

Songs of Life

A 12-day Choral-Orchestral Festival in Bulgaria & Israel

Dec 27, 2010 – January 7, 2011

Bulgaria portion: Dec 27, 2010 – January 2, 2011

Israel Portion: January 2 – 7, 2011

Itinerary:

Monday, Dec 27

Participants depart for Sofia, Bulgaria.

Orchestral rehearsal – conductors only

Tuesday, Dec 28

Morning Orchestral rehearsal – conductors only

Participants arrive in Sofia around noon.

Welcome at the airport by SOL Festival representative and transfer to the hotel.

Check in our centrally located hotel in Sofia.

Settle in and Free time

19:00 - Welcome Dinner.

Wednesday, Dec 29

Breakfast.

9:00 – 12:00 - Morning guided tour of Sofia.

Lunch (not included).

Afternoon choral clinics with the festival conductors:

14:00-16:00 – Children Choirs rehearse their program with Prof. Henry Leck

16:00-17:00 – All choirs rehearse the Songs of Life World Premier oratorio

18:00 – Dinner for children choirs

17:00-19:00 – Adult choirs rehearse their program with Dr. Joshua Jacobson

19:30 – Dinner for adult choirs

Thursday, Dec 30

Breakfast.

9:00-12:30 – Choral rehearsal: choirs rehearse the World Premiere oratorio.

Lunch (not included).

14:00 – 18:00 - Choral–Orchestral rehearsal.

Dinner

Friday, Dec 31

Breakfast.

9:00-13:00 - Choral–Orchestral rehearsal.

Lunch (not included).

17:30 - Shabbat service at the Sofia synagogue (optional)

19:00 - Dinner.

21:00 - New Year's Eve celebration including a presentation of Bulgarian folk dance and a late night dinner, featuring authentic Bulgarian cuisine (optional). Cost: \$50 per person.

Saturday, Jan 1

Breakfast.

Free morning and afternoon. Tour director will be available to assist participants and provide information regarding places of interest and shopping areas.

Lunch (not included).

17:30 - Dress rehearsal and sound check.

19:00 – Songs of Life Concert: World Premiere of an oratorio which tells the inspiring story of the Rescue of the Jews of Bulgaria during WWII.

Dinner

Sunday, Jan 2

Breakfast.

10:00 – 12:00 - Act of service (optional): opportunity to reach out to local Bulgarians. The outreach will culminate in a matinee charity and goodwill outreach concert with individual presentations by the participating choirs. The suggested concert theme is: Songs of Hope to the Nations.

12:00 – Check out of the hotel and store your luggage at a designated hotel room.

12:30 - Lunch (not included).

Afternoon - Free time for shopping and personal walking tours of Sofia.

19:00 - Transfer to the Sofia International Airport for our flight to Israel.

00:30 - Arrival in Israel and transfer to our hotel.

Participants who register for the Bulgaria portion only will fly back from Sofia to the USA today.

Monday, Jan 3

Breakfast.

Orchestral rehearsal – conductors only

Sightseeing day tour of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

Lunch (not included).

Visit the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum.

Dinner

Tuesday, Jan 4

Breakfast.

10:00 – 12:00 – Choral rehearsals with the festival conductors: children choirs and adult choirs in separate rooms and / or together.

12:00 - 13:00 - Lunch (not included).

14:00 – 17:30 - Choral Orchestral rehearsal.

18:00 – 19:00 - Dinner

20:00 – Songs of Life concert: Israel Premiere of the Songs of Life Oratorio. The concert will be held at the Petah Tikva Performing Arts Center, Petah Tikva, Israel. Petah Tikva is a satellite city of Tel Aviv.

Wednesday, Jan 5

Breakfast.

Sightseeing day tour to the Dead Sea and Masada.

Lunch (not included).

Dinner

Thursday, Jan 6

Breakfast.

Act of service in Jerusalem (optional): opportunity to reach out to the local population in Jerusalem. The outreach will culminate in a matinee charity and goodwill outreach concert with individual presentations by the participating choirs. The suggested theme is: Songs of Hope to the Nations.

Free day to rest, pack and enjoy personal walking tours of Jerusalem.

Farewell Dinner

Friday, Jan 7

Packed breakfast.

Early morning check out and transfer to Ben Gurion International Airport to our return flight to the USA. Participants can expect to arrive in the USA early afternoon.

A trip extension can be arranged with an optional return Saturday night or Sunday.