AU Symphonic Band Itinerary – Italy trip
March 11th - 19th, 2016

Participants: 100 (tbc)  Duration: 8 nights, 9 days

Thursday, March 10 – Departure from US
Direct Flight from Atlanta to Rome (overnight flight - flights TBC)

Friday, March 11 - Rome
Morning: arrive at FCO Leonardo Da Vinci International Airport. Meet and transfer by private buses to hotel. Check in at Hotel in Rome at hotel Imperiale****, address: Via Vittorio Veneto 24, Roma. http://www.hotelimperialeroma.it/default-en.html

Buffet lunch in hotel with facilitators and off for brief orientation and afternoon walking tour.

WALKING TOUR OF ROME
The walking tour will include the city key landmarks and the highlights of the Ancient Rome:
• The Coliseum
• The Roman Forum
• The Capitoline Hill
• The Pantheon
• Piazza Navona
After the tour we will end the day with a group dinner at a typical restaurant in Rome city center at 7:30pm.

Saturday, March 12 - Rome
Morning: Breakfast and then off for a second tour of Rome.

THE VATICAN
During the morning you will visit the Vatican with professional guides/experts of Renaissance and Baroque art, the tour will include:
• The Vatican Museum: the Sistine Chapel, Raphael’s rooms and more
• St. Peter’s Basilica
• St- Peter’s square
Following: Lunch on your own in the area and then afternoon off.
Evening: Rehearsal/Concert
Venues for concert

Option 1. – (Booked) The Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli

The Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels and the Martyrs is one of the largest and most important basilicas in Rome, built inside the Baths of Diocletian in Piazza della Repubblica. Michelangelo worked in the basilica from 1563 to 1564 to adapt a section of the remaining structure of the baths to enclose the church. At the beginning of the eighteenth century, Pope Clement XI commissioned the astronomer Francesco Bianchini to build a meridian line within the basilica that was completed in 1702. In 1998 the city of Rome donated to the Basilica a monumental Organ realized by the artisan Bartolomeo Formentelli, the organ was installed inside the chapel of St. Brunone.

Option 2. Conservatory of Santa Cecilia (under further evaluation)

The Conservatory of Music "Santa Cecilia", dedicated to St. Cecilia, patron saint of music, is the most important music school in Rome. The birth of the institution dates back to 1875 but the musical institution from which it derives seems to have more than 500 years. It is indeed in the sixteenth century that the Congregation of Musicians of Rome was founded. It soon became the largest music school of the Papal States and slowly grew in importance to become one of the largest schools in Europe.

Sunday, March 13 – Ariccia
Morning: breakfast and then departure by bus for a tour of the Castelli Romani, a group of towns located on the Alban Hills, South-East of Rome.

Castel Gandolfo and the Papal Palace and Gardens.
Morning visit to the medieval town of Castel Gandolfo, where the historical summer residence of the Pope is located. Visit to the Papal Palace and Gardens.
Ariccia and Chigi Palace.
Arrival in Ariccia and group lunch in a “fraschetta”, typical tavern serving local food and wine. Afternoon: visit to the Chigi Palace, baroque museum designed by Architect Gian Lorenzo Bernini in the 1600s. Palazzo Chigi is also the home of the “Joseph S. Bruno Auburn Abroad in Italy program”, hosting about 60 students from Auburn every year since 2002.

Evening: Rehearsal / small concert.
Concert Venue: Chigi Palace, Sala Maestra
Return to Rome in the evening

Monday, March 14 – Tuscany (Florence)
8:00am: Departure by private bus for Tuscany.
12:30pm Arrival in Florence and check in at hotels. Hotels confirmed:
Hotel Pierre**** [http://www.hotel-pierre-florence.com]
Hotel Berchielli**** [http://www.berchielli.it/index.html]
To Follow: Lunch on your own in Florence.

Afternoon: walking guided tour of Florence
Visit the key places of the early Renaissance:
- Santa Maria del Fiore
- Giotto’s belltower
- the Baptistery
- Piazza della Signoria
- Ponte Vecchio
Group dinner in a typical Florence style cuisine restaurant.

Tuesday, March 15 – Tuscany (Florence)
Morning: Guided tour of Florence main museums Uffizi & Accademia.
9:30am Guided visit to the collection of the Uffizi Gallery Museum (masterpieces from the Medici collection from the 1300s to the Baroque; including works by Giotto, Michelangelo, Leonardo, Caravaggio, Titian and others. Highlights: the “mythological” works by Botticelli: the Birth of Venus and Spring).

12:30pm Lunch break on your own
2:00pm Visit to the Accademia Museum and Michelangelo’s David, the world famous sculpture masterpiece.

Following: Enjoy Florence on your own or visit other famous sights of your choosing. Consider the Leather Market, church of Santa Maria Novella; the Medici Chapels; Bargello Museum, the Museum of the Duomo, Palazzo Pitti, and the Boboli Gardens

Wednesday, March 16 - Venice

Morning: Travel by train to Venice for a day tour of the highlights of the city of Venice: • Piazza S. Marco • Rialto Bridge • Bridge of sights and more Lunch on your own in Venice and in the afternoon: • Option 1 visit to the islands of Murano (glass blowing demonstration) and Burano • Option 2 Grand Canal Tour by boat Return to Florence by train and night in Florence

Thursday, March 17 – Umbria (Spoleto/Orvieto)

Morning: time off in Florence
11:30am check out from hotel and departure by private bus for Umbria Region
Visit Spoleto and lunch there on your own.
Afternoon: departure for Orvieto and check in at hotels:
Hotel Aquila Bianca**** www.hotelaquilabianca.it
Grand Hotel Italia**** www.grandhotelitalia.it
Group dinner to follow.

Friday, March 18 – Umbria (Orvieto)

Morning: walking tour of the medieval town of Orvieto • The Duomo • St. Patrick’s well • Orvieto underground (optional) Lunch on your own and time off in the afternoon

Evening: Rehearsal/concert
Venues currently under evaluation and finalization: Duomo of Orvieto, Teatro Nuovo Spoleto, Morlacchi Theatre in Perugia, Lirick Theatre in Assisi
Final group dinner after concert in a typical restaurant of the area.
Saturday, March 19
Departure from hotel by bus to Rome FCO airport and off on direct flight to Atlanta
Arrival at ATL airport at (flight TBC)

NOTES: