

**ITINERARY FOR BUFFALO GROVE HIGH SCHOOL  
BAND & ORCHESTRA CONCERT TOUR  
CZECH REPUBLIC, AUSTRIA, ITALY, AND GERMANY  
MARCH 16 - 28, 2010**



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**Tuesday, March 16 - Day 1** Depart from O' Hare Airport Terminal 1 on Lufthansa (LH) Flights to Munich and/or Düsseldorf, Germany (dinner and breakfast will be served). Because of the seven-hour time difference, you will arrive in Europe.

**Wednesday March 17 - Day 2** The group landing in Düsseldorf will transfer planes and continue to Munich. After we go through Customs and Passport Control, the Munich flight(s) will inventory our equipment and load the buses and equipment truck. Then we all will drive eastward across the southern German state of Bavaria (spelled "Bayern" in German) toward the Czech Republic. We will stop for lunch at a place on the Autobahn that specializes in large groups (probably a Rosenberger Restaurant chain, famous throughout central Europe). You will need to have Euros to purchase lunch. Packets of Euros will be available on each bus for \$50 (cash only). After lunch we will continue into the Czech Republic and on to Prague. We will arrive at our destination, the *Pyramida Hotel*. Dinner will be provided in the hotel. After dinner you may either retire to your rooms (you will be quite fatigued from the long day) or if you slept on the bus, with consent from a director, in small groups you may explore Prague in the area near the hotel (in approved groups with adults only). Breakfast and dinner are provided; lunch will be on your own.

**Thursday March 18 - Day 3** We will rise early for breakfast. Breakfast will be at 7:00 AM. At 8:15 AM we will board our buses and depart for Kirche des St. Simon und Juda, a cathedral in the historic district of Prague. Here is where we will perform our first concert on the European Concert Tour, which will begin at 10:00 AM. The concert will last approximately 90 minutes. After we put equipment away and change clothes, we will go to Hradcany Castle for a tour. The afternoon will be available to walk the old part of town and shop in "Old Prague". We will meet our buses at the Hotel Intercontinental at 6:00 PM and return to the hotel. Dinner will again be at 7:30 PM in the Pyramida Hotel. The evening will be free for you to enjoy the hotel amenities or to do more exploring in Prague (in approved groups with adults). Breakfast and dinner are provided; lunch will be on your own.

**Friday March 19 - Day 4** We will again have breakfast at 7:00 AM, board our buses, and depart at 8:30 AM for Vienna, Austria. We will see Brno along the way. Brno is the Czech Republic's second largest city in the southern Moravian region. Lunch will be provided at the Mendlovo Castle along the way with arrival in Vienna anticipated around 5:00 PM. Upon arrival, students will depart with their host families and adults and hotel students will check into the hotel. Vienna, which is spelled "Wien" locally, is the capital of Austria. Host families will take students out to the sites in Vienna during our visit there. The host families will provide meals for the students throughout the week. Adults staying in the hotel will be provided breakfast each day. *All other meals will be "on your own"*. Hotel students will have dinner at the hotel and then get out on this first evening in supervised parent groups and start seeing the city. It is recommended that all adults go out into Vienna the evening of arrival and start to get to know the city. All students and adults in the hotel should get to Stephansdom this first night and begin exploring in this area. Directors will help you to do this. Places to go see include St. Stephen's Cathedral (Stephansdom) and the internationally renowned restaurant, "Figlmüller's" (near Stephansdom). It is known for its famous Wienerschnitzel. About 4 blocks from Stephansdom is a church where all of the Hapsburgs are entombed, including Franz Josef, Maria Theresia, and Maximilian of Mexico. This is very impressive to see (Saturday afternoon). Another popular Viennese attraction is "The Prater", an amusement park near the Ring with an old fashioned Ferris wheel (similar in design to the one at Chicago's Navy Pier in the way it stands out from a distance, yet it is so unique in that it is very old, with each car being a former railroad car). The Prater itself is a unique experience. You will feel as if you were walking in Coney Island in the early 1900's. A great place to eat in the Prater is at the Schweitzerhaus Restaurant. The Prater would be a great Saturday afternoon activity for hotel students. Stadt Park should also be seen (day or night) and is very easy to reach by the train system where the famous Johann Strauß Memorial can be seen. This too is "must see." Everyone will be given a transportation pass that will allow you to travel on all trains, trams, and buses while in Vienna. Three meals are provided today.

