

# Ole Miss Concert Singers Alumni Tour of

# FRANCE

*with participation in Florilège Vocal de Tours International Competition*



May 25 - June 5,  
**2006**



# TOUR PROGRAM



*In addition to several rehearsals, the choir will have the following concert opportunities:*

**Tuesday, May 30 –**

Present an evening concert in one of the churches in Caen.

**Thursday, June 1 –**

Present an evening concert in Tours. If June 1 is not possible, then present a concert on Friday, June 2 in Orleans or Tours.



**Thursday, May 25**

**Departure**

D – On board

The big day has finally arrived! We will depart from our home cities and connect in Detroit for our overnight flight to France. Next stop – Paris!

**Friday, May 26**

**Paris**

B – On board

L – Independent

D – Hotel

Welcome to France! Upon arrival at Charles de Gaulle Airport we will proceed through passport control to the baggage claim area. We will then meet our tour manager who will direct us to our motorcoach for our drive into the city. Our first drive takes us by some of the most exciting Parisian landmarks—the Arc de Triomphe, the elegant Champs Élysées, Place de la Concorde, the Opera, and the Eiffel Tower. We will then check into our hotel, our “home” for the next three nights. There will be time to rest and freshen up before our dinner.

**Saturday, May 27**

**Paris**

B – Hotel

L – Independent

D – Independent

After breakfast at the hotel, the singers will have rehearsal time. Then enjoy a city tour which includes a visit to the magnificent Cathédrale Notre Dame on the Ile de la Cité. From there it is on to the Louvre, the world’s largest palace and home of some of the world’s most extraordinary art treasures. After an introduction to some of the most famous pieces, there will time to browse on your own. The remainder of the day is yours to do as you please—continue exploring or spend a little relaxation time.

**Sunday, May 28**

**Paris**

B – Hotel

L – Independent

D – Independent

This morning we will schedule a rehearsal for the singers. Following rehearsal time, the day is yours to do as you wish. There are a number of other museums to visit or you may wish to climb the Eiffel Tower or enjoy a cruise on the Seine. Your tour manager will be happy to make suggestions for those who wish to make the most of their day. Of course, others may find it enjoyable to simply explore the city and stroll the streets, possibly stopping to relax at a sidewalk café.

**Monday, May 29**

**Versailles, Caen**

B – Hotel

L – Independent

D – Hotel

This morning a visit is planned to Versailles. If you prefer, you may stay in Paris for independent sightseeing. Versailles is a pleasant little city outside of Paris and the site of a fabulous palace created by the *Roi du Soleil*, Louis XIV. The French royals, as we will see on our tour, lived in resplendent grandeur. Be sure to visit the solemn Mansart Chapel, where the king and queen attended Mass daily, and the fantastic *Galerie des Glaces*, which was used for the signing of the treaty ending World War I in 1919. We will then return to Paris to pick up the rest of our group before traveling to Caen. We will check in to our hotel in Caen, where tonight we will schedule another rehearsal. Dinner is included this evening.

**Tuesday, May 30**

**Normandy beaches, Caen**

B – Hotel

L – Independent

D – Hotel

Today we pay a visit to some of the Normandy beaches, site of the historic D-Day Invasion. We will see Omaha Beach, the code name for the beaches of St. Laurent,

Colleville and Vierville-sur-Mer invaded by Allied Forces on June 6, 1944. While in the area, a stop will be made at the American Military Cemetery, where the group may choose to sing one or two appropriate songs. A late afternoon return to Caen will leave time for dinner at the hotel and an evening concert in one of the churches in Caen.

## Wednesday, May 31

## Mont. St. Michel, Caen

B – Hotel

L – Independent

D – Independent

Departing Caen, we'll travel through some scenic countryside on our way to Mont St. Michel, located on the border of the French provinces of Normandy and Brittany.

After time for lunch, a visit is planned to Mont St. Michel, often called "the wonder of the western world." The abbey is designated as a UNESCO world heritage site, a truly magnificent monument. In order to actually visit this impressive medieval abbey, which seems to rise from the sea, be ready to walk up lots of steps! The group should be prepared to experience the wonderful acoustics by singing a song or two. We will then return to Caen for independent dinner and an evening rehearsal.

## Thursday, June 1

## Chartres, Tours

B – Hotel

L – Independent

D – Hotel

Today we travel to Tours, with an important stop in Chartres on the way. Long before we reach the city, we will see the magnificent spires of the cathedral beckoning across the endless wheat fields. Upon arrival, we will break for lunch, followed by our guided tour of Notre Dame, one of the greatest Gothic cathedrals in Europe. We will learn the history of the cathedral, built in its present form from 1195 to 1220 after several devastating fires. In the interior, the windows are the finest example of medieval glass painting in existence. Then it is on to Tours for dinner together and either a rehearsal or an evening concert.

## Friday, June 2

## Orléans, Tours

B – Hotel

L – Independent

D – Independent

Today we will explore the Loire Valley where we plan to see magnificent and charming chateaux. We will visit the interior of at least one chateau. Stops will be made in the delightful towns of Amboise, Chambord, and Orléans. It was in Orléans in 1429 that Joan of Arc persuaded Charles VII to rescue Orléans from the English. We will visit the Maison Jeanne d'Arc to learn more about this great French heroine. We will also visit the Cathedral of Ste. Croix, dedicated in its present form in 1829 to commemorate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Orléans. If we did not give a performance last night, we may give one in Orléans. Otherwise we'll have a rehearsal in Orléans or back in Tours this evening.

## Saturday, June 3 and Sunday, June 4

## Tours

B – Hotel

L – Independent

D – Hotel

Our itinerary for these two days will be determined by the competition schedule as we participate in the *Florilège Vocal De Tours International Competition*. Dinner is included for these two nights.

## Monday, June 5

## Return

B – Hotel

A very early departure is planned, as we must return to Paris' Charles DeGaulle Airport for our return flights home. All too soon, our adventure has come to an end. We hope that you have had a wonderful trip!

B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner



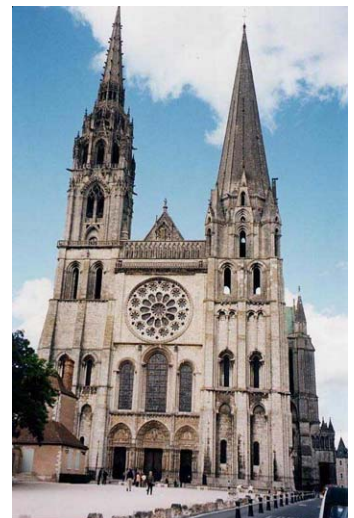
## Tour Director

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\$2,469 from Memphis for singers

\$2,689 per person for touring friends

Please add \$100 per person  
if application is not received  
by March 16, 2006

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