

# MUSIC PERFORMANCE IN CONTEXT

## TRAVEL SEMINAR TO ITALY

VENICE • FLORENCE • ROME

OFF-CAMPUS STUDY & EXCHANGES



Open to students currently enrolled in the Vocal Chamber Ensemble (MP277), "Music Performance in Context" (TX200A 002) is a 1-credit, 200-level seminar that will travel to Venice, Florence, and Rome, March 8-15, 2014.

## WHY ITALY?

One could say that Italy is synonymous with music. It can be heard from the gondolas in Venice to the opera houses in Milan to the hymns in countless Catholic churches.

Italy has a long history as one of the premier centers of European Classical music. Grout's *A History of Western Music* describes the evolution of music in medieval Europe as being inexorably intertwined with the history of the Christian church: since its inception, music has played a central role in virtually all its religious services.

This travel seminar will provide students with the rare experience of performing music from 1450 to 1900 in unique, historical venues. In addition, students will have the opportunity to visit the Accademia, the Colosseum, the Vatican (with its museum of rare musical manuscripts), St. Mark's Basilica, the Duomo, and the Imperial Forum with an experienced tour guide.



## THE ULTIMATE PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

For students in the Vocal Chamber Ensemble, who prepare and perform a variety of styles and genres, it is always important to understand the cultural, social, political, historical, or spiritual elements of the music they sing. Performing the music of prominent composers in the venue where it would have been performed in their time will help today's students to put all these performance components into an organic context.

Students will participate in a mass in a cathedral or historically relevant site in Rome or Venice, which may include St. Mark's Basilica, St. Peter's Basilica, St. Agapito Cathedral, Cappella Giulia, San Giovanni, Santa Maria Maggiore, or another venue. Repertoire will be based upon the venues that are booked, and will include selections for the entrance, offertory, communion, and recessional that encompass psalms, mass movements, and motet selections by the most prominent composers associated with these venues: Palestrina, Willaert, Verdi, Monteverdi, and Josquin.

### PRELIMINARY TRAVEL SCHEDULE *(Subject to change)*

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|-------------------|---|
| March 8 (Sat.)    | Bus from campus to NYC-area airport; flight to Venice   |
| March 9 (Sun.)    | <b>VENICE MESTRE: <i>Benvenuti in Italia! Known as the Queen of the Adriatic, Venice is an archipelago carved by nearly 150 canals into 118 different islands.</i></b><br>Late Morning: Arrival and transfer to hotel<br>Evening: Welcome dinner:   |
| March 10 (Mon.)   | <b>VENICE MESTRE</b><br>Morning: City tour of downtown Venice, including St. Mark's Square and the Basilica, and the famous Bridge of Sighs that connects the Doge's Palace to the old prison.<br>Afternoon: Free time (gondola ride, anyone?)<br>Evening: Free time (sample the culinary delights of Venice!)  |
| March 11 (Tue.)   | <b>FLORENCE: <i>The Cradle of the Renaissance</i></b><br>Morning: Bus from Venice to Florence; check in at hotel<br>Afternoon: Guided walk through the city. Get acquainted with Italy's open-air art museum and see the architecture of Brunelleschi and Alberti along the way.<br>Evening: Group dinner, followed by free time (perhaps a visit to the Boboli Gardens for panoramic views of Florence and the Tuscan hills) |
| March 12 (Wed.)   | <b>FLORENCE</b><br>Morning: Tour visiting the Duomo, Ghiberti's famous Baptistery Doors, Santa Croce, and the Piazza della Signoria, the political center of the Renaissance city. Visit the Accademia to see Michelangelo's <i>David</i> .<br>Afternoon: Rehearsal for concert<br>Evening: Perform your first concert in Florence!   |
| March 13 (Thurs.) | <b>ROME: <i>The "Eternal City," built on seven hills, is renowned for its history, architecture, art, culture, culinary delights, and exquisite shopping.</i></b><br>Morning: Bus from Florence to Assisi, the birthplace of St. Francis. Explore the St. Francis Basilica on your own. Participate in mass at the basilica (pending approval).<br>Afternoon: Continue on to Rome; check in at hotel<br>Evening: Free time    |

March 14 (Fri.)

## ROME

**Morning:** Tour of Rome, visiting the Circus Maximus, Imperial Forum, Pantheon, Monument of Victor Emmanuel (Rome's "wedding cake monument"), and Colosseum. Visit the Arch of Constantine, which marked the end of pagan Rome and the beginning of Christian Europe.

**Afternoon:** Visit the Vatican museums, Sistine Chapel, and magnificent Raphael rooms. Continue to St. Peter's Basilica, where you will participate in the mass.

**Evening:** Farewell dinner

March 15 (Sat.)

Flight from Rome to NYC-area airport; bus to campus

## FACULTY DIRECTORS

**Katie Gardiner** is a lecturer in music and choral director. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from the Hartt School of Music and a master of music in choral conducting from the Eastman School of Music. She has directed choirs at Williams College and the University at Albany. Katie has traveled to Italy on several occasions, including attendance at an international music workshop.

**Anne Turner** is a senior artist-in-residence. She received her bachelor's in music from the University of Rochester/Eastman School of Music with a minor in psychology, and her master's in opera performance from California State University at Northridge. Anne coordinates the vocal music program at Skidmore, where she teaches private voice and directs the Opera Workshop. Her performance experience encompasses opera, operetta, recital, chamber music, and oratorio, with a special emphasis in recent years on music of living composers, including premieres of pieces written for her. Among her numerous recitals are programs at Weill (formerly Carnegie) Recital Hall in New York City and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. She has appeared as soloist with the Boston, Albany, and Springfield (MA) Symphonies, the New York City Ballet Orchestra, the Lake George Opera, and numerous choral societies throughout the Northeast.

## REQUIREMENTS

Students wishing to enroll in TX200A must be concurrently enrolled in MP277.

## COSTS

The anticipated fee for the travel seminar is \$3,750 (subject to fluctuation). This includes bus to/from Skidmore's campus to NYC-area airport, airfare to and from Italy, all ground transportation in Italy, on-site accommodations (generally triple occupancy), two meals per day, international medical insurance, entrance and performance fees, local guides, cultural excursions, Skidmore faculty on site, and the support of Skidmore's OCSE. The fee does not include passport and visa costs or personal expenses.

**Financial aid is available for eligible students.**

## TO APPLY

Please apply by **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2013**.

Applications are available at [www.skidmore.edu/ocse](http://www.skidmore.edu/ocse).

Applicants are required to submit a \$250 nonrefundable deposit at time of application to hold their space on the program (100% refundable if application is not accepted). This deposit will be applied to the program fee.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For details about cost and travel logistics, please contact:

**LISA HOBBS**  
**FINANCE/PROGRAM MANAGER**  
Off-Campus Study & Exchanges  
Starbuck Center 202  
518-580-5355  
lhobbs@skidmore.edu

For details about course content and academic requirements, please contact:

**KATIE GARDINER**  
**CHORAL DIRECTOR**  
Music Department  
Zankel Music Center 114  
518-580- 8433  
kgardine@skidmore.edu

For details on available financial aid, please contact:

**Financial Aid Office**  
Starbuck Center 101  
518-580-5750

*“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one corner of the earth all one’s lifetime.”*

—Mark Twain  
*The Innocents Abroad (1869)*



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