**Saturday March 20 - Day 5** Students will travel to the Landstraßer Gymnasium with their hosts at the start of their school day. Then at 9:00 AM we will have a basketball game between the two schools (other activities may be programmed by the school). During the basketball game, the choir and orchestra will be preparing for their concert at St. Rochus Church, just a 5 minute walk from the school. The concert begins at 11:00 AM. After the concert you will spend the remainder of the day with the host families. Hotel students will be sent in supervised groups to explore more of Vienna. Adults will go to a Heurigen (by bus) in the evening in the Grinzing/Neustift region of Vienna for a fun night with the teachers from the Landstraßer Gymnasium. The cost for dinner for the adults will be approximately 20 Euros and will be payable at the Heurigen. Breakfast is provided at the hotel. Dinner is provided for students.

**Sunday March 21 - Day 6** Today is a day for the host families and students to be together. Many host families will invite parents of the students they're hosting to participate in activities with them. Other parents will have an opportunity to rest or do more exploring. There is so much to see and do in Vienna! Other great options include going to the Hofburg (Presidential Palace) and seeing the museums there. The Spanish Riding School is located here and the Vienna Boys Choir performs at Sunday Mass. However tickets for this must be procured many months in advance (plan ahead). Everything is easily accessible on the public transportation system. At 3:00 PM the hotel students will have a late lunch at the hotel (provided) and at 4:00 PM will depart by bus for the school to pick-up our instruments for the concert. All musicians and parents will report to the Stock Exchange in Vienna at 5:00 PM to prepare for our concert at 7:00 PM. The stock exchange is a beautiful structure in the

northern part of the Ring near the Rathaus. After the concert we will load the equipment on the truck and take it back to the school. Breakfast is provided at the hotel and lunch (for students).

**Monday March 22 - Day 7** Students will travel to the Landstraßer Gymnasium with their hosts at the start of their school day. Adults and hotel students will depart the hotel and travel by trains to the school. Everyone is to arrive by 8:00 AM. The Pep Band will set up in the gym and give a 40-minute concert while the orchestra and choir go to the Music Room for a presentation by a staff member at the Landstraßer Gymnasium. After the performance we will pack up the instruments and board our buses for an all day tour of Vienna. We will travel to the Central Cemetery to see the graves of Beethoven, Strauß, and others. We will also stop by St. Mark's Cemetery and see Mozart's grave. Our formal tour will take us around the Ring of Vienna with local guides explaining the history of the culture and architecture. In the afternoon we will tour the famous Schönebrunn Palace, which was the summer home of the Hapsburgs. At 4:30 PM everyone will return to the school where a huge farewell party will take place that will include all students and adults. At 8:00 PM students depart with their hosts and hotel students depart in groups with adults to see Vienna one more time in the evening. Adults will bring the hotel students back to the hotel and check them in. This will be everyone's last night in Vienna. School personnel will spend the evening with the Viennese teachers from the school as part of the exchange. Breakfast is provided at the hotel and dinner is provided at the party.

**Tuesday March 23 - Day 8** Students will travel to the Landstraßer Gymnasium with their hosts and arrive at 8:00 AM. Adults and hotel students will checkout of the hotel and will travel to the school on two buses. Upon arrival, we will load the instruments on to the truck and bid a tearful "Auf Wiedersehen" to our Viennese friends and depart west toward Kitzbühel, Austria. Enroute we will stop in Salzburg which is the location of the famous movie, *The Sound of Music*. Lunch will be on your own in this picturesque setting. You will have some time to explore in Salzburg. Among the things you can do include exploring the great medieval castle, Hohensalzburg (built 1000 years ago), Mozart's Birthplace (Gebursthaus), and the Getreidegasse (a pedestrian mall and shopper's paradise). Salzburg is also where we always take our group picture! We will then travel to Kitzbühel where we will check into our hotels and have dinner. Upon arrival in Kitzbühel, we are scheduled to stay in three hotels. They are the *Maria Theresia*, *Sporthotel Reisch*, and the *Hotel Resch*. Upon arrival, you will have some time before dinner to explore the town and reserve your ski equipment (if you're skiing the next day). After dinner you will be free to roam and enjoy the beautiful town of Kitzbühel, Austria. Breakfast and dinner are provided; lunch will be on your own.

