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Spivey Hall Children's Choir Headed to Italy June 4-13

Tour Stops to Include Famed St. Peter's Basilica at Vatican

MORROW GA (April 23, 2018) - Clayton State University's **Spivey Hall** announced today that its **Spivey Hall Children's Choir** will be embarking in June on a performance tour of Italy. Starting in Rome, the 50-member Tour Choir will travel and perform across the country for nine days, finishing in Venice. Fans of the choir will be able to follow its adventures via social media sites, where choir members will be posting photos and comments with the hashtag **#SHCCBella**.

"Music is at the center of Italy's cultural heritage and has always held an important position in every aspect of the country's society," said Dr. Martha Shaw, founder and director of the Spivey Hall Children's Choir. "Italy is central to the development of choral music, opera, and much of modern European classical music. Experiencing the art, music, and architecture of Italy will greatly enrich the artistic lives of our young singers, and also provide them the opportunity to bring their music to another culture."

Arriving in Rome, the choir is scheduled to perform its first concert at St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, followed the next day by another concert in Rome at Sant'Agnese in Agone. Later in the week, the choir will perform at Abbazia S. Bartolomeo Apostolo in Capannoli (outside of Pisa) and Chiesa di San Moisè in Venice.

The tour won't be all work for the choir members, who will have plenty of time to experience the culture and history of Italy during their nine days travelling across the country, sampling local cuisine and meeting and mingling with the residents of the towns they visit and perform in. Choir members will visit iconic landmarks such as Rome's Coliseum and Trevi Fountain, the Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel, Assisi Cathedral, the Leaning Tower in Pisa, and St. Mark's Square and Basilica in Venice.

"Honestly, I have never been outside of the country, I have hardly even been outside of the southeast," said Zahra Jalajel, a high school junior from Fayetteville. "I feel both anxious and excited. When I return to Georgia I know I will return with a new perspective. Best of all I will be able to say I sang at the Vatican. That is just crazy!"

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Spivey Hall Children’s Choir members and staff will share the tour experience with followers via Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest and Instagram, posting photos, comments and videos on the social media sites. Family, friends and followers should look for posts with the hashtag “#SHCCBella” to follow the event.

“Since we can’t bring all our family and friends with us to Italy, we hope we can share our Italian adventure via social media,” said Carol Abarr, general manager of the choir.

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About Spivey Hall Children’s Choir Program

Founded under the direction of Dr. Martha Shaw, the Spivey Hall Children’s Choir Program consists of three choirs and draws from 17 metro-Atlanta counties. Membership and placement in the choirs is by audition, based on artistic merit and teacher recommendations, with need-based financial assistance available.

Singing with unmistakable spirit, refinement and remarkable beauty of tone and expression, all of these outstanding young musicians proudly represent Spivey Hall’s dedication to music education and commitment to artistic excellence. For more information, or to learn about our spring auditions, visit spiveyhallchildrenschoir.org.

The program gratefully acknowledges the support of Clayton State University, the Spivey Education Committee, The Walter and Emilie Spivey Foundation and the surrounding arts community. The foundation laid by area music specialists, choral directors, church music programs, and other organizations is a large part of the success of this choral program.

About Spivey Hall

Located on the picturesque campus of Clayton State University in Morrow, Georgia, just fifteen miles southeast of Atlanta, Spivey Hall is the South’s most acoustically superior recital hall, presenting the best in classical, jazz and world music. Spivey Hall also presents regular performances on its magnificent 4,413-pipe Albert Schweitzer Memorial Organ, custom-built in Italy by Fratelli Ruffatti. An intimate venue with just 392 seats, Spivey Hall promotes for the concert-goer a personal connection with the artist both during and after the performance. Spivey’s extraordinary acoustics and reputation for distinguished programming attract outstanding international musicians who regularly perform at the nation’s major concert venues such as Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall. For more information, visit spiveyhall.org.

Clayton State University’s Spivey Hall gratefully acknowledges the support of the Walter and Emilie Spivey Foundation, The Friends of Spivey Hall, the Georgia Council for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts and South Arts. Promotional support for Spivey Hall jazz presentations is generously provided by Jazz 91.9, WCLK.

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Spivey Hall's 2014-2015 Educational Programs are supported in part by the [Georgia Council for the Arts](#) through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. GCA also receives support from its partner agency – the [National Endowment of the Arts](#).



Spivey Hall is grateful for gifts from the Friends of Spivey Hall that each season support the excellence of its concert presentations and education programs.

About Clayton State University

A unit of the University System of Georgia, Clayton State University is an outstanding comprehensive metropolitan university located 15 miles southeast of downtown Atlanta. For more information, visit clayton.edu.

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