

# EUROPEAN TOUR 2009

(April 2 – 11, 2009)

(Budapest, Hungary/Eisenstadt, Austria/Vienna,  
Austria/Prague, Czech Republic)

## Centennial High School Orchestra





# CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL

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Orchestra Website: <http://fultonschools.org/teacher/kimy>

**March 16, 2008**

**Dear Parents,**

Believe it or not, it's already time to start planning for next year's exciting Orchestra Spring Break trip! Mr. Kim has been hard at work for some time gathering information and making plans to make sure the trip is designed to maximize your child's learning opportunities, safety, and enjoyment. In this letter, we will try to answer the questions that we know many of you have about the trip. If you have further questions, you are free to e-mail me at [LAR7463@aol.com](mailto:LAR7463@aol.com) and I will get back with you shortly.

## **Why take this kind of trip?**

This trip is intended to provide an enriching educational and cultural experience for the kids that far surpasses what they would be able to get in a classroom or through local performances. Budapest has long been an important part of the music of Hungary. Budapest's music history has included the famous composers Liszt, Bartok, von Weber, Dohnanyi, and Kodaly. Music institutions in modern Budapest include the Hungarian State Opera, the Hungarian State Orchestra, and the Nemzeti Filharmonia. Art and culture have a long tradition in Vienna, the capital of Austria. Vienna is still considered the music capital of the world. It is a city of refined tastes, grace, style, and unmatched artistic accomplishments. The Burgtheater is considered one of the best theatres in the German-speaking world alongside its branch, the Akademietheater. The Volkstheater Wien and the Theater in der Josefstadt also enjoy good reputations. There is also a multitude of smaller theatres, in many cases devoted to less mainstream forms of performing arts. Vienna is also home to a number of opera houses, including the Staatsoper and the Volksoper, the latter being devoted to the typical Viennese operetta. Classical concerts are performed at well known venues such as the Wiener Musikverein, home of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Wiener Konzerthaus. Many concert venues offer concerts aimed at tourists, featuring popular highlights of Viennese music (particularly the works of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Johann Strauss. The graves of Beethoven, Strauss, Brahms, and Schubert are in Vienna. This is also where the Mozart Memorial is. The personal musical instruments of composers such as Haydn, Beethoven, Mozart, Schubert, Straus, Brahms, Mahler, and many others are in the Hofburg. Everything in Eisenstadt reminds one of the brilliant composers, Franz Joseph Haydn. Esterhazy Palace and the Haydnsaal are where many of Haydn's works were premiered. Haydn's house, which is now a museum, is also here. Prague is universally declared one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. The Mozart and Dvorak Museums are here. The Dvorak Museum displays the life and works of the most famous of Czech composers. On display at the Bertramka Museum are all available memorabilia of Mozart, namely personal keepsakes, musical instruments, manuscripts, letters, period pictures, and other documents testifying to Mozart's close relationship to Prague. Your student will have the opportunity to experience this fertile music environment first hand. Mr. Kim's intent is to make this a musical experience that they will remember forever.

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

Yes, but depends on availability. Please let us know ASAP

## **What is the trip itinerary?**

April 2 – April 11, 2009 (*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. Mr. Kim always brings along more chaperones than are required, and even brings chaperones with security and nursing 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, Mr. Kim insists on excellent behavior from his 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 Mr. Kim's intent to do this kind of trip every 5 years, so that every Centennial orchestra student will have one chance to take the trip during their 4 years at school. Our previous trip in spring of 2001 to Austria/Germany and spring of 2005 to Italy went beautifully. Mr. Kim has an album of pictures from these trips that he would love to share if you are interested. Several of the students who went on this trip still refer to it as the highlight of their high school experience.

### **Are you using a trip coordinator?**

Yes, Mr. Kim has selected a company called Travel Gingie's Way, Inc. to coordinate our trip. More information on them can be found at [www.Travelgway.com](http://www.Travelgway.com). This is the same company that we used for the 2004 Italy trip. 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 \$3,400. 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 for Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm 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.

If you have any questions that were not addressed in this letter, please feel free to contact me at [LAR7463@aol.com](mailto:LAR7463@aol.com). I'd be happy to answer any questions that I can.

Thank you,

Lisa Richardson  
Orchestra Co-President





## Travels ToThe splendor of Budapest, Vienna & Prague

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009**

Departure from Atlanta for Budapest, Hungary

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Arrival in Budapest. Transfer to your hotel with a short orientation tour en route. Dinner and overnight in Budapest

**April 4<sup>th</sup>**

This morning you will have the possibility to discover the charm of this magnificent city which was once an important centre for the Habsburg dynasty.

