

New Zealand Male Choir

Europe Tour 2021

NEWSLETTER NO 1. September 2019

Welcome to the first newsletter for the proposed 2021 Tour to Europe from your Tour Committee Ian Gabites (Chairperson) John Botting, Joe Christensen, Rob Crabtree, Taffy Davies, Warwyck Dewe, Gordon Keelty (Secretary)

Your Tour Committee has been working on this tour for the last 17 months and all the hard work, planning, communication and working with several Tour companies has now reached the final stage. We started with the findings of a questionnaire (early 2018) that nearly everyone in the choir returned. From there we developed a doable itinerary, contacted choirs and Festival organisers and sought a myriad of ideas and information from individuals and travel agents. The proposed itinerary was offered to four combinations of travel agents (most had European agents). After considerable discussion and numerous meetings, the preferred travel agent has been appointed.

Travel Agent



The decision has now been made to appoint World Travellers, based in Motueka, as the travel agent for the tour to Europe. The Managing Director is Phil Harris and the Group Specialist is Silvana Gottini. Taffy has been appointed as Tour Manager and he will be the principal contact with Phil and Silvana, who have

extensive experience in planning, organising and escorting tours overseas.

Itinerary

The following is the proposed outline itinerary for the tour in 2021

Wed 16 Jun	Depart New Zealand for Singapore
Thu 17 Jun	In Singapore
Fri 18 Jun	Fly Singapore to Munich
Sat 19 Jun	Coach Munich to Nördlingen Concert in Nördlingen
Sun 20 Jun	Church service in Nördlingen
Mon 21 Jun	Coach Nördlingen to Innsbruck
Tue 22 Jun	Concert in Innsbruck
Wed 23 Jun	Coach Innsbruck to San Candido
Thu 24 Jun to Sun 27 Jun	Alta Pusteria Festival (pronounced "puss-ter-ree-ah") Coach San Candido to Kastav, Croatia -accommodated in Optatiji (pronounced "oh-pah-tee-ya")
Mon 28 Jun	Concert with Kapa Kastav TBC
Tue 29 Jun	Coach Kastav to Venice

Wed 30 Jun	Concert in Venice
Thu 1 Jul	Free in Venice
Fri 2 Jul	Fast train to Florence
Sat 3 Jul	Concert in Florence
Sun 4 Jul	Free in Florence
Mon 5 Jul	Fast train to Rome
Tue 6 Jul	Concert in Rome
Wed 7 Jul	Free in Rome
Thu 8 Jul	Fly Rome to Singapore
Fri 9 Jul	Fly Singapore to New Zealand

A more detailed itinerary will be provided as soon as the tour is confirmed. This will depend on a balance of parts from Choir members wishing to travel and total numbers making up the travel party.

As part of the recruitment programme the Executive is currently advertising the opportunity to join the choir and travel on the 2021 Tour (like an approach made in 1999 for the 2000 Tour)

Cost

It is likely that the tour cost will be around \$9,500 per person. This will include economy class air fares ex Auckland and Christchurch including airline taxes and fees; 21 nights' accommodation, including breakfasts, on a twin share basis; all internal travel including airport transfers. The tour includes participation in the Alta Pusteria Festival (5 days) The final tour cost will depend on the number travelling, exchange rates and deals still to be negotiated with airlines (earliest we can do that is 11 months out)

Alta Pusteria Festival

The Alta Pusteria International Choir Festival is a non-competitive event that takes place in Val Pusteria (South Tyrol, ITALY) every year during the last week of June for five days, Wednesday to Sunday.

Born in 1998, in twenty-four editions it has registered the presence of over 1250 choirs and over 65,000 choristers from 49 countries representing the five continents.

The Festival program includes about sixty performances divided into real CONCERTS, OUTDOOR REVIEWS and DAYS-MEETING, which take place in the suggestive scenery of the Val Pusteria, from Bruno to Silliman, immediately after the border with Austria.

The concerts held indoors, scheduled in theaters, halls and churches of the main towns of the valley, are flanked by suggestive open-air performances at lakes, medieval castles and all the Alpine refuges of Alta Pusteria, in the heart of the Dolomites.

The repertoire is free; no songs must be performed mandatorily nor are there bans on periods or music genres.

The variety of places selected for the performances, the numerous events and the extremely rich repertoire make this Festival not only one of the most spectacular international choral festivals but also a unique opportunity of mutual and fruitful exchange between different musical cultures.

Website: www.festivalpusteria.org

Timetable

Registration Forms for the tour will be provided at the Anniversary Weekend in Nelson in September. These will be required to be returned by 31 October, together with an initial deposit of \$500. This will enable the final decision to be made on the tour proceeding. Further

progress payments will be determined by the travel agent. (A schedule of progress payments will be developed and communicated to those touring before the end of this year?)

The final cut-off for participation in the tour will be 28 February 2020. While new members may also be considered for the tour after the Feb 28 cut-off, Joe expects all touring singers, current and new members, to have been involved for a minimum of 12 months (10 rehearsals) prior to the tour.

Fitness

While the Itinerary has been devised to provide plenty of opportunity for free days and leisure time, there will be a requirement to transport your own suitcases on and off coaches and Fast trains quickly, some walking in the Festival time (up to 2275 m above sea level for the welcome party!) and the usual “save money by walking” in some of the wonderful cities we will be visiting. There will be a reasonable level of fitness required to cope. Now is the time to start building up one’s endurance, on and off the stage.

Supporters

As with other tours we welcome friends and supporters from outside the choir. They become full members of the tour party and are expected to follow dress and tour requirements as set out. If you know of anyone that may be interested, please let Ian or Taffy know.

Contacts for further Information

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Happy Touring,

*Tour Committee
Europe 2021*