



The Gainesville Youth Chorus, Inc.

presents

the **Alpine Majesty** of **Music Tour**

June 21 – July 4, 2014

Switzerland, Germany, Italy, France, Austria



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Dear GYC Members, Families and Friends,

It is with eager anticipation that we embark on the Alpine Majesty of Music Tour! Germany, France, Switzerland and Italy all beckon with majestic landscapes, diverse cultures and magnificent music. The ancient and the new... cultures entwined, melodies held in hearts, and friends remembered forever!

Join us for adventures of a lifetime as we sing through the Black Forest, Swiss countryside, Swiss cathedrals and the Italian lake region as cultural ambassadors for our city!



Deborah DesForges
Gainesville Youth Chorus
Artistic Director

Vicki Sabatella
Gainesville Youth Chorus
Executive Director

Dear Travelers,
My name is Andreas Brecht. I have been in the travel business since 1999. Since this time I have traveled extensively throughout Europe with students, adults, choirs and orchestras.

Vicki, Debby and I first met in 2004 during an Ireland/ London Tour.

Since then we have been working together to create concert tours, which are specifically designed to meet your needs as

a touring choir group while providing you with a fantastic cultural experience abroad. To achieve this we go the extra mile to provide you with meals, accommodation and cultural experiences, which are off the beaten track and of great value. Debby and I carefully chose the concert venues that will ensure wonderful memories.

Well, I do hope to welcome you again in 2014.

Yours truly,
Andreas Brecht, Tour Guide



ITINERARY FOR TOUR 2014

June 21, 2014 - leave Orlando, FL

June 22 – arrive Frankfurt, Germany

Travel to Heidelberg by private coach. Heidelberg is a popular tourist destination due to its romantic and picturesque cityscape, including Heidelberg Castle and the baroque style Old Town. After a tour of this wonderful city, transfer to our hotel in the Black Forest.

Hotel Hofgut-Sternen (3 nights)
www.en.hofgut-sternen.de



June 23 – Flower Island Mainau, Rhine Falls of Schaffhausen

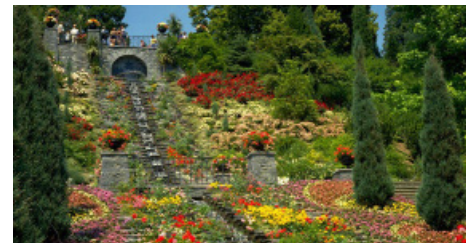
Travel by coach to see the beauty of Mainau, Island of Flowers. Visit this spectacular flower island at Lake Konstanz with its arboretum and the "Italian Rose Garden". The island is one enormous park, in which a beautiful palace church, magnificent rose gardens, tropical greenhouses and an old Baroque palace can be found.

Travel to charming Schaffhausen, a medieval city in northern Switzerland, home to the largest waterfall in Europe, the Rhine Falls. Imposing in position and power, the waterfalls are located in the "knee" of the Rhine River. Travel through the beauty of the black forest to Rhine Falls, where we board a boat which brings us as close as possible to the falls.

June 24 – Strasbourg, France

Travel to Strasbourg, France, and enjoy a guided tour and discover the beauty of

this amazing town. Sing in the Strasbourg Cathedral de Notre-Dame. This cathedral remained the tallest church in the world until 1880 and today remains the fourth tallest church in the world. The cathedral houses an 18-metro astronomical clock, one of the largest in the world. Tour the French quarter and see the typical half-timbered houses from the Alsatian area.



Arrive back at the hotel for an introduction to cuckoo clock making by the owners of our hotel.

After dinner experience a late-night walk through the Black Forest to a 13th century chapel where a dark, dark, chapter of its creepy history awaits!



June 25 – Black Forest, Lucerne, Switzerland to Kandersteg Switzerland

Drive through the southern end of the Black Forest to the charming town of Lucerne. Lucerne, the gateway to central Switzerland, is embedded within an impressive mountainous panorama. Complete with gable paintings, the covered, medieval Chapel Bridge forms the centerpiece of Lucerne’s townscape and is considered to be one of the oldest, covered wooden bridges in Europe. Historic houses decorated with frescoes line the picturesque town squares in the car-free old town.

After a boat ride on Lake Lucerne, we then continue through the Alps to our hotel in the little mountain village of Kandersteg, Switzerland.

