New Maymester Program “Musica Roma”

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New Maymester Program, ‘Musica Roma’

The Mary Pappert School of Music (MPSOM) launched the Musica Roma Maymester program in collaboration with the Office of International Programs and the Duquesne University Italian campus. This music-focused study abroad program took students to Italy for a month to experience the countries’ music, ancient history, modern art, and culture. Fifteen MPSOM students, led by Assistant Professor of Musicianship Joseph Sheehan, were welcomed to Duquesne’s Italian campus by its Director Michael Wright, Assistant Director Alana Sacriponte, and the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

During the Maymester, students completed three academic courses. *The Artistic Imagination in Italian Music* integrated experiential activities in music, including attending performances and touring music sites, with collaborative research projects. Students explored, on foot, many important sites of the Ancient Roman Empire in *Caput Mundi: Rome as Center of a Diverse World*. The last course, *Modern Art in Rome*, juxtaposed visits to contemporary art museums with walking tours of graffiti-rich neighborhoods.

In Rome, students went on numerous walking tours within the city, attended jazz and folk concerts, studied privately with faculty from the Conservatorio Santa Cecilia, and performed a final concert on campus.

Students also traveled to Florence for a musical tour of the city and gave a performance at the Cappella Demidoff with students from Loyola University of Chicago.

A longer excursion took students to Venice, visiting the cities’ musical landmarks and attending performances of *The Four Seasons* and *La Traviata* at the historic Teatro La Fenice. Stops also included Cremona to visit the Violin Museum, with a live demonstration of a Stradivarius violin and then to Busseto, the hometown of Giuseppe Verdi. The adventure ended with a final excursion south to Naples, Capri, Herculaneum, and Pompeii.