

TO: Michael Harvey, Belmont High School Principal

FROM: William T. Pappazisis
Director of Fine and Performing Arts

SUBJECT: BHS Chorus Concert Tour to Ireland

DATE: May 15, 2011

For your consideration, I am proposing a concert tour to Ireland for the BHS choral students for the April 2012 break, April 13-20. During the six days in Ireland, the students will perform 3 concerts in the Dublin and Limerick area. This tour will present outstanding musical, educational and cultural opportunities for our students. We anticipate the cost of the trip to be approximately \$2550 per student. The cost includes:

- Airfare
- 6-Nights' Accommodation
- Ground Transportation
- All breakfasts and dinners
- Sight-seeing / cultural opportunities
- Air taxes up to \$200
- Required gratuities
- Travel Insurance

Attached is a copy of a preliminary itinerary, which will be adjusted as the planning process continues over the next several months. I am aware that this trip requires School Committee approval. Please let me if you need any further detail.

Join Belmont High School Choir to Experience...

Ireland

✘Dublin ✘County Wicklow ✘Malahide
✘Howth ✘Limerick ✘Kilkenny ✘Rock of Cashel
✘Bunratty ✘Cliffs of Moher ✘Adare
✘Ring of Kerry ✘Killarney ✘Burren

The scenic splendor of lofty mountain peaks, crystal lakes, and leafy vales combine with legendary Irish warmth to create a rich tapestry in this memorable 8-day tour.

April 13 - 20, 2012

Our Daily Itinerary (subject to change):

Day 1: Depart USA

Overnight transatlantic flight to the Emerald Isle. Meals and snacks are served on board.

Day 2: Arrive Dublin - County Wicklow - Dublin

We are greeted by our World Cultural Tour's representative upon arrival at the airport in Dublin. We board our private motor coach and travel south of Dublin to County Wicklow, known as the "Garden of Ireland." We enjoy a guided visit to Powerscourt House and Gardens, a magnificent example of an aristocratic estate and gardens from the 19th century, including the Triton Pool with its 100-foot fountain, featuring statues of winged horses flanking a grotto by the pool. After our sightseeing tour, we transfer to Dublin and check into our hotel. We gather for our Welcome Dinner at the hotel this evening.

(D) Jurys Inn Parnell or similar

Day 3: Dublin/Recital

This morning after breakfast, we enjoy a panoramic tour of Dublin, whose north side of the River Liffey offers sights of great striking monuments such as the General Post Office on the city main thoroughfare, O'Connell Street, the Custom House along the quays, as well as Phoenix Park, the largest public park in Europe. The south side appears more sophisticated with its vast Georgian Squares, such as Merrion Square, where Oscar Wilde's House can still be found. Not so far from St. Stephen's Green, on Kildare Street, you may see the house of Bram Stoker, author of *Dracula*. We visit Trinity College, founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth I. It is the oldest university in Ireland and houses the famous *Book of Kells*. We continue to St. Patrick's Cathedral, the National Cathedral of Ireland, for a visit and afternoon recital. This afternoon, we visit the National Museum of Ireland, which has many excellent displays ranging from Viking artifacts to Celtic masterpieces. This evening, we have dinner together at the Brazen Head, standing on the site of the original 12th century tavern.

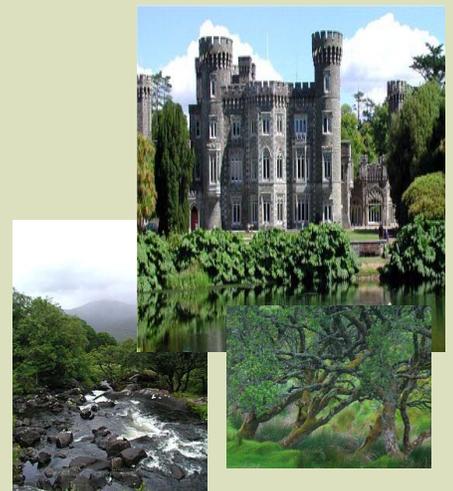
(B, D) Jurys Inn Parnell or similar

8-Day Tour Includes:

- Roundtrip Airfare
- 6 Nights Accommodation
- Luxury Motor Coach
- Tour Manager Throughout
- 2 Performances
- 1 Recital
- Irish Breakfast Daily
- Welcome Dinner
- 4 Additional Dinners
- Farewell Dinner
- Sightseeing Per Itinerary
- Air Taxes up to \$200
- Gratuities to Drivers & Guides
- Premier Plus Travel Insurance

Approximately
\$2,549.00 Dbl. Occ.

**(Plus Air Taxes Exceeding \$200,
Pending Air Confirmation)**



Day 4: Dublin - Howth - Malahide - Dublin - Bray/Performance - Dublin

After breakfast this morning, we travel north of Dublin City, to the small harbour town of Howth, famous as a fishing port but also well known for the craggy hill which towers above the town and dominates Dublin Bay. We continue to the picturesque maritime village of Malahide, where we visit the Malahide Castle, founded in the 12th century by the Anglo-Norman Talbot family, who occupied the castle until 1976. We return to Dublin for rehearsal and dinner at our hotel. Early this evening, we have a performance in Bray at a local venue
(B, D) *Jurys Inn Parnell or similar*

