

# Music Tour Overview

## Rationale

The school has undertaken regular music tours since 1976 and these have been within Australia and to overseas destinations in Europe, the USA and Asia. Tours are an educational experience, and the destination is carefully chosen for the musical opportunities it offers. The focus of the tour might be exchanges, workshops and classes with other music schools; a competition or festival; or a conference. The students are involved in many performances and have always brought credit to the school. Such an undertaking is very expensive and considerable effort from the families of participating students is needed to raise funds. It is also an enormous amount of work for the staff. Travelling with a large group involves a great deal of responsibility for the staff, and the safety of the students is always the primary concern. Although participation in a tour is not compulsory, a high percentage of students do take part.

## Educational Outcomes

The upcoming music tour to Europe by Churchlands School of Music is being planned and developed to meet a wide range of educational and musical outcomes.

These outcomes include:

- The development of appropriate team and leadership skills necessary when working as an ensemble overseas in an unfamiliar environment.
- The increased level of musicianship and familiarity of repertoire due to focussed preparation.
- The development of goal-setting skills in fundraising, budgeting, and learning new music.
- The opportunity to rehearse, perform and interact with other students in a variety of unfamiliar cultural environments.
- Friendship and contacts with students and staff from other cultures that can be reciprocated in future exchanges.
- To add to the body of knowledge of tour preparation, fundraising and logistics for future tours.
- To develop ensemble and interpersonal skills and a sense of esprit de corps within the CSHS School of Music.
- The music students involved are excellent students as both a reward for their efforts so far and as an incentive for further musical goal setting.
- Churchlands students will gain an appreciation of life and schooling in other cultures, and the different characteristics of these lifestyles.

## Who goes on tour?

The challenges involved in managing an international tour with many participants require that students involved be completely reliable and trustworthy. We have a large group of students from Years 11 and 12 who are eligible to participate in the tour. They must be "of good standing" which means that their behaviour in ALL subjects is beyond reproach. We look very closely at student attitude, punctuality, effort and attendance at rehearsals and lessons, including behaviour in ALL subjects, to ensure that the students participating in the tour are the most deserving and reliable, in short – that they are ambassadors we can be proud of.

All students participate in Music Tour as a member of the Senior Choir. They may not be part of an instrumental ensemble as placements depend on audition results. The main touring ensembles are the Senior Choir, Senior Orchestra, Jazz Orchestra, and Wind Orchestra No. 1 while other smaller groups are often included.

The normal routine of the year is not interrupted during a tour year, and students not going on tour are involved as normal in the appropriate ensemble.

## **Dates and Destinations**

The dates of travel can only be confirmed once the flights have been booked. We anticipate the duration of the tour to be approximately June 21 to July 14 2018. The destinations are places of significance within Germany, Austria, and Hungary.

## **Student contact arrangements during the tour**

Students will be allocated to small groups under the care and supervision of a parent chaperone. That chaperone will be the first point of contact for parents if they are unable to contact their child directly by conventional means at appropriate times. Contact numbers will be communicated to parents prior to departure. Please don't try to contact students during times when they should be asleep.

## **Activities and Venues**

Students will participate in a variety of performing environments and situations. Performing locations will include and are not limited to churches, community halls, pavilions, and open air civic spaces. Workshops may be held in performing arts facilities, schools, or purpose built rehearsal venues. If a venue becomes unavailable, then an alternative venue or activity will be arranged. Students will have opportunity for managed free time and recreation. That will take place at times and in places identified by the Teacher in Charge as being suitable for the purpose.

## **Transport**

The tour group will be split into two halves and travel on separate flights to the first destination. They will return to Australia the same way. Whilst on the ground most of the travel will be via chartered coaches. There will probably be some use of public transport.

## **Costs**

It is anticipated that the final cost will be near \$9000.00. That is inclusive of transport, meals, new uniforms, accommodation, and entrance to prearranged activities that may include watching a show, or entrance to a museum or gallery. Exchange rates, local taxes or levies, and fuel costs are all factors that can change the final cost of a tour and cannot always be anticipated.

## **Clothing requirements**

Students will be required to wear new uniforms whilst on tour. They will be organised for you through the uniform shop with the cost a part of the total tour expenses for families. Occasionally groups may require a non-standard item of uniform or accessory for a special event. These will be arranged as necessary.

## **Accommodation**

Students and staff will typically be accommodated in 3 star hotels or good quality youth hostels. Details will be provided when available.

## **Supervision**

The ratio of students to supervisors is approximately 8:1. Students are provided with supervision that is appropriate to their capacity in any given environment or situation. Details of tour staff and chaperones will be provided to parents when available.

