

Thursday, 2 November 2017

Dear Young Musicians, Parents/Carers

**2018 Summer Tour to Belgium & The Netherlands
Saturday 21 – Friday 27 July 2018**

I am delighted to confirm that next summer's tour will be to Belgium and The Netherlands from Saturday 21 to Friday 27 July 2018. We will stay in Kortrijk, Belgium for two nights, before travelling on to Bergen Op Zoom in The Netherlands for the remainder of the week. While in Belgium, we are delighted to have been asked to perform as part of the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres.



There will be a maximum of 68 places available for ensemble members in Year 9 or above who have reached Grade 5 or an equivalent ability on their instrument. Early reservation is recommended to ensure a place as these will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. To be fair to all members and to ensure our best performances, we will be taking committed young musicians only.

We always try to keep the cost of going on tour as low as possible. Thanks to generous financial support from Sutton Youth Music Supporters Association (SYMSA), the parental contribution towards the cost of this tour will be **£685** per person, payable via a flexible payment plan – please note that this includes:

- Outward and return travel by luxury double decker coach
- Half board hostel/hotel accommodation with provision for any special dietary requirements
- A varied programme of rehearsals and fully promoted concerts
- Full cost of excursions, leisure and cultural activities
- Provision of qualified first aiders and full travel insurance
- All supervision, ensemble rehearsals and performances led by Sutton Music Service tutors

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To secure a place for your child on this trip, please complete the online application form here:

<https://goo.gl/forms/wZw42I78wFafpZuK2>

You **must** also ensure that a non-refundable deposit of £285.00 has been paid to Sutton Youth Music Supporters' Association (SYMSA). This should be made directly to SYMSA via online bank transfer to Sort Code 20-84-17, Account Number 50399043 and should clearly state the word 'Trip' followed by your child's first initial and surname as the reference e.g. 'Tour j.bloggs'. **Please do not pay any fees due to Sutton Music Service (such as termly ensemble or instrument hire charges) to this account.**

We will then write to you to confirm that your child has a place. We will ask for the remainder of the cost of the trip to be paid in monthly instalments of at least £100 payable at the end of February, March, April and May, by which time the full cost of the tour must be paid. Alternatively, you can pay the full cost of the trip now – this is £685, which includes the non-refundable deposit.

If your son/daughter would like to come, but your family are facing particular financial hardship, please write to me as tour leader. We will consider your application for financial support and make a recommendation to Sutton Youth Music Supporters' Association (SYMSA), who may fund up to £235 per family for this tour.

I hope that your son/daughter will be able to join us for the 2018 tour to Belgium & The Netherlands. If you have any queries, please contact Khadija Dero, Ensembles Coordinator or myself and we will be happy to help.

Yours sincerely

Lewis Gibbs
Head of Music Service
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