

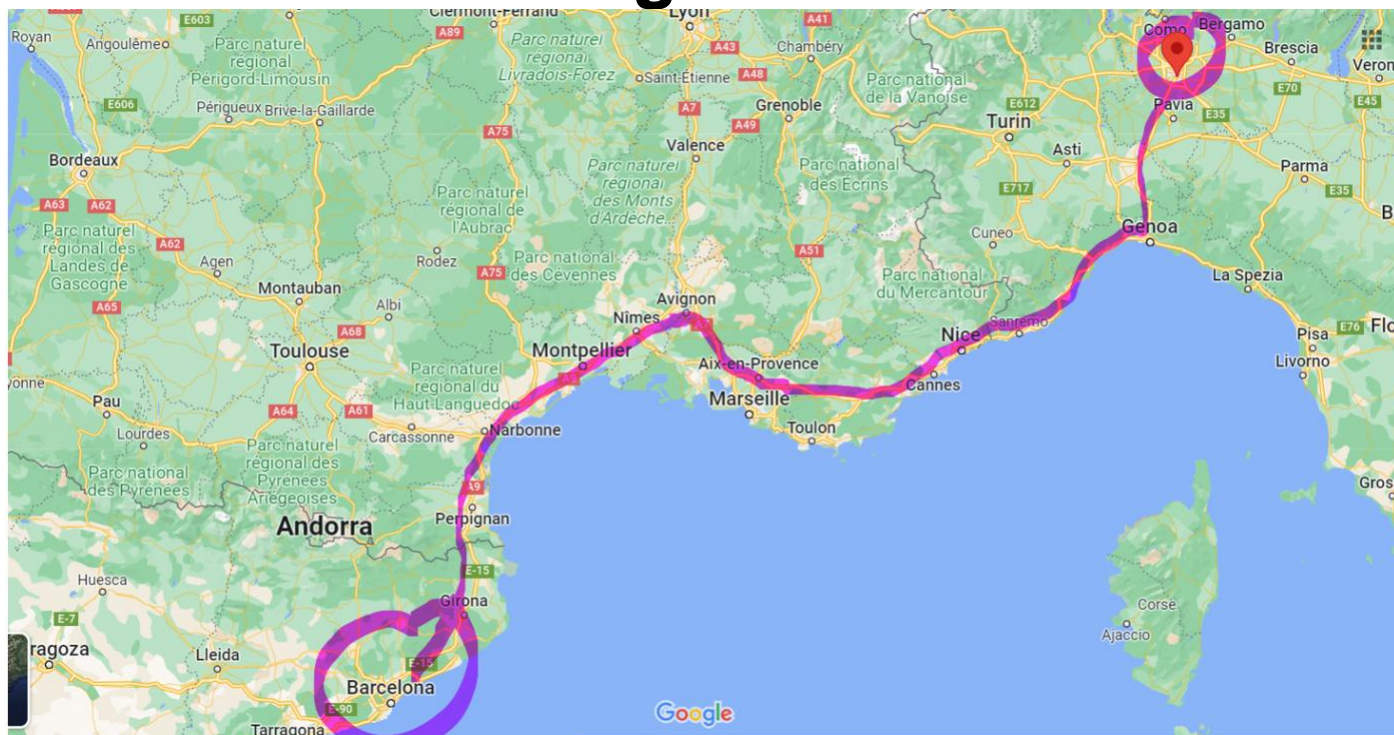
# EUROPEAN PERFORMANCE/TOUR 2024

## A Tale of Three Countries

Northern Italy, Provence region in France and Barcelona in Spain

(March 28, 2024 – April 7, 2024)

## Johns Creek High School Orchestra



### March 28

Departure from Atlanta for Milan, one of Italy's major cities and located in the state of Lombardy in Northern Italy.

### March 29

Arrival in Milan and transfer to your local hotel.

Milan is regarded as a major centre for art, fashion design, finances. Leonardo da Vinci's fresco of "the last supper" can be seen in the church of Santa Maria delle Grazie. Additionally, the Scala opera building, where Maria Callas sang, and the magnificent Cathedral, referred to as 'Il Duomo', have their home in Milan.

As we do not know time of arrival of your flight, no itinerary has been planned for today. (Could change once we have flight schedule)

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## March 30

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Morning tour of Milan with a visit to the Duomo and hopefully to see the last Super fresco of Da Vinci. Time allowing and if possible, visit the Scala opera house before some time at leisure and concert venue. Dinner and overnight in Milan



