvenuto” welcome event on the top of the spectacular Plan de Corones mountain, a traditional Tyrolean party in Villabassa, the exuberant Parade of Choirs through San Candido, and the “Festa dell’ Arrivederci” festival closing event.

Join us for this unique musical event in the midst of the wild and romantic landscape of South Tyrol, Italy!





THE ITALIAN ALPINE CHORAL FESTIVAL

With so many families coming from different places and extending time in Europe, group flights are no longer included in this Festival package. Please make your own flight arrangements or use the services of a local travel agent. Music Contact International is a group tour operator and our flight and land contracts apply only to groups of ten or more travelers staying together on the same itinerary.

Airports serving the **Val Pusteria region in South Tyrol, Italy** include those in Innsbruck, Verona, Munich, Venice, Treviso, Bergamo and Milan. Please visit South Tyrol's official travel website at www.suedtirool.info/en for more information on the region, including maps and extensive tips on how to get there.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2018

ARRIVE IN ITALY

OPENING CEREMONY

Plan to arrive in **Val Pusteria** in **South Tyrol, Italy** this afternoon and join your group at the Festival hotel. Your **Music Contact International tour manager** will be on hand to greet you.



This idyllic valley is located at the foot of the Dolomites mountain range and lies right on the cusp of the Italy-Austria border. A fabled winter sport destination, the valley in summer becomes a sea of greenery and wildflowers.



Check in to your hotel and refresh before a celebratory toast and preview of the coming days. This evening, a **welcome dinner of Tyrolese specialties** is served in the hotel dining room.

After dinner, the festival officially kicks off with an **Opening Concert** for all participating choirs at the Gustav Mahler Hall in the charming resort town of Dobbiaco.

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2018

WELCOME CELEBRATION

CONCERTS

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel. Following, transfer to the top of the Plan de Corones mountain for the "**Festa di Benvenuto**," a welcome party where all participating choirs gather for a friendly exchange and informal performances. A stage is set up under the Campana della Concordia, the second largest bell in Italy, and each choir is invited to share a song. At the end of the performances, all participants have the pleasure of hearing the tolling of the bell as its majestic tones reverberate throughout the surrounding alpine landscape.





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This afternoon, add your vocal harmony to the beauty of the region during **open-air concerts** at truly special outdoor venues including quaint ski huts accessible only by cable car, or at the foot of the majestic medieval castle at Monguelfo.



Choirs perform in series, with two to five choirs typically singing in each locale. Later, dinner will be served to your group at the hotel.

This evening's program will be comprised of **indoor concerts at historic venues** throughout the Val Pusteria region. Venues will be allotted according to musical genre and choirs each perform two highlights from their repertoire.

FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 2018

TYROLEAN FEAST

CONCERTS

Following breakfast, **open-air concerts** continue throughout day at stunning local sites such as the Braies and Anterselva lakes, as well as fairy tale medieval courtyards.



Reconvene for an early dinner at the hotel before a round of **indoor evening concerts**.

Later tonight, all participating choirs are invited to the town of Villabassa to perform a choral selection as part of the town's "**Festa Tyrolese**"! This annual nighttime celebration takes place in the main square and offers traditional foods and handicrafts, popular music and performances by Tyrolean folkloric groups.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2018

PARADE OF CHOIRS

CONCERTS

Choral concerts continue throughout the morning and early afternoon. Afterwards, all participating choirs gather in Piazza del Magistrato in the center of San Candido for the **Parade of Choirs**—a highlight of the **Italian Alpine Choral Festival**! After the mayor's official greetings, singers parade in uniform along the streets of the town. The procession culminates with a massed sing featuring all choirs.



Return to your hotel for a **farewell dinner of traditional cuisine** followed by a **final celebratory round of performances** in concert halls and churches.

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SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018

CLOSING CEREMONY

After breakfast, transfer the town of Sesto and the “Festa dell’Arrivederci” **Closing Ceremony**. During the ceremony on the stage in front of the Casa Sesto, choir directors are acknowledged and awarded a Certificate of Participation for their contributions to this year’s festival.



The **2018 Italian Alpine Choral Festival** concludes around lunchtime.

Participants depart **Val Pusteria** this afternoon after a **4 night festival stay**. Please note that the next flights back to the States depart the morning of **Monday, June 25**, which means you will need a place to stay on Sunday night. An additional night stay at the festival hotel can be arranged. Please inquire.

TOUR INCLUDES

- 4 nights in a high quality festival hotel, double occupancy, including all hotel service charges and taxes. Participants must arrange and pay for a place to stay Sunday night as the earliest flights depart for the States the morning of Monday, June 25.
- A private, modern, air conditioned motor coach with a professional driver is provided for all transportation as described in the itinerary. Airport – hotel transfers are NOT included. Please plan to make your own way to/from the Festival.
- Ski-lift tickets for the Welcome Ceremony and any applicable outdoor concerts in the mountains
- Breakfast served daily in the hotel dining room
- Dinner served nightly in the hotel dining room
- Choirs have the option of three to six singing opportunities throughout the festival; venues vary from churches and theaters to alpine huts and dramatic outdoor settings!
- A full-time Music Contact International tour manager to accompany your group during their entire stay, from arrival to departure

CUSTOM TRAVELER’S RESOURCE WEBSITE FOR YOUR GROUP FEATURING

- Day to day itinerary
- Things To Know Before You Go
- Helpful links, including recommended reading and websites