**Wednesday March 24 - Day 9** Today is a free day in Kitzbühel, famous summer and winter resort in the Tyrolean Alps of Austria. Today is also the day you will have an opportunity to ski. For those who signed release forms, group instruction will be available. All skiing costs (rental, lift tickets, and lesson/guides) must be paid for in Kitzbühel. Lessons, rental, and a one-day skipass should cost under \$100. Anyone wishing to ski a second day (with a previously signed permission waiver only) will have to pay for an extra lift ticket. *It is important to know that no ski costs have been included in the trip.* If you don't ski, you can enjoy the quaint village, take a cable car ride up the Hahnenkamm (location of the famous international downhill ski race) or Horn Mountains, go hiking, shopping, or swim in the Aquarina (which is an indoor water park), or just relax. At the top of both mountains are cafeteria-style restaurants where you can have lunch, watch the skiers come and go, and take in the breath-taking scenery. In the afternoon we will return to our hotels for dinner. After dinner we will go to our concert

venue in Kitzbühel. All three groups will perform. Afterwards everyone is to return to their hotel rooms and go right to bed as we have a very ambitious itinerary tomorrow that takes us to Venice, Italy. Breakfast and dinner are provided; lunch will be on your own.

**Thursday March 25 - Day 10** Today we will rise extremely early and travel by bus to Venice (spelled “Venezia” by the Italians), the Queen of the Adriatic Sea and a unique city with canals, gondolas, palaces, cathedrals, museums, shopping, etc. We will take a bus from Kitzbühel to a port near Venice where we will board a large boat that will take us to the city of islands! The only transportation in Venice is by foot or boat. There are no cars or other forms of motorized land vehicles. We will tour San Marco where the remains of the Apostle, Mark, are entombed in the front of the cathedral. You will also see the Bridge of Sighs, as well as the world famous Rialto Bridge over the Main Canal. Just around the corner from the Rialto Bridge is the house Marco Polo lived in. We will see a glass blowing demonstration where you will also have an opportunity to purchase authentic Venetian glass. We will also go on a gondola ride down the Main Canal near the Rialto Bridge! Time will run out before we have seen even a portion of the city! Before departing Venice, we will enjoy a dinner before returning to Kitzbühel extremely late in the evening. Three meals are provided today.

**Friday March 26 - Day 11** Two sets of plans are being made for this day. Students who wish to ski a second day, with parent permission only, will stay in Kitzbühel and Mr. Jacobi will remain to supervise. Only experienced skiers with signed waivers granting permission will be permitted to do this. If this is your first ski experience, you are not permitted to go again on this day. All other students and adults will go on an adventure to Berchtesgaden, Germany where you will tour an authentic salt mine in the mountain. The remainder of the afternoon is still being planned at the time of this writing. After the tour, we will go back to Kitzbühel for dinner. After dinner we will board buses and travel a short distance to the town of Oberndorf where we will watch, and some of us will even participate, in an authentic Tyrolean Evening of ethnic music and dancing. After our return to Kitzbühel we will go right to our hotel rooms to pack our luggage for the start of our return home tomorrow. We don't fly until Sunday, but preparations at the airport occur on Saturday. Breakfast and dinner are provided; lunch will be on your own.

**Saturday March 27 - Day 12** After breakfast we checkout of our hotels and board our buses for the final leg of our journey as we prepare to head home. We will depart at 8:00 AM and arrive in Munich (spelled “München” in Germany) around 10:30 AM where we will embark on a walking tour to the in the Marienplatz. We will see the world famous Glockenspiel and Cathedral (Dom) as well as the farmers market. At 2:00 PM we will depart for our hotels. Enroute we will have a city tour of Munich! We will check into our rooms and depart at 6:30 PM for a big dinner together in the world famous Hofbräuhaus. Our dinner is scheduled for 7:00 PM. We are doing this so you can experience the history and culture, as well as have one final evening where we are all together to celebrate an awesome European experience. However, as a school group, all school policies will be in place (including a zero-tolerance alcohol policy for *anyone*). We will depart the Hofbräuhaus at 10:30 PM and return to our hotel. Breakfast and dinner are provided; lunch will be on your own.

**Sunday, March 28 - Day 13** Time to return to the USA! We board our buses for the airport and begin our journey home. We'll depart Lufthansa (LH) Flights.; One flight departs in the morning and the other in the afternoon. We arrive in Chicago at various times in the afternoon of the same day at Terminal 5. On the flight home we recover the 7 hours lost when we traveled to Europe 12 days ago! Breakfast will be provided for you at your hotel. Two meals will be provided for you on the plane.

Upon our return to BGHS, we unload the truck and put all equipment away. Tomorrow, everybody goes to school!