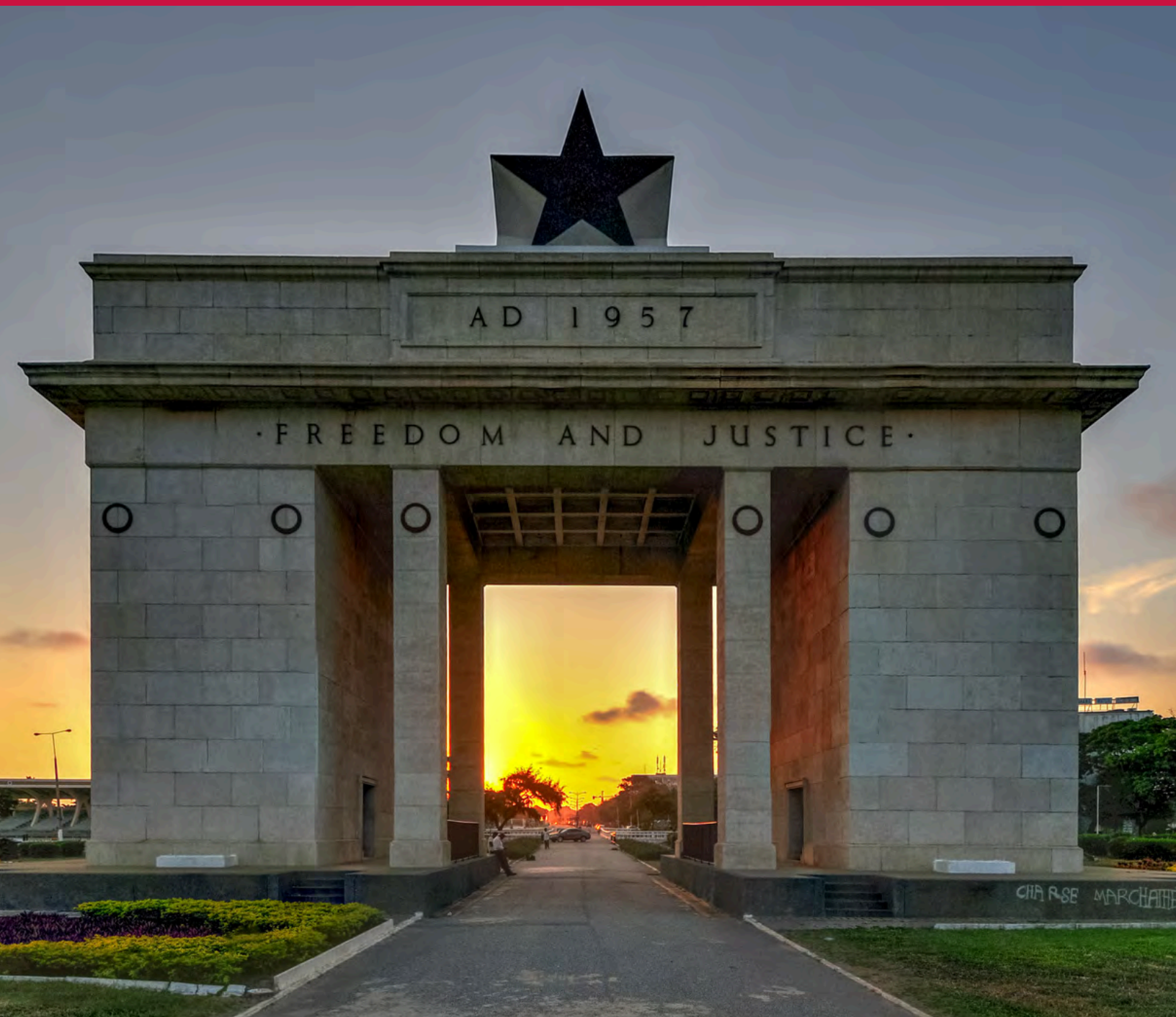


# THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER



**CONCERT TOUR OF GHANA  
FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 3, 2027**

# Hello!

I hope you can join the choir tour to Ghana in 2027! Whether you are a singer or a fellow traveler, you will find these two weeks in Ghana full of life changing memories. You'll enjoy sharing the gift of music with each other and with the incredible choirs in Ghana as we sing on our own and with them in concerts and worship services. We'll learn about the culture and history of Ghana and meet many people from all walks of life there. We'll also enjoy beautiful hotels and fabulous meals together, so you'll be well taken care throughout our time together. Having done twelve choir tours, four with ACFEA, I know that you'll be glad you went on this adventure to Ghana!



