

# Gold Tour April Newsletter

## Choir Music

All choir members must purchase the choir music for this summer's tour. Please order the music as soon as possible to receive it before the reading session rehearsal in June. To order, go to [www.musicalsource.com](http://www.musicalsource.com) and click on "Choral Festival List. Choose American Music Abroad 2017 Gold Tour, update quantities to 1 each and add to cart. In order to check out you'll need to create a new account (the password will be emailed to you). Alternately, you can contact them at [deb@musicalsource.com](mailto:deb@musicalsource.com) or 1-800-276-8723.

## Keeping in Touch with Loved Ones

**Land line phones:** Friends and family may call or fax participants at their hotels. Hotel phone numbers are listed on page 3. Phone and fax numbers will be printed on the final itinerary. Please be aware that hotels may assess a costly surcharge as well as high rates on outgoing calls. For the most affordable rates, we recommend the use of a European pre-paid calling card that may be purchased upon arrival in Europe.

**Cell Phones:** Contact your cell phone provider for the latest rates and information regarding international calls and texts. If you plan to use your cell phone, we recommend purchasing an international plan to cover the time you are traveling. Remember to turn off your cellular and/or roaming settings before traveling to avoid incurring costly out of network and roaming fees unknowingly.

**Wifi:** The hotels provide wifi (either as a free service or for a small fee). You may also find wifi access at coffee houses or restaurants.

## Upcoming Information...

Check your email mailbox for the May Newsletter (sent third week of April) and the June Newsletter (sent third week of May).

Check your physical home mailbox in mid-May for the "May Mailing", which will contain a blazer patch, a college map and paperwork to be completed and brought with you to Check-in at Millersville University: a medical form, a code of conduct and an instrument insurance information form.

## Reminders

### Reading Session Rehearsal

Saturday, June 3rd from 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM  
Southern Regional High School  
600 North Main Street  
Manahawkin, NJ 08050

The rehearsal is for all participants. If you cannot attend, please contact us.

### Roommates

ALL participants need to complete the [online roommate form](#) by April 15th. If you desire to make changes to your roommate request after you have submitted it and before April 15th, please contact us. Do not complete a second form.

### Passports

If you have not, please [email](#) or mail a photocopy of the picture page of your passport by April 15th.

### Instrument Information

If you did not include it with your application, please send us your instrument make, model and serial number by April 15th.

### College Information

Check-in is at Millersville University at 12:00 PM on July 5th. More information will be in upcoming newsletters. Hotels near Millersville may be found at this [link](#).

### Foreign Currency

We remind you to purchase a small amount of currency prior to your trip. Specific details were provided in the [Spending Money Guide](#) in the last newsletter.

### Optional Bus Transportation

Bus transportation will be provided to Millersville University on July 5th and from JFK Airport on July 24th. To register and pay for the transportation, please complete the [online form](#) by May 1.

# Gold Tour Itinerary

*The following itinerary is an updated version for your information and is to be left at home. You will receive a detailed hour-by-hour itinerary a few days before departure and during Check-in at Millersville University on July 5.*

## **Wednesday, July 5 - MILLERSVILLE UNIV.**

**12:00 PM Check-in** at Millersville University. Rehearsals, orientation sessions, dinner and overnight on campus.

## **Thursday, July 6 - MILLERSVILLE UNIV.**

Rehearsals, orientation sessions and meals throughout the day and evening on campus.

## **Friday, July 7 - MILLERSVILLE UNIV.**

Rehearsals and meals throughout day. 6:00 PM Buffet Dinner for participants and guests. 8:00 PM Farewell Concert of the Gold Tour 2017.

## **Saturday, July 8 - JFK AIRPORT - ZURICH**

Morning recording sessions. Afternoon transfer to JFK Airport, NY for transatlantic flights to Europe. Swiss Group #2 departs at 6:10 PM. Swiss Group #1 departs at 9:00 PM. Dinner and overnight on board flights.

## **Sunday, July 9 - ZURICH - LUCERNE AREA**

Both groups: morning arrival in Zurich, Switzerland. Board coaches and travel to a resort hotel near Lucerne. Free time to enjoy the water park and other activities at the hotel. Dinner and overnight in the resort hotel.

## **Monday, July 10 - LUCERNE**

Excursion to beautiful Lucerne, poised on a lake. Time to browse through the old town area, view the panorama of medieval towers, cross the 14th century *Kapellbrücke* (roofed wooden bridge) and visit the lion monument carved out of rock. Perform a late afternoon concert in a nearby town. Evening return to your resort hotel for dinner and overnight.

