

MT CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC APPRECIATION TOUR 2018 – ITALY

April 6 Friday **Depart San Diego**
 American #329 Depart San Diego at 730a
 American #198 Depart New York/JFK at 605p
 Arrive New York/JFK at 359p
 Arrive Milan at 820a (+1)

April 7 Saturday **Overnight: Hotel Galles Milan** **Breakfast/Dinner**

Arrive Milan, ½ day walking tour before checking into the hotel. Tour will include La Scala and Castello Sforzesco Music Museum, possible Last Supper.

Dinner - 3 Tenors at Santo Stefano



April 8 **Overnight: Hotel Londra Florence** **Breakfast/Dinner**

Sunday
Full day tour

Following breakfast, depart Milan for Cremona for violin workshop. The Consortium of Violinmakers “Antonio Stradivari” – Cremona organizes visits into a Master Violinmaker workshop: the luthier will explain the handmaking of stringed instruments.

Lunch on your own in Cremona before we depart to Florence.

Hotel Londra

Check into hotel and then dinner tonight at hotel.



April 9 Monday **Overnight: Florence** **Breakfast/Dinner**

Breakfast at hotel and then off on foot to explore Florence!



We start our walk visiting the Medici Chapel, the chapel houses monuments to members of the Medici family, in the New Sacristy of the Church of San Lorenzo in Florence. The funereal monuments were commissioned in 1520 by Pope Clement VII (formerly Cardinal Giulio de’ Medici), executed largely by Michelangelo from 1520 to 1534, and completed by Michelangelo’s pupils after his departure. We then continue to the Duomo, the cathedral. The building was started in 1296 and was finished almost two centuries later. The cathedral is impressive for its size and for its extremely rich three color marble decoration. Focus on the imposing dome by Brunelleschi, worldly recognized as the architectural masterpiece of the Renaissance. We continue our guided tour showing you the other buildings of the Cathedral Square: the Baptistry dedicated to St. John the Baptist, with its fascinating door, the Gates of Paradise: this artwork was completed in 1452 and it’s a symbol of the level reached by

arts in the first century of Renaissance. Our walking tour will now move through the medieval streets of the oldest city district, in order to reach the church of Santa Croce. The church dates back from the end of 1200, in gothic style, stunning with its marble façade and beautifully positioned at the end of a large square. The Franciscan brothers have always ruled this church and have been preserving the so many artworks by artists such as Giotto, Donatello, Brunelleschi. The church, known as "the Pantheon of the Italian glories", houses the tombs of great Italians of the past. We will visit the burial places of Michelangelo, Machiavelli, Galileo Galilei, Gioacchino Rossini. We will continue on to the beautifully preserved Piazza Signoria. The government palace, Palazzo della Signoria, had its origin in



1298 and still today it's used as the city hall. The square is also decorated by the Loggia della Signoria, very elegant arcade: the 14th century meeting place for the members of the government, today expositive space for roman and renaissance sculptures.

Lunch on your own

We continue our guided tour to the river Arno, so intimately linked the history and economy of the city. We will admire its banks from the most famous bridge, Ponte Vecchio, the oldest bridge of the city, built in 1345, lined up with medieval little shops sparkling with gold, gems, and silver. Our final destination will be the Gallery of the Academy where your guide will talk about Michelangelo's life through the view of many masterpieces by the artist. In addition to visiting the Musical Instrument Room in the Accademia, you will see the "unfinished" works, the Prisoners, made for the tomb of Pope Julius II. The Pietà di Palestrina, so moving, is also present in the Gallery, but the highlight of your visit is sure to be the masterpiece and consummate symbol of the Florentine Renaissance: the David.



Dinner ['Ristoranti Fiorentini'](#)

April 10 **Overnight: Florence** **Breakfast/Dinner**
Tuesday

Following breakfast this morning, we will spend time in Uffizi Gallery in Florence before departing for Pisa & Lucca.



The Uffizi Gallery, or Galleria degli Uffizi, houses the world's most important collection of Florentine art. The collection traces the rich history of Florentine art, from its 11th-century beginnings to Botticelli and the flowering of Renaissance art. At its heart is the private Medici collection, bequeathed to the city in the 18th century. Make your way through the glittering panels of Simone Martini and the Siennese school, past the medieval battle scenes of Uccello to perhaps the gallery's most popular artwork, The Birth of Venus by Botticelli. You'll also see da Vinci's Annunciation, Titian's languid Venus of Urbino, the Medici Venus sculpture, some Venetian works by Bellini, and Michelangelo's technicolor portrait of the holy family. The Uffizi Gallery is housed in a Renaissance palace, built for Cosimo de' Medici by Vasari in 1560. The artworks are spread over two floors. Works by Caravaggio are on the first floor, with the bulk of the collection on the second floor in rooms 1 to 45.

Depart for Pisa and Lucca – lunch on your own.

Romanesque Cathedral of San Martino (where Puccini played the organ; Tintoretto's Last Supper) and museum, Church of San Giovanni, San Michele in Foro (Romanesque facade), Puccini Museum (birthplace of Puccini) and 17th century Palazzo Mansi.



