

# HAYES

School of Music

## Appalachian State University Jazz Ensemble



Mr. Todd Wright, Director

# Performing Tour of Italy

May 11-21, 2015

## ITINERARY

**Monday, May 11**  
**Charlotte – Milan**

We will gather in the early afternoon at the Charlotte International Airport and check in for our flights to Milan. After departure we will enjoy dinner, an in-flight movie, some sleep, and breakfast before our arrival in Italy.

**Tuesday, May 12**  
**Milan – Verona – Venice**

Buon giorno! Welcome to Europe. Morning arrival in Milan, Italy, the major commercial, financial, and industrial center of Italy and 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city in Italy. After gathering our belongings we will board our deluxe motor coach for the short drive to the main square in the city where we will visit 14<sup>th</sup> century gothic cathedral (the *Duomo di Milano*), the largest Gothic cathedral and the second largest Catholic cathedral in the world.

After our visit to the cathedral we will continue on to Verona to see Juliet's House (Casa di Giulietta), with its famous balcony, before arriving at our hotel in Venice.

Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

## Wednesday, May 13

### Venice

After a hearty breakfast we will meet our local guide for a sight-seeing tour of the city. On our tour we plan to visit the Doge's Palace and St. Mark's Basilica as well as other famous sites.

The balance of the day is free to enjoy the city. You may want to visit the Rialto Bridge, the Bridge of Sighs and the Santa Maria della Salute.

Tonight you may wish to take a gondola ride on the canals to enjoy the romantic ambiance and have dinner in one of its restaurants.

Dinner on your own. Overnight in our hotel.

## Thursday, May 14

### Venice – Modena – Montecatini

After breakfast we will board our motor coach for the drive to the ancient town of Modena, known for its balsamic vinegar and its factories of famous Italian sports cars such as Ferrari and Maserati. *(We can arrange a visit to one or two museums.)*

After time for sight-seeing and lunch, we will continue on to Montecatini Terme, the most famous of Tuscany's spa towns. Montecatini Terme has been attracting people since the 16<sup>th</sup> C with the curative power of its waters.

### *Possible performance for tonight?*

Upon arrival in Montecatini Terme, the balance of the day is free until dinner at the hotel. You may want to relax in one of the historic spas or enjoy a visit to the large park in the city center. There are a number of shops, bars, and restaurants.

Dinner and overnight in our hotel.

## Friday, May 15

### Montecatini Terme – Florence

After breakfast at our hotel, we plan to catch a train to Florence, one of the most beautiful and historic cities in Italy, the capital of the region of Tuscany. Florence, the center of Italian Renaissance, is the home of many of the greatest artistic treasures in the world. National Geographic says: *A city-size shrine to the Renaissance, Florence offers frescoes, sculptures, churches, palaces and other monuments from the richest cultural flowering the world has known.*

Upon arrival in Florence we will meet our local guide for a sight-seeing tour of this great city. We plan to visit the Galleria dell'Accademia, the home of Michelangelo's glorious statue of David as well as the Hall of Colossus. You'll enjoy the Grand Ducal collection of early instruments, as stated in the VisitFlorence.com website: *The collection unveils that music played a primary role in the official celebrations of the Medicean Court. Discover the roots of the invention of the piano, created by Bartolomeo Cristofori for the Medici and explore the collection of harpsichords, violins, cellos, and wind instruments.*

There will be time to enjoy the city at leisure before we catch the train back to Montecatini Terme for overnight.

Dinner on your own. Overnight in our hotel.

**Saturday, May 16**  
**Montecatini Terme – Pisa – Viareggio– Montecatini Terme**

This morning we will take our motor coach to Pisa where we will visit the famous Leaning Tower, the bell tower of the city's cathedral. There will be time for individual sight-seeing in the Piazza del Duomo (the Cathedral Square) where you can visit the magnificent Cathedral, the Baptistry, the Piazza dei Miracoli, and the Campo Santo.

A short drive takes us to Viareggio, a beautiful sea resort where we can take a walk on the "Passeggiata" or promenade, with its many cafés and shops. The city is also known as the "Pearl of the Tyrrhenian Sea".

***A performance for this afternoon/evening?***

After returning to Montecatini we will have the evening free for dinner and relaxation.

