



JOHNS CREEK HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

Young K. Kim, Director of Orchestras
5575 State Bridge Road
Johns Creek, Georgia 30022
(470) 254-2058 (Music Office)

March 8, 2023

Dear Parents,

I cannot believe it's been four years since our trip to Europe (Austria and Czech Republic -2019)... It was a great trip! Since then, a lot has happened in the world as well as in our lives.... The pandemic has changed our lives and the perspective of world travel. Some tour companies struggled but the tour company that we have entrusted with in the past survived and currently thriving.

Currently, there has been much interest in such trip for this upcoming school year. I have been gathering some information and making plans to make sure the trip is designed to maximize your child's learning opportunities, safety, and enjoyment. A trip of such magnitude requires more than a year of planning. In this letter, I will try to answer the questions that we know many of you have about the trip. At this time, we will take first 44 participants on a first-come, first-served. If you have further questions, you are free to e-mail me at Jchsorchestra@gmail.com and I will get back with you as soon as possible.

Why take this kind of trip?

This trip is intended to provide an enriching educational and cultural experience for the kids that far surpass what they would be able to get in a classroom or through local performances. Art and culture have a long tradition in western Europe. Your child will have the opportunity to experience this fertile music environment firsthand. Our intent is to make this a musical experience that they will remember forever.

Can child's parent or the relatives participate on this trip?

At this time, I cannot give you the definite answer. It all depends on availability. More information will be shared after the initial "non-refundable" down payment.

What is the trip itinerary?

March 28 – April 7, 2024 (*Please see the attached brochure*)

Will my child be safe?

It is the primary focus of everyone connected with this trip to keep your child safe. However, no trip, no matter how short, is without some risk. We always bring along more chaperones than are required, and even bring chaperones with security and nurse training to provide for any eventuality. We have never had a safety-related incident on any orchestra trip to any location. We should also note that some of the responsibility for your child's safety does rest with your child. As you've surely already noted in the orchestra classes and concerts, the Johns Creek High School Orchestral program insists on excellent behavior from all students. This expectation is even higher when the group travels. Although the kids will be allowed some limited freedom in public areas, there are strict rules about traveling in groups, staying close by, and being on time to meeting places. Students who break, or even bend, these rules, will lose their rights to participate in parts of the trip, and may even be sent home. No refund will be made for any unused part of the trip. This is a strict policy for the students' safety. If you feel that your child will have trouble adhering to these policies, you may decide that they should not go on this trip.

Has the orchestra been on this kind of trip before?

Yes. It is our intent to do this kind of trip every five years, so that every Johns Creek Orchestra student will have one chance to take the trip during their four years at school. This upcoming trip is an exception due to obvious reason (COVID). Our previous trip in spring of 2019 to Austria & Czech Republic went beautifully. Trip album consisting of pictures from that trip can be found on the orchestra website.

(<https://photos.app.goo.gl/xTZ1MG5AqCVfs4226>) Several of the students who went on this trip still refer to it as the highlight of their high school experience. This will be my 6th European Performance/Tour.

Are you using a trip coordinator?

Yes. We selected a company called Travel Gingie's Way, Inc. to coordinate our trip. More information on them can be found at www.Travelgway.com. This is the same company that we used for the 2014 and 2019 trips (2005, 2009 with CHS). We had a very positive experience with this company; they came very highly recommended from several other schools and performing groups in our area.

How much will this cost?

The cost per student is projected to be around \$3,750. We say "projected" because we will need to do some group fundraising to cover some of the expenses so that we can achieve this cost. Our plan is to do a few major fundraisers that will not only cover these group costs, but also will give the kids the opportunity to earn money to help cover their individual payments. Please see the attached Trip Reservation Form for payment plan options and more information.

How will I be kept advised of trip information?

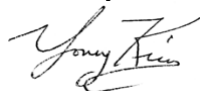
Knowing how "notes sent home in backpacks" can get lost or waylaid; thus, we would like to encourage you to visit our orchestra website, on a regular basis, so that you will be kept up to date with the latest trip information. Our first trip meeting is scheduled late Spring/2023 in the Orchestra Room.

