 **2024 EUROPEAN TOUR**

**4th June 2024 - 26th June 2024**

**NEWSLETTER No. 6**

**Choristers and Partners**

It is now less than seven months [200 sleeps] before we depart on our three week tour to Singapore, Germany, Austria, and Italy. Our departure date is still set for Tuesday 4 June 2024 with groups departing from both Auckland International Airport and Christchurch International Airport. You have been given these departure allocations in Newsletter #5

Joe pointed out at the weekend that there are now only five more choir rehearsals before we depart. Please keep up all your home rehearsal gents – there’s a lot of music yet to be learned. 🎹

**Welcome to New Members**

Our tour party has stabilised at 63 members, of which 29 are choristers. There could possibly be three additional supporters. We have very recently auditioned Frank Sargent [Hamilton], Jeremy Matthews [Nelson] and Doug Higgins [Nelson] into membership of the Choir and they have registered to be part of the Tour. Please make yourself known to them and make these new members feel welcome.

**Insurance**

We would hope by now everyone has taken out adequate comprehensive travel insurance for the duration of their trip - including for any post-Tour extensions. It’s always wise to include a day or two at either end just in case something unforeseen occurs.

Please be aware if one has occasion to seek medical assistance in Europe, you will most likely need to pay up-front [probably by VISA?] before any treatment is provided. Ian Gabites had occasion to invoke this at Vienna Hospital some years ago. New Zealand does not have Reciprocal Health Agreements with European countries. It does with Australia and the United Kingdon, but not Europe.

**Post-Tour Extensions**

Our travel agent Silvana Gottini from World Travellers Motueka is leading a tour overseas and will not be back until mid-December. In her absence our files are being managed by her colleague Steph Christofferson. Steph has been fully briefed by Silvana, so she is more than capable of answering any questions you may have about either the Tour or about your post-tour extensions. Steph may be contacted at World Travellers Motueka office. **Tel: 03 528 1550**.

**Tour Uniform**

The Tour Committee has recently been exploring options for both Performance uniforms and Casual uniforms to be worn on tour. Singapore will be hot and humid, Nördlingen pleasant, Innsbruck also pleasant. We are cognisant of the fact Val Pusteria, for the five day festival, may be a little cooler [being at altitude], whereas Venice/Florence/Rome will be much warmer. Uniforms will need to reflect this. As well, when we get to perform in sacred venues a formal uniform will most likely be required. So, gentlemen, please be prepared to bring Choir Suits. Expect to hear more about uniforms in a subsequent Newsletter.

**Next Progress Payment**

We are asking all members of the Tour Party to make another deposit of $2,500.00 per person to the Choir’s Tour Account before 1st December 2023. There will be only one more payment requested after this and that will be for the balance of the account, due on 15th February 2024.

**Bank: Westpac**

**Name: NZ Male Choir Tour Account**

**Account No: 03 0791 0742675 00**

**Amount: $2,500.00**

**Reference:** Your name

Remember the deposit amount is for each person.

**Fitness Training**

Congratulations to those who have embarked on a training programme in preparation for the Tour. And hearty congratulations to those who have continued doing it!! 🏃‍♀️ 👏

We cannot over-emphasise how much one’s fitness and stamina contribute to the enjoyment of an overseas tour such as this. It is exciting seeing new sights and enjoying new experiences, but touring is actually hard work.

Kind regards

**Oliver Lane Ian Gabites**

**Tour Manager – NZ Male Choir Tour Convenor – NZ Male Choir**

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