## **In case of Accident or Illness**

In case of accident or illness staff will take appropriate action in line with the information contained in student medical health forms and the judgement of staff on site. Should it be considered necessary, school staff will arrange to present students for medical assessment. Parents will be contacted at the first reasonable opportunity.

## **Liability**

Any costs incurred because of accident or illness is the responsibility of that student's parents. Supervising staff are not responsible for any loss or damage to student personal property that may occur during the tour.

## **Commitment**

Any family wishing to apply to participate in the tour must complete and return to the music office the *Music Tour Student Application* form along with a photocopy of the student's passport (current to January 16 2019), and make an initial payment of \$500 by May 12 2017. This ensures that the tour committee has a definite list of people who will receive tour information.

Late inclusions will only be accepted from students new to the school.

Should you change your mind prior to July 25 2017 the full \$500 and any other personal deposits will be refunded. Following this period withdrawals from the tour will involve the forfeit of some funds, as payments on behalf of the tour group must be made. For example, the raffle prize has to be funded, and other administration costs covered even before travel bills are due. The treasurer will draw up a schedule showing the expected rate of payments into your tour account and penalties that will be applied in the event of late withdrawal.

## **Administration**

Making payments; All families will be allocated a ID number, which they will use to identify all deposit into the Tour Account whether it be raffle proceeds or other fundraising money, uniform payments and also your own personal contributions to your child's tour costs. This eliminates all messy money collecting activities. Statements will be issued so you can monitor your progress.

Communication; Email will be used to communicate directly with families. A blog will be established to keep families up to date on itinerary details, fundraising matters, domestic matters such as uniforms etc. All important information will be published in the blog and the onus is on parents to keep themselves fully informed about events and requirements.

Passports/Health/Insurance Information; The Director of Music will require information from each student (such as passports and Application forms) to be submitted and deadlines for these requirements must be adhered to or the organization for the whole group is compromised. Please take serious note of these requests particularly the requirement to provide passport details as the passport needs to be current 6 months after the return to the tour!

## **General Information**

Parent Chaperones: Usually a number of parents accompany the tour to assist the staff with supervision of students. These positions involve a lot of hard work on tour, and require resilient, flexible people with a variety of skills. Expressions of interest are called for by the school in the next few months. Selection of parent chaperones is carried out by the Director of Music and the School Principal and is not dealt with by the parent committee. A subsidy amounting to approximately half of the tour costs is provided for parents selected as chaperones.

Itinerary: Not all tour details are available in the early stages of the tour planning. Concerts and cultural opportunities take time to secure and the entire itinerary evolves over the year of preparation. As soon as information becomes available it will be disseminated to parents. The last tour was a triumph of stellar performance opportunities, attendance at outstanding and varied musical events, and a huge amount of fun, so rest assured this one will be the same.

## Frequently asked Questions

*Does going on tour in year 12 interrupt preparation for the ATAR?*

The students miss approximately one week of classes, as the tour is undertaken at the end of term 2 and into the mid-year vacation. The school ensures that teachers do not schedule assessments or introduce new work. The School of Music prepares for the performances on tour within their normal rehearsal time. In general, no extra rehearsals are called, except for the final rehearsal for the Farewell Concert. The Year 12 touring students traditionally take their leadership role seriously and act responsibly regarding their studies.

*Is this tour dangerous?*

The safety of the touring group is always raised as an issue. On almost every tour there has been some political or social upheaval that causes parents worry. The 1<sup>st</sup> Gulf War, the hand-over of Hong Kong to China, and the SARS virus, resolved in the end by changing the destination. Advice is sought from various sources and all precautions are taken. Obviously, tours need to be planned well in advance and no one can foresee the future. In a serious case of concern the tour would be cancelled.

Tours are not compulsory and no one is compelled to participate.

*Can my child go out with relatives, or return to Australia at a different time to the main group?*

These requests are dealt with by the Director of Music. In general, students may remain behind at the conclusion of the tour provided certain strict criteria are met, and students may briefly visit relatives during the course of the tour provided that the running of the tour and the student's commitment to performances are not compromised. Again, this is decided by the Director of Music. The criteria for remaining behind can be found in the *Music Tour Individual Return Travel Application* document.

*Instrument Insurance*

Insurance matters, especially if something happens to your child's instrument while on tour. Check your home and contents insurance to make sure your child's instrument is listed as a separate item, and that it is covered for worldwide travel. If not contact your insurer and arrange the extra coverage. Your child's instrument insurance is your responsibility. School insurance only covers school equipment. (Reprinted from a Tour 2006 Newsletter)