

Dear Parents and Friends,

Southampton Youth Orchestra  
Tours Abroad

You will be aware that efforts have been made to plan a tour to the mid-western USA which it was hoped would take place later this summer. In recent weeks new factors required important decisions to be made if the tour were to be finalised. A number of complex issues were involved both here and in the USA. The deciding factors were: (i) at this time it has not been possible to secure guarantees for all the necessary hosting and concert venues for the dates envisaged in the USA; (ii) at home, a number of requirements associated with new regulations applying to educational visits cannot be met. It is our judgement that these and other matters will not be resolved in the time available before any bookings must be finalised.

In the circumstances we have to inform you that our planning for the proposed USA Tour will actively continue on the understanding that the earliest date it can now take place will be during the schools' summer holidays in 1990.

The committee of parents and friends, meeting last night in the company of the Area Education Officer, Roy Jones, acknowledge the high hopes and expectations raised amongst the current members of the orchestra. With that in mind it is proposed, exceptionally, to offer continuing membership of the orchestra to those who would still wish to visit the USA next summer albeit they would ordinarily be leaving school or college to embark on the next stage of their careers.

Coincidentally, the committee was pleased to learn that the orchestra has received an invitation to represent the United Kingdom at an international convention of Youth Orchestras to be held between 18 and 27 August at Jarnac, Charente, France as the guests of the A Coeur Joie movement who are organising the event as a part of the bicentennial celebrations of the foundation of the French Republic.

We are recommending that the invitation to visit France at very little cost is accepted as an interim opportunity to tour abroad and represent the country whilst continuing to develop the plans for a future tour to the USA.

To help make speedy progress we shall be grateful if you will kindly return the enclosed proforma which will help us gauge your reactions.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Smith  
Staff Conductor  
SYO

Reg. Fletcher  
County General Adviser  
for Music

Peter Robinson  
Chairman  
Parents' Committee