-John Sherer

John W. W. Sherer, an active church musician since 1980, is widely known as a musician who creates inspiring music with love and passion. At each church he has served he has built vibrant, faithful, and engaging music programs. Throughout his career he has led choirs of all sizes and abilities and loves sharing the gift of music with others. Building bridges through music has always been a priority for John and he has led twelve choir tours, several within America, but also to Cuba, Guatemala, France, England, Scotland, Israel, Palestine, South Africa, and India. He currently serves as Organist and Director of Music at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Rochester, New York which has an active music program with several choirs and hosts many concerts each year.

A native of Xenia, Ohio, Dr. Sherer is married to the Right Reverend Kara Wagner Sherer, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, New York. They have two wonderful daughters and have hosted numerous foreign exchange students. He enjoys yoga, tai chi, bicycling, gardening, painting, and anything related to the R.M.S. Titanic. He has studied organ with David Mulbury, Roberta Gary, Thomas Murray, and John Weaver and conducting with John Leman and Walden Moore. He received two bachelor's degrees, in organ performance and choral music education, from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. He earned two master's degrees at Yale University, majoring in organ performance and art in religion, and received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ performance from the Juilliard School. You can learn more about John at [www.johnsherer.com](http://www.johnsherer.com).



# About ACFEA

Since 1955, ACFEA Tour Consultants has been creating custom tours for performing arts groups throughout the world.

As accomplished musicians, our staff know firsthand the special needs and concerns your group may have when touring abroad. When we combine that experience with our global network of travel experts and concert representatives, we're able to create opportunities for life-changing experiences worldwide.

Tours designed by ACFEA are tailor-made to fit each group, reflecting that ensemble's unique interests, abilities and expectations. We can incorporate elements like festivals or exchanges into itineraries, as well as competitions, homestays, philanthropic opportunities, and countless other special touches – all made possible by the practice of responding to each group's particular objectives. We are dedicated to designing an exceptional tour for every group, whether it be a veteran of many collaborations with ACFEA or one taking its first step into the world of touring.

Concert tours can be powerful tools for fostering real connection between individuals, groups, and communities. Believing in equity and inclusion for all is a prerequisite for this, so we strive to function as an anti-racist and inclusive organization, and we embrace diversity and promote accessibility throughout the tour planning process.

## About our Tour Manager



Jeffery Thyer grew up in Indiana and he holds a bachelor's degree in Church Music and a master's degree in Choral Conducting. Previously, he worked for DCINY and ACDA. He currently sings with Philadelphia's Singing City Choir. He enjoys singing, traveling, public radio, classical music, cooking, water skiing and minigolf.



# Our Tour Itinerary

Our day-by-day itinerary will follow these pages, but here are some highlights:

## ACCRA

*Accra, Ghana's vibrant capital city, offers a captivating blend of rich history, bustling markets, lively nightlife, thriving art scene and stunning coastal stretches, making it a dynamic destination for travelers seeking an authentic African experience with modern conveniences*

### 🎵 Proposed Performances:

- Service Participation at **Methodist Wesley Cathedral**
- Joint Concert at the **University of Ghana**
- Joint Concert with **Harmonious Chorale**





# Kumasi

*Founded in 1680, Kumasi remains the seat of the Asantehene (Asante king) and the site of the Golden Stool, symbol of royal authority and unity of the people. Billed as the “Garden City of West Africa,” Kumasi is also known for its abundant production of kente cloth, a traditional textile hand-woven from silk and cotton*



## 🎵 Proposed Performance:

- Joint concert with a local choir





# Cape Coast

*Elmina and Cape Coast are coastal towns, known primarily for their historic castles built by the Portuguese and other European powers, which served as major slave trading posts during the transatlantic slave trade. Both are significant UNESCO World Heritage Sites today, attracting visitors seeking to learn about their harrowing past*

## Proposed Performances:

- Service participation at a local church
- Joint concert at the **University of Cape Coast**



**THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER  
CONCERT TOUR OF GHANA, 2027**

**Suggested Itinerary  
March 12, 2025**

<b>Fri Feb 19</b>		<b>IN FLIGHT</b>
	Check in at Rochester airport Depart on flights to Accra	
<b>Sat Feb 20</b>		<b>ACCRA</b>
evening	Arrive at Accra airport Clear Immigration and Customs and meet your courier Transfer by coach to the hotel and check in Welcome and orientation briefing with your courier Dinner in the hotel	
<b>Sun Feb 21</b>		<b>ACCRA</b>
morning	Breakfast in the hotel <b>Service participation</b> (at Methodist Wesley Cathedral?) Lunch independent	
afternoon	Guided sightseeing tour, during which you will see Kwanma Nkrumah Memorial Park, W.E.B. DuBois Center (entrance included), The National Museum (entrance included), Arts and Crafts market, Old Accra and Independence Square/Black Star Square	
evening	Dinner in the hotel	
<b>Mon Feb 22</b>		<b>ACCRA</b>
morning	Breakfast in the hotel Tour the University of Ghana, including a visit to the university's Department of Music, known as "Gateway to African Music" Lunch provided	
afternoon	<b>Workshop</b> with a local conductor Musical exchange and rehearsal (at the University of Ghana?)	
evening	Dinner in a restaurant <b>Joint Concert</b> (at the University of Ghana?)	

**Accra**, Ghana's vibrant capital city, offers a captivating blend of rich history, bustling markets, lively nightlife, thriving art scene and stunning coastal stretches, making it a dynamic destination for travelers seeking an authentic African experience with modern conveniences





**Tue Feb 23****ACCRA**

morning	Breakfast in the hotel At leisure Lunch independent
afternoon	Musical exchange and rehearsal (with Harmonious Chorale?)
evening	Dinner in a restaurant <b>Joint Concert</b> (with Harmonious Chorale?)

**Wed Feb 24****KUMASI**

morning	Breakfast in the hotel Depart by coach for Kumasi (c. 6 hrs) Lunch provided en route
afternoon	Arrive in Kumasi and check in to the hotel
evening	Dinner in the hotel

**Thu Feb 25****KUMASI**

morning	Breakfast in the hotel Visit a Kente village and an Adinkra village to learn about cloth weaving Lunch provided
afternoon	Entrance to Manhyia Palace Museum
evening	Dinner in the hotel

**Fri Feb 26****KUMASI**

morning	Breakfast in the hotel At leisure Lunch independent
afternoon	Musical exchange and rehearsal (with GNAAS-KNUST Choir?)
evening	Dinner in a restaurant <b>Joint Concert</b> (with the GNAAS-KNUST Choir?)

**Sat Feb 27****CAPE COAST**

morning	Breakfast in the hotel Depart by coach for Cape Coast (c. 4.5 hrs) Lunch provided en route
afternoon	Entrance to the Last Bath River Entrance to Cape Coast Castle and Dungeons
evening	Transfer by coach to the hotel and check in Dinner in the hotel

Founded in 1680, **Kumasi** remains the seat of the Asantehene (Asante king) and the site of the Golden Stool, symbol of royal authority and unity of the people. Billed as the "Garden City of West Africa," Kumasi is also known for its abundant production of kente cloth, a traditional textile hand-woven from silk and cotton





**Sun Feb 28****CAPE COAST**

morning Breakfast in the hotel  
**Service participation** (at a local church?)  
Lunch independent

afternoon Entrance to Kakum National Park

evening Dinner in the hotel

**Mon Mar 1****CAPE COAST**

morning Breakfast in the hotel  
At leisure  
Lunch independent

afternoon Musical exchange and rehearsal (at the University of Cape Coast?)  
**Joint concert** (at the University of Cape Coast?)

evening Dinner in the hotel

**Tue Mar 2****ACCRA**

morning Breakfast in the hotel  
Depart by coach for Accra (c. 4 hrs)  
Lunch independent upon arrival

afternoon Arrive in Accra and check in to the hotel

evening Farewell dinner in a restaurant

**Wed Mar 3****IN FLIGHT**

morning Breakfast in the hotel  
Transfer by coach to the airport and check in  
Depart on flights to Rochester  
Arrive at Rochester airport

*NB: driving times are estimates, based on normal road conditions,  
and do not include allowances for meal or rest stops*

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**Elmina** and **Cape Coast** are coastal towns, known primarily for their historic castles built by the Portuguese and other European powers, which served as major slave trading posts during the transatlantic slave trade. Both are significant UNESCO World Heritage Sites today, attracting visitors seeking to learn about their harrowing past



# About the Tour

## **HOTELS**

Your group will be housed in “superior tourist class hotels”. Since the star system doesn’t take into account location or atmosphere, ACFEA uses this definition to describe a property that is more comfortable, and better than an average tourist hotel.

