

Welcome: introduce me, Lynn, Margaret, Randy

First slide: Scotland 2018 (with music)

[Can you tell we're excited??]

Congratulations to Purcell, Britten, Holst, and Ragazzi! You've been invited to participate in the 2018 Aberdeen International Youth Festival!

WHY?

WHY TRAVEL?

- Incredible sense of community created ("school tour on steroids") which has lasted well beyond the trip.
- Collective memory for the organization
- Growth that happens in preparing for a tour at this high level and performing throughout the tour week: both musical and personal (open-mindedness, flexibility, persistence, raising expectations)...raising the bar in general for the international stage.
- Opportunity for multi-age collaboration: Some groups (Ragazzi) will sing by themselves, we'll sing some combined music, etc...

WHY THIS SCOTLAND, WHY THIS FESTIVAL?

All the above, PLUS your experiences (if you went in 2014) will be different: new venues, new perspectives, new colleagues, new people from around the world to meet!

Scotland: Amazing country, friendly, open (language!), a place that captures the imagination (history!)

Very high quality experience.

Amazing to meet young artists from all over the world (You'll hear about that in a later slide) and eat and learn with them

Well-run festival that has at its core a MYC-like feeling: it's about the experience and the collaborative process of being there, not just the performances.

WHAT?

SCOTLAND

The most welcoming, warm, friendly, funny, people.

We'll be famous there! Everyone will know us!

Spectacular setting--it's a beautiful country and we're in an especially beautiful part of it along the North Sea History like we don't know in the US: streets from 1493, towers from the 9th century, etc...

Unpredictable weather, the HAAR (!), food you'll love (Haggis is optional...buttries, crisps, favorite candy)

Castles, countryside, history, sights, gardens, flowers...

Aberdeen itself: Granite city

It'll change your life.

FESTIVAL

A celebration of youth arts from around the world. Groups in 2016 were from Norway, Italy, Czech Republic, Russian, Malta, Israel, Jordan, Ghana, China, Canada, the UK, the US, and more!

We'll be one of the only choirs there: There will be orchestras, bands, jazz groups, dance groups, theater groups, etc...

We'll be one of the youngest groups there: Artists to age 25 will attend.

We'll perform in incredible and varied venues, we'll see incredible places, we'll collaborate with incredible groups. No day or performance is the same--the week is ever-changing. But some things happen every day:

1. We live in the dorms at the University of Aberdeen (est. 1495..but we'll live in a section from the early 70's). We'll eat breakfast with other groups from around around the world.
2. Everyone stays in their own room: They are single housing with shared bathrooms on each floor.
3. We'll walk a lot.
4. We'll have long, exciting, tiring days. You'll sleep!
5. We'll get up early again...

And now...a short trip through Aberdeenshire and some of the places we might visit. What will our exact itinerary be? What things will be the same as 2014? What will be different?

We won't know until right before we leave! Seriously, we won't know--the festival sets final details throughout summer of 2018. We'll know an outline (flights, leave/return times), but we won't know our exact plan until just before. We do know we'll be designing a trip that introduces you to new parts of the area you haven't seen/visited before (if you're returning) and also visiting old favorites. It's ALL EXCITING! Don't worry--we'll be fine.

LET'S GO TO SCOTLAND! (SLIDES)

SLIDE: Again, we'll live at the University of Aberdeen. We'll walk lots of places--this what our daily walk will look like--through beautiful Seaton Park

SLIDE: St. Machar's Cathedral (in and out). Dates to 17th century

SLIDE: King's College: This is part of our campus! Can you believe it! We'll go there and check it out. Straight out of *Harry Potter*, yes?!?

SLIDE: University of Aberdeen (new library)--not everything there dates to the 15th century.

SLIDE: Marischal College

2nd largest granite building in the world (dates to 19th century)

SLIDE: William Wallace, Provost Ross houses

Real houses, museums...Provost Ross's house dates to 1593. Oldest in Aberdeen

SLIDE: Footdee

(Fittie); lovely fishing village in harbor of Aberdeen

SLIDE: Dunnottar castle!

Castle ruins; some date to 13th century

SLIDE: Brechin cathedral (outside)

dates from 13th century; round tower from 1000AD!

SLIDE: Brechin cathedral (inside)

At the festival: Special events including--

SLIDE: The opening ceremony

Pics from opening ceremony, explain concept

SLIDE: His Majesty's Theater, where the Gala will take place

SLIDE: Gala performance on stage

SLIDE: *Mica glittered from the white stone. Town of pure crystal, I learnt Latin in your sparkling cage. I love your brilliant streets. Places that have been good to us we love.*

Ian Crichton Smith (1928-1998), Student at Aberdeen University

HOW?

