



SENT ON: FRIDAY, JAN 31, 2025

Welcome to (almost) February!

We are now within 20 weeks of departure! ✈️ 🇬🇧

THANK YOU for paying attention to every email. There is NEW information to read and process below along with a time-sensitive form submission request for singers.

Thank you for reading carefully and reaching out to us with any questions.

Aberdeen Housing Update

UPDATE: Accommodations while we are in Aberdeen--**just the first two nights**--have changed from university housing with single rooms to a hotel with double rooms (two beds and a shared bathroom). We recognize that this is a significant shift from what was described in our informational meeting last May, and how our previous tours have been planned. However, this change impacts the sleeping arrangements for the first two nights of the tour **ONLY**--all other overnights are single room, dormitory housing with separate shower rooms, private toilet stalls, etc.

Our tour budget allows us to assign two singers per hotel room. We recognize there may be privacy (or other) concerns related to sharing a room while on tour. We are especially thinking about our trans and gender fluid singers who may have additional questions or need particular accommodations. The form introduced below provides space for you to communicate those to us, but also feel free to reach out to us at any time.

Planning roommate assignments requires singer and family input.
Please keep reading for how that will be accomplished!

Family Group & Roommate Preferences

The Family Group & Roommate Survey Form will gather confidential input from singers (and families) before family groups and roommate lists are finalized.

We currently have 68 singers on the [tour roster](#) from Purcell, Britten, Holst and Ragazzi!

To ensure the smooth functioning of our group, we organize our singers into **FAMILY GROUPS** which are led by one chaperone and include a mix of 4-8 singers from any ensemble. We use family groups to move efficiently through airports, for taking attendance (multiple times each day), for creating room blocks, and for organizing our bus rides. **No one is confined to only being with their family group**--everyone has plenty of opportunities to be with tour members outside of their assigned family group.

We move as one large group comprised of several smaller family groups!

ROOMMATES will share a hotel room for two nights when we are in Aberdeen. Each double room has two beds, one for each roommate, and a shared bathroom. All other nights on the tour are single room accommodations for everyone.

Students and their parent chaperone may opt to be be roommates.
No singer will be placed in a room with an adult who is not immediate family.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

Thank you for sharing this form with your singer, or helping them complete it, if they do not have their own email address.

FORM SUBMISSIONS ARE CONFIDENTIAL.

We will reach out to you directly if we have any questions.

[This form is due by FEBRUARY 18.](#)

Previewing Our Flight & Departure Day Information

When we depart Madison on Friday, June 20, we will do so together traveling mid-morning by coach from the Isthmus (exact location still TBD) to O'Hare for our late afternoon flight. When we return in the evening on June 27, it will be to the same location from which we departed.

Families will receive ETA updates on June 27 once we have landed and are on our way via coach to Madison from Chicago.

Our Flights

June 20: KLM 612 Chicago - Amsterdam departing at 4:20PM

June 21: KLM 911 Amsterdam - Aberdeen arriving 8:45AM & **KLM 913** arriving 10:05AM

June 27: KLM 922 Edinburgh - Amsterdam departing 6:00AM

KLM 611 Amsterdam - Chicago arriving 2:20 PM

Deviation Requests

Tour participants planning additional time in Europe and not returning with the tour group on June 27, may request a deviation for their return travel arrangements through our air handler.

Submit the [Deviation Request Form](#) directly to Gateway per the directions on the form.

Requests must be submitted, completed, and paid in full prior to March 15, 2025.

There are a limited number of deviation requests available, and they will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

Families traveling together after the tour will need to pick up their singer in Edinburgh on Thursday evening, June 26, around 10PM.

Unfortunately, we are not able to accommodate earlier pick ups.

Burns Night & Ceilidh 2025

We had a joyous official tour kick-off last weekend! Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our festive Burns Night & Ceilidh. (Singing Auld Lang Syne together never gets old!)

If you missed it, we missed you! Please enjoy the pictures we have posted in the official

[Scotland 2025 Photo Album](#).

This is a Google photo site we are piloting to see if it will accommodate our photo sharing needs while we are on tour. If you have photos or video of the Burns Night event, please upload your best shots so we can all share in the joy!

UK Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) Instructions

These instructions are now posted on the [Scotland 2025 webpage](#) for your reference.

If you have your passport in hand, you can apply for your ETA today which is now REQUIRED for entry from the United States into the UK for all travelers, regardless of age. We will be requesting a confirmation of your ETA, along with a photo of your passport in late April / early May.

Please reach out to us with any questions!

LOOKING AHEAD:

In March we will be requesting the following information needed to finalize the ticketing process:

- Passport-specific NAME and GENDER as listed on the passport you will be carrying in June. Your passport application will have this information, if you don't yet have your passport in hand.
- Delta or Flying Blue number (frequent flyer - OPTIONAL)
- Known Traveler Number (OPTIONAL) - TSA Pre-Check or Global Entry
- Special meal requests (flight only - OPTIONAL)

THANK YOU for reading to the end of this email and for continuing to track your Scotland Tour details! As always, we are here for you and welcome your questions if anything is unclear.

:)Lynn and Mike