Hotel Victoria Ritter (3 nights)
www.hotel-victoria.ch

June 26 – Murren and Grindelwald to Schilthorn

Experience a “mountain day” with travels to the famous Swiss alpine towns of Grindelwald and Murren.



The Eiger village of Grindelwald in the Bernese Oberland lies embedded in a welcoming and green hollow, surrounded by a commanding mountainscape. Murren is a traditional Walsen mountain village in Bernese Oberland, Switzerland, at an elevation of 1,650 m above sea level and unreachable by public road. In Murren we take the cable car up to the Schilthorn (altitude 10,000 ft). Enjoy spectacular views of the famous Eiger and Jungfrau. Marvel at the most stirring, panoramic views in Switzerland with over 200 mountain peaks and endless glaciers and lakes. Late afternoon, return to Kandersteg.

June 27 – Gruyere, Chateau de Chillon, St. Bernhard Museum

Leave Kandersteg and drive through the southwestern Swiss Alps to Gruyeres, Switzerland. This medieval town is an important tourist location in the upper valley of the Saane river, and gives its name to the well-known cheese. In this town, a trackless train is the only vehicle allowed on its pedestrianised streets. The picture-perfect historical town of Gruyères, has preserved its Medieval character up until today.

Enjoy a boat ride on Geneva Lake to Chateau de Chillon. This medieval castle is remarkably well-preserved, it has never been damaged or destroyed — always inhabited, always maintained. The Savoy family enlarged it to its current state in the 13th century.



Travel to Martigny and tour the St Bernhard Museum and visit the dog-breeding place, where we get to know the challenging history of the St. Bernhard pass and the history behind the breeding of the dogs as mountain rescue dogs.

Return by bus to Goppenstein, where we will take the train through a 17km long tunnel to Kandersteg.

June 28 – Zermatt, Switzerland to Stresa Italy

Tour on foot to the train station of Kandersteg. Take the train and travel a 17 km long tunnel through the alpine massive to the Italian-speaking part of Switzerland. Travel by bus to Zermatt, Switzerland’s premier mountain resort. This small car-less mountain town in the Swiss Alps is nestled at the foot of the Matterhorn. The Matterhorn is perhaps the most well known mountain of the European Alps, on the border between Switzerland and Italy, and towers over Zermatt. Enjoy free time and lunch in this beautiful mountain village. Early in the afternoon take the mountain train up to the Gornergrat passage and enjoy the magnificent views of the Matterhorn. Travel on to Stresa, Italy.

Belle Epoque Regina Palace Hotel (3 nights)
www.regina-palace.com/en

June 29 – Isola Bella, Stresa, Italy

The famous town of Stresa enjoys a splendid location on Lake Maggiore in the Gulf of Borromeo, where it overlooks the eponymous islands, the main attraction in the region. Its beautiful countryside, architectural gems and mild climate combine to make Stresa one of the most popular tourist attractions in Italy.

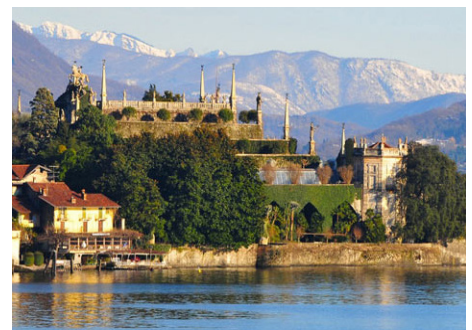


Today we enjoy Lago Maggiore, a land of color and passion, and travel by boat to “Isola Bella”. Isola Bella, one of the three magical islands on Lake Maggiore, charms visitors with its magnificent Baroque palace and terraced gardens that slope to the lake.

Free time in the afternoon to visit the small town of Stresa, a short walk from our hotel.

June 30 – Lago di Como Excursion Day

Travel to Lago di Como (Lake Como). In the shadow of the snow-covered Rhaetian Alps, Lago di Como is the most spectacular of the lakes. Shaped like an upside-down letter Y, its squiggly shoreline is scattered with villages, including exquisite Bellagio, in the centre of the inverted V on the lake’s southern shore.



Stop in Bellagio, Italy. Famous for its great climate, scenery, and unique location in the middle of Lake Como, Bellagio has enchanted artists, writers and guests for centuries. The village is characterized by century-old buildings, stone lanes and picturesque cobbled stairways filled with shops showcasing the finest Italian wares.