Dinner on your own. Overnight in our hotel.

**Sunday, May 17**  
**Montecatini Terme – Siena – Rome**

A relaxing morning drive puts us in the delightful city of Siena, which has the first European square to become fully pedestrian. Siena, with beautiful flower-covered courtyards, churches, and a 300 step bell tower, welcome us as we make our way to the famous Piazza del Campo in the Old Town. This is the square where they have the Il Palio, the horse race which is held twice per year.

In Siena, there is the only Jazz School in Italy – Accademia Nazionale del Jazz – ***(We can check on the possibility of playing a joint concert during lunchtime!?)***

After our visit in Siena, we will continue on to Rome, the capital of Italy and the Province of the Lazio Region. Dubbed "The Eternal City" by ancient Roman writers and poets, Rome, one of the birthplaces of western civilization, is the only city with its own sovereign state contained within its walls – the enclave of Vatican City.

Upon arrival in Rome we will meet our local, English-speaking guide who will show us the highlights of the city. After the tour we will check into our hotel and have the evening free.

Dinner and overnight in our hotel.

**Monday, May 18**  
**Rome**

Today is a free day in this magnificent city. After breakfast our local guide will meet us once more and offer a morning tour of famous sites we did not have time to visit yesterday. Included in our tour will be a special visit to the Vatican Museum and St. Paul's Cathedral.

The evening is free to enjoy the nightlife of the city or to relax at the hotel.

Dinner on your own. Overnight in our hotel.

**Tuesday, May 19**  
**Rome – Pompeii – Sorrento**

Continuing south this morning we will drive to the Bay of Naples and its ancient city of Pompeii where we will be met by our local guide. Pompeii, along with Herculaneum and many villas in the surrounding area, were mostly destroyed and buried under 13 to 20 feet of ash and pumice in the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 70 A.D.

Departing Pompeii we will follow the coastal highway to Sorrento, a resort town beautifully situated between the mountains and the Mediterranean.

*A performance for this evening?*

Dinner and overnight in our hotel.

**Wednesday, May 20**  
**Sorrento – Amalfi – Sorrento**

During our excursion today we will take a drive on the Amalfi Coast way. This is said to be one of the world's most scenic drives. Don't forget your camera! We will stop in Amalfi which is the heart of this magnificent Italian coastline and a must-see city.

Upon our return to Sorrento we will have a free evening

Dinner on your own. Overnight in our hotel.

**Thursday, May 21**  
**Sorrento – Naples – Charlotte**

An early departure is planned for our transfer to the Naples International Airport to catch our flights home. After our arrival at the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport we will clear customs and board our coach back to Appalachian State University.

Happy Memories  
End of Arrangements

**INCLUSIONS:**

- Round trip transatlantic air transportation
- Transportation from Boone to Charlotte airport (before tour and return)
- 10-day deluxe, guided tour in Italy
- Accommodations in three and four-star hotels, rooms with private bath, based on double occupancy (single rooms available at additional charge)
- Tour director throughout
- Breakfast buffet daily
- 4 full-course dinners
- Transportation in Europe via chartered deluxe motorcoach with climate control and lavatory

ASU Jazz Ensemble Performing Tour of Italy - 2015

- Round trip train excursion Montecatini-Florence
- Entrance fees to the Doges Palace (Venice), the Accademia (Florence), the Leaning Tower (Pisa), the Vatican Museum (Rome), and Pompeii
- Vaporetto water taxis in Venice
- Orientation and sight-seeing tours (with English-speaking local guides) of Venice, Florence, Rome, and Pompeii
- Set up of concerts
- Special pre-tour packages containing detailed information on passports, clothing, foreign currency, etc.
- Pre-tour orientation meetings (in Boone, NC) for tour participants.

**EXCLUSIONS:**

- Optional baggage or personal trip insurance (available online from [InsureMyTrip.com](http://InsureMyTrip.com) and other vendors)
- Excess baggage charges – airline may charge extra for oversized or overweight suitcases, instruments and equipment.
- Lunches
- Beverages with meals
- Passport
- Laundry
- Excursions marked “optional” in itinerary
- Gratuities to guide and European coach driver (suggest \$30 per person)
- Expenses of a personal nature

Itinerary subject to change.