

From: Marilyn Elliott <1marilyneliott@gmail.com>

To:

Sent: Sunday, September 25, 2016 5:55 PM

Subject: Vienna Informational Email 9-25-16

Below is the latest (and some not so "latest") information on the trip, and notes from the September 8, meeting. I hope you get this and it is readable, as I have extremely poor internet service from where I am right now! Please let me know if you want your name removed from this list.

Vienna Tour Information
September 25, 2016

NEED NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 8, 2016:

EMAIL TO ME:

- **FULL NAME of traveler as it appears on your passport** (even if you have given this to me before).
- **Voice Type (SATB)? Or Non-performer (NP)?**

Pendra Surette is handling the deposits.

➤ **The first tour deposit for a minimum of \$400 per person is due to the Cascade Chorale Association no later than November 8, 2016.**

➤ Personal checks, money orders or bank checks ONLY will be accepted.

➤ Give checks to either Pendra Surette or Marilyn Elliott, or mail to:

Pendra Surette

Cascade Chorale Association – Vienna Tour

2116 NE Monterey Avenue

Bend OR 97701

➤ **Make checks payable to:**

Cascade Chorale Association

On "Memo" line, write: Vienna Tour

➤ **Fees:** \$15 for returned checks.

•••••••• **Do you want to travel in a group roundtrip Redmond-Vienna-Redmond? Send me an email if you want to be part of the group travel.**

○ No guarantee of a better rate; some people just want to travel with a group.

○ Rates are still TBD. Published fares currently are \$1500-2000.

○ **A minimum of 10 people is required for group travel.**

○ Travel dates: leave Redmond on Wednesday, June 14 or Thursday, June 15; returning from Vienna June 25. **Email me your preference for leaving on either June 14 OR June 15. The date with the most votes wins!**

•••••••• **If you need a hotel room for other than double occupancy, the sooner you let me know, the better the chances are that you will get what you want.**

September 8, 2016 Meeting Notes, etc.

About 25 interested travelers attended.

Speakers: Marilyn Elliott, Trip Coordinator

Jim Knox, Cascade Chorale Director

Matt Harden, Conductor-in-Residence and Program Development Associate, MidAmerica Productions, Inc. in NYC (via Skype)

Linda Lewis, Peak Travel, Bend

Jim Elliott, Travel Tips

Notes (not in any particular order):

Open Q/A with Matt Harden

- We have one performance in Vienna singing with other choral groups; conducted by Matt Harden. Includes ~200-250 singers from 4-5 different choirs.
- Optional: one performance in Salzburg, conducted by Jim Knox. About 20 minutes, a cappella. Music TBD by Jim Knox.
- Day 8: 5:30-7:30 p.m., acoustic rehearsal (pg. 9). This is a rehearsal where we have about 20 minutes to get a feel for how we will sound in the performing space. It is just about enough time to run through our selections once.
- Attire has not been determined yet. Possible attire: women wear black dresses; men wear white shirts, black ties, black pants. I will let you know exact when I get the final information. Bottom line: looks like men won't need to be concerned about Tuxedos!
- **Plan to attend opening night meeting, Day 1, Friday, June 16:** introductions, tour review, meet other performers, etc.: at Parkhotel Schonbruun restaurant, "Zum Schwarzen Adler." (6pm-7pm). Food/beverages on your own before or after the meeting. Food at this restaurant may be expensive. Other than this meeting, Day 1 is a free day.
- Prior to leaving for the trip, I will hand you your travel packet that will be mailed to me from Matt at MidAm.
- Scheduled bus tours as part of the itinerary will be in groups of ~25/bus.
- Parkhotel Schonbrunn will provide bus transportation from the Vienna airport upon arrival and return. More details on dates, times, etc. to come.
- The hotel has laundry facilities, but it is much less expensive to go to a Laundromat around the corner. May be best if someone goes that can speak a little German.
- There is a fair amount of free time, especially for non-performers. Since the itinerary is not finalized, Matt suggested waiting to purchase advanced tickets for "things to do" in Vienna and Salzburg closer to the actual tour date, rather than at this time. Wait until **at least** after November 15, 2016 to reserve other event tickets (i.e., opera). This refers to activities/tours outside of the predetermined tour schedule.
- Email Matt Harden if you want tickets for these extra events; he'll help you navigate this: mharden@midamerica-music.com.
- Matt has family in Oregon; he may surprise us with a Spring visit to rehearse with us!

