



# GERMANY 2017

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **1. Do I need to submit any more paperwork?**

We hope that once we have the permission forms and cultural tax form in our files that the only other document we will need is your son's passport. However, there is always the possibility that the TCDSB or EU travel requirements may require additional documentation. In that event we will send out a general notice via our Tour mail distribution list with the necessary information ASAP.

If you are not yet on the Tour mail distribution list please contact Ms Thorne at [thorne@smcs.on.ca](mailto:thorne@smcs.on.ca) to be added to the list.

### **2. How closely does the Companion tour mirror the student tour?**

The companion Tour will be in the same city at the same time as the student tour. However, the companion Tour will be housed in different hotels and take part in their own activities. All SMCS Masses and concerts will be structured into the companion Tour itinerary and there will be a few occasions on Tour where we will be enjoying meals together.

### **3. Can I travel on the same flight as my son?**

Georgia Hardy Tours has made every effort to ensure that families are travelling on the same flights. At this point, every family travelling to Germany is sharing the same flight.

### **4. How many flight groups are there?**

There are a total of two flight groups travelling to Germany and returning to Toronto. The earlier flight group is travelling on Air Canada flight 872 and 847 (return). This flight group includes the largest number of boys and chaperones.

The later flight group is travelling on Lufthansa flight 471 and 494 (return). This flight group includes the companion Tour and boys travelling with their families.

**5. Who will my son's hotel buddy be?**

Your son's hotel buddy information will be included in your son's Tour Information Sheet for easy reference while your son is on Tour. This information will be based on your son's buddy request and advice from teachers and administration.

**6. When will we know the hotel buddy pairings?**

All SMCS staff understand that hotel buddy pairings are arguably one of the most sensitive pieces of tour and integral to the well being of each boy while away from home. As such we take the pairing process very seriously, looking at each form submission and placing boys carefully and thoughtfully. We work diligently to ensure that your son is paired with his choices. We ask that chaperones and/or classroom teacher and SMCS Administration also advise and approve of Hotel Buddy pairings. We will have that information for you as soon as possible included on your son's Tour Information Sheet.

**7. Who are the chaperone's?**

You will now have a list of all boys in your son's class who are going on tour along with a detailed list of all chaperones

**8. Who do I contact in case of emergency?**

Your son's chaperone is the first point of contact for you. Chaperones will have their Canadian mobile phones with them in case of emergency and can be contacted directly. It is important to note that their number should ONLY be used in the case of an emergency situation. Contact numbers for your son's chaperones will be distributed with your son's Tour Information Sheet the week before tour.

**9. How will my son be supervised during free time or free meal times?**

Free time and/or free meal times are often parts of Tour that the boys look forward to. We do our best to find free time for them to be outdoors, have an opportunity for shopping and to choose their own meals. We do understand that for parents this can easily create some anxiety. Please know that chaperones and choral staff will be present in the same area as the boys (especially for boys in grades 5 through 8) to assist if and when needed.

**10. What is the safest way for my son to carry money and how much would you recommend the minimum amount be?**

Carrying Euro's should be fine for our boys. However, due to the risk of misplacing money or petty pocket picking it is recommended that boys carry a small amount with them on a daily basis. We recommend that boys have a minimum of €50.

It is also important to note that should your son make a purchase that is counter to TCDSB policy (mock weapons, sharp objects, laser pointers, excessive noise makers, etc.) that those articles will be confiscated for the duration of the Tour.

**11. How will chaperones discuss and enforce general hygiene while on Tour. Will my son be able to launder any of his clothing?**

Chaperones are well versed at ensuring that your son see to his personal hygiene on a daily basis. It cannot be overstated just how important this is when we are on a Tour. When in the small, shared space of buses and hotel rooms lack of hygiene can be a serious issue. Chaperones will be diligent at monitoring hygiene and addressing an issue should it arise.

There will be no available laundry facilities available to your son while on Tour. Please ensure that your son has an adequate number of undergarments. A little extra of these items are always a good idea and have been itemized in the Packing List.

**12. What happens if my son is sick while on Tour?**

Bonnie Bruder will be acting as Nurse for the duration of the Tour. Bonnie knows all of our boys very well and has been taking on the role of Tour Nurse for many years. Should your son be ill, she will stay at the hotel with your son, checking in on him regularly and/or giving him the care he needs.

We are thrilled to have Dr. Christof Licht joining us as our Tour Doctor. Dr. Licht knows the German health system very well and can communicate effectively in both German and English. Dr. Licht will be joining as of Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> (Day 5 – Regensburg).

It's important to note that many of our boys feel ill during rehearsals but experience a miraculous recovery once rehearsal has ended and other Tour activities start. PLEASE NOTE: Should your son be ill during rehearsal time and unable to participate that it will be understood by staff that he will be absent from the rest of the days' activities until Dr. Licht and Ms. Bruder are satisfied that he is able to participate.



## GERMANY 2017 PASSPORT PROTOCOLS

*EU passport requirements stipulate that passports must be valid for at least six months from the date of EXIT (ie. May 13th therefore your son's passport should not expire on or before November 13, 2017)*

### **At SMCS:**

Each student going on tour will bring his valid passport to the Choral Institute office on Monday, April 24th. Ms Leva will store each student's passport in the school safe. The passports will be sticker labeled for easy identification and sorted by grade. Passports will be safely transported by SMCS staff to Pearson airport on April 30th.

### **From Toronto to Frankfurt:**

Your son's chaperone will be given passports at Pearson airport and will hand your son his passport for security and gate check. As soon as your son passes the gate check his chaperone will collect your son's passport, which will be sticker labeled (by the school) for easy identification and kept safe with the chaperone while in the air.

When your son arrives with his group at the immigration and security desks in Frankfurt his chaperone will hand him his passport. Once through immigration and security your son's chaperone will once again collect his passport and the class passports will be kept in the hotel safe for the duration of the ground tour.

### **From Munich to Toronto:**

Your son's chaperone will once again give your son his passport when passing through security and gate check. Once your son has passed the gate check he will hand his passport back to his chaperone for safe keeping on the flight back to Toronto.

Your son will be given his passport before going through immigration in Toronto at which time your son will be solely responsible for the safe keeping of his passport.



**ST. MICHAEL'S CHOIR SCHOOL**

**GERMANY TOUR**

**COLOGNE/REGENSBURG/MUNICH**

**APRIL 30 – MAY 13, 2017**