

# 2015 Austria Tour

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oxford high school choirs



Information Meeting  
October 1, 2013

## Tour Choirs

For our international tours we have two choirs perform. All of the ladies going will be in the Oxford Women's Chorale and we will also have a small mixed ensemble with selected women and all the men called Oxford Voices.

## Requirements for Involvement

To participate in the tour students must meet the following requirements:

1. Pass an audition demonstrating appropriate tone and technique
2. Make payments on time
3. Model the Choir Creed in the choir program for 2013-2015.
4. Maintain a clear school discipline record (no suspensions)
5. Adequately prepare music for the tour
6. Keep a positive interaction with Mr. Card and fellow vocalists

## Auditions

Students will prepare their part of the audition song and perform it with accompaniment during an audition time they sign up for. Auditions may be individual or duet, your choice. Following are the criteria for being selected. Applicants will be assessed in each area on a 5 point scale. Following each criteria on the list you will note the required minimum score for selection.

1. Demonstrate accuracy of notes for your part (minimum 4)
2. Sing correct pitch's in tune (minimum 4)
3. Demonstrate confidence in singing (minimum 3)
4. Demonstrate appropriate posture/poise (minimum 4)
5. Demonstrate healthy breath support (minimum 3)
6. Demonstrate an appropriate choral tone (support, space, shape) (minimum 3)
7. Demonstrate a prior history of positive choir involvement (minimum 4)

Audition help is located on the choir website in the form of recordings for each part and the accompaniment track that students will audition with. These recordings are located on the student page of the website (password: choirrocks)

There is not a limit on how many students we will take to Austria, all students that qualify based on the trip requirements and audition criteria will be approved for the tour.

## Cost

Cost for the 8 day 6 night trip is \$3,500. We are already planning on choir program fundraising and negotiations to lower the cost for everybody to \$3,200. Everything on the tour is included in this cost except for:

- Cost of passport (\$105 for minors)
- Money for 5 meals (\$35-\$50)
- Spending money

## Payments

We do offer some flexibility with making payments based on individual situations. It is important to communicate with Mr. Card in advance for modifications to the monthly payment plan. We have been able to accommodate quarterly payments and annual payments under certain circumstances. Certain months can be skipped based on family needs if advance communication is offered and deadlines for minimum payments are met. Payment plans prevent panic in the end.

**Cancellations**

Take note of the What to Expect document for cancellation deadlines. Refunds in full or in part are available based on date of cancellation.

**Accounts**

Once the first payment is made an account is set up for all payments and fundraising. Regular statements are provided as receipt. Note there is a \$30 fee for non-sufficient fund checks.

**Communication with home**

We do not recommend using your cell phones in Europe! Too many travelers receive surprise bills in large amounts for roaming and surcharges. Free communication is available with Skype video and phone calling as well as email. We will have several iPads with Skype phone numbers that students can use to call home with. We will also have an international phone for emergency use to and from America.

**Chaperones**

Oxford Choirs travel internationally with a minimum ratio of 1 chaperone for every 5 students. Chaperones assist Mr. Card and our Tour Manager with movement in and around our locations. Students are never left alone without direct adult supervision. Chaperones will be selected by Mr. Card based on application, interview and chaperone experience. Oxford Schools require chaperones to complete a criminal background check form.

**Safety and Security**

We take numerous advance precautions to safeguard our Oxford students. The most effective of these safety measures is for the students to never be alone or without direct adult supervision. Prior to the tour we will be training students on safe travel and security of their possessions. Mr. Card has visited the areas we will be visiting and our Tour Manager will be highly effective at guiding us throughout Vienna and Salzburg. Students will be expected to travel smart and follow all procedures to insure their enjoyment and safety.

**What to Expect**

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|--------------------------|---|
| <b>October 2013</b>      | October 7th-10 <sup>th</sup> Auditions<br>October 11 <sup>th</sup> Posting of accepted vocalists<br>October 18 <sup>th</sup> Deadline for chaperone applications and scholarship applications<br>October 25 <sup>th</sup> Posting of accepted chaperones and scholarship recipients |
| <b>November 2013</b>     | Begin making payments (5 <sup>th</sup> of month)<br>Chaperones meet to plan fundraisers   |
| <b>January-June 2014</b> | Various Fundraising opportunities planned by Chaperones   |
| <b>June 2014</b>         | Account Balance should be at \$1,200 minimum<br>Cancellation Deadline for full refund   |
| <b>October 2014</b>      | Cancellation Deadline for partial refund (\$500 cancellation fee)<br>No refunds after October 2014<br>Account Balance should be at \$2,000 minimum<br>Deadline for Passports  |
| <b>November 2014</b>     | 2 rehearsals<br>Airline Seats Assigned  |
| <b>December 2014</b>     | 1 rehearsal   |
| <b>January 2015</b>      | 2 rehearsals  |
| <b>February 2015</b>     | 2 rehearsals  |
| <b>March 2015</b>        | 2 rehearsals<br>Account Balance should be at \$3,000 minimum  |
| <b>April 2015</b>        | 2 rehearsals<br>Final Payment Due   |
| <b>May 2015</b>          | May Term Rehearsals/Classes<br>1 Period German<br>2 Periods Rehearsal<br>1 Period Culture/Travel Training   |
| <b>May 20-27, 2015</b>   | <b>PERFORMANCE TOUR IN AUSTRIA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!</b><br><br>Remainder of May Term will be spent on reports<br>Celebration Concert last week of school   |