## **CONCERTS**

ACFEA will endeavor to create memorable opportunities for performance throughout the tour. While the venues on this tour are merely educated suggestions, they will be our first choice of space in each city. As opportunities arise, confirmations will follow, in consultation with the group’s artistic staff.

## **ACTIVITIES**

A “guided sightseeing tour” is generally a two to three hour orientation by a professional local guide. If you see a note about an entrance being included, we have included admission, but if it merely is described as a visit, entry is free.

## **MEALS**

Your tour includes daily breakfast and the lunches and dinners noted on the itinerary. You can expect a starter and a main course with dinner. Breakfast varies, but usually means a minimum of a cold buffet, coffee and tea. With exception of the wine-tasting, beverages apart from water are not included.

## **FLIGHTS**

Flights between Rochester and Accra are included in the tour price.





# FAQs

## **What is included in the tour price?**

Your tour price includes 4 concerts, 2 service participations and 1 workshop, 11 nights of mid/high-level hotels with 2 people per room, breakfast daily plus other meals noted on the itinerary, roundtrip airfare from Rochester, coaching and ACFEA courier services throughout, plus all of the entrances and activities on the itinerary.

## **May I request a single room?**

Yes. The Single Supplement is \$780. Request this under “Special Requirements” on Tour Central.

## **I want to do my own airfare. Can this be done?**

Yes. Under “Special Requirements”, indicate that you want different air, and click on “Individual Travel Request”. Complete that form, so that ACFEA knows that you will not need air. The No-Air Reduction is estimated to be approximately \$1,600.

## **I want to fly on the group air, but I want to make a change. How do I do that?**

Under “Special Requirements”, click on the Individual Travel Request form and complete it. ACFEA will receive your request and will contact you about schedule and pricing for your request.

## **Do you recommend travel insurance?**

AN EMPHATIC YES! A link is available on Tour Central. IMPORTANT: You must purchase your policy within 14 days of trip deposit if you need coverage for any pre-existing conditions, or to be eligible for “Cancel for Any Reason” insurance. The deposit date is determined by when ACFEA cashes our first check, which will trigger your Tour Central invitation. If you have questions about insurance options, call USI at: (855) 874-0156.



# Ghana Travel Requirements

## **Passport**

Everyone going on tour needs a passport which is valid at least 6 months beyond the planned date of return and that has at least 1 blank page.

## **Tourist Visa**

A tourist visa is required for US passport holders. A standard single entry visa is currently \$60. More guidance on when and how to apply individually will be provided in due course.

## **Vaxinations**

Proof of Yellow Fever vaccination is required upon arrival in Ghana for anyone over nine months of age. Speak to your medical provided about this requirement and any questions you may have.



# What Are the Next Steps?

The total estimated cost of this tour is \$6,700 per person and the final cost of the tour will depend on the final number of participants.

If you would like to go on tour, please email John Sherer at [jsherer@stpaulsec.org](mailto:jsherer@stpaulsec.org) and submit a deposit of \$500 per person by May 19 to reserve your spot.

Make checks payable to “St. Paul’s Episcopal Church” and write “Ghana Tour” on the memo line. Mail checks to:

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church  
25 Westminster Road  
Rochester, New York 14607

Once we have enough interest and have collected at minimum of 30 deposits, your deposit check will be cashed and becomes non-refundable. If the tour doesn’t reach the minimum registration requirement, your uncashed deposit check will be returned.

Once the tour is confirmed, ACFEA will enter your name into their website, Tour Central, and you will receive a welcome email.

## Cost Details

The total estimated cost of this tour is \$6,700 per person and the final cost of the tour will depend on the final number of participants.

### Payment Schedule

- May 19, 2025 – \$500 Deposit
- September 19, 2025 – \$1,200
- November 19, 2025 – \$1,200
- February 19, 2026 – \$1,200
- May 19, 2026 – \$1,200
- October 19, 2026 – \$1,400 (estimated balance)

### Cancellation Policy

- Deposit: Non Refundable
- Cancellation between Sep 19, 2025 & Nov 18, 2025: Deposit + \$500 (\$1,000 total)
- Cancellation between Nov 19, 2025 & Feb 18, 2026: Deposit + \$1,000 (\$1,500 total)
- Cancellation between Feb 19, 2026 & May 18, 2026: Deposit + \$1,500 (\$2,000 total)
- Cancellation between May 19, 2026 & Oct 18, 2026: Deposit + \$2,000 (\$2,500 total)
- Cancellation on or after Oct 19, 2026: FULLY NON REFUNDABLE