

September 17, 2008

Hello AYS Members and Parents,

I hope you're excited about the upcoming AYS tour to Sydney, Australia for the 20th Australian International Music Festival next summer. Posted to the AYS website is an outline of the tour and registration forms (for both members and parents).

Please print out the registration forms, fill them out completely and sign them, and return them to next Monday's rehearsal along with your deposit payment (September 22nd).

We're very excited to announce that Traci Caves ([lupinus.arcticus@gmail.com](mailto:lupinus.arcticus@gmail.com)) has agreed to serve as the Tour Manager. Traci will be helping to coordinate fee payment, fundraising credits, travel paperwork, and provide other tour information. Traci will be at Monday's rehearsal to collect your forms and payments and to help answer any questions you might have.

The musical events shown in the itinerary - rehearsal and concerts - will probably not change. However, other activities (museum visits, cultural tours, etc.) can be changed depending upon interest from our members. We would welcome your participation in the AYS Tour Committee, which will be working with World Projects to make sure that we include the kind of activities that are of greatest interest to AYS members.

Here's a quick overview of the tour:

1. Tour rehearsals (approximately 10 rehearsals) begin during the week of June 22, 2009 (tentative dates) and continue through July 2nd.
2. We depart Anchorage on July 4, 2009, to Sydney, arriving on July 6th.
3. Performances and rehearsals are shown on the tour itinerary that is attached (as noted above, other activities shown in the itinerary are subject to change depending upon AYS member interest).
4. We depart Sydney on July 13, 2009, returning to Anchorage and arriving on July 13th.

For those members and their families that want to stay in Australia or the neighboring region after the Festival is completed, we have included an optional tour that World Projects has put together for your consideration. Or, you may want to stay longer on your own. We have also negotiated a "ground only" option that does not include airfare in case you want to travel to Sydney using airline miles.

At the tour meeting held on August 25th, there were questions about logistics and other issues related to the tour. In late October or early November, there will be a meeting for parents of all members who are planning to attend in which questions about the tour, and tour policies (including security and behavior expectations of members) will be reviewed and discussed.

We expect to have a number of parents participating in the tour, and will have opportunities for parents to help chaperone events.

We've started off the season with a strong fundraising effort through Carrs/Safeway and the E-scrip program, but we need to do more. Your help is needed this year to help us raise enough money to make this trip more affordable for all of our members. Please contact me if you're willing to help, or if you have ideas for fundraisers that you can put together.

Many thanks to everyone who has worked very hard to help put this tour together!

Robert Harris, President  
Anchorage Youth Symphony  
[rharris@alaska.net](mailto:rharris@alaska.net)