

2016 International Cultural Exchange Program Germany and Austria



Opening New Musical Landscapes

Itinerary

Monday, June 20 – We begin our program with rehearsals and group orientation on the campus of Marywood University in Scranton, PA. This is the home of the Northeastern Youth Wind Ensemble (a member of American Youth Ensembles), and just a two hour drive from Newark Liberty International Airport (our departure airport). Roundtrip transportation via chartered coach from the Newark airport will be provided for individuals living outside the Northeastern Pennsylvania area (see special note about this). In Scranton dormitory housing will be available as well as all meals will be available on campus.

Tuesday, June 21 – This morning is our final rehearsal before transferring to the Newark Liberty International Airport where we will board our United Airlines flight for Frankfurt.

Wednesday, June 22 – Following our morning arrival in Frankfurt (scheduled for 9:20 AM) we will clear



customs, board our chartered coach, and drive to Rangendingen, our host city for the next few days. Rangendingen is located in the Zollernalbkreis district, in Baden-Württemberg, just south of Stuttgart. Our host ensemble has organized a short reception - during which we will meet our host families. Following the reception we will go to our host's home and recover from the jet-lag.

Thursday – Sunday, June 23-26 – The next several days will be filled with activities as we visit Hohenzollern Castle (built 200 years ago, and one of the largest and most visited castles in Germany), Heidelberg, a city in the Rhine valley on the river Neckar, home to



the oldest university in Germany (est. 1386), and a modern city that has retained its baroque charm of narrow streets, picturesque houses and, of course, the world-famous Schloss (castle ruins).



Other sight-seeing activities during these days will include a visit to the Mercedes Museum and a day at Lake Constance. Of course, we will also enjoy rehearsal time with our host ensemble and perform at two festivals! Each night we will return to our host's home and enjoy home-cooked meals while developing what could become life-long friendships.

Monday, June 27 – Today we will say good-bye to our host families and travel to Salzburg, Austria. Located just across the German/Austrian border, Salzburg is the fourth-largest city in Austria (after Vienna, Graz and Linz) and the capital of the federal state of Salzburg. Its "Old Town", with its world famous baroque architecture, is one of the best-preserved city centers in the German-speaking world. Art lovers call Salzburg the Golden City of High Baroque; historians refer to it as the Florence of the North or the German Rome; and music lovers know it as the birthplace of one of the world's most beloved composers, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–91). Most Americans recognize it as the location for the filming of the movie *The Sound of Music*.



We will begin our Salzburg visit at Schloss Hellbrunn. Once the summer palace of the Archbishops of Salzburg, Hellbrunn was conceived as a pleasure palace built for staging festivities, for enjoyment and for relaxation. Originally this was a privilege reserved for the archbishops, although today it's open to anyone who wishes to stroll around the park, enjoy the fountains and hidden water jets (including the special story that accompanies the photo to the left), or celebrate in the magnificent halls of the palace. If you've seen the movie *The Sound of Music*, be sure to look for the gazebo.

This evening we will check in to our hotel and enjoy dinner and a concert that will likely feature some of Mozart's music (did you expect to hear other music in Salzburg?).

Tuesday, June 28 – Today we will enjoy a guided walking tour of the "Old Town", including a visit to the Mozart Museum and Mozart's birthplace and also have an opportunity to hear the Salzburg Carillon - a musical instrument consisting of 35 bells which are played together or in various combinations. Housed within the belfry of the tower on the west side of the Neue Residenz on Mozart Square. The



bells ring out daily at 7am, 11am and 6pm. The bells were purchased by Archbishop Johann Ernst in Antwerp, Belgium in 1695 and it began playing in 1704. It is believed that Johann Michael Haydn is responsible for at least 16 of the pieces together with others by Mozart and his father which are 19th century adaptations. A clockwork element was added in 1873 where the movement of the clock would release the music, thus being able to pre-time the ringing of the Glockenspiel. Today this job is done by an electrical timer.

When we conclude our touring in Salzburg we will return to Frankfurt for our overnight hotel stay.

Wednesday, June 29 - Our tenth, and last day together. Sadly our travels have come to an end as we board our return United Airlines flight – scheduled to arrive in Newark 2:15 PM.



SPECIAL CONNECTING FLIGHT NOTE: We will assist everyone in arranging the connecting flights from your departure city to Newark June 20th, and the return flight June 29th. For more information see the special note on the "Tour Overview" page.

Overview: *American Youth Ensembles* is committed to providing extraordinary opportunities for student instrumentalists – the types of opportunities that encourage growth both in a musical sense and as an individual. We view “*Opening New Musical Landscapes*” as our mission, and we are very pleased to offer this “Cultural Exchange”, a program designed to provide numerous opportunities for interaction on both musical and personal levels with student musicians and their host families in Germany.

Cultural Exchange?: This tour is about much more than visiting historically important places and experiencing the sights, sounds and flavors of another country. As musicians, we will have opportunities to rehearse and perform music while sitting among people with whom we may not be able to converse – an experience that brings instant clarity, and adds a whole new dimension, to the phrase “*The Universal Language of Music*”.

