

**Europe Tour 2021**

**NEWSLETTER NO 4 -June16th 2020**

Greetings to you all as you recover from lockdown and experience a little more freedom! Well done on your part in the process.

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

 The Tour committee has met several times via email, telephone and Zoom meetings during the lockdown period. It has been a difficult situation to try and resolve. We have also met with our travel agent to clarify our position. The outcome of our meetings are as follows.

1. **Tour Reconnaissance**: In the light of the situation at the time the reconnaissance had to be cancelled. There was a suggestion that it could take place in September/October but this too, proved impossible.
2. **Health and Wellbeing** is the committee’s No.1 priority of the Tour Party. Some members have already contacted the tour committee with concerns of the tour going ahead in 2021.These included, age vulnerability, increased and unknown travel insurance cover, tour costs and personal health issues.
3. **Situation:** As of today 16th June, the borders of most European countries are either closed or unreachable by air from New Zealand
4. **Travel Agent Still** too early to give a clear indication of when travel will resume under some sort of “normal” circumstances and this is unlikely to be resolved before September/October this year. Note that for the tour to go ahead in 2021 we would need to confirm bookings in early November with a further non-refundable deposit.
5. **Music- Tour Repertoire:** From a musical perspective and despite his valiant efforts during lockdown, Joe has lost three months rehearsal time with the choir
6. **Effect of the Current situation:**
* The tour Committee is keen to get the views of all tour members as to their own situation regarding Tour Europe 2021
* **A questionnaire** is attached to this Newsletter. – Choir tour members please complete and return to your South rehearsal (Saturday 20th June – Cheviot), North rehearsal (Saturday 4th July – Whanganui) OR email replies to Ian Gabites.
* Non Choir Tour Party members please email or post your replies to Ian Gabites iandj.gabites@xtra.co.nz Ian Gabites, 54 Shelter Grove, Frankleigh Park, New Plymouth.
* The replies will give the Tour Committee a full appreciation of where we all stand and will provide the basis for a decision on the weekend 8th-9th August (at the latest) in New Plymouth.

**Best wishes to you all,**

**Taffy**

**On behalf of the Tour Committee**