



North Hills School District

North Hills High School

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www.nhsd.net



www.nhchoiranddrama.net

Shaun Cloonan, director, ext. 2731

Dear Choir Families,

We are happy to share with you an update of our **2023 Spring Performance Tour to NYC!** As you know, we have been working on the plans for some time now and several of our students have been fundraising already. Our students also continue to excel in rehearsals and bring pride to the community in performance. Thank you for supporting them in so many ways!

Reasons we travel with our ensembles:

- *To provide educational opportunities to our students through performances/adjudications/clinics*
- *To bring recognition to our school district and music program*
- *To build a sense of community between the members of our groups*

Other considerations when planning a trip:

- *School schedule, including standardized testing*
- *Costs*
- *Performance schedules*

How often does the music department go on tour?

We have been traveling annually with our students. While the location is not the reason for the tour – please see above – we do rotate our tour destinations to give our students experiences that they otherwise may not have. The recent rotation has included Orlando, a major city (NYC), an ocean location (Virginia Beach/Williamsburg/Busch Gardens), and an amusement park (Cedar Point/Rock & Roll Hall).

Who is invited on this trip?

All members of the Symphonic Choir, Chorale, and North Hills Singers ensembles. **When rehearsals take place for these groups outside of school, they will be listed as “Tour Symphonic,” “Tour Chorale,” etc. and will be for only those traveling on the tour so that we know what that specific group sounds like.** During the Disney year, the groups combine for a “Tour Choir” performance on the Disney Springs stage.

The **Band and Orchestra Spring Performance Tour is occurring the same weekend** with the goal of allowing students to perform with both the instrumental and vocal ensembles. Students traveling with the band will ride different buses and stay at a separate hotel, however the goal is that the remainder of the tour schedule allows for all music students to be together for most planned activities and performances.

Who chaperones the trip?

Mr. Cloonan, Ms. Sarazen, Mrs. Pritchard as staff members and nurse Heather Geyer. If more adults are needed, district approved chaperones from the Choral Parents Association list are included. Our trip nurse functions like our school nurse when at school, caring for ill students and administering medication.

How are the students housed in the hotels?

Students sign up with other students in rooms of 4. Each room will be assigned a chaperone to check in with each evening. Security is hired to assure that our students are safe, and in their rooms, overnight. **We will sign up for rooms near the beginning of March.**

What is expected of our students?

School policies apply at all times, as this is a school trip. Students are expected to learn, practice and rehearse in a way that brings pride to our school and program. We also expect our students to act respectfully and responsibly at all times and in all situations. Students who are not academically eligible to attend the tour may be held back from the tour by administrators if attending will prevent the students from having academic success.

E-mail Communications

The majority of tour information will be shared via email and Mr. Cloonan's "CLOONOTES" newsletter. **If you are not on the Choral Parent email list, please send an email to nhchoralparents@gmail.com.**

Calendar

A few additional rehearsals and a parent meeting will be added to our calendar in the spring to prepare for the trip. We will continue to update information via email/newsletter/Google Classroom as we get closer.

What is the cost of the trip?

If you are new to our group, you may not have noticed that our trips rotate in cost. This is done deliberately. The most our tour will cost should be **\$700**. It is possible that we may be able to reduce the cost of the tour once we have final numbers. We will continue to keep you updated along the way.

Our timeline for meeting our goals are as follows.

- **\$25 deposit with the attached commitment form, due by January 20, 2023 (must be contributed by cash or check made payable to NH Choral Parents – deposit cannot be fundraised)**
- **Payment #1 of \$225 due February 3, 2023**
- **Payment #2 of \$250 due March 3, 2023 (Cabaret Night)**
- **Final payment (TBD) due in late April 3, 2023 (Monday before spring break)**

Our tours are all-inclusive. Students do not need to bring any additional money for meals, etc. Most students do travel with money for souvenirs.

Fundraising

Beyond the initial deposit, students can meet our goal through fundraising or contributions to the Choral Parents Association.

- all information will be shared via the choral parent emails
- check nhchoiranddrama.net under the FORMS menu to see fundraising info when sent out
- contact choral parent officers for information and balance updates.

