

NICW NICARAGUA INTERNATIONAL CHORAL WORKSHOP 2027

NICW 27 Participation Agreement & Liability Waiver

This agreement outlines the travel arrangements, activities, fees, policies, and conditions of participation for the 2027 Nicaragua International Choral Workshop (NICW 27), organized and led by Roland Graham, operating as Nicaragua International Choral Workshop (“the Organizer”).

NICW 27 is a group choral workshop and cultural tour taking place **January 24 – February 8, 2027**, combining choral rehearsals and performances with sightseeing, cultural activities, and group tourism in Nicaragua, following the general itinerary outlined below. In addition to a summary of fees, package description and itinerary, payment policies, and logistics, this document contains important information about personal risk and liability and includes a waiver that participants must acknowledge.

By signing the agreement on the final page, you signal your understanding of and agreement to the terms, limits, and conditions outlined below.

Participant Eligibility & Expectations

NICW is open to experienced choral singers, 18 years of age and older, who are capable of international travel in warm climates. No audition is required, but participants are expected to prepare the repertoire in advance according to instructions provided and to attend scheduled rehearsals and performances on the tour.

The NICW 27 Fee (\$4,600 CAD) Covers

- Round-trip airfare from Ottawa (YOW) to Liberia, Costa Rica (LIR)
- Ground transportation to and from the airport and between tour destinations
- 15 nights shared hotel accommodations
- Breakfast daily and at least half of all dinners (at least 50% of meals overall)
- Select excursions as listed below
- Musical activities, rehearsals, and concerts in Nicaragua; pre-tour rehearsals in Ottawa
- Applicable sales taxes
- Standard gratuities for service providers in Nicaragua

NOT included in the NICW Fee

- Travel medical, cancellation, interruption, or baggage insurance
- Supplementary excursions (listed below)
- Meals not covered (approximately 50% of meals)
- Musical scores (*Messiah*)

Exchange Rate: The NICW fee is based on an August 1, 2026 exchange rate of approximately USD \$1 = CAD \$1.40. If the Canadian-dollar cost of USD increases by 3¢ or more by **January 15, 2027**, the final tour cost may be adjusted accordingly.

NICW 27 Musical Repertoire, Performances & Preparation

The principal musical repertoire for NICW 27 is a selection of movements from Handel's *Messiah*, together with a shorter supplementary selection of Canadian and Nicaraguan works. The workshop will include five public performances, including concerts, educational performances, and church services in San Juan del Sur, León, Granada, and Managua, culminating in a performance at the Teatro Nacional Rubén Darío in Managua as officially invited artists. Singers will be expected to obtain their own scores and prepare the music in advance according to instructions provided by NICW. A set of pre-tour rehearsals in Ottawa will be offered to support group preparation.

NICW 27 Itinerary

The general tour itinerary is as follows. Excursions and other activities may be scheduled during free time. The itinerary is subject to change as circumstances require. Excursions in parentheses are supplementary and entail additional cost (see summary below). SJDS = San Juan del Sur.

- Jan 24: Flight YOW–LIR / Bus to SJDS / Check-in / Dinner
- Jan 25: **AM rehearsal** / (TreeCasa) / Dinner
- Jan 26: **AM rehearsal** / Playa Remanso / Dinner
- Jan 27: **AM rehearsal** / Cristo de la Misericordia sunset / Dinner
- Jan 28: Bus to León / Check-in / **Cathedral rooftop tour & Mass**
- Jan 29: Ortiz-Gurdián Art Gallery / Free afternoon
- Jan 30: Bus to Managua / National Theatre tour / Dinner / **PM rehearsal**
- Jan 31: Free morning / **PM & evening rehearsals**
- Feb 1: (Laguna de Apoyo & Masaya Volcano) / **PM rehearsal**
- Feb 2: Bus to Granada / Carriage tour / Bella del Mar cruise
- Feb 3: (Birdwatching) / (Mombacho zipline) / Bus to Managua / **Dress rehearsal**
- Feb 4: AM educational concert / Rest / **PM Managua concert** / Return to Granada
- Feb 5: Free day / Dinner / **PM Xalteva concert** / Reception
- Feb 6: Bus to SJDS / Free afternoon or (Maderas Beach) / Dinner
- Feb 7: **AM Mass at San Juan Bautista** / (Catamaran cruise) / Dinner
- Feb 8: Bus to LIR / Flight LIR–YOW

