
Tour Handbook

NYC 2019

Touring with the Cantabile Choirs to NYC will be a great privilege and wonderful life experience as the Youth Singers serve as musical ambassadors for the Cantabile organization and the region. The tour is guaranteed to bring you a wealth of opportunities and experiences that we will share together.

Please read the following information carefully. By going on tour, you agree to abide by the rules of behaviour and codes of conduct as described in the Cantabile Handbook (available online) and these additional guidelines that have been designed for your safety and comfort while on tour.

A number of chaperones and the Artistic Director, Mark Sirett, will travel with the choir. The chaperones for the tour are:

1. Melissa Andrew
2. Maggie Clarke Lamarche
3. Susie Everding
4. Shane McKay
5. Patricia Weidmark
6. Shelley Nikas
7. Jennifer Davidson-Harden
8. Caroline Field

Choristers are expected to be respectful of the chaperones and fellow choristers.

1. PASSPORTS, IDENTIFICATION AND HEALTH CARDS

For safety purposes while we are in NYC, **passports** will be kept by the chaperones.

Please make **two** photocopies of your passport.

- Keep one at home for reference
- Submit **one copy into the office** for our files

All participants should also have their **Ontario Health Card** with them at all times.

2. PHONE CALLS

Choristers will be discouraged from phoning home unless in the case of an emergency or prior arrangement has been made.

3. MONEY

It is the responsibility of each chorister to have sufficient spending money for additional food on tour and to purchase souvenirs. You will need American money and possibly Canadian money.

- You will likely wish to purchase souvenirs of the trip. This amount should be determined by the individual family
- There will be little time for shopping
- Carry sufficient money with you for snacks and extra meals. For safety reasons, do not keep all of your money in the same place.
- If the chorister wishes, one chaperone will be designated as the tour banker; for safety, choristers may wish to give the banker their spending money to be kept until required. Please submit money in an envelope clearly marked with your name and the amount of money that it contains.

4. CLOTHING

- Dr. Sirett will clarify the clothing for each day/event. Choristers are expected to wear their uniform according to the schedule.
- Evening at Broadway show, please remember that the weather in NYC in April may be cool in the evenings; bring a sweater or jacket. You may wish to 'dress up' this evening.
- Do not bring jeans with holes or patches or t-shirts with inappropriate sayings, slogans, or graphics.
- No perfume or cologne
- You will be issued a **Cantabile garment bag** to hold your uniform while on tour. These bags are the property of the Cantabile Choirs and must be returned after tour.
- Make sure that your name appears on the inside cover of your **black folder**.
- Please write your name on the inside labels of every item of your uniform for quick identification.
- Have a personal check-list of all items you have brought with you on tour.

5. ALLERGIES AND HEALTH ON TOUR

- Choristers and parents should have already informed Cantabile of all food allergies, special medical and dietary needs prior to tour. The tour company will contact the restaurants in advance.
- If choristers are experiencing any emotional difficulties such as depression prior to the tour, and/or are on medication, please be sure that the artistic director and chaperones know. This information will be strictly confidential.

6. ON THE BUS

There will be a coach available to us on tour. Save your voice; remember the chief purpose of the tour is to sing! For comfort on the bus we request that you observe the following:

- If you are prone to motion sickness, please be sure to take medication prior to departure. Don't wait until you feel ill—by then it's too late.
- Please keep the bus as tidy as possible.
- All luggage should be **stored below**.

- Knap-sacks, including your music and spending money, should **be kept on the bus**, stored in the upper bins.
- Remain seated at all times
- **Attendance** is taken by a numbering system; each chorister and chaperone is assigned a number and we will quickly count-off. Attendance is taken each time we return to the bus.
- Seating is random, except for the front of the bus that is reserved for the chaperones. You will be asked from time to time to change places on the bus, so that you get to know some of the other choristers during the tour.
- Quiet time on the bus will be imposed at some periods during the tour

7. ARRIVAL AND SIGHTSEEING

- Upon arrival at all performance venues, hotel, or sight-seeing destinations, please remain seated quietly in the bus until you have received final instructions from the tour director. You will most likely be expected to assemble into chaperone groups outside the bus.
- During any guided tours, performances, meals and scheduled activities all choristers are to remain together in a group.

8. FREE TIME

- If there is any free time, choristers will be in supervised chaperone groups. These groups will be identified to the choristers prior to the tour.
- During free time in NYC, if there is any, groups may be re-organized according to interests.
- Be sure to keep track of time.
- Always use the **BUDDY-SYSTEM**—choristers must be accompanied by a fellow chorister when using vending machines, visiting the restroom and moving from room to room in the hotel.

9. AT THE HOTEL

- We have requested that Cantabile rooms will be grouped together in one area of the hotel/resort. These are non-smoking, quad or triple rooms.
- Please take note of emergency exits and evacuation procedures at the hotel/resort. The chaperones will remind you of these and other safety precautions.
- If girls are visiting guys rooms or vice versa, the door must be propped open at all times.
- Chaperones will enforce curfew and lights out time
- When leaving the hotel, the chaperones will arrange for your group to meet together at a specific time and location. Do not go to the bus alone.

10. CONCERTS/PERFORMANCES

- Choristers are encouraged to eat a light, nutritious meal before a concert. Please avoid milk or milk products, chocolate, or junk food prior to a concert as they make it difficult to sing.
- Choristers are expected to maintain a standard of appearance during performances and while in uniform:
 - no extreme hair-styles, nail polish
 - YM: comb your hair, polish your shoes!
 - YW: should have their hair pulled back off their face
 - YW: no jewellery except for ear studs and necklace; barrettes, hair bands or scrunchies should be black

11. AFTER PERFORMANCES

Remain in proper concert attire after the performance. The choir's appearance before, during and after concerts projects a positive image of the discipline and standard of the choir.

YM: do not roll up your sleeves, take off your tie, or pull out your shirt tails

- On some occasions you will have time to change into casual clothes after the performance. You will be informed by the chaperones if and when this is possible.
- On other occasions due to time constraints everyone will stay in your uniform on the bus until we return to the hotel. You will not be permitted to change on the bus.