## Tentative Tour Itinerary

### Wednesday, May 20, 2015

- Depart from Detroit via scheduled air service to Vienna (est 9 hour flight)  
Possible flight: 2:30p out of Detroit/1.5 hr layover in Washington/arrive in Vienna at 8:35a  
Note time difference of 6 hours (Austria 6 hrs ahead of Detroit)

### Thursday, May 21 Vienna (D)

- Arrive in Vienna
- Meet Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting motorcoach for the transfer into Vienna
- Stop at the Vienna City Cemetery to visit the graves of Beethoven, Strauss, Brahms, Schubert and the Mozart Memorial
- Eat lunch in the city center on own
- A short panoramic tour of Vienna acquaints visitors with the main attractions and landmarks
- Check into hotel
- This evening we are invited to the home of Dr. Jutta Unkart-Seiffert, a renowned singer of German lieder and President of the European Cultural Initiative for the Young Generation, for a catered dinner, conversation, and perhaps, some music-making.

*Vienna is still considered the music capital of the world. It is a city of refined tastes, grace, style and unmatched artistic accomplishments. For a thousand years, Vienna was the capital of the far-flung Holy Roman and Hapsburg empires. Though its people and ways have changed, Vienna has retained its imperial monuments, not as reminders of past glories, but as living symbols of its present freedom*

### Friday, May 22 Vienna (B,L,D)

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Morning recital in St. Stephen's Cathedral
- Concert at the Vienna School of the Blind
- Lunch included
- Half-day guided tour of *Musical Vienna*
- Haus der Musik (House of Music), a modern interactive sound museum located in the historic city center.
- Evening Heurigen Dinner
- Drive to Kahlenberg for a view over the whole city
- Return to hotel for overnight

### Saturday, May 23 Vienna / Melk / Mondsee / Salzburg (B,D)

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Transfer to Melk to visit the world-famous Abbey of Melk which crowns a rocky bluff overlooking the Danube more than 150 ft. above the river
- Continue to Mondsee to visit St. Michael's Church (site of *The Sound of Music* wedding) and sing a recital
- Lunch on own
- Then it is off to Salzburg for dinner and overnight

*Salzburg, Mozart's birthplace, is a delight from the first sight of the outline of the Hohensalzburg Fortress, the symbol of the power of the prince-archbishops. The city's picturesque streets with their wrought-iron signs, its spacious squares with sculptured fountains and the noble architecture of its buildings inspired by bishops with a passion for construction, leave memories which linger for years*

**Sunday, May 24 Salzburg (B,L,D)**

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Enjoy a morning guided tour of Salzburg including Mirabell Palace and Gardens, Mozart Square, the Dom (cathedral), University Church, entrance to the Mozarthaus (Mozart's birthplace) and a cable car ride up to the Fortress (for an unparalleled view of the city below)
- Lunch included
- Evening Concert (Location TBD)
- Evening dinner and overnight

**Monday, May 25 Salzburg / Hallein (B,L,D)**

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Morning excursion to the Salt Mines in Hallein. The tour entails a walk through underground galleries, with a presentation in a cave showing the different techniques used in the extraction of salt and the descent on slides (toboggans)
- Lunch included
- Return to Salzburg for an afternoon at leisure
- Evening dinner and overnight

**Tuesday, May 26 Salzburg / Hellbrunn (B,D)**

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Excursion to Hellbrunn to visit Schloß Hellbrunn, whose gazebo was also featured in *The Sound of Music* and whose trick fountains have entertained guests for centuries
- Lunch on own
- Afternoon at leisure in Salzburg for sightseeing, shopping or other activities
- Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight

**Wednesday, May 27 Depart for home (B)**

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Transfer to Munich's International Airport for return flight
- Late arrival home