Budapest is divided into two cities linked together by the mighty river Danube which is one of the longest rivers in Europe.

Visit this morning the charming hilly city of Budapest followed by a visit to the impressive centre of Pest. In the afternoon there is time to do individual sightseeing at a leisurely pace as well. Preparation for a concert venue later today. Dinner and overnight in Budapest.



**Vienna Austria**



**Houses of Parliament – Budapest**

**April 5<sup>th</sup>**

Departure for Eisenstadt. Eisenstadt is situated on the Hungarian/Austrian border. It was once part of Hungary. It is here where the Esterhayzn family lived and ruled. They were great patrons of music. Haydn, who was not born too far away from this delightful city, was closely associated with the family. Visit the Palace and concert venue later today. Dinner and overnight in Eisenstadt.

**April 6<sup>th</sup>**

Departure for Vienna. There will be some sightseeing en route to Imperial Vienna. Upon arrival check into your hotel, have some time for lunch and then visit the famous Vienna Woods and Baden where Beethoven lived for some time. See the tree 'Unter den Linden' a song immortalized by Schubert, visit the Monastery of Holy Cross. Dinner in a typical Vienna woods tavern before returning to Vienna for overnight stay

**April 7<sup>th</sup>**

Vienna has so much to see and today is the day that you will be introduced to this impressive capital city of Austria. From the Ring to the Hofburg, from the Stefan's Church to the Schonbrunn Palace. Just follow your guide and listen and a whole new world opens up to you. In the afternoon time to enjoy Vienna and some of its museums at leisure. Visit either an Opera or concert performance.( optional) Dinner and overnight in Vienna.

## April 8th

Departure for Prague. There will be a sightseeing walking tour this afternoon. The touring will concentrate on Old Prague and its quaint alley ways. Prague is like a picture postcard come true. As the city was not bombed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> WW, you will discover a city centre with medieval charm. A city where Dvorak and Mozart walked on the same cobbled stones as you will be doing during your stay here in the capital of the Czech Republic. Dinner and overnight stay

## April 9th

This morning there will be a visit to the Castle district. A most interesting part of the city of Prague. In the afternoon there will be a rehearsal and a concert venue, (afternoon or evening). Dinner and overnight in Prague

## April 10<sup>th</sup>

There are quite a few castles in the neighbourhood of the city and today is your chance to visit just one. Go back in time as you wander through its historical and ancient corridors. Return to Prague in time for some individual sightseeing. Today visit a Mozart concert or folklore evening. Dinner and overnight in Prague



Charles Bridge - Prague

## April 11th

Transfer to Prague airport for your return flight back home.

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*'Travel is like a book.  
Those who do not travel  
merely read a page'*



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## Included . . .

- \* Flight transportation Atlanta/ Budapest and Prague/ Atlanta
- \* Coach transportation & transfers where applicable
- \* Accommodation in twin bedded rooms throughout
- \* Departure and security taxes up to \$360.00
- \* Guide services where applicable
- \* Entrances to sites visited during sightseeing tours
- \* Dinner and breakfast daily throughout.
- \* Tour manager in Europe
- \* Gratuities to driver

Price **\$ 3,400.00**<sub>pp</sub> –based on 50 participants

## Not included...

- Lunches
- Personal expenses such as beverage and phone calls
- Balance of Airport taxes & fuel surcharges over \$360.00 per person
- Travel insurance. Optional and advisable

## Travel Gingie's Way

www.travelgway.com  
1(800) 265 7769

# Trip Reservation Form

**Please return this form to Mr. Kim by Monday, April 14 (the Monday following Spring Break). We encourage you to return it in before Spring Break if at all possible.**

My child, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Will \_\_\_\_\_ Will not

be participating in the Orchestra Spring Break 2009 trip to Budapest/Vienna/Prague.

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): \$3,400.00
	Multi-Payment	By April 14, 2008: \$150 deposit (with this form) By September 1, 2008: \$1000 By October 1, 2008: \$500 By November 1, 2008: \$500 By December 1, 2008: \$1000 By February 1, 2009: \$250
	Monthly Budget	April 14, 2008: \$150 deposit (with this form) May 1, 2008: \$450 June 1, 2008: \$400 September 1, 2008: \$400 October 1, 2008: \$400 November 1, 2008: \$400 December 1, 2008: \$400 January 1, 2009: \$400 February 1, 2009: \$400

**Please make all checks payable to Centennial 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 work phones: \_\_\_\_\_

**I can help!** (please indicate name and availability): \_\_\_\_\_