Excursions INCLUDED in NICW Fee

- Playa Remanso beach daytrip
- Granada city horse-and-carriage tour
- Cristo de la Misericordia sunset visit
- León Cathedral rooftop tour
- Ortiz-Gurdián Art Gallery (León)
- Bella del Mar riverboat cruise

Supplementary Excursions NOT Included in NICW Fee

- TreeCasa canopy resort daytrip
- Laguna de Apoyo & Masaya Volcano daytrip
- Mombacho Canopy Zipline Adventure
- All-inclusive catamaran cruise
- Granada Lake birdwatching excursion
- Maderas Beach excursion

Other Activities & Free Time

The NICW itinerary provides a balance of structured activities and free time for participants to rest, recuperate, and customize their travel experience. Activities independently undertaken by participants during free time are at the participant's own discretion and expense and are not part of the NICW program unless specifically identified as such.

Flights, Travel Path & Entry Requirements

NICW flights from Ottawa follow the itinerary below. We are flying to Liberia, Costa Rica (LIR) in order to avoid transiting through the U.S. From there, we will travel by coach to SJDS, crossing into Nicaragua at Peñas Blancas.

OUTBOUND – January 24, 2027

- YOW-YYZ 6 AM - 7:33 AM AC 439 / YYZ-LIR 9:30 AM - 2:10 PM AC 1873

RETURN – February 8, 2027

- LIR-YYZ 3:10 PM - 9:25 PM AC 1872 / YYZ-YOW 11:30 PM - 12:40 AM+1 AC 470

Flight schedules and routing are subject to change by the airline. Participants are responsible for travelling with a valid passport and meeting all applicable entry requirements for Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Passports should have at least six months remaining before expiry at the time of travel. Canadian citizens travelling on a Canadian passport do not currently require a visa for this itinerary; participants travelling on another nationality's passport are responsible for confirming any additional entry requirements that may apply.

Independent & Custom Travel Options

The NICW package includes round-trip group airfare from Ottawa (YOW). Participants joining from other Canadian cities, including Toronto or Vancouver, may be accommodated within the Air Canada group booking where suitable routing is available. Independent travel arrangements and extensions before or after the group itinerary may also be accommodated, subject to availability, airline conditions, and any applicable adjustment to the NICW fee. Alternative travel arrangements, in particular those impacting the tour itinerary, must be discussed in advance with the Organizer.

Accommodations & Meals

Accommodation is based on double occupancy in centrally located 3- and 4-star hotels, with air conditioning and private bathrooms. Hotels include Gran Oceano (San Juan del Sur), Hotel Austria (León), and Casa Lester (Granada), subject to final confirmation. Participants may request a roommate; otherwise, roommates will be assigned by gender. Private rooms are available at additional cost.

Breakfast is provided daily, along with at least half of all dinners; lunches and remaining dinners are at participants' expense.

NICW Registration & Payment Schedule

The registration deadline is October 15, with an initial deposit of \$1,000 CAD due at registration. The remaining balance is payable as follows:

- \$1,200 — November 15
- \$1,200 — December 15
- \$1,200 — January 15

Payment by e-transfer to **ottawachoralworkshops@gmail.com** is preferred. Late registration may be possible subject to space, airfare and accommodation availability, and may involve additional costs. Please contact the Organizer to discuss alternate payment methods or schedules.

