



THE HIGH WYCOMBE MUSIC CENTRE

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30th September 2011

High Wycombe Music Centre Tour to Veneto, Italy Saturday 21st – Saturday 28th July 2012

To parents and members of the Concert Band, Guitar Consort, Youth Choir, Clarinet Choir and Youth Orchestra

For July 2012, we are planning a tour to Veneto, Italy. During the tour we will stage five concerts in a variety of locations, including one in the region's capital city, Venice. We will be staying at the Hotel Park Venezia in Stra, near Padua on a half board basis.

The tour is being arranged through a specialist music tour company, *Musica Europa* (member of ABTOT) which we have used for four successful tours since 2004.

A **PROVISIONAL** itinerary is printed below to give an indication of the type of tour we will be undertaking. (For the time being, the itinerary will remain subject to change, so parents who may be thinking of attending one of the concerts should wait until nearer the time before making any firm plans).

Day 1 – Saturday 21st July *Overnight travel to Italy*

13.15 Coaches arrive at High Wycombe Music Centre
14.00 dep. High Wycombe
18.15 P&O Ferry Crossing – Dover to Calais
 Meal on ferry (independent arrangements)
20.45 arr. Calais (local time)

Day 2 – Sunday 22nd July *Travel to Stra*

 Breakfast and lunch en-route (independent arrangements)
16.30 arr. Stra
 Check in:
 Hotel Park Venezia www.parkvenezia.com
19.00 Dinner in hotel restaurant

Day 3 – Monday 23rd July *Abano Terme*

Morning **Rehearsals**
12.30 Lunch in hotel
13.45 dep. Stra for Abano Terme
 Abano Terme is a spa resort located on a plain close to a range of low green hills, the Colli Euganei (Euganean Hills). The heart of the town is a peaceful modern pedestrian zone dotted with shops and cafes, sculptures and plenty of water features.
18.00 Evening meal in restaurant
21.00 **Concert** in Parco Magnolia for the Youth Orchestra, Concert Band and Clarinet Choir

Day 4 – Tuesday 24th July *Venice*

10.00 dep. Stra for Venice
11.00 Transfer to Venice via Water Taxi

Free Time in Venice - suggestions of places to visit:

- St Mark's Square and the Campanile
- The Doge's Palace
- The Frari – containing Titan's Assumption, the Monk's Stalls and Monteverdi's tomb

Lunch (independent arrangements)

18.00 Evening meal in restaurant

21.00 **Concert** in Il Redentore for Youth Choir, Guitar Consort and Festival Choir (whole touring party)

Day 5 – Wednesday 25th July Asolo

10.00 dep. Stra for Villa Pisani

The Villas of Palladio

When it became fashionable in the 16th century for wealthy Venetians to acquire rural estates on the mainland, many turned to the prolific architect, Andrea Palladio for the design of their villas. Inspired by ancient Roman prototypes, described by authors such as Vitruvius and Virgil, Palladio provided his clients with elegant buildings in which the pursuit of pleasure could be combined with the functions of a working farm. Palladio's designs were widely imitated and continue to inspire architects to this day.

13.00 Lunch in hotel

15.00 dep. Stra for Asolo

Asolo is beautifully sited among the cypress-clad foothills of the Dolomites. This tiny walled town was once ruled by Queen Caterina Cornaro, the Venetian wife of the King of Cyprus, who poisoned her husband so that Venice would gain Cyprus. Among others who have fallen in love with the narrow streets and grand houses was poet Robert Browning, who named a volume of poems Asolanda after Asola.

18.00 Evening meal in restaurant

21.00 **Concert** in outdoor venue for the Youth Orchestra, Concert Band and Clarinet Choir

Day 6 – Thursday 26th July Padua

10.00 dep. Stra for **Padua**

The city centre of Padua (Padova) is one of the liveliest in Northern Italy, thanks to a large student population and to the two street markets which take place around the vast Palazzo della Ragione, the town's medieval law court and council chamber. The colonnades round the exterior of the palazzo shelter numerous restaurants and shops selling meat, game, cheeses and wine.

Padua has a great artistic and cultural tradition and possesses famous monuments such as the University, that is among the oldest and most renowned in Europe, the Scrovegni Chapel, which holds the most complete cycle of entirely preserved frescoes produced by Giotto, and the Basilica of St. Anthony, which attracts pilgrims from all over the world.

Lunch (independent arrangements)

19.00 Dinner in Casa del Pellegrino

21.00 **Concert** in Chiesa di San Francesco for Youth Choir, Guitar Consort and Festival Choir (whole touring party)

Day 7 – Friday 27th July Iseo & Overnight travel to UK

Check out of hotel

10.00 dep. Stra for Iseo

12.30 arr. Iseo and unload instruments for Drivers' compulsory rest period.