The Leaning Tower of Pisa or simply the Tower of Pisa is the campanile, or freestanding bell tower, of the cathedral of the Italian city of Pisa, known worldwide for its unintended tilt. It is situated behind Pisa's cathedral and is the third oldest structure in the city's Cathedral Square (Piazza del Duomo), after the cathedral and the Pisa Baptistry. The tower's tilt began during construction, caused by an inadequate foundation on ground too soft on one side to properly support the structure's weight. The tilt increased in the decades before the structure was completed and gradually increased until the structure was stabilized (and the tilt partially corrected) by efforts in the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

Dependent on schedules – Opera this evening following dinner at the hotel

April 11 **Overnight: Crowne Plaza Rome-St Peter's Rome** **Breakfast/Dinner**
Wednesday

Following an early breakfast today, travel south to Siena.

Siena has long been one of the most important and richest cities in Europe and hometown to saints like San Bernardino and Saint Catherine. On your guided half day tour of this gothic city that is one of the best examples of the Medieval times, the architecture, the roads, the churches, everything reminds you of the 13th and 14th century. Among Siena's treasures we will visit Siena Cathedral, probably the most precious of Tuscan churches. We will definitely go to the Campo Square, where every year they have the "Palio", the horse-race that involves all the people of Siena



Following lunch on your own in Siena, we will board buses for the drive to Rome

Crowne Plaza Rome - St. Peter's
Via Aurelia Antica 415 Rome, 00165 Italy

Dinner at Ristorante Arturo



April 12 **Overnight: Rome**
Thursday

Breakfast/Dinner



Full day tour

This morning visit the Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel and St Peter's Basilica! Inside the Vatican Museums is the world's largest collection of private art. Explore intriguing sites like Raphael's Rooms and then visit the Sistine Chapel to see incredible frescoes by Michelangelo. Finish with a walk inside St Peter's Basilica – Italy's largest and infinitely most spectacular church that's built on the site of St Peter's supposed burial place. Marvel at La Pieta, one of Michelangelo's early sculptures, and stop to rub the foot of St Peter himself for good luck and a blessing.

Lunch on your own TBA



We will start this afternoon's tour near Oppian Hill – one of the famous Seven Hills of Rome -- to enjoy panoramic views of the Colosseum, and then stroll down to it with our guide. As you walk around the Colosseum's first and second tiers, your guide will keep you entertained with tales of gladiators, mock sea-battles and executions -- a fascinating insight into the amphitheater's gruesome past. Wander its circumference and learn what it must have been like when the crowds were roaring and the gladiator's fate was decided by an emperor on a whim. After exploring the Colosseum, we will walk the short distance to the Roman Forum for an up-close look at some of Ancient Rome's most evocative ruins. See sites like the Temple of Julius Caesar and the intriguing House of the Vestal Virgins, before strolling up Palatine Hill to admire the views of the ruins below. Look down over Nero's Circus Maximus, where chariot races were once held, and then finish your tour on the Palatine Hill – the most famous of the Seven Hills of Rome.

Dinner tonight at Hard Rock Café Rome, followed by the Rome Symphony Orchestra Performance (this is subject to change pending the publication of 2018 schedule)

April 13 **Overnight: Rome**
Friday
Pompeii

Breakfast/Dinner

Following breakfast at the hotel, depart to Pompeii (3-hour drive).

Mount Vesuvius, a volcano near the Bay of Naples in Italy, is hundreds of thousands of years old and has erupted more than 50 times. The most famous eruption took place in the year 79 A.D., when the volcano buried the ancient Roman city of Pompeii under a thick carpet of volcanic ash. The dust "poured across the land" like a flood, one witness wrote, and shrouded the city in "a darkness...like the black of closed and unlighted rooms." Two thousand people died, and the city was abandoned for almost as many years. When a group of explorers rediscovered the site in 1748, they were surprised to find that--underneath a thick layer of dust and debris--Pompeii was mostly intact. The buildings, artifacts and skeletons left behind in the buried city have taught us a great deal about everyday life in the ancient world.



Following the tour, return to Rome (3 hours)

Opera dinner at Tanagra.

April 14 **Overnight: Rome** **Breakfast/Dinner**
Saturday

Breakfast at hotel

Lunch on your own, then free time in area surrounding the Spanish Steps and the Piazza di Spagna before departing for Santa Cecilia.

The Museum of Musical Instruments of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia holds one of the foremost Italian collections. It includes more than five hundred items such as instruments, accessories, objects and relics which testify to many diverse musical cultures: five centuries of European, Asian and African musical history, from early to contemporary western music, to Italian folk music and non-European ethnic music. The nucleus of the collection is a group of Italian stringed instruments from the 17th - 20th centuries. Among these, the standouts, both for the quality of their construction and for their historical importance, are the "Tuscan" violin by Antonio Stradivari, built for Grand Prince Ferdinando de' Medici, and the mandolin and viola by Roman artisan David Tecchler. The exhibition path guides visitors through, drawing their attention to the most significant pieces in the collection. The unfolding of shapes, materials and colors amidst the various instruments juxtaposed allows people to quickly grasp the similarities between objects that belong to musical worlds often very different from one another. Thanks to audiovisual systems and interactive and multimedia stations, the exposition also offers visitors the opportunity to deepen their knowledge from varied points of view. In addition, the museum organizes a wide-ranging series of activities: guided tours; educational laboratories for children and adults, schools and private groups; theme concerts; conferences, seminars and exhibitions.



Dinner is at Ristorante Alfredo

April 15 **Departure** **Breakfast**
Sunday

Breakfast at hotel

Transfer to Rome Airport for flight to San Diego.

American #1115
American #1587

Depart Rome at 1105a
Depart Chicago at 515p

Arrive Chicago at 235p
Arrive San Diego at 742P