Linda Lewis: Travel/Insurance

- Linda Lewis is available to answer travel questions (541-848-4461). She is happy to assist you with your travel questions.
- As stated previously, you are not obligated to use Linda or TravelEx Insurance. She is a suggestion and a good source.
- She stressed the importance of travel insurance. Buy it before you need it! See TravelEx brochure previously sent to you. Believes best price is through Peak Travel (contact Linda for details).
- Sightseeing tour info in any city in the world: viator.com.
- Refer to information above regarding group travel.
- Vienna is more expensive than other cities to fly into because it is not a largely popular destination. Given that, Linda still recommends flying into Vienna whether you are flying independently or with the group. You will end up paying that much and more on trains, etc. to get to the city/hotel. You will not save anything.
- If, for some reason, you are not able to use the hotel shuttle bus from the airport, other public transportation is available.

The not so fun part:

- If travel is *not recommended* due to a world event: If the airline is going, then you must either fly, or lose your money – no refunds. Trip insurance won't cover if the airline is flying at that time. If there is terrorism with 30 days of travel, you must prove that you intended to go to that location (copy of hotel reservation, etc.) to get full refund.
- Trip cancellation due to medical/family, etc. is highly recommended. Insurance for baggage, cancellation, flight delays, medical/dental while on trip. Example: \$4000 trip cost = approx. \$200 insurance cost.
- Medical coverage only while on trip is only ~\$37.00. Any reason not to buy this?
- You must decide on amount of insurance you wish to get prior to going. You are entitled to a one-time adjustment in dates and amount of insurance purchased.
- Read the attached brochure and/or Linda can answer any other questions you have on travel insurance.

Jim Knox

- In Vienna, we will sing Mozart's Coronation Mass in C Major, KV 317.
- Salzburg a cappella concert TBD by Jim (if/what).
- Touring choristers are required to register and attend Cascade Chorale for the Spring 2017 term.
- In addition to the 60's music theme, Spring term will include highlights of the Mass.
- Additional rehearsals outside of the regular Cascade Chorale Tuesday night rehearsals will be required during this term for those touring. This may include some weekend days.
- Questions on this? Talk to Jim.

Jim Elliott

- Passport: Get it now (on line or from the Post Office)!
- Talked about EU/US Dollar exchange rate. Rates vary frequently/daily. As of 9/8/16, 1 E = \$1.125.
- Suggested taking a debit card on trip, in addition to credit card. Best way to get cash. If you use your credit card to get cash, it becomes a cash advance and interest starts immediately.
- Notify credit card/debit card companies as to exactly where (all cities: Vienna, Salzburg, etc.) and dates of travel.
- Take the name, email address and phone number of your personal banker with you so that you can call them in the event of any credit card/debit card problems. They should be able to resolve it for you rather easily.
- Best to have card with a "chip;" better for security/protection. It is quite difficult to use a card in Europe without a "chip."
- Get credit/debit cards without foreign transaction fees. Talk to your bank about this.
- Jim offered to have a meeting in the near future for more detailed travel tips and packing. More on this to come.
- Check out cell phone carriers to see what they charge for foreign travel.
- Consider purchasing a \$50 cell phone in Vienna.
- Buy a protective cover/fanny pack with magnetic barriers for credit cards/passports. Look on Amazon.com or AAA store. (I really like mine from AAA!)
- Other sources: AAA maps of Austria and other countries; Lonely Planet Tour book; Trip Advisor or other internet resources for timely current events; festivals.

I hope this helps! Please contact me if you have other questions.

Marilyn Elliott
(541) 322-9590 Home
(541) 550-0010 Cell