



BRAINERD CHOIR

H I G H S C H O O L

May 18, 2023

Dear A Cappella member and parent/guardian,

Congratulations on being accepted into the Brainerd High School A Cappella Choir! The choir has enjoyed a reputation of excellence across Minnesota and the region for the last 103+ years. You now are a part of that great tradition.

One of the traditions this organization has is a legacy of performing around our community, our state and every other year, in other states and countries. The A Cappella Choir has performed in major cathedrals in Europe, as well as major concert halls in the USA, like the Kennedy Center in Washington DC, Carnegie Hall in New York, NY, and our own Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis, MN.

This school year we have the opportunity to perform in Ireland! During spring break next March, we are scheduled to fly to Dublin, where we will sing, clinic, and of course, have some "tourist time" on the Emerald Isle. We will also perform "friendship concerts" - pairing up with a local choir or singing at a local school.

Tours of this magnitude are expensive. I do everything I can to ensure we get the best experiences for the best prices and I am happy to inform you that this tour is coming in at an incredible price. The cost of this tour is currently set at \$2800 per person. The original cost was \$3200, but using past group fundraising monies and concert revenue I am able to lower the price per student to \$2800. As we do more group fundraising, I am hoping to lower that final cost even more. *To be safe, I am asking you to plan on \$3000 so any possible fuel surcharges are covered. It's always a good idea to budget above the price, so if anything changes, we already are prepared. A tour of this magnitude is an expensive proposition, but with planning and a good work ethic, we can make this dream a reality. The cost includes the following:

Itinerary highlights:

- **Transportation**
 - Round-trip airfare between Minneapolis/St. Paul and Dublin, Ireland
 - Air taxes and fuel surcharges (currently at \$500.00)
 - Transportation via deluxe motorcoach for all transfers and touring in Ireland
- **Accommodations & Meals**
 - Accommodations in superior four-star hotels – 6 nights
 - Limerick – 2, Galway – 2, Dublin area – 2
 - Full Irish breakfasts – 6
 - Lunch Stipends – 6 (valued at \$10.00 per stipend)
 - Dinners – 6
- **Performances**
 - Evening joint concert or Irish Music Workshop – 1 (Galway or surrounding area)
 - Noon concert series – 1 (Dublin or the surrounding area)



- School exchange concert – 1 (Limerick or surrounding area)
- Sightseeing & Activities
 - All sightseeing as shown in itinerary
 - City tour with local guides in Dublin
 - Attractions: Rock of Cashel, Bunratty Castle and Folk Park, Cliffs of Moher, Poul nabrone Dolmen, the Burren, Connemara, Sheep Dog Demonstration, Birr Castle Demesne, Dinner and show at Taylors Three Rock, EPIC The Irish Immigration Museum
- All Transportation provided by Deluxe Air-Conditioned Motorcoach
- Full-Time Local Tour Directors
- Hotel Portage & Baggage Handling
- All Applicable Taxes
- Gateway Tours holds \$5,000,000 of Travel Agent and Tour Operators Liability Insurance.

Getting the funds for this trip will be a major focus of our Fall when school starts. You will be offered fundraising opportunities to make each payment deadline. Hopefully you may have some savings from a summer job as well. *Remember, a SUMMER JOB is 100% profit - better than any fundraiser you can participate in.*

To get started, we have to get contracts and deposits in. We will have plane tickets that will be purchased for us this September, and a deposit from you will be needed to hold them.

Please look at the two attachments:

TOUR CONTRACT - read it very carefully. It is legally binding. Print your name, sign it, and have your parent/guardian sign it. You need to send in a deposit of \$400 with this contract. A second contract is provided for you to keep as a copy for your records.

CHAPERONE INFO - if your parent/guardian is interested in chaperoning this tour, please make sure they see this.

I am excited to share this information with you - we have a huge year ahead of us!

****Parents and students**, please consider coming to an information meeting on **Monday, June 5, at 6:30 PM in the BHS Choir Room**. I will answer all questions you may have, and can share with you any other information that I couldn't get into this letter. You can turn in contracts and deposits at the meeting, if you'd like.

ALSO - we have a Remind account for the Ireland Tour. Sign up and you will get reminders texted to your cell phone from me about the tour - you can opt out anytime. Students AND parents are encouraged to sign up! I promise you will not receive any "junk" messages! You will get reminders that your student may forget to tell you though...! To sign up, text the message: [@ACIreland](#) to phone number [81010](#).

As always, feel free to contact me anytime with your questions or concerns. Email is best: brian.stubbs@isd181.org

Sincerely,