Is there anything I can do to help the group prepare for this trip?

Yes! We will need parents to help with fundraising, communications, etc. If you are interested in helping, please note that on the Trip Reservation Form, attached.

Thank you,

Sincerely,



Young K. Kim
Director of Orchestras
Johns Creek High School
Email: kimy@fultonschools.org
Website: www.johnscreekorchestra.com

Trip Reservation Form

Please return this form w/deposit check to Mr. Kim by Thursday, March 23.

My child, _____

_____ Will _____ Will not

be participating in the Orchestra Spring Break 2024 trip to Italy/France/Spain.

Due to the different budget needs of different families, we are offering the following payment plans. Please indicate your preferred payment option below:

Check 1	Payment Plan	Payment Schedule
	All-In-One	Payment in full with trip reservation (this form): \$3,750.00
	Multi-Payment	March 23, 2023: *\$250 non-refundable deposit (with this form) By August 2, 2023: \$1000 By October 2, 2023: \$625 By November 2, 2023: \$625 By December 2, 2023: \$625 By February 2, 2024: \$625
	Monthly Budget	March 23, 2023: *\$250 non-refundable deposit (with this form) May 1, 2023: \$350 June 1, 2023: \$350 July 3, 2023: \$350 August 1, 2023: \$350 September 1, 2023: \$350 October 2, 2023: \$350 November 1, 2023: \$350 December 1, 2023: \$350 January 1, 2024: \$350 February 1, 2024: \$350

Please make “non-refundable” check (\$250) payable to “Johns Creek High School”.

Note: With all payment plans, if the student earns money into their fundraising account and their payment is reduced, all overpayments will be refunded to them.

Signed by parent, _____

Please print parent(s) name: _____

Parent(s) e-mail address: _____

Parent(s) home and cell phones: _____

I can help with fundraising! (please indicate name and availability):