## **Tuesday, July 11 - ABANO TERME, ITALY**

Journey through some of the most dramatic scenery in the world as you weave southward across the Alps. The towering peaks give way to the secluded valleys and rich green landscape of northern Italy. Dinner and overnight in Abano Terme, a spa town near Venice.

## **Wednesday, July 12 - VENICE**

Venice, built on 717 islands with 150 canals and 400 bridges, invites idleness and strolling. Visit the Piazza San Marco where tourists and Venetians sit at the terraces of famous cafes, sample old world delicacies and listen to music. Pause for pictures of the magnificent St. Mark's Cathedral and the rose-colored

Doges' Palace. Meander along the narrow streets and over bridges or perhaps hire a gondola for a memorable ride under the Bridge of Sighs. Return to Abano Terme for dinner, an evening concert and overnight.

## **Thursday, July 13 - CROATIA**

Today's travel takes you eastward through the farmland of northern Italy and then south into the Istrian Peninsula of Croatia. Once part of the Hapsburg Empire, Croatia became part of Yugoslavia in 1945. The country declared independence in 1991 and became a member of the European Union in 2013. Arrive in Poreč, a seaside town fast becoming a favorite resort destination. Tonight's dinner is accompanied by folkloric entertainment.

## **Friday, July 14 - ISTRIAN PENINSULA**

Your morning is free to enjoy the pools or beach at your hotel on the Adriatic Sea. Afternoon travel to the city of Pula. Your guided tour will introduce you to the numerous Roman ruins throughout the city, including one of the largest and best-preserved amphitheatres in all of Europe. An evening concert is planned. Return to Poreč for overnight.

## **Saturday, July 15 - ISTRIAN PENINSULA**

Free time in Poreč to explore the historical Roman town. Afternoon excursion to the fishing village of Rovinj. Stroll along the lovely port area and browse in the shops filled with handicrafts. Climb the narrow, cobbled streets to the church overlooking the town for a wonderful view of the Adriatic. Perform an evening concert before returning to Poreč for overnight.

## **Sunday, July 16 - LJUBLJANA**

Travel northward into the small nation of Slovenia. Journey underground for a fascinating tour among the stalagmites and stalactites in the Postojna Caves. Continue to Ljubljana, Slovenia's beautiful Baroque capital. Evening guided tour of the old town area. Dinner and overnight in Ljubljana.

## **Monday, July 17 - LJUBLJANA**

Morning visit to Ljubljana Castle. Free time for lunch and exploring the Old Town. Stroll along the river and down streets lined with 19th century buildings reflecting the height of the Hapsburg Empire. Tonight, perform a concert in a nearby town. Dinner and overnight in

**Tuesday, July 18 - LAKE BLEED - WESTENDORF**

Travel north through the Slovenian countryside. Stop at Lake Bled for lunch and to view the beautiful medieval fortress overlooking the lake. Afternoon travel into the Austrian Alps to Westendorf, a picturesque village in the Tirolean Region. Tonight, take part in a spirited Tirolean Folk Fest filled with song and dance indigenous to the area. Dinner and overnight in Westendorf.

**Wednesday, July 19 - RATTENBERG - GLACIER**

Morning visit to the charming town of Rattenberg, noted for its handicrafts and crystal. Next, ride a cable car high into the Alps to a glacier for a spectacular panorama of ice-capped mountains and sheltered valleys. Travel to a nearby village for dinner and an evening concert. Return to Westendorf for overnight.

**Thursday, July 20 - WESTENDORF**

Today is free for exploring Westendorf - perhaps some swimming, biking or hiking. A ski lift ride provides a fantastic view of the valley. Perform an evening concert for an appreciative audience. Dinner and overnight in Westendorf.

**Friday, July 21 - SALZBURG - CHIEMSEE AREA**

Travel to Salzburg, city of *The Sound of Music* and Mozart's home town. Your guided tour will introduce you to the rich history and numerous sights of this city. Free time to visit the Mozart's birthplace and the imposing fortress which dominates the Salzburg landscape. Late afternoon travel to the area of Lake Chiemsee, Germany for dinner and overnight.