NICW Upgrades & Special Rates

- **Private Room Upgrade:** \$750 CAD, subject to availability
- **Couple's Discount:** 10% off the base fee for the second participant travelling as a couple
- **Student Rate:** \$3,850 CAD
- **Supplementary Excursions Package:** Price to be confirmed; payable in USD in Nicaragua

Cancellation & Refund Policy

NICW 27 requires sufficient enrollment to proceed. If cancelled due to insufficient registration, all payments will be refunded in full. Once the tour is confirmed, if it cannot proceed due to circumstances beyond the Organizer's reasonable control, participants will be refunded all amounts not committed to non-refundable third-party costs, with reasonable efforts made to recover additional amounts. If a participant withdraws, payments are refundable as follows:

- **Until November 15:** Full refund less a \$250 administrative fee
- **November 16–December 31:** Full refund less \$1,500 for committed travel costs and a \$250 administrative fee
- **From January 1:** No refund, except at the Organizer's discretion in cases of medical emergency or other serious life circumstances.

Travel Medical Insurance

Travel insurance is not included in the NICW fee. Participants are required to carry emergency travel medical insurance covering hospitalization, evacuation, and repatriation for the full trip, and are strongly encouraged to purchase cancellation and interruption insurance. Participants are responsible for ensuring appropriate coverage and may be asked to provide policy information before departure.

Medical Care & Emergencies

Medical and emergency services are available in Nicaragua, although specialized care may require transfer to Managua or evacuation outside the country. Participants should bring adequate prescription medications and communicate any medical, dietary, mobility, or accessibility needs requiring assistance or accommodation.

Travel Safety & Security

Nicaragua is generally considered safe for travellers exercising ordinary precautions. Participants should follow reasonable safety guidance from the Organizer and local hosts, respect local laws and customs, and refrain from political activity or demonstrations while travelling with NICW.

NICW Partners

NICW 27 is being developed in collaboration with **Uniglobe Travel** in Canada, **Golden Tours Nicaragua**, the **Rubén Darío National Theatre** in Managua, and **Coro Laudate** in Granada, together with local musical, cultural, and community partners throughout Nicaragua. These partnerships support the tour's travel arrangements, ground transportation and logistics, and musical and cultural programming.

NICW 27 Risk & Liability Waiver

By signing below, I confirm that I have read, understood, and agree to the terms and conditions of the NICW 27 Participation Agreement, and specifically acknowledge and agree that:

Risk & Liability: I understand and accept the ordinary risks associated with international travel and NICW activities, including excursions, transportation, illness, physical activity, and environmental conditions. To the extent permitted by law, I release Roland Graham/NICW from claims arising from these risks or from the acts or omissions of independent service providers, except where liability cannot lawfully be excluded or limited.

Health & Insurance: I am able to participate safely, with or without reasonable accommodation, and will communicate any assistance reasonably required. I will maintain emergency travel medical insurance for the full trip, including hospitalization and emergency evacuation or repatriation coverage.

Independent Providers: I understand that airlines, hotels, transportation companies, excursion operators, restaurants, and other service providers are independently owned and operated and are not controlled by Roland Graham/NICW.

Conduct: I will respect local laws and customs and refrain from conduct or political activity that could jeopardize my safety, the group, or NICW's relationships with local hosts.

Emergencies & Itinerary Changes: I authorize the Organizer to make reasonable logistical and safety decisions where circumstances require and, if necessary, to assist in arranging emergency medical care or transportation on my behalf. Any resulting personal costs remain my responsibility or that of my insurer.

Photography & Media: I consent to photography, video, and recordings made during NICW being used for promotional, educational, or archival purposes.

Circumstances Beyond NICW's Control: I understand that NICW is not responsible for cancellations, delays, or necessary changes resulting from circumstances beyond its reasonable control, including severe weather, natural disasters, governmental actions, public health emergencies, civil unrest, or transportation disruptions.

Acknowledgment & Signature

By signing below, you confirm that you have read and understood this agreement and agree to its terms and conditions.

Participant's Name: _____ **Phone #:** _____

Email: _____ **Passport #:** _____ **Exp:** ____ / ____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Emergency Contact: _____ **Phone #:** _____