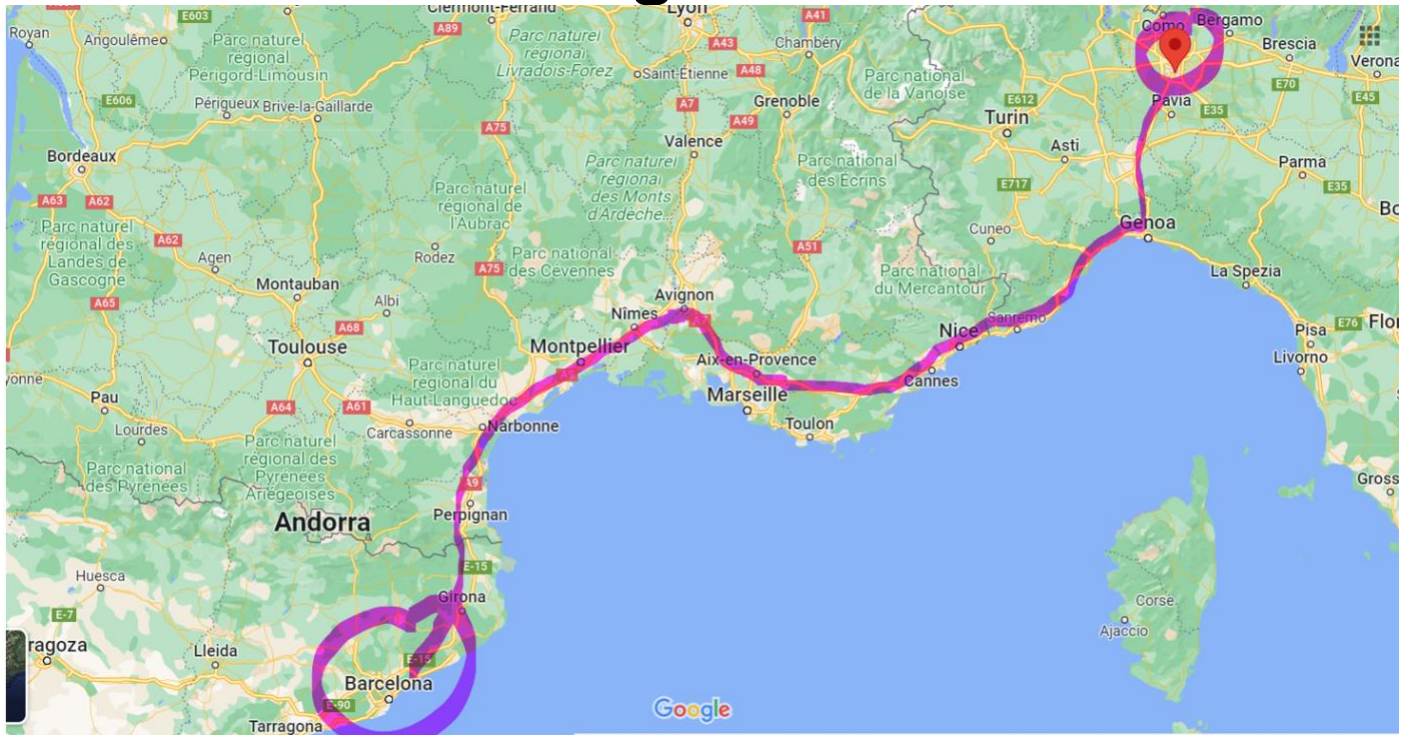
EUROPEAN PERFORMANCE/TOUR 2024

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)

March 30

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

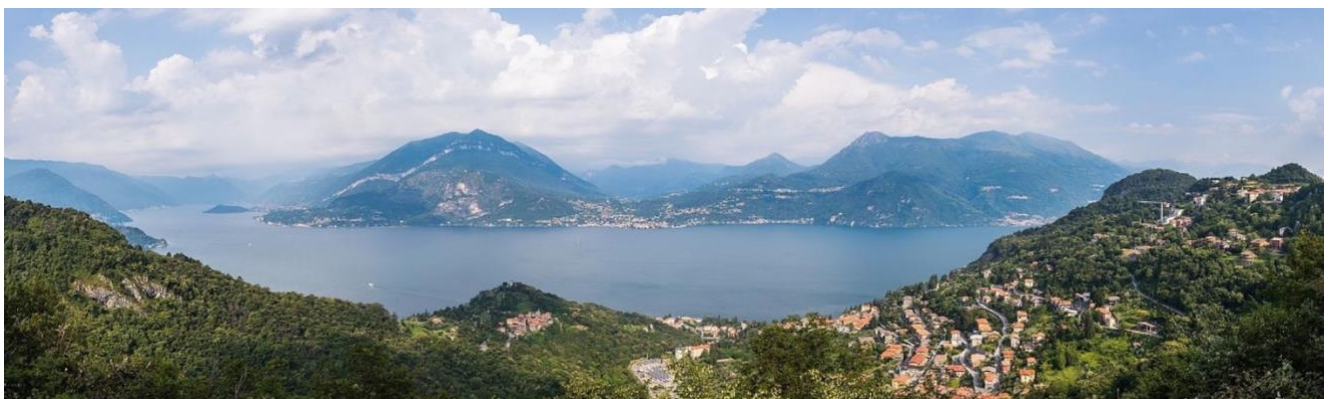


Duomo in Milan

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 19th century due to the ever-changing light.



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

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 14th century Papal city. Dinner and overnight stay.



Village in central Provence

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

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.

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

April 7

Transfer to Barcelona airport for return flight to Atlanta.

To be include in the program

- Return flight to Europe: Atlanta to Milan and from Barcelona to Atlanta,
- Airport taxes and surcharges. (Subject to change until time of issuing the airline tickets).
- Service of a private coach transportation from arrival in Milan to departure in Barcelona
- Accommodation in twin bedded rooms
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Entrances to sites visited during included sightseeing tours
- Local guides during local sightseeing tours
- Tour Manager
- Transportation and Rental of Instruments (cello & basses) and equipment Gratuities as required

We will accept first forty four (44) students on first-come, first-served basis.

Estimated Price per Person: **\$3,750.00**