



Music Department sponsored trip to Ireland

March 12-20, 2021

Tentative Itinerary

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2021

(Meals included – In-flight dinner and breakfast)

- AM Motor Coach (1-55 seater) arrives at **Mt Mercy University**
1330 Elmhurst Drive NE Cedar Rapids
- AM Load the coach and depart for **Chicago O'Hare Airport**
- PM Arrive at O'Hare – **Terminal to be advised**
- PM Depart onboard your flight bound for Dublin
- PM Enjoy the in-flight movies
- PM Dinner served aloft – & a light breakfast before arrival in Dublin

SATURDAY MARCH 13, 2021

(Meals included- Dinner)

- AM Your flight will touch down at **Dublin International Airport**
You must clear Irish Immigration and Customs procedures – **please insure that all instruments etc. are collected and cleared through customs**
- AM Walk as a group to the coach parking area for **Terminal 2** – load the equipment truck with the instruments. You will load your personal baggage on your motor coach.
- AM Group departs for a tour of **Glenalough** ~ *is home to one of the most important monastic sites in Ireland. This early Christian monastic settlement was founded by St. Kevin in the 6th century and from this developed the "Monastic City". Most of the buildings that survive today date from the 10th through 12th centuries. Despite attacks by Vikings over the years, Glendalough thrived as one of Ireland's great ecclesiastical foundations and schools of learning until the Normans destroyed the monastery in 1214 A.D. and the dioceses of Glendalough and Dublin were united.*
- AM Group stops on the M11 at junction 14 at the Applegreen – students can get some coffee or something to eat if they wish – rest room stop (individual cost)

- PM After your visit to **Glenalough** – load the coach and continue your journey to **Waterford** traveling via the **Dunbrody Famine ship**
The Dunbrody Famine Ship Experience features an authentic reproduction of a 1840s emigrant vessel, alongside a popular interpretation of the Irish famine emigrant experience
- PM Arrive in Waterford at your hotel: **Granville Hotel Waterford**
Meagher's Quay, Waterford, Ireland Tel: +353-51-305-555
<https://www.granvillehotel.ie/en/>
- PM Dinner this evening will be in the hotel

SUNDAY, March 14, 2021

(Meals included- Dinner)

- AM Enjoy your first taste of a **full Irish Breakfast** this morning (eggs, rashers (bacon), sausage, black pudding, white pudding, beans and brown bread) and wash it all down with a cup of Irish Tea. ~ Of course you can have a breakfast of cereal, yogurt, toast and coffee if you wish.
- AM Load the coach and depart for **Cork traveling** via Youghal
- AM **Youghal** is one of the hidden gems of Ireland's Ancient East tracing its roots back to Viking times and was the home of Sir Walter Raleigh who lived in the town for 17 years; and was responsible for changing Irish history by introducing the potato and tobacco to Ireland.
- PM Arrive in **Cork** the second largest city in Ireland and home to one of the major universities in Ireland. Continue through the city to Blarney
- PM Visit **Blarney Castle** *Blarney Castle was built nearly six hundred years ago by one of Ireland's greatest chieftains, Cormac MacCarthy, and has been attracting attention beyond Munster ever since. Over the last few hundred years, millions have flocked to Blarney, making it a world landmark and one of Ireland's greatest treasures.*
- PM Enjoy time to explore and **kiss the Blarney Stone**
- PM Lunch (student cost) at the coffee shop at the Woolen Mills
- PM Return to Waterford via **St Cartages Cathedral in Lismore** standing since 1633 stop for a quick visit

<p>PM Mount Mercy University will have an advertised Joint Concert with the Waterford Barrack Street Band -https://www.barrackstreetband.com/</p>

- PM Dinner and overnight in Waterford

MONDAY MARCH 15

(Meals included: breakfast, dinner)

