

GREAT BRITAIN 2005

CHOIR INFORMATION UPDATE

JANUARY 2005

GREETINGS

Here's some additional information for you concerning the trip. Please keep this and all other trip information handy. You'll need it for reference as we get closer to the trip. The most important thing to remember is that group travel is very different from personal trips. Making final plans for 116 people is somewhat different than planning a family vacation. Thanks, as always, for your patience.

MONEY MATTERS

The payment schedule and information can be found in your October 2004 update. Please refer to that information as to due dates and amounts.

TRIP BOOK

Enclosed, you will find an information book provided by the touring company. It is designed to answer most of your questions concerning the trip. It includes a great deal of helpful information, so please...keep it handy.

WHO DO YOU GO TO?

It's very normal that you will have several questions about this trip. Please know that even though I appear to be "busy" all the time, that will never change. I will always be busy...but you can still stop me and ask a question. The best and safest method is email, but please feel free to stop me, even if I'm running at the time. **PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT M.C.I.** As the trip leader, it's my responsibility to talk with the touring company. In most cases, they will refer you back to the group director!

CONCERT DRESS AND VENUES

First, the easy answer: We will be wearing concert **BLACK** for all performances. That translates to:

women - full length on arms and legs...dress, skirt or formal pants

men - tux (or black suit), white shirt and black bow tie.

Of course, black shoes will be the appropriate foot wear. In any case, the word is black...all black, all over!

Second, the harder answer: Some of our performance venues have been secured, but it is typical with European travel for the venue schedule to vary or change several times within a year. (Life's different across the water!) following are the confirmed locations, but by no means is this a final list:

Thursday, June 9, 1:00pm — St. Mary le Bow (London)

Friday, June 10, 3:00pm — Holy Trinity (Stratford)

Sunday, June 12, 11:00am — St. Cuthbert's (Edinburgh)

Sunday, June 12, 6:00pm — St. Giles Cathedral (Edinburgh)

Also...several people have asked about the two biggies: St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey. Due to lots of reasons, but mostly very small audience response (recent concerts have had 20-40 in attendance) we will not be performing in these places. They are both, however, on the tour, so you will be visiting them!

FREE TIME...SHOWS...ETC.

Until we have been given the green light, please do not set any individual plans. Once we have a final concert and travel schedule, you may proceed with your own interests. I have been assured that you will have ample time to arrange for special events. I am planning on a show night for the entire group. More information is on the way.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

MCI has sent me the flight schedule and times, according to their agent. That schedule is included. Flight assignments have not been made, and will also come from MCI.

EXTENSIONS, RED CARDS AND SUCH

Please refer to the October update concerning the rules about extensions. I will be in touch with MCI for some more specific answers, but here's the way I understand it: If you are extending on the front end of your trip, you are responsible for your total travel...period! It will be your responsibility to arrive and depart at or about the same time as the latest MUMC group flight.

If you are extending at the end of the trip, MCI has paperwork for you to fill out and they will work with you on setting those plans. If you understand this differently after reading the book, give me a jingle!

Anyone interested in an Ireland extension at the end of the trip, I believe the Moser's have some information they'd be happy to share.

As for the red cards, they are due to me by February 1, 2005.

CANCELLATIONS

Please note that from this point on, there is a substantial fee for canceling. Although there is no formal waiting list, there may be others willing to "buy out" your space on the trip. That is not a guarantee, however. We'll do what we can to help out, but in the end, expect to follow the cancellation guidelines:

2/15/05	cancellation fee is 15% of total cost
3/15/05	" " 25% of total cost
4/15/05	" " 50% of total cost

After May 15, 2005, none of the money is refundable, unless it is a trip insurance matter.