All fundraised or donated monies are contributions to the North Hills Choral Parents Association toward our group goal. ***There can be no refunds of fundraised or contributed monies if a student is unable to attend the event.***

In Closing

It is our hope that our spring tour can be a positive experience for our students, families, directors, and school district. As we work towards our goals, we can all grow stronger together as a program. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us.

Musically yours,

Mr. Shaun Cloonan
NHHS Choral Director
cloonans@nhsd.net
412-318-1400, x2731

WORKING TOUR ITINERARY

As of January 12, 2023. Specifics will be filled in as we get closer to the date of the tour.

DAY 1 – FRIDAY APRIL 28, 2023

Morning TBD

Motor coach arrives at NHHS
Depart NHHS

Arrive at Messiah University
One College Ave.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Lunch

Rehearsal clinics with Messiah University Music Faculty and culminating performances

Parmer Hall:

https://tour.messiah.edu/virtual-tour/?_gl=1*1ohoj4j*_ga*MTAxNDIyMzIxNS4xNjc2Mjg2NzZz*_ga_11QNM61CQ5*MTY3MzI4Njc2Mi4xLjEuMTY3MzI4Njk4MS40MC4wLjA.&stop=2&highlight=1

Messiah University Department of Music Faculty:

Dr. Travis Weller, bands

Dr. Jim Colonna, bands

Dr. Timothy Dixon, orchestras

Dr. Rachel Cornacchio, choirs

Dr. Joy Elizabeth Meade, choirs

https://www.messiah.edu/info/20636/our_faculty

Depart Messiah College

Dinner on bus en route

Arrive at New Jersey Hotel

11:00 p.m. Security guards on duty until 6:00 a.m.

DAY 2, SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023

7:15 a.m. Breakfast at the hotel

8:15 a.m. Depart hotel

9:00 a.m. Ferry to Liberty Island and/or Ellis Island in chaperone groups

Lunch voucher for meal at either the Crown Café or the Ellis Café

Ferry to Battery Park in chaperone groups

2:00 p.m. Arrive at Battery Park for walk to One World Observatory

View Wall Street, Trinity Cathedral, etc. on walk to 9/11 Memorial

View 9/11 Memorial

2:50 p.m. One World Observatory Tour

Board buses to Dinner Dance Cruise

5:00 p.m. Board the Dinner Dance Cruise around Manhattan Island

5:30 – 8:00 p.m. Dinner Dance Cruise

8:30 p.m. Depart for hotel

9:00 p.m. Return to hotel

11:00 p.m. Security guards on duty until 6:00 a.m.

DAY 3, SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023

8:00 a.m. Breakfast at the hotel
9:00 a.m. Depart hotel
10:00 a.m. Drop off at the Brooklyn Bridge
Walk from the Brooklyn side to the Manhattan side
12:00 p.m. Box lunches (Included)

NYC Shows: Blue Man Group AND/OR Wicked – please see note below*

Box dinner from Hard Rock Café

6:00 p.m. Depart New York City
Rest stops en route
12:30 a.m. Return to NHHS

***Notes about NYC Show**

- Students will either see Blue Man Group or Wicked.
- Both shows are wonderful!
- Students will be asked for their first choice of show when completing their commitment form.
- As you know, our group is very large.
 - If we can fit in one theater, we can all attend the same show.
 - We will probably be split between the two shows.
 - If split, our goal will be for students to see their first choice show, which is why we ask them to indicate this on the form.
- We are asking for the commitment forms to be returned quickly to allow us to have the most tickets available to us.



2023 Performance Tour Commitment Contract

Student Name (print clearly) _____

Preferred email(s) for tour communication (parents and/or student):

I commit to participate in the North Hills Music Department performance tour to Messiah University and New York City on **April 28-30, 2023**.

I realize that I **must fully prepare for performances, maintain behavioral standard in school, and remain a member of the music program in good standing** to attend.

I understand **my individual contribution** toward the group financial goal and that contributions are **non-refundable** even if I choose not to attend at a later date.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

My first choice for a NYC Show is:

Blue Man Group _____ Wicked _____

*To reserve a space for you on the performance tour, you must return the form above to the appropriately labeled drawer in the Choir Room with your \$25 deposit by **January 20, 2023**. Checks should be made out to "NH Choral Parents" with the student's name in the memo.*