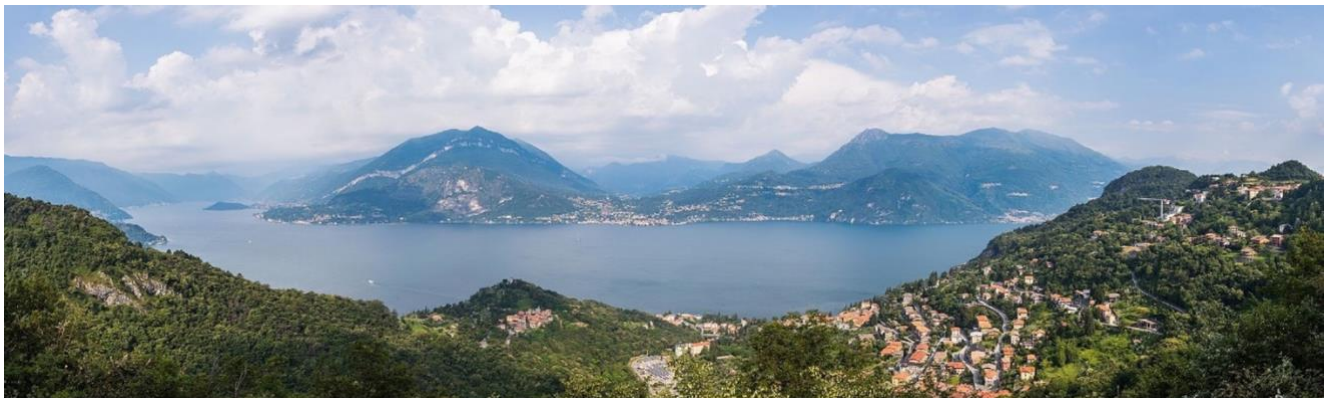
**Duomo in Milan**

## March 31

Today you will be introduced the magnificent mountainous area, located about 1 hr north of Milan. Visit Lake Como and time allowing drive to Lake Lugano which is located in Switzerland. Return to Milan for dinner and overnight stay (if not yesterday, concert venue) Both lakes truly introduce you to the beauty of nature to the highest degree. Return to Milan for dinner and overnight stay.

Tomorrow, France is waiting for you as you leave Northern Italy and head to the world-famous region of Provence in southern France. Provence is special, with its lush vegetation, its rich history of Roman invasions, different kind of trees and flowers and the attitude of *enjoy life*, “*joie de vivre*”. This is an area which was loved by the impressionist painters in the 19<sup>th</sup> century due to the ever-changing light.

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## **April 1**

You will drive partly alongside the Mediterranean coast, although not always visible, through lovely countryside via the Italian Costa delle Fiore (flower coast) to Nice which is located close to the border with Italy. Upon arrival in Nice, referred to as the city located on the Cote d'Azur, you will soon discover that the architecture and appearance of this seaside town is so different from what you left behind in Italy. Before dinner, there may be enough time for you to take a stroll along de Boulevard des Anglais before dinner and overnight

## **April 2**

This morning we will take you to the historic village of St Paul de Vence, an artist's colony which towers above Nice. This quaint village, is and has been adored by many artists such as Matisse and Marc Chagal. Return to Nice around lunch time. Afternoon at leisure to enjoy a stroll through old town and if not done yesterday, the famous Boulevard des Anglais and prepare for a concert venue.



**French riviera**

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## **April 3**

As you continue your travels through Provence, direction West, you will discover that in this part of France, vegetation, mountain appearance changes all the time. There will be a lunch time stop in Aix en Provence. This university town popular with American students many come her for a study year abroad. It is the birth place of Paul Cezanne. He was a late impressionist and influenced Picasso. Aix en Provence was once a major Roman settlement. Continue your drive West to Avignon, the 14<sup>th</sup> century Papal city. Dinner and overnight stay.



**Village in central Provence**

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#### **April 4**

History continues to follow you as you visit the Impressive Papal Palace. Avignon was the home of the Popes for 70 years when religious wars raged in Italy. The city is located on the river Rhone which is one of the longest rivers in Europe. One of its bridges only spans half way over the river and there is a famous song singing about it. Perhaps you have heard of it!! We will arrange a concert venue in this lovely ancient town where you will also have time to enjoy the sites independently and do some last-minute French shopping. Dinner and overnight in Avignon.



**One of Gaudí's architectural master pieces**

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## **April 5**

Your drive from Avignon to Barcelona, Spain, will take you through more constantly changing countryside. Part of the journey crosses a corner of the Pyrenees Mountain range before you enter Spain. The drive from Avignon to Barcelona takes about 5 hrs. To be able to visit 3 countries, each with their own culture, language, dietary specialities, 3 countries in such a short time is a life time experience of widening of horizon: an education in its own right as you learn how people live on the other side of the Ocean.

Barcelona is located in the north-eastern part of the Mediterranean coast of the Iberian Peninsula. It is the second largest city in Spain in both size and population: more than 4million for the Barcelona metropolitan area. It is also the capital of Catalonia, one of the Spain autonomous regions.

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## **April 6**

Let us make the best of this last day of this spectacular tour and see some of the sites of Barcelona as well as discover some of the modernisation of architecture when you see Gaudi's famous Cathedral of the Holy family as well as other buildings he designed. In the afternoon you will have time to enjoy a walk at the famous Ramblas before dinner and overnight stay in Barcelona

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## **April 7**

Transfer to Barcelona airport for return flight to Atlanta.

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