

2026 Nicaragua International Choral Workshop

JANUARY 24 – FEBRUARY 9

NICW 2026

Introduction

Calling **choral singers** with a passion for travel to join an **unforgettable musical adventure** this winter!

Breaking from conventional choral tour models that follow well-worn paths through Europe and the West Indies, the **2026 Nicaragua International Choral Workshop** offers a unique blend of musical development, **cultural immersion**, and thoughtfully curated tourism in one of Central America's most captivating regions.

Learn and **perform exquisite choral music** under the direction of NICW founder Roland Graham, **discover a tropical paradise**, and raise your voice in harmony with new friends abroad.

Secure your spot today!

"Nicaragua is paradise!"

– Barbara, 2024 participant

www.ottawachoralworkshops.ca



Tour Overview

Dates: January 24 – February 9, 2026

Primary Destinations: San Juan del Sur (SJDS), Rivas, and Granada, Nicaragua

Cost: \$4,450 CAD (HST included)

Special Rates: For students and couples

Included: Flights, accommodations, ground travel, half of meals, musical activities, select excursions, pre-tour rehearsals

Registration Deadline: October 15, 2025

Performances: In cultural venues in SJDS, Rivas, and Granada

Repertoire: *Vivaldi's Gloria*, plus a cappella and accompanied works in Latin, Spanish, English, and French, tailored to the group

Sample Complementary Activities: Beach excursions, wildlife sanctuaries, volcano and geological sites, nature hikes, boat tours, pub nights, zip lining, natural history museums, birdwatching, chocolate and cigar factories, fine dining, nightlife, and more

NICW Itinerary

Jan 24: 6 AM Depart from YOW
Jan 25: Free day / Walking tour of SJDS
Jan 26: AM rehearsals / Playa Hermosa
Jan 27: AM rehearsals / Free PM
Jan 28: AM rehearsals / TreeCasa
Jan 29: AM rehearsals / Free PM
Jan 30: AM bus to Rivas / Museum / PM Vespers
Jan 31: AM bus to Granada / 'Isletas' Sunset Cruise
Feb 1: Free day / Volcano & Laguna / PM rehearsal
Feb 2: Free day / PM rehearsals
Feb 3: AM rehearsal / Mombacho / PM concert 1
Feb 4: AM rehearsal / PM concert 2
Feb 5: AM bus to SJDS / Ometepe overnight
Feb 6: Free day / Playa Remanso / PM rehearsal
Feb 7: Free day / PM concert 3
Feb 8: Sunday Mass / Catamaran cruise
Feb 9: 9 AM Depart SJDS / PM fly home

Itinerary is set but subject to change



About

An **expertly crafted itinerary** blends singing, social interaction, and **excursions to essential attractions** in beautiful equatorial Nicaragua.

NICW rehearsals and concerts will be held in colonial Granada — a **UNESCO World Heritage site** on Lake Nicaragua — the town of Rivas, and in San Juan del Sur, beloved for its rustic charm and **spectacular Pacific sunsets**.

For the first time, NICW singers will **join with Nicaragua's Coro Laudate and a local orchestra** to perform Vivaldi's Gloria, along with a new arrangement of traditional Nicaraguan songs by **world music luminary Glenn McClure**.

"Far better than an average holiday in the sun!"

– Hope, 2024 participant



The Maestro

Hailed as “**an excellent conductor and inspiring educator,**” Roland Graham is a Canadian conductor, pianist, and educator admired for his **inspiring leadership**, entrepreneurial vision, and adventurous spirit. Founder and Artistic Director of the NICW, he brings decades of **musical excellence**, leading engaging rehearsals with deep musical insight and an **inclusive, collaborative style**. Roland has led choral tours in Canada, Europe, and Latin America, where he is equally at home on the podium, at the piano, or on a surfboard!

Travel, Accommodations & Meals

Group flights from Ottawa are arranged by Uniglobe CBO Travel and are direct, **avoiding US layovers**. The tour **includes breakfast daily** and **half of dinners**. Dining in Nicaragua is delicious, and fun, with options to suit every taste.

Accommodations are in well-located hotels in SJDS and Granada, with easy **walking access to amenities and venues**. Standard rooms are air-conditioned doubles with private bathrooms, assigned to participants in pairs.

Discover Nicaragua

Optional excursions - some included, others costing extra - are coordinated during free time by Golden Tours Nicaragua, whose **English-speaking guides** offer an authentic introduction to Nicaragua's history, culture, **main attractions**, and natural beauty.

Excursions include day trips to world-class beaches, including **Playa Hermosa** (filming location of Survivor), boat tours along the Pacific and through Granada's 1000 Islands, **volcano hikes** (see active lava flows!), visits to wildlife reserves, museums, ziplining, and an overnight trip to **Ometepe** twin-volcano island.

The itinerary offers great flexibility, balancing group activities with personal time so that participants can each make the experience their own.

"Well-chosen music and a memorable experience that exceeded expectations!"

– **Charlie**, 2024 participant



Joining From Afar?

Singers **joining from elsewhere in Canada** or abroad can arrange for their own flights and have tour **fees adjusted** accordingly. Independent preparation required; support is available. **Inquire for details.**

Tour Preparation

Singers are **expected to learn the music in advance** of the tour. Pre-tour rehearsals will be held in Ottawa in November, December, and January, and digital learning materials—**PDF scores, YouTube links, and practice tracks**—will be provided to support your preparation.

"NICW rehearsals were a learning delight"

– **Tonia**, 2024 participant

Registration & Payment

Register with a **\$550 CAD deposit by October 15, 2025**. Pay the full balance prior to departure. Late registration may be possible as space permits.

Cancellations may be partially refunded, less non-recoverable costs. **Purchasing trip cancellation insurance is advised.**

If NICW organizers cancel, payments will be refunded in full. Consult the **NICW Participant Agreement for terms** and policies.



Miscellany

Nicaragua offers **excellent services** and amenities for health and daily needs, including **spas, gyms, yoga** studios, banks, cafés, and clinics. Medical care is inexpensive and accessible, and **essential medical care is free**.

A top global producer of **coffee, cigars**, rum, and cocoa, Nicaragua offers opportunities to learn about traditional industries and **sample products**. English is not always spoken, making this a great chance to dust off your Spanish.

Nicaragua is abundantly safe, and visitors are warmly welcomed by locals who love to share their **pride in their homeland**.

READY TO JOIN THE ADVENTURE?



**Sign on before
October 15 to
reserve your spot!
Space is limited!**

www.ottawachoralworkshops.ca

"NICW 24 was one of the best trips I have taken because it combined my favourite things: music, the ocean, and making new friends! The musical experience was better than other choir trips I've done too, making it an all-round joy to be part of. Bravo!"

– Marjorie, 2024 participant