July 1 – Lago Maggiore to Innsbruck to Ehrwald & the Austrian Alps

Leave the beauty of Lago Maggiore behind and travel on to the Austrian Alps. On the way we pass the little dukedom of Lichtenstein. In the afternoon we arrive in the picturesque Tyrolean mountain town of Innsbruck and enjoy a guided tour of this famous city. Innsbruck is one of the most beautiful cities in the world thanks to its unique blend of alpine scenery and charming Baroque atmosphere. Innsbruck's major attractions are clustered around the Old Town and are easily accessible on foot. Visit the Hofkirche (Court Church), a Gothic royal court church and mausoleum built in 1553.

Travel via the Fern Pass to the Austrian mountain town of Ehrwald where we stay at a picturesque and family-run 4 star hotel.

Hotel Spielman (3 nights)
www.hotel-spielmann.com

July 2 – Hellbrunn Place, Salzburg, Austria



Travel by coach to Hellbrunn Palace, a 17th Century hunting castle built by Prince-Archbishop Markus Sittikus. Built in 1612-1615, it contains a spacious park, trick water fountains and a mechanical theatre, one of the most beautiful examples of manneristic architecture north of the Alps.

We then travel to Salzburg, a region of high mountains. The beauty of Salzburg is inextricably linked with Mozart. Salzburg is divided into three distinct areas of interest. The first, including the finest churches, the archbishop's residence and Mozart's birthplace, is



on the left bank of the Salzach river. The second area, on the right bank of the Salzach, is the New Town. Its most interesting sights are the Mirabell Palace, the Mozart Conservatoire and Kapuzinerberg. The third area is the mighty former fortress of Hohensalzburg. Walking tour of Salzburg. Free time to explore and shop in afternoon.

July 3 – Neuschwanstein, Wieskirche, Oberammergau & Farewell Dinner



Travel through the beauty of the Austrian and Bavarian Alps to Neuschwanstein. Neuschwanstein Castle is a 19th-century Romanesque Revival palace on a rugged hill above the village of Hohenschwangau in southwest Bavaria, Germany. The palace was commissioned by Ludwig II of Bavaria as a retreat and is famous for its beauty and the dramatic life of its owner "Mad" King Ludwig II.

After lunch we travel to the famous Baroque rococo Wieskirche, an 18th century pilgrimage church. The Wieskirche, whose official name is Pilgrimage Church of the Scourged Saviour, is the most beautiful rococo church in Bavaria and probably in the world. The church was completed in 1754 and is a masterpiece of 18th century rococo art.

Continue to Oberammergau in Bavaria, Germany. The town is famous for its production of a Passion Play, its woodcarvers, and the NATO School. The Oberammergau Passion Play was first performed in 1634 and is the result of a vow made by the inhabitants of the village that if God spared them from the effects of the bubonic plague, then sweeping the region, they would perform a passion play every ten years. The play is now performed in years ending with a zero.

This little town has also been a noted center for workcrafters since the 12th Century. Of particular interest are its "Luftmalerei" or frescoes, of traditional Bavarian or religious-themed scenes found on many homes and buildings.

Farewell dinner at the hotel.

July 4 – Depart Munich for Home

the Alpine Majesty of Music Tour



TRIP COSTS

TOTAL ESTIMATED PRICE OF TOUR:
\$3,000 Land Portion
\$1,600 Delta Plane Ticket
\$4,600 TOTAL PRICE

DEPOSIT SCHEDULE - LAND (non-refundable)

1st Installment – \$100 per person – Due October 1, 2013

2nd Installment – \$300 per person – Due November 1, 2013

3rd Installment – \$1,300 per person - due February 1, 2014

4th Installment – \$1,300 per person - due April 1, 2014

DEPOSIT SCHEDULE - PLANE

(price subject to change, prices as of 8/13/13 for Group Tickets Reserved)

1st Installment – \$100 per person – Due October 1, 2013

2nd Installment – \$1,500 per person – Due May 1, 2014

Price based on 35 people.

TRAVEL INSURANCE:

Required for children traveling without a parent.

ADDITIONAL COST:

\$45 tips per person for bus driver - Due June 1, 2014

INCLUDED IN TOUR:

- Luxury, Modern Tour Bus
- Hotel Accommodations
- All breakfasts and dinners included
- All planned entrance fees
- Tips for tour guide, local guides, and all meals

QUESTIONS & CONCERNS:

Contact: Vicki Sabatella

Executive Director

(352) 256-3057