Day 5: Dublin - Kilkenny - Rock of Cashel - Limerick

This morning after breakfast, we depart Dublin for Limerick, a medieval city where the Shannon River meets the Atlantic Ocean. En route, we stop to enjoy a guided tour of Kilkenny Castle, to learn about what life was like here over the many centuries of its existence. Next, we visit the Rock of Cashel with a tour of Cormac's Chapel, built during the twelfth century and the Hall of the Vicar's Choral. We continue to Limerick, where we check into our hotel later this afternoon and enjoy dinner together this evening at a local restaurant.
(B, D) *Maldron Hotel or similar*

Day 6: Limerick - Bunratty - Burren - Cliffs of Moher - Limerick/Performance

After breakfast, we depart the hotel for a visit to Bunratty Castle, one of the most complete and authentic medieval castles in Ireland. While here, we experience Bunratty Folk Park and see demonstrations of everyday rural life in Ireland in the 19th century. Next, we travel to the Burren Region. Burren, meaning "large stones," describes this strange and unique region perfectly. The Burren is a high plateau of porous limestone and here, we discover its rich history of countless castles and monastic ruins. We continue to the Cliffs of Moher, the most majestic cliffs in Ireland, rising from the Atlantic Ocean and extending for over seven kilometers. From here we can admire the Aran Islands and the Connemara Mountains. We return to Limerick for our performance this evening, followed by dinner together at the hotel.
(B, D) *Maldron Hotel or similar*

Day 7: Limerick - Adare - Ring of Kerry - Killarney - Limerick

Following breakfast this morning, we depart Limerick and travel to Killarney. En route, we stop in Adare, one of Ireland's most picturesque villages. While here, we may visit Trinitarian Abbey on our own, the only recorded Trinitarian Monastery in Ireland. We also may visit the Wishing Pools, where village women would wash laundry and discuss life in the village. We continue our travels along the Ring of Kerry and enjoy the views from Moll's Gap and Ladies View, followed by a visit to Muckross House and Gardens. This magnificent Victorian Mansion, built in 1843, sits among world famous gardens including a water garden, a children's garden and an incredible rock garden. We return to Limerick, where we have a special Farewell Dinner and entertainment at our Bunratty Medieval Banquet.
(B, D) *Maldron Hotel or similar*



Day 8: Limerick - Depart Dublin - Arrive USA

Following our last hearty Irish breakfast, we board our private motor coach and transfer to Dublin Airport for our return flight home to the USA. (B) ✨

TERMS & CONDITIONS

RESPONSIBILITY: A VALID PASSPORT IS REQUIRED FOR ALL INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS and must be valid at least six months after your tour return date. Please note that passport cards are not considered valid for international travel. Please send – with each deposit and registration form – a copy of each registrant's passport, if applicable. A visa may be required for non-U.S. citizens traveling internationally; please call our office for more information. • World Cultural Tours (WCT) and other participating affiliates act solely as agents in arranging transportation, hotel accommodations, and other services. We do not assume, and in fact, we expressly disclaim, any liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, consequences resulting from cancellations and/or delays including, but not limited to, schedule changes, strikes, war, political conflict, riots, inclement weather or acts of God. Likewise, we assume no liability for any act, negligence or default of tour guides, including their agents and employees, or any company or person engaged in the transport of passengers, rendering of any service, or conducting arrangements for any tour. WCT reserves the right to cancel any tour due to insufficient participation. Furthermore, WCT reserves the right, at our sole discretion, to modify any itinerary or arrangements based on unprecedented situations that may arise. In the event modifications should become necessary, alterations may be made without penalty to the operator; additional costs, if any, shall be incurred by the traveler. • All registrants are invoiced with single occupancy rates if no roommate is specified. We will adjust rooming lists & invoices accordingly upon written notification of roommate preferences. It is the responsibility of the individual traveler to find a roommate, or group organizer to match unpaired individuals.

DEVIATION: If any passenger wishes to deviate from the group by extending or otherwise changing a portion of his/her tour, please visit www.worldculturaltours.com to submit a Deviation Request via our Contact Us page, no later than 60 days prior to departure. Include as much information as possible in each request. A Deviation Request administration fee (\$50) applies, plus any additional fees charged by the airline and may be submitted online at www.worldculturaltours.com to begin the process of making arrangements. A Tour Consultant will contact you, therefore it is important to include telephone and/or email information.

INSURANCE: We strongly recommend travel insurance. We are happy to provide information for travel insurance. Please review the information carefully to understand coverage. **IMPORTANT:** The exclusion for Pre-Existing Conditions will be waived provided the premium is received no later than fourteen (14) days after the initial deposit for your trip and you are not disabled from travel at the time you pay your premium. Please note that travel insurance can not be purchased after final payment has been submitted. Please refer to www.worldculturaltours.com or call (877) 218-TOUR for more information.

TOUR PRICES: All tour prices are based on costs, charges & exchange rates known at time of booking. In case of currency fluctuations (if applicable) of more than 3% WCT reserves the right to adjust the tour price accordingly. Any domestic and/or international departure or arrival taxes, security charges and other types of air or airport or port taxes or any other surcharges not included in the tour price will be the responsibility of the group/passenger. • Online individual payments can be made, using a credit card, through our website, www.worldculturaltours.com. MasterCard, Visa and American Express are accepted. • A single check or credit card payment may be made for multiple registrants.

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- 90-61 days prior to departure – 100% of deposit
- 60-46 days prior to departure – 35% of total tour price
- 45-31 days prior to departure – 50% of total tour price
- 30-0 days prior to departure – 100% of total tour price.

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