- AM Enjoy breakfast in the hotel
- AM Check out of the hotel and load the coach
- AM Tour en-route to Galway – the Arts Capitol of Ireland
- AM Visit the **Rock of Cashel**, *is one of Ireland's most spectacular archaeological rises from a grassy plain on the outskirts of the town and bristles with ancient fortifications – the word 'cashel' is an anglicised version of the Irish word caiseal, meaning 'fortresses. Sturdy walls circle an enclosure that contains a complete round tower, a roofless abbey and the finest 12th-century Romanesque chapel in Ireland. For more than 1000 years the Rock of Cashel was a symbol of power, and the seat of kings and churchmen who ruled over the region.*
- AM Continue your journey to **Bunratty Castle and Folk Park**, where you will be able to tour the park, which is a recreation of rural life in Ireland during the Victorian times.
- PM Enjoy lunch in the vicinity of Bunratty Folk Park either at the Tea House or just up the lane at Durty Nelly's
- PM Continue heading west heading to the wild Atlantic coast to visit the dramatic **Cliffs of Moher**.
- PM Enjoy your time at the Cliffs
- PM Load the coach and continue your journey up the west coast of Ireland passing through the village of Lisdoonvarna (famous for its Matchmaking Festival every August) before arriving in Galway
- PM Arrive at your hotel – **Menlo Park Hotel**
Headford Rd, Galway, Ireland Tel: 011-353-90-967-4195
<http://www.menloparkhotel.com>
- PM Dinner in the hotel this evening

TUESDAY MARCH 16

(Meals included: breakfast, dinner)

- AM Enjoy breakfast in the hotel
- AM Departure from the hotel for the **Marian Shrine at Knock**
The [Story of Knock](#) began on the 21st August 1879 when Our Lady, St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist appeared at the south gable of Knock Parish Church.

The apparition was [witnessed by fifteen people](#), young and old. From this miraculous Apparition Knock has grown to the status of an internationally recognized Marian Shrine. The personal pilgrimage of Pope John Paul II in 1979, commemorating the centenary of the apparition, inspired an even greater devotion to the Shrine and endorsed the indelible seal of Vatican approval. Mother Teresa of Calcutta visited the Shrine in June of 1993. One and a half million [pilgrims](#) visit the [Shrine](#) annually.

AM	Mount Mercy University Choir will perform at Knock during the Mass service if that is unavailable we will have the choir sing at the evening Mass at the Cathedral in Galway
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PM Free time for lunch in the area (student cost)

PM Visit **Ballintubber Abbey** (guided tour)
Ballintubber Abbey is known as "the Abbey that refused to die". Through its many vicissitudes, including burning by Cromwell's army in 1653, the Abbey has remained a place of worship despite years of continuous attacks and religious repression.

Built in 1216 for the Canon Regulars of St Augustine, it is beside a 5th century monastic site associated with St Patrick. Ballintubber retains an air of ancient beauty and spirituality and has been restored with simple elegance. Pilgrims set out from the Abbey on the ancient pilgrim route, Tochar Phadraig, and journey some 22 miles to Croagh Patrick. It is the Church of choice for many people getting married one of the last 'notable' persons would have been the actor Pierce Brosnan.

After the visit and tour to the Abbey you will return to Galway **via a tour of Cong** (the location of the John Wayne / Maureen O'Hara movie "The Quiet Man" and home to Ashford Castle.

Dinner at the hotel and overnight

WEDNESDAY MARCH 17

(Meals included: breakfast, dinner)

7:00 AM Enjoy an early breakfast in the hotel

8:00 AM Check out of the hotel and load the coach and depart for Dublin (approx. a 2 ½ hour drive time)

Arrive in Dublin & **enjoy watching the St. Patrick's Day Parade**

There can be no doubt Dublin is ground zero for St. Patrick's Day even though the actual Festival is a continuation of an American tradition, not an Irish one per se.

While the country has always celebrated St. Patrick's Day it was a religious holiday akin to our Easter. But numerous Irish immigrated to America when hard times befell the country in between WWI and WWII. They brought their tradition and their land with them, and St. Patrick's Day soon became big events in Boston, San Francisco and other cities with large Irish populations. These celebrations became so popular that they were actually carried back to Ireland, where the island took the idea and ran with it big time. **The parade in Dublin is possibly the most colorful and vibrant St. Patrick's Day parade in the world, attracting thousands of revelers each year.**

PM Meet your tour director – load the coach and depart for your hotel.