Lunch (independent arrangements)

Optional Boat trip to Monte Isola

On this largest lake island in Europe, simple houses line the cobbled alleys of the many picturesque fishing villages along the lakeside, whilst higher up among olive groves, vineyards and chestnut woods there are villages with curious portals, loggias, courtyards and covered passageways which open on to breathtaking views of the lake below. The Madonna della Ceriola Sanctuary is built on the highest peak at 600 metres

17.30 Evening meal in restaurant

20.30 **Gala Concert** for all ensembles in Piazza
22.00 Coaches arrive – load instruments
22.30 dep. for overnight travel to Calais

Day 8 – Saturday 28th July Travel to High Wycombe

Breakfast and lunch en-route (independent arrangements)
18.25 P&O Ferry Crossing – Calais to Dover
Meal on ferry (independent arrangements)
19.05 arr. Dover (local time)
22.30 arr. High Wycombe

*Although this provisional itinerary does not currently include any swimming time, it is hoped that the opportunity to visit a pool can be accommodated. See attached Swimming Mandate form.

The current economic climate and exchange rate continue to inflate the price of travel in Europe and as a result the cost of the tour will be **£650 per person**. It has been our consideration from the beginning to keep the cost for 2012 as manageable as possible: for a tour to such a beautiful region and the opportunity to perform in one of Europe's great cities, we are confident that we are getting the best value for money. The price includes the cost of all transport, accommodation, breakfasts and three meals in the hotel and five other meals in restaurants. It does not cover some lunches or any of the meals taken on the journey to and from Italy. Costings have been based on 120 students and 14 staff - the numbers that went on tour in 2010. If numbers fluctuate, the cost might go up or down.

I am requesting a deposit of £150 to be paid by Saturday 5th November and ask that you also enclose cheques of £100 each for the 5 months dated 1st February to 1st June 2012. Cheques should be made payable to **HWMC Fund**. It is my intention that students should not be excluded on grounds of cost, so please contact me (in confidence) if this is a reason for your son/daughter not taking part in the tour.

I have attached a Parental Consent Form and Swimming Mandate to this letter to be **completed and returned by Saturday 5th November**. Students who are over 18 at the time of travel may complete these forms themselves but must provide all the requested details. Additionally, it will be necessary for you to provide us with a **photocopy of the photo-page from your son/daughter's passport** and a **photocopy of the relevant side of their EHIC** (European Health Insurance Card) and **one additional passport-sized photo** by **Saturday 5th November**.

Insurance will be arranged with Groupama (Bucks CC suggested insurers) before the deposit is paid to the tour operator and covers all the usual elements of travel insurance – cancellation, loss of baggage and full medical cover, including air ambulance repatriation should it be necessary. I can provide a copy of the full details of cover upon request. We will take staff in the ratio of one member of staff to every 9/10 students.

Needless to say, the purpose of the tour is make music at the highest level. In order for this to happen, we need to make sure that all party members remain in good health to enable them to perform at their best. We shall look to all members of the tour to be considerate and supportive towards their fellow students. Alcohol may only be consumed by those students who are over 18 at the time of departure. Smoking and drinking alcohol will not be tolerated by any member of the party in hotel rooms, on the coaches or other areas where this is deemed inappropriate by the party leader. A full code of conduct will be issued prior to the tour.

I look forward to concluding an exciting year with a successful tour next summer. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the arrangements.



Andy Rogers - Tour Leader 2012
Deputy Area Headteacher, High Wycombe Music Centre

Check List for application for a place on HWMC Tour 2012

- Completed Parental Consent Form (please alert us to any changes in medical conditions that occur prior to our departure).
- Deposit cheque of £150 payable to HWMC Fund (or one cheque of £650 for the total amount)
- Five post-dated cheques of £100 each (1st Feb-1st Jun 2012) payable to HWMC Fund
- Photocopy of photo-page from son/daughter's passport (please check that this will still be valid in July 2012)
- Photocopy of relevant side of son/daughter's EHIC
- One original passport-size photo (not photocopy)
- Signed Swimming Mandate

Your complete application containing all the documents listed above **MUST** be with the submitted by **SATURDAY 5th NOVEMBER** at the latest.

We cannot guarantee places to incomplete or late applications.

SWIMMING MANDATE

Please return to HWMC office by Saturday 5th November at latest

I give permission for my son/daughter to go swimming when a qualified life guard is present to oversee safety.

Name of student _____

Name of Parent _____

Signature of Parent _____ Date _____