



Europe Tour 2021

NEWSLETTER NO 3 March 31st, 2020

Greetings to you all in isolation and in your respective bubbles.

This is an update on the situation surrounding our proposed tour in 2021.

All the planning associated with a successful tour to Europe continues. On behalf of the tour committee, I met with our travel agents just over a week ago to confirm where we are at and how we plan to go forward in this difficult time. I have itemised the main points to keep everyone informed.

1. **Executive Meeting:** Most of you will be aware that the executive met on Saturday 21st March and decided to suspend the choir's April and May rehearsal weekends in both islands and the Rotorua, Timaru and Upper Hutt concerts. They will meet again later to consider any further health and safety measures.
2. **Tour Reconnaissance:** The reconnaissance visit was scheduled for June 20th -July 4th. As a result of the serious Covid'19 issues in Italy it is unlikely that this will go ahead as planned. Ian and Joe are currently looking at an alternative date in September/October. I have been in contact with the Director of the Festival seeking clarification for this year's Festival but have not heard back (over a month). The website seems to suggest that it is all go!! For obvious reasons this is a decision that Ian and Joe will make in the fullness of time.
3. **Change of Tour Dates:** As a result of the Festival dates changing in 2021, we have moved our own tour dates forward one week. The Tour will now leave New Zealand on Wednesday 9th June and returning on Friday 2nd of July. With the current uncertainty of flight schedules these dates could still move by a day or so.
4. **Effect of the Current situation:**
 - I. We are still looking at booking flights in June of this year.
 - II. We will require a further \$500 deposit before that June date – Tour members will be advised by Newsletter of that date.
 - III. Hotel accommodation has been changed to fit our new tour dates'
 - IV. The fluctuation of the NZ\$ against the € Euro is a concern.
 - V. The final confirmation date will be 12th November 2020 when deposits will become non-refundable. Prior to that date we will have all the up to date travel information and costs.
5. **Comprehensive Travel Insurance** – I have been advised by our travel agents that travel Insurance does not need to be taken out yet. There is considerable volatility in the Travel Insurance business, and this could well change in the next few months. Again, more information will be available in the next Newsletter.
6. **Choristers / Music:** Expect to see a tour repertoire and learning expectations in the next few weeks – it will come from Joe.

Best case – Hold Tight – virus will pass, and things will get back to some kind of “normal”

On behalf of the Tour Committee - Best wishes, Keep Safe.

Taffy

Education is what you get when you read the small print. Experience is what you get when you don't!