PM Arrive at your hotel Arrive at your hotel: **Clayton Hotel Leopardstown Central Park, Leopardstown, Dublin 18, Ireland Tel: + 353-1-293-5000**
<https://www.claytonhotelleopardstown.com/>

PM Dinner in the hotel this evening

THURSDAY MARCH 18

(Meals included: breakfast and dinner)

AM Enjoy breakfast at your leisure in the hotel

AM Depart for a **City Tour** OF Dublin We will meet local guides to enjoy all the main sites in Dublin. We will see the General Post Office, walk down O'Connell Street, visit Temple Bar and still have plenty of time to explore **Trinity College** and see the **Book of Kells** as well as the Viking Quarter centered around **Christ Church**

Cathedral which you will tour. Visit St. Mary's Pro Cathedral – seat of the Catholic Church in Dublin

PM Lunch in the area (individual cost)

PM Depart for the **Guinness Store House**
Afterwards you will enter the Guinness Storehouse for the **full tour** and do not forget to get to the end "The Gravity Bar" where you will receive a pint of the freshest Guinness you will ever have ~ enjoy the view of Dublin city and the surrounding areas from your perch upon high.

PM Depart for your concert venue

PM Mount Mercy University Band and Choir will have a joint evening concert with a local ensemble in a Dublin venue

PM Dinner after the concert

FRIDAY MARCH 19

(Meals included: breakfast and dinner)

AM Enjoy breakfast in the hotel

AM Depart for the **Mercy Center International** - your visit includes lunch (**arranged by Mt. Mercy**) – enjoy your time at the international center of the Mercy sisters, and their mission

PM Enjoy some free time in Dublin – time to do some last minute shopping or possibly take an individual tour to the National Gallery or visit the Kilmainham Goal which is the prison that housed various leaders of the fight for freedom by the Irish people through the ages.

PM Early dinner this evening prior to your concert

PM Mount Mercy University Band & Choir has an advertised evening performance at Christchurch Cathedral

PM After the concert return to the hotel

SATURDAY MARCH 20

(Meals included: breakfast and in-flight lunch)

AM Enjoy breakfast in the hotel

AM Check out of the hotel

AM Load the coach and transfer to **Dublin Airport** for your flight home

AM Arrive at Dublin Airport and check in for your flight to Chicago

AM **Please note you will clear U.S. Customs and Immigration in Dublin, therefore we will require some extra time at Dublin Airport to complete this process before flight departure.**

PM Depart on your flight

PM Enjoy the hot lunch on the flight and the inflight entertainment.

PM Arrive in Chicago – proceed to baggage claim to gather your bags and instruments

PM Load the coach and depart for home

PM Approximate arrival time in Cedar Rapids

Welcome Home!

Trip price including air fare as of November 2019

Triple - \$3,550
Double - \$3,550
Single - \$3,940

For trip payments we will be using a “Individual Payment System” (IPS) through Bob Rogers Travel via VISA, MasterCard, DISCOVER Credit/Debit Card or VISA/MasterCard Reloadable Prepaid Card.

See the attached IPS Registration Form for payment instructions!

MMU will pay \$100 in to each student’s trip account to reduce the stated IPS price!
Fundraisers will be organized to help offset student cost.

