



# GOLD TOUR



## PASSPORTS

If you do not already have one, we remind you to obtain a passport. For detailed information on applying for your passport, please refer to our pamphlet *“Traveling in Europe with American Music Abroad,”* which is enclosed with your acceptance packet or visit <http://travel.state.gov/passport>.

- ◆ A copy of the actual passport must be received no later than April 15 because the airline requires passport information for all participants in order to complete the ticketing process for the group.
- ◆ Passports normally take 6 to 8 weeks to process, but may take longer due to extra information required. **Apply for your passport by January 31 at the latest in order to receive it before April 15.**
- ◆ If your existing passport expires before October 25, 2017, it must be renewed. U.S. Immigration may refuse any passport which expires within three months of your tour's return date.

**Upon receiving your passport, please either mail or email American Music Abroad a photocopy or scanned copy of the passport page that contains your picture.** Mailing addresses are on the next page.

## VISAS

If you have an American passport, you are not required to have any additional visas for the countries we will visit. If your passport is not American, please contact your consulate office for current regulations.

## SPRING REHEARSAL

The Gold Tour directors are planning a spring “Reading Session” rehearsal for all participants to be held at a central location. At the rehearsal you will receive your music and other trip information. The specific date, location and directions will be provided in a future newsletter.

## TOUR DEVIATIONS

If you are planning to extend your time in Europe, we must have the details in writing by February 28th. Please call the office at 856-874-1010 for information and the appropriate forms. Note: Any change in your flight plan will result in an additional cost.

## PAYMENTS

An updated statement of your payments will be sent in a separate email the same day as each newsletter. American Music Abroad accepts payments by the following methods:

- ◆ **Personal or bank check or money order:** Please identify Gold Tour on all checks and money orders. Mail to American Music Abroad, P.O. Box 1411, Voorhees, NJ 08043.
- ◆ **Credit card (Visa, Mastercard, American Express or Discover):** Go to [www.americanmusicabroad.com](http://www.americanmusicabroad.com) and click on the Payments tab on the top menu bar. You may also contact us by phone at 856- 874-1010 during normal business hours to make a charge.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

We recommend checking your homeowners policy for luggage and instrument coverage and your medical insurance for international coverage. For your convenience, a travel insurance brochure is enclosed in your acceptance packet. Allianz Travel Insurance offers protection for trip cancellation and baggage loss as well as supplemental medical insurance. If you must cancel the trip close to the tour departure date, the amount American Music Abroad is able to refund is minimal. Those interested in this optional insurance should apply directly to Allianz Travel Insurance online at [www.allianztravelinsurance.com](http://www.allianztravelinsurance.com). Questions may be addressed to their toll free number: 1-866-884-3556. Two other insurance companies that offer travel protection with competitive rates are Travelex (1-800-228-9792, [www.travelexinsurance.com](http://www.travelexinsurance.com)) and Travel Safe (1-888-885-7233, [www.travelsafe.com](http://www.travelsafe.com)).

## INSTRUMENTAL INSURANCE

If you own your instrument, it should be covered by your homeowners insurance. If you rent or have a school owned instrument, please check into additional insurance through your rental agency or school. Instrument insurance is also available through The Anderson Group ([www.anderson-group.com](http://www.anderson-group.com)). If you choose not to insure your instrument for the trip, there will be a place to indicate this on the Instrument Insurance Information Form sent in May.

# ENSEMBLE SEATING & EVALUATION RECORDINGS

## ♦ All recordings are due January 15, 2017.

- ♦ Applicants will be judged on tone, intonation, musicianship, style, diction (vocal) and articulation (instrumental).
- ♦ Must be in the form of an mp3 attachment. Name your MP3 as “last name, first name” - “instrument or voice part”.
- ♦ Send mp3s to keithhodgson1@me.com.
- ♦ Label the subject your email First & Last Name and instrument or voice part. The file must be an MP3 file; please convert it if it is not. Emailed files must be smaller than 5 MB. If the file is larger than 5 MB, send it by opening up a free file sharing account at [www.yousendit.com](http://www.yousendit.com).

Note: In order to make an mp3, you need a recording program such as Garageband, Sound Recorder or any of the other free or inexpensive recording programs available for download online.

Audacity (<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>) is a free download recorder for Mac or PC that will allow you to make a .wav file recording. After recording, convert it to an mp3 before sending it. To do this, you will need to download an mp3 converter like Lame Encoder - <http://lame.sourceforge.net/>

**BE SURE TO START BY STATING YOUR NAME and INSTRUMENT or VOICE PART.  
Please submit a recording for each group you wish to perform.**

### CONCERT BAND - WINDS:

- ♦ Please contain as a single continuous file.
- ♦ Begin by identifying yourself and your instrument.
- ♦ Concert F Major scale (1 or 2 octaves articulated)
- ♦ Bb Chromatic scale (slurred evenly)
- ♦ Excerpt #1 moderate tempo and rhythmic variety (1 minute)
- ♦ Excerpt #2 slow tempo, demonstrate tone quality and musicality (1 minute)

### CONCERT BAND - PERCUSSION:

- ♦ Please contain as a single continuous file.
- ♦ Begin by identifying yourself and your instrument.
- ♦ Submit as much of the following as possible:
- ♦ Snare drum - closed roll (10 seconds) pp < ff > pp; Snare excerpt - moderate tempo, should include 8th and 16th note rhythms with rolls, flams and dynamic contrasts (1 minute)
- ♦ Mallets - 2 octave F and Ab Major scales and 2 octave Chromatic scale; Excerpt of your choice (1 minute)
- ♦ Timpani - Roll pp < ff > pp (on Bb and F tunings - low/high); Excerpt of your choice (1 minute)

### CHOIR:

- ♦ Please contain as a single continuous file.
- ♦ Begin by identifying yourself and your voice part.
- ♦ All exercises should be sung a cappella (without accompaniment). The pitch should be given only once before each exercise.
- ♦ Sing the following one-octave major scales ascending on the note named and descending with do-ti-la-sol-fa-mi-re-do (quarter note = 72).

Soprano 1 D and Bb	Tenor 1 Eb and G
Soprano 2 C and Ab	Tenor 2 C and F
Alto 1 A and F	Bass 1 Ab and Eb
Alto 2 G and Eb	Bass 2 F and Db

- ♦ Sing unaccompanied the melody and words of America the Beautiful, first stanza and chorus (start with “Oh Beautiful” and end with “...from sea to shining sea”). Remember to begin on the fifth. (Keys: Soprano I and Tenor I in D; Soprano II and Tenor II in C; Alto I and Bass I in B; Alto II and Bass II in A)

## QUESTIONS & INFORMATION

Please direct questions to:

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 1411, Voorhees, NJ 08043

**Telephone:** 856-874-1010 **Fax:** 856-874-9797

**Email:** [customerservice@americanmusicabroad.com](mailto:customerservice@americanmusicabroad.com)

More information as well as copies of all newsletters can be found on our website: [www.americanmusicabroad.com](http://www.americanmusicabroad.com). You created a username and password when applying for the tour. The Member link in the top menu bar will direct you to the Gold Tour member section.