

Dear Chorus Members, Family and Friends,

The Columbia Pro Cantare will hold its fourth fundraising trip to **The Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina** from **Friday 6/2/2023 through Monday 6/5/2023**. **Spoleto is the largest arts festival in the USA**. An outstanding and versatile program has been planned that includes dance, jazz, theatre and chamber music.

Since this is a fundraising event, we ask that each participant make a **\$100 tax deductible donation** to The Columbia Pro Cantare (CPC) as part of the cost for the trip. By attending as a group, we are eligible for discounted tickets to selected performances and we get priority seating. **Discounts are for groups of 10 or more.**

We plan to return to the **Comfort Inn Downtown Charleston** on 144 Bee St, Charleston, SC 29401, 843-577-2224. This hotel features non-smoking rooms, free hot breakfast buffet, free wifi and free parking (limited). At the corner outside the hotel is a stop on the free downtown shuttle (DASH). Rooms will be reserved at the AARP or AAA discount rates. The cost **including taxes and fees for up to two people per room for 3 nights** will be approximately \$600. Folks can choose to stay at another hotel, but this is by far the most reasonable in downtown Charleston.

Friday June 2, 2023

Travel is on your own, but we suggest: **Nonstop Southwest Airlines** "Wanna Get Away" fares. Space is limited and include up to 2 checked bags free. In the past, we have taken an airport shuttle to the hotel at approximately **\$20-30** pp. Consider alternate airlines but flying back Southwest (See Monday 6/5/23 for return flight. Availability seems better for returning Monday evening.)

Hotel early check-in or drop off bags

Afternoon is on your own. At 2:00 pm here is a free talk for ***The Book of Life*** (which we will see on Sunday), or you can explore beautiful downtown Charleston.

6:00 pm DaDa Masilo - The Sacrifice (Dance) "Award-winning South African choreographer Dada Masilo drew inspiration from the complex rhythms of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* to create *The Sacrifice*, a breathtaking work for 12 dancers and four live musicians. Internationally renowned for reinventing iconic pieces from the Western canon that speak to Black identity and feminism, Masilo's latest ballet explores a contemporary view of ritual and sacrifice through a study of Tswana dance, an expressive movement form native to Botswana."

Saturday June 3, 2023

Morning and afternoon are on your own. There are performance options, or you can explore beautiful downtown Charleston. There are a variety of tours available including historic mansions and plantations. Also consider the Charleston Museum, the Market, and the artists/crafters outdoor markets.

5:00 pm Courtney Bryan (Jazz) - Courtney Bryan A New Orleans native, Courtney Bryan is "a pianist and composer of panoramic interests" (*The New York Times*), an artist shaping the future of American contemporary classical music. Bridging the sacred and the secular, Bryan's compositions explore human emotions through sound, finding the connective tissue between jazz and traditional gospel, spirituals, and hymns. At the Queen Street Playhouse, Courtney performs solo twice, then adds in a quartet of saxophone, piano, electric bass.

8:00 pm *The Iliad* - (Theatre) In a radical retelling of Homer's epic poem, acclaimed director Lisa Peterson and Tony Award-winning actor Denis O'Hare (*Take Me Out*) craft a work of "pure theater: shocking, glorious, primal, and deeply satisfying" (*Time Out New York*). O'Hare, who has brought powerful performances to numerous films and featured roles on TV's *The Good Wife* and *American Horror Story*, shapes this breathtaking tour de force into a sweeping account of humanity's unshakable attraction to violence, destruction, and chaos.

Sunday June 4, 2023

Morning is on your own. Optional group lunch or dinner at a downtown restaurant

2:00 pm Scottish Ballet – *The Crucible (Dance)* Salem is on the brink. Its people fear the shadows in the forest, but the real monsters are much closer to home. Returning to Spoleto after its lauded 2015 rendition of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Scottish Ballet unleashes the emotional force of Arthur Miller's masterpiece in this "blazing interpretation" (*The Observer*), choreographed by Helen Pickett and accompanied by members of the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra.

7:00 pm *The Book of Life (Theatre)* Based on creator Odile Gakire Katese's collected letters from survivors and perpetrators of Rwanda's 1994 genocide, *The Book of Life* leads audiences on a remarkable journey of pain, grief, acceptance, and rebirth. In this deeply moving performance about finding hope in the aftermath of tragedy, the playwright and cultural entrepreneur's story reverberates through spoken word and the rhythms of *Ingoma Nshya*, Rwanda's first-ever female drumming ensemble founded by Katese. In a world racked with hatred and struggle, *The Book of Life* celebrates healing after trauma and the resilience of the human spirit.

Monday June 5, 2023

Check out of hotel and have bags stored.

1:00 pm Chamber Music VII

Return to hotel, pick-up bags and arrange for group shuttle service or Uber from our hotel to the airport at approximately \$30 pp.

Nonstop Southwest Flight #1192 departs CHS (7:40 pm) and arrives BWI (9:15pm) "Wanna Get Away" fare includes up to 2 checked bags free.

Please visit the Festival website (<http://spoletousa.org>) to explore all the other events.

Approximate Costs

Roundtrip Flights - \$330.00 – \$500.00 per person - make your own reservations. Free if you use miles!

Shuttles to and from airport and hotel –approximately \$60.00 per person

Cost for six (6) performances incl. fees- \$350per person - pay Columbia Pro Cantare (CPC)

Tax Deductible Donation to Chorus - \$100.00 per person - pay Columbia Pro Cantare (CPC)

Three Nights for 2 people at Hotel (incl breakfast): arrange for your stay directly with hotel from reserved block of rooms for Alberta Hall/Columbia Pro Cantare - approx. \$600

Chorus members, their family and friends interested in attending need to make a \$300 deposit per person by February 28, 2023 so that we can secure the tickets. Checks should be made out to *Columbia Pro Cantare* with *Spoleto* noted on the memo line or deposits can be made using VISA, Master Card or Discover by calling Elladean Brigham, Executive Director, at 410-696-2888 (CPC office phone). The remaining \$150 is due to CPC by Tuesday, March 28, 2023.

Alberta Hall (soprano) will serve as the contact person for general questions or additional information. Home Phone: 410-730-6389 or albertawh@yahoo.com