**Saturday, July 22****DACHAU - MUNICH - CHIEMSEE AREA**

Today's excursions take you through the southern Bavarian region of Germany, known for woodcarving and lederhosen. Visit Munich for independent lunch in the historical Marienplatz area. This afternoon, stop for a sobering visit to the World War II Concentration Camp at Dachau. Dinner and overnight in your Chiemsee area hotel.

**Sunday, July 23****LAKE CHIEMSEE - WINTERTHUR**

Morning transfer to Lake Chiemsee. Journey by boat to island-bound Herrenchiemsee, a palace built by the eccentric King Ludwig II as a replica of the Palace of Versailles. Free time along the shores for lunch and to enjoy the lake. Late afternoon travel to Winterthur, Switzerland. Following dinner, enjoy a performance of Alpine horns. Overnight in Winterthur.

**Monday, July 24 - ZURICH - JFK AIRPORT**

Transfer to Zurich Airport for return to JFK Airport, NY via scheduled flights. Swiss Group #2 departs Zurich at 9:50 AM on flight #16 and arrives JFK at 12:35 PM. Swiss Group #1 departs Zurich at 12:55 PM on flight #14 and arrives JFK at 3:45 PM. Welcome Home!

*Itinerary is subject to change if deemed necessary.*

The following hotel listing gives the hotels designated for receiving mail. **Not all participants will be staying at these addresses or telephone numbers.** The complete "hour-by-hour" itinerary, given to you at check-in, will list all the hotels used by our tour group.

**July 9 & 10**

Swiss Holiday Park  
Dorfstrasse 10  
6443 Morschach, SWITZERLAND  
Tel: 011-41-41-825-50-50

**July 11 & 12**

Hotel Roma  
Via Mazzini, 1  
35031 Abano Terme, ITALY  
Tel: 011-39-049-866-9127

**July 13, 14 & 15**

Valamar Hotels  
Brulo 1/2  
52440 Porec, CROATIA  
Diamant Hotel Tel: 011-385-52-400000  
Crystal Hotel Tel: 011-385-52-400500

**July 16 & 17**

City Hotel Ljubljana  
Dalmatinova 15  
1000 Ljubljana, SLOVENIA  
Tel: 011-386-1-239-0000

**July 18, 19 & 20**

Hotel Jakobwirt  
6363 Westendorf-Tirol, AUSTRIA  
Tel: 011-43-5334-6245

**July 21 & 22**

Sporthotel Wilder Kaiser  
Naunspitzstrasse 1  
83080 Oberaudorf, GERMANY  
Tel: 011-49-8033-9250

**July 23**

Banana City Hotel  
Schaffhauserstrasse 8  
8400 Winterthur, SWITZERLAND  
Tel: 011-41-52-268-16-16

# PACKING GUIDE

## LUGGAGE

- You are limited to one piece of luggage, plus a carry-on, not including your instrument. Your suitcase must not weigh more than 35 pounds and must be no larger than 62 dimensional inches at maximum expansion (add height + width + length together). This usually equates to a “27 inch” suitcase (or smaller). Many students bring a soft-sided suitcase or duffle bag with wheels. Suitcases with wheels that can also be worn as backpacks are also popular.
- Your carry-on luggage must weigh no more than 17 pounds and must fit in the small space under the seat of the European coach (coach overhead space is very limited). **Please bring a “soft sided” carry-on - not one with wheels.** Many students bring a backpack as their carry-on. A size guideline would be 22” x 12” x 8”.
- We also suggest perhaps bringing a lightweight “day pac,” which can be used to hold essentials and shopping packages during daily touring but stowed into your carry-on or suitcase for travel. Example [here](#).

## DRESS CODE

Dress is casual. *Please dress comfortably while maintaining a clean, conservative look.* Please refer to the *Code of Conduct* sent to you in your acceptance packet and to the Dress Code page on the website.

### Not permitted:

- Clothing that reveals midriff, back and excessive shoulder and clothing that reveals cleavage
- **All denim** - including jeans, skirts, shorts and jackets
- “Offensive” t-shirts (e.g., any reference to alcohol, offensive or potentially offense pictures/wording)
- Cut-offs, clothing with patches or tears
- Athletic-style mesh shorts
- Jeggings (jean leggings)

### Permitted:

- Non-offensive T-shirts, polos, button-down shirts, blouses
- Sheer or lace tops with an appropriate shirt underneath
- Tank tops with a strap of at least 1”
- Sweatpants and pajama pants may not be worn in public but may be brought for sleeping.
- Shorts may be worn on most days except on rare occasions as designated by the staff. **Shorts, skirts or dresses must cover the upper thigh and be no shorter than finger-tip length).**
- Leggings and yoga pants are permissible *if they are worn with a top/dress that covers the upper thigh (finger tip length).*
- Sundresses with narrow straps are permissible as long as they are not otherwise revealing.