ARE YOU READY TO GO ON THIS TRIP (OUR QUESTIONNAIRE)?

Who is this tour planned for (ages, why we offer it to all 4 boychoirs, but who is best candidates to go)

Most kids that go will be Ragazzi/Holst, then some Britten, then a few Purcell kids that are exceptionally ready to go.

Are you ready: Use the questionnaire. Can you:

- Be independent? Daily hygiene, responsibility, following a schedule, flexibility
- Make good choices: Eating flexibility, making good choices
- Pace: Long, long days with lots of the same people around.
- If you aren't ready now, maybe you could work on it and be ready by next summer! A great chance to learn these skills now.

SAVING, PLANNING, FUNDRAISING

- You have some time; A deposit will be due in early September, then payments throughout spring of 2018.
- Having a plan means deciding as a family if the trip is a priority, even if the trip is a stretch for you. What could you do? What have people in the past done (give examples), saving babysitting \$\$, asking for help from relatives, getting a part-time job. Have a garage sale! We know this is how people went last time.
- Get together as a group and plan something: Have a car wash, sell stuff, etc... It's not a big enough scale for a "group fundraiser" (like selling candy bars), but work with others.
- Yes, there will be scholarship support. We want you to come! But plan on paying something. There's no way we can cover 100% of the cost of all families with need.

WHAT IF YOU DON'T GO?

- We still love you! Our entire season WILL NOT be centered around this trip. But, you will hear about it...it is a large part of our work this year. Before final commitments are due, we'll remind you. We'll likely (we hope) have a huge celebration in early 2018 (a Burns supper!) where families can come and learn more and join in the fun, even if you're not coming on the trip.
- Not every boy went last time. We are more than just this incredible trip. But we want you to come...

MAKING THE COMMITMENT

[All of this information will be in tomorrow's email on and on the website]

The trip itself: July (24) 26-August 5 (August 6)

But the minute our regular season ends, Scotland preparation begins. You'll have music to work on throughout the summer. We'll get together a few times before the school year ends, and then for an intense 2 weeks right before we leave (starting July 16, expect rehearsals almost every day, during the day)
All of the dates will be on the website and will be finalized in mid-July 2017

TRIP OUTLINE: July 24 (26)-August 5(6) 11-13 days including travel

- Coach to Chicago, fly to Aberdeen
- Aberdeen International Youth Festival performances throughout Aberdeenshire
- Meals, lodging at the University of Aberdeen
- Rehearsals, concerts, day trips, sightseeing: all of this planning is still in flux.

PRICE AND DETAILS (swoosh in)

- The price: **\$3100-\$3450** per person, which includes:
 - Transportation (air and coach)
 - Participation in the festival
 - All lodging and meals (even including travel days and flight days!)
 - Sightseeing day trips throughout the festival
 - All taxes and gratuities
- To compare: Our last trip was \$3150 (2016); current shorter trips from other local organizations are \$3500+ (and those don't include all meals)

PRICE AND DETAILS (CONTINUED)

- What can affect the price:
 - Total number of participants
 - fuel costs (air and land)
- When is money due?
 - \$200 refundable deposit due September 1
 - Balance due in 4 monthly installments beginning in February 2018

CHAPERONES

- Interested in coming on the trip as a chaperone?
 - We need you!
 - What to expect: general philosophy
 - What we're looking for...
 - Costs are the same for chaperones
 - Chaperone application is due August 1 (online application)

[Online application with lots of great information--read it over]

[info here about parents/families planning to travel separately and briefly how that works...]

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Plan, think, decide.
 - [Summer is a great time to start working on a passport...]

Join our Facebook page (link in email coming tomorrow)

- **Handouts: Intention form (due tonight!), readiness questionnaire for your own use, email/website coming tomorrow**
- Questions: We will try tonight and we'll start a FAQ on the website
- What's still coming? Expect an email mid-July with:
 - Financial assistance applications
 - Actual trip commitment form (due Sept 1 along with \$200 refundable deposit)

Reminder about www.madisonyouthchoirs.org/aberdeen (calendar there--all stuff will be updated tomorrow)

Then after final slide (latitude/longitude), take questions: Save very specific individual ones for one one one in the coming weeks.

TONIGHT: PLEASE FILL OUT THE INTENTION FORM AND LEAVE IT WITH US AS YOU LEAVE!