



Southampton Youth Orchestra

Conductor KEITH SMITH

SOUTHAMPTON AREA EDUCATION OFFICE
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15th June 1982.

Dear Parent,

I am writing to give you final details of the Youth Orchestra trip to Germany and Austria.

Owing to a considerable rise in costs above the original travel estimates supplied to us, it has been necessary to modify our travelling plans, with the major change to coach-travel from rail. This makes the outward and return journeys somewhat longer, but will allow an overnight stop both ways at the Hotel Acade in Strasbourg, and give us considerably more flexibility when we are in Altötting and Salzburg.

These changed plans also mean that we must now leave Southampton on the overnight ferry to Le Havre on Sunday July 18th, and return overnight Boulogne - Dover arriving in Southampton at approximately 8 a.m. on Sunday August 1st. Coach travel will be on Watsons Luxury Coaches.

Insurance and Medical Care.

Insurance for medical and travel cover has been arranged for all members of the party, and insurance for the large instruments owned by the Youth Orchestra will be made. However, may I point out the need for parents to insure privately owned instruments adequately. In addition may I advise that one must usually tell an insurance company if an instrument is to be taken out of the Country. It is always advisable to be certain that instruments are adequately covered.

Further details of the medical and travel cover will be supplied on request; this has been arranged through the County Council's agent.

If anyone is restricted to a special diet or medication of any kind, please inform me soon. Arrangements for safekeeping of tablets or medicines will be made.

Instruments

Smaller instruments will travel in the coaches as hand-luggage. There will, however, be a separate instrument van travelling all the way to Austria and back with larger instruments. It is hoped d'basses, percussion, tuba and most cellos will go in the van; which will be very carefully packed and sealed before leaving, one day

earlier than the main party. It is particularly recommended that cellists should 'beg, borrow or steal' a hard case if at all possible, but please note that great care will be taken with instruments.

Everyone, especially strings, are advised to use extra packing, e.g. foam rubber inside the instrument cases to avoid rattles and damage.

Please ensure that adequate spare strings, mutes, etc. are carried.

Clothing

Although the weather in Bavaria and Austria is usually very warm in July, evenings are somewhat cooler. Likewise it is usual to expect some rain at this period. Please will you therefore ensure that some warm clothing is taken as well as light summer things. A plastic or light raincoat is a good idea, as are a strong pair of shoes for walking or sightseeing trips.

It will be necessary to take our own towel and soap for the Youth Guest House.

Dress for the evening concerts will be our usual 'black and white' concert uniform. For the school concerts more informal wear may be worn - might I suggest our sweat-shirts?

Food - Travel

During the long coach journeys, there will be a number of stops at convenient places to get snacks. However, I would strongly recommend that all members of the party take packed meals for the outward journey. This food should be carefully packed if it is to last up to 36 hours. Cans of soft-drinks will be taken on the coaches with us.

N.B. Although some packed meals will be arranged by Staff for the return journey, I feel we should be prepared to purchase at least one meal on Saturday, July 31st.

Passports

Everyone in the party has been asked to get an individual passport for the trip. These should be brought to the S.Y.O rehearsal on Saturday, July 10th, so that they may be carefully checked by Staff during the morning. There will be further checks before the coaches leave on the outward and return journeys.

Spending Money, etc.

It is difficult for me to give an estimate of how much spending money to take. Possibly £30, but this is only a guess. However, if one can allow a little more in case of emergency, this would seem sensible. It is certainly not a good idea to take vast sums in any currency. Travellers cheques are always a better way to hold money abroad.

N.B. Please try to have a safe place or pocket for money. For largish sums this should not be an outside pocket.

Do not take unnecessary valuables on the trip. Staff will take responsibility for looking after anything you wish specially cared for in Salzburg.

Cost

The total cost of the trip will be £99 per student, which includes travel, hotel and accommodation in the excellent Youth Guest House in Salzburg. This figure reflects extremely generous support from the "Friends of the Youth Orchestra" (without whom the trip could not even have been contemplated), and lesser grants from the County Council and Schools Music Association.

I should be grateful if full payment for the visit could be made to Mr. J. Robertson, either at rehearsals or sent to 48 Deacon Crescent, Bitterne, Southampton, by Saturday, June 26th. Cheques should be made payable to "The Friends of Southampton Youth Orchestra".

Staff accompanying the Orchestra

Mr. Keith Smith	Miss M. Harley
Mr. P. de Grouchy	Mrs. J. Hay
Mr. D. Cox	Mrs. A. Cox
Mr. J. Robertson	Mrs. J. Chalk

and 1 advisory officer.

In addition there will be two further responsible adults who will drive the Instrument Van to Austria and back: Mr. I. Waring Green. Miss M. Thomson.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Watsons Travel Centre - Southampton 555427

Home Number of Herr Gunter Grumbeck and Keith Smith in Altötting : 01049-8670-675

Gymnasium des Landkreises, Altötting : 01049-8671-4077

Young Austria Touring (efficient and helpful organisers in Salzburg) :
01043-6222-25758/0

If there are any points about which you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time. My home telephone is Romsey 515835. Also, I shall be available to meet parents who wish to discuss any problems at the end of the full rehearsal on July 10th.

May I thank you for your support in this venture, which is by far the most exciting and interesting yet planned for the Orchestra.

Yours sincerely,



Keith Smith
Staff-Conductor.