## WEATHER

The weather will probably vary from 85°F to a chilly 40°F on the top of the Alps in Austria. Your travel wardrobe should consist mostly of late spring/early summer weight clothing. Most participants wear shorts the majority of the time. You might want to check the weather forecast in the main cities of travel close to your departure date.

## PACKING TIPS

- Plan to always have a sweater or jacket with you so you can add or take off a layer of clothing.
- Take items that coordinate with a variety of other items.
- Lay out clothing (you probably only need to take a percentage of your first choices). Pack luggage from heaviest to lightest. Shoes go in the bottom (pack one pair, wear one). Roll everything except blazers. Stuff socks around sides and into shoes. Consider packing several similar clothing items in extra-large zip-lock bags. This provides a useful way to organize your clothing within a large suitcase.
- Plan to do your own laundry! Although laundromats exist in Europe, it is saves time and confusion if you do your laundry in the sink of your room. Larger hotels may have laundry services, but these are usually costly. Therefore, we highly recommend taking clothing that dries quickly. Pack a small supply of laundry detergent, a plastic bag for clothes not yet dry, and a lightweight nylon clothesline or a few plastic hangers.
- It is important that you bring comfortable supportive footwear that is suitable for walking and is cobblestone friendly. *Flip flops or similar unsupportive footwear are not recommended.*
- If put in your carry-on, liquids, gels and lotions must be in containers no larger than 3 oz. and placed together in a separate quart-sized zip-lock bag. Refer to the following website for up-to-date travel information: [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov).
- You may pack a separate suitcase for the college *only*. This may include shorts, jeans and other clothes for the days at the college. **Please bring both your college and European suitcases to check-in**, but send the college suitcase home with your parents on the night of the concert. *Don't forget your uniform!*
- If you take a hair dryer, travel iron, battery charger or other appliance, you will need a set of European (outlet) adaptors. Europe uses 220 voltage. Check the appliance or charger to see if it is dual voltage (110/220v); if not, you will need a converter to convert European 220 to American 110 volts. Adaptors and converters are available in the electronic/travel department of most department stores.
- *Please be prepared to wear slacks or skirt/dress (not shorts) on the airline flights.*

## SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> concert uniform                               | <input type="checkbox"/> bathing suit   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 pairs shoes (pack 1, wear 1)                | <input type="checkbox"/> laundry soap   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2-3 slacks/skirts, 2-3 shorts                 | <input type="checkbox"/> plastic bags (wet clothes)                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6-8 shirts, blouses                           | <input type="checkbox"/> clothesline or plastic hangers                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7 sets underwear                              | <input type="checkbox"/> washcloth (optional)                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Girls: 1-2 dresses or dressy skirts & blouses | <input type="checkbox"/> sweater or sweatshirt                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boys: 2 dressier shirts                       | <input type="checkbox"/> raincoat/all-weather jacket                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> travel alarm clock, with batteries            | <input type="checkbox"/> personal and toiletry articles                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> socks   | <input type="checkbox"/> wristwatch   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pajamas                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> sunscreen, bug spray                                   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> small first aid kit incl. over-the-counter medications |

# AMERICAN MUSIC ABROAD UNIFORM

*Uniforms are to be supplied by each individual participant.  
Any uniform piece that fits the following qualifications is acceptable.*

## Boys Uniform

### Navy Blazer

The navy blazer can be any single-breasted blazer or sport coat that is available in department stores/men's stores. Button-color does not matter. Please bring only one blazer. The following are some options to help in your search. You may purchase one of these or a another blazer in a similar style.

[Men's Croft & Barrow True comfort Classic Fit Sport Coat](#)

[Calvin Klein Core Navy Two-Button Blazer](#)

[Men's Haggard In Motion Tailored-Fit Blazer](#)

[Target's Tevolio Men's Suit Jacket - Navy](#)

[Tommy Hilfiger Solid Navy Modern Fit Jacket](#)



### Medium Gray Dress Pants

The pants should also be available in any department store/men's store. The pants must be dress pants, not cargo or khakis. We suggest bringing one or two pairs, as desired.