In addition, most of the time we are on tour we will be staying with host families. The band members and their parents will welcome us into their homes, provide many of our meals and most of our overnight accommodations. As often as possible we will be housed in pairs, and every effort will be made to match you with a host band member of the same sex who also plays the same instrument. This is truly an extraordinary opportunity, and one that works extremely well when the common bond of being a musician is brought into the mix.

Chaperones: Members of the *American Youth Ensembles* faculty will be with the group throughout the trip, and available 24/7 should an issue requiring their attention arise. These adults have travelled internationally with students many times, and are very familiar with the issues related to international travel. The ratio of students to adults will never exceed 10/1.

Travel Company: The travel arrangements will be handled by Travel Gallery, Inc., a fully licensed and fully insured travel agency located in Pasadena, CA. Travel Gallery, Inc., has been in business for over 30 years, has arranged travel for bands to every inhabited continent, and has arranged travel for *American Youth Ensembles* in the past.

Cost: The cost of the trip is \$2493.00 per person.

1. Inclusions: Roundtrip air Newark-Frankfurt, trip interruption insurance, airport transfers Newark-Scranton, dormitory housing and all meals at Marywood University (Scranton, PA), chartered motorcoach in Germany and Austria, a minimum of two meals per day in Germany and Austria, admissions fees for all items included in the itinerary, music, tour shirt and other incidentals common to a touring ensemble.
2. All prices reflect a discount for cash/check and, due to currency fluctuations, are subject to change until final payment. Credit card fees apply.

Payment Schedule:

1. Deposit of \$250 submitted with application
 - a. Deposit becomes non-refundable upon acceptance
 - b. Deposit will be refunded if applicant is not accepted
2. January 1, 2016 - \$150 plus any required connecting flight reservation (see note below)
3. March 1, 2016 - \$1000
4. May 1, 2016 – Balance due on account
5. All prices reflect a discount for cash/check and, due to currency fluctuations, are subject to change until final payment. Credit card fees apply.

Special Accommodations: Participants requesting special accommodations must submit this information when applying or as soon as the need is identified. Some specific considerations could include:

1. Dietary Restrictions (please limit this to legitimate allergies, not "I don't like...")
2. Allergies and Medical Issues will be communicated to our hosts and proper steps will be taken to address these topics.
3. Using Airline Mileage Credit: Individuals who wish to book any portion of the flights using mileage credit must identify this at the time of registration, and will be responsible for making all the flight arrangements in consideration of the group's itinerary. *American Youth Ensembles* will not alter the itinerary in order to accommodate individual travelers, and will not assume responsibility for individuals travelling apart from the group.

Who is eligible to participate? All student woodwind, brass or percussion instrumentalists between the ages of 14 (rising 9th grade) and 22 (college senior) are eligible to apply. This age grouping is similar to that of the host ensemble, and offers this opportunity to our alumni. Priority consideration is given to members (current and alumni) of *American Youth Ensembles* affiliated groups.

1. Space is limited to 40 student musicians.
2. After November 1st, remaining spaces will be opened to student musicians currently enrolled in an instrumental ensemble in high school or college.
3. Parents wishing to travel with the group will be considered for any remaining space after December 1st. These spaces will be offered at a higher price than the students because this will involve hotel accommodations instead of homestays.
4. The date of receipt of the application and deposit will be a determining factor in the application process.

Application Process: We will be accepting participants on a rolling basis, with consideration given to instrumentation. The deadline for applying for priority consideration is November 1, 2015. Applications will require a \$250 deposit. This deposit becomes non-refundable upon acceptance (if you are not accepted due to space limitations we will refund your deposit).

The link to the application form is:

https://docs.google.com/a/travelgallery.com/forms/d/1y_Srj6rjtwMAvegT4xbIMh6oF788S0yMNvcPVKt5To/viewform?edit_requested=true

Mail your deposit check to: American Youth Ensembles
P.O. Box 862
Jackson, GA 30233

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1. Participants from any of the AYE Bands will receive specific information concerning this at the meeting held in your area this fall.
2. Scranton area participants will be provided transportation from Marywood University to the Newark airport June 21st, and back to Marywood University on June 29th.
3. Participants from outside the Scranton area:
 - a. Transportation for participants flying to Newark from other areas of the country will be provided to Marywood University June 20th, and back to Newark on June 21st.

- b. Schedule your arrival at the Newark Airport prior to 10:00 AM the morning of June 20th. Your return flight on June 29th should be scheduled to depart after 5:30 PM in order to allow adequate time for customs, immigration and any minor flight delays.
- c. You also have the option of driving to Marywood University the morning of June 20th, with a planned arrival there of no later than noon.
- d. Please check with us prior to making these arrangements.

PASSPORT INFORMATION: Every individual participating in this program is required to have a passport. This passport must be valid for a period 6 months beyond the intended return date – which means your passport should be valid through February 1, 2017.

1. If you have a passport you are asked to submit the requested information with your application.
2. If you do not currently possess a passport you should start the application process now.
 - a. Instructions:
http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english.html/passport_1738.Html.
 - b. It is not unusual for this process to take several months – start early.
3. You may complete the application without submitting the passport information; however, we will require submission of the passport information by March 1, 2016.