Payment Schedule:

Student Deposit	March 2, 2020	\$500
2nd Payment	May 4, 2020	\$500
3rd Payment	September 1, 2020	\$1,000
4th Payment	November 2, 2020	\$1,000
Final Payment	January 5, 2021	Remaining Balance

Tour inclusions:

- Round-Trip Airfare (subject to change until time of booking)
- Round Trip Transportation to Airport From School
- 7 Nights’ accommodations at Local Area 3 and/or 4 Star Hotels
- Breakfast at hotel
- Admission to the Bunratty Castle & Folk Park
- Visit to Trinity College and the Book of Kells
- Visit to Galway
- Admission to the Guinness Storehouse
- Admission to the Blarney Castle
- Admission to the Cliffs of Moher
- Admission to the Rock of Cashel
- Admission to St. Mary's Pro Cathedral
- Excursion to Mercy International Center
- Admission to Shrine of Our Lady of Knock
- Admission to Ballintubber Abbey
- Admission to Dunbrody Famine Ship
- Excursion to Glendalough
- Admission to the Christ Church Cathedral Dublin
- Performance at Basilica Shrine of Our Lady of Knockl
- Joint Concert(s) with Local Ensemble
- Performance at Christchurch Cathedral
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Questions! Contact Steve Stickney, Mount Mercy University Director of Bands
sstickney@mtmercy.edu

INDIVIDUAL PAYMENT SYSTEM

Your group leader has elected to utilize Bob Rogers Travel's online Individual Payment System (IPS) to collect trip payments. Payments must be made through the IPS system via **VISA, MasterCard, DISCOVER Credit/Debit Card** or **VISA/MasterCard Reloadable Prepaid Card** (available at your local financial institution).

Payments will be automatically deducted from your selected card on the payment due dates.

Group Name	Mt Mercy University Band & Choir	Destination	Ireland
Group Leader	Steve Stickney	Trip Dates	March 12-20, 2021

All package costs are based on projected participation and occupancy, and are subject to change.

Participant Type	Price & Occupancy	
Student	\$3,550.00 (all students in triple/double occupancy)	
	Double	Single
Adult	\$3,550.00	\$3,955.00

Payment Details	Due Date	Amount Due
Registration Deadline	February 20, 2020	---
Deposit	March 2, 2020	\$500.00 per traveler
Payment #2	May 4, 2020	\$500.00 per traveler
Payment #3	September 1, 2020	\$1,000.00 per traveler
Payment #4	November 2, 2020	\$1,000.00 per traveler
Payment #5	January 5, 2021	Remaining Balance

CANCELLATION POLICY

All money and fees paid to Bob Rogers Travel prior to cancellation are non-refundable. No refunds or credits will be issued for a canceled traveler. All cancellations must be confirmed via email by Bob Rogers Travel.

No refunds or credits will be issued for a cancelled participant.

INDIVIDUAL PAYMENT SYSTEM

INSTRUCTIONS

To create your IPS account . . .

You will need the following items to be able to create your IPS Account.

- An active Credit /Debit/Reloadable Prepaid Card endorsed by Visa, MasterCard or Discover.
- An active email account.
- Your Trip ID.
- Internet access.

STEP 1

- Go to <https://ips.bobrogerstravel.com> to begin the registration process.
- If you are a new user to the IPS system, please enter in Trip ID # in the top right corner of this sheet to register.
- If you are a returning user, please enter in your E-mail and password to register.

The screenshot shows a registration page with two main sections: 'Returning Users' and 'New Users'. The 'Returning Users' section has input fields for 'E-Mail address' and 'Password', a 'Login' button, and a 'Forgot password?' link. The 'New Users' section is highlighted with a red border and contains a 'Trip ID' input field and a 'Register' button. Above the 'Trip ID' field, it says 'Enter the trip ID provided by your trip organizer and click Register.'

STEP 2: Complete all appropriate fields.

(Password must be alpha & numeric with a minimum of eight characters and one upper case character.)

STEP 3: Read and accept the following Travel Insurance Acknowledgement and Travel Agreement.

STEP 4: After all appropriate information has been supplied, an enrollment email will be sent to the provided address. All future notifications will come via email. *(Check junk/spam folder if emails are not received.)*

- If you need to **register additional travelers**, please login using your email and password, then click on the trip ID and select "Add a Traveler".
- Return to <https://ips.bobrogerstravel.com> to review your account and update your payment information.

Thank you for choosing Bob Rogers Travel!
Questions? Email: IPShelp@bobrogerstravel.com
We look forward to helping you create lasting memories!