The following are some options:

[Men's Slim Fit Textured Suit Pants at Target \(Grey\)](#)

[Kohl's Apt. 9 Flat-Front Dress Pants \(Gray Whale\)](#)

[J.C. Penney JF J. Ferrar Flat Front Suit Pants \(Gray Sharkskin\)](#)

[J.C.Penney Haggard Eclo Stria Classic Fit Flat-Front Dress Pants \(Med Gray\)](#)

[Land's End Men's Pleat Front Comfort Waist No Iron Twill Dress Pants](#)

(Dark Asphalt Heather or Soapstone)



### White, Short-Sleeve, Dress Shirt

We suggest bringing two shirts.

[J.C. Penney Stafford Travel Short-Sleeve Wrinkle-Free Oxford Dress Shirt](#)

[Land's End Men's Regular Short Sleeve Straight Collar Broadcloth Shirt](#)

[Kohl's Men's Craft & Barrow Button-Down Collar Dress Shirt](#)

[Van Heusen Poplin Solid Short-Sleeve Dress Shirt](#) (link is to Macy's site; also available at other stores)

[Lee Uniforms Young Men's Short Sleeve Oxford Shirt](#)

### Red & Navy Patterned Tie

The tie should be predominantly red and navy but can also have silver, gold, gray or white. It can be, but does not need to be, patriotic. Only one tie is necessary. Examples:



### Black Dress Shoes and Socks

Shoes should be dress shoes, not sneakers.

# Girls Uniform

## Red Blazer

You may purchase one of the linked blazers below or find one that is similar. The blazer should be: hip-length, single breasted, full or 3/4 length sleeves and the color red as in the color of the American flag. We suggest a synthetic polyester blend and not wool or cotton. Please bring only one blazer.

(In January Newsletter): [Varani Tux Women's Two Button Red Blazer](#)

Other suitable options:

[Old Pueblo Traders Textured Blazer](#)

[Sears Edwards Women's Polyester Blazer](#)

[Amazon Auliné Collection Women's Casual Work Solid Blazer](#)

[Blazer Depot Boyfriend Blazers](#)

[Amazon Red Hanger Blazers for Women Classic One Button Long Sleeve](#)

[Blair Elisabeth Williams Fully Lined Blazer](#)

[Kasper Single Button Jacket](#)

[Liz Claiborne Long Sleeve Suiting Blazer - Petite](#)

[Face N Face Women's Cotton Rolled Up Sleeve No-Buckle Blazer](#)



## Navy Dress Pants

The pants should be dress pants, not yoga, knit or denim. We suggest bringing one or two pairs of pants, as desired. The following are some options but feel free to purchase any pants that meet the criteria.

[Kohl's AB Studio Milan Straight-Leg Dress Pants](#) (Navy)

[Kohl's Apt. 9 Curvy Fit Dress Pants](#) (Navy)

[Kohl's Joe B Juniors' Sailor Bootcut Pants](#) (Navy)

[Old Navy Women's The Long Pixie Pants](#) (In the Navy)

[Macy's Style & Co. Stretch Wide-Leg Pants](#) (Navy)

[Worthington Modern Fit Trousers - Plus](#) (Navy)



## White, Short-Sleeve or Sleeveless, "Shell Style" (rounded-neck) Blouse

We suggest bringing two blouses. Please bring appropriate undergarments for wearing under the blouse. The following are some options but feel free to purchase any blouse that meets the criteria.

[Sharper Uniforms Ladies Front Desk Jewel Neck Blouse](#)

[Forever 21 Longline Rounded-Hem Top](#)

[Macy's Calvin Klein Petite Top, Sleeveless Pleated Suit Shell](#)

[Amazon Rekucci Women's Rayon Jersey Sleeveless Tank Top](#)

[Amazon Devon & Jones DP182W Ladies Perfect Fit Shell](#) (runs large)

[Kohl's Dana Buchman Essential Tank](#)

[Northstyle Silky Knit Tank Top](#)



## Navy or Black Dress Shoes

Shoes should be closed toe and be flats or have low, wide heels. Narrow heels and cobble-stones don't mix. Boots, cros and other non-dress shoes are not acceptable. Following are some flat options.

[Oka B Taylor Flat](#)

[Payless Women's Patent Carla Snip Toe Flat](#)

[Dr. Scholl's Womens's Really Flat](#)