



Off We Go!



February 2006 – Roman Spotlight
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"Be prepared."

Boy Scout Motto

Before You Go!

- ❖ **Insure you have a valid passport and necessary visas.** Check what vaccinations you need at least 6 weeks before you go. Check to see if you need to take extra health precautions. Make copies of your passport, insurance policy plus 24-hour emergency number, and ticket details – leave copies with family and friends. Make copies of all important documents. Leave one set with someone at home, and take one with you. You can also scan the documents and send it to the email address you are going to use while traveling.
- ❖ **Leave a copy of your itinerary** and a way of contacting you such as e-mail, with family and friends.
- ❖ **Get copies of any prescriptions from your doctor.** This is especially important if you are diabetic or have any other condition that requires you to carry needles on you. Bring extra medication with you and keep it in the original bottles. **Get a copy of the prescription for your glasses or contact lenses.** Bring them with you.
- ❖ **Put together a small first aid kit.** Pack the following in a heavy duty zipper-style bag: bandages, antacid, antidiarrheal medication, antihistamine (allergy) pills, ibuprofen or something similar, antibiotic ointment, cough and or flu medication, tweezers, antiseptic wipes. These things are OK out of the box as long as it says on the back what it is.
- ❖ **Break in any new shoes you are bringing.** There is nothing worse than walking around with blisters on your feet.
- ❖ **Set up an email address you can access from Europe.** Write home and communicate for free!



HELP WANTED: JUST ONE MORE TRAVELER! Students and Parents: we have space for four more travelers, but all we really need is one more for the price to go down by \$86. Right now, all travelers are paying \$3828 for this trip. Find just one more and we can breathe a little easier at \$3742. Please help by spreading the word to your orchestra friends. Let us know if we can help you.



Rome, Feb. 17, 2005
(CWNNews.com) -

Vatican archeologists believe that they have identified the tomb of St. Paul in the Roman basilica that bears his name.

A sarcophagus which may contain the remains of St. Paul was identified in the basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, reports Giorgio Filippi, an archeology specialist with the Vatican Museums. The sarcophagus was discovered during the excavations carried out in 2002 and 2003 around the basilica, which is located in the south of Rome. Having reached what they believe is a positive identification of the tomb, Vatican experts will soon make a public announcement of their discovery.

Orchestra Uniform

As you know, we will be performing in a variety of different settings, but most of our concerts, will be formal. With five different performances scheduled throughout our journey, we ask that you pack attire appropriate for our performances by adhering to the dress code below:

Ladies

- ◆ ¾ or long-sleeved black shirt or blouse
- ◆ Black skirts should come well below the knee when seated
- ◆ Pants should be formal; No capris
- ◆ Nice black shoes; no flip-flops

Gentlemen

- ◆ Black long-sleeved shirt
- ◆ Nice black pants
- ◆ Black socks
- ◆ Nice black shoes



Spotlight On...

St. Paul's Within the Walls

The *Church of S. Paolo entro le Mura* (English Name: St. Paul's Within the Walls American Episcopal Church of Rome) is our first venue for our very first European performance. Christianity's greatest temple was opened in 326, and stood over the tomb of St. Peter, the founder of the Church of Rome. During the Renaissance, it was torn down to build a magnificent new basilica, with the work entrusted first to Bramante, and subsequently to Raphael, Peruzzi, Bernini, Antonio da Sangallo and, lastly, Michelangelo, who designed the dome as the dominating element of the church. Much of the bell tower and nave were constructed in the mid-1800's. Among the numerous masterpieces which adorn the walls are: the canopy over the high altar, a theatrical creation by Bernini, the gilt bronze Chair of St. Peter, also by Bernini, the monument to Clement XIII by Canova, and Michelangelo's Famous Pietà, and the splendid marble sculpture as glossy as alabaster. This beautiful medium-sized church is known for its good acoustics. It was the first non-Roman Catholic church to be built inside the walls of Rome. The *Church of S. Paolo entro le Mura* now houses a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural congregation and is the home of the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center.

Up Your Nose

By Deborah J. Smith

It didn't take the ancient Romans long to figure out the Tiber River wouldn't support the water needs of Rome. So they built a system of aqueducts and channels that transported fresh mountain water down into the city. Here emperor and tourist alike could enjoy clean running water any time of day or night, right on their street corner.

Meet *il nasone*, the everyday drinking fountains of Rome. Although some *nasone* actually look like fountains, often they are simple hydrant-style structures that dot the streets. The water runs out a smooth metal spout on the hydrant, delivering clean water continuously into the catch basin below the spout. Simply fill up your cup, your bottle or your mouth right here.



Bearing the ancient S.P.Q.R. emblem of the city of Rome, *il nasone* is Italian for "the nose." Most, but not all, *nasone* come with a hole drilled into the upper side of the spout. If you block the spout with your fingers, you have created a small drinking fountain that shoots—if you're not careful—right up your nose.

In Vatican City, *nasone* are more ornate—there are four, fountain-like, in the middle of Saint Peter's Square and one located on the Vatican Museum side of St. Peter's, just inside the gates. This latter *nasone* is made of marble, sculpted like several Papal tiaras. The spouts pop up all around the Pope's hats. Drink in style, stay healthy (and apparently holy too.)

Recently, I was in Rome during a heat wave—even the locals were quick to tell you this was weather like Rome sees in August, when most folks take their vacation and leave town. To say it was hot was an understatement: I was sweating buckets. Walking the streets of Rome, or trapped in a car on the airless *Metropolitana* subway, most of what I drank bypassed my kidneys and went straight out my skin as sweat. At the Forum, I checked my shoes, thinking I'd stepped on a wad of melted gum. Imagine my shock when I found out it was the pavement—it was so hot the asphalt was oozing tar.

At the beginning of my trip, I'd bought two bottles of local water. During the heat wave, I saved the containers and filled them up at every *nasone* I passed. Though I always felt hot, I never felt ill and I didn't wind up in a hospital for heatstroke. I don't think I could say this if I didn't have access to water all day.

In the mornings, I started out filling my two bottles across the street from where I stayed, chatting with the locals before I continued on my way. In the evening, it was the last thing I did before I retired to my room, even though Roman nights cooled off to a pleasant temperature by 10 o'clock. I got so good at it, I could tell you which *nasone* had colder water than the others. I knew I'd gone too far when I toyed with rating them: "Rome's Coolest *Nasone*." (The one across from my room was a favorite, as were the Papal tiaras in Vatican City. All that marble does wonders.) I knew I'd really miss these things when I returned home to America.

At *St. Paul's-Inside-The-Walls* (yes, there's a St. Paul's Outside too) there was a *nasone* tucked away inside the church gardens. This one was great. It was positioned at an angle that allowed the water to spurt five feet straight up if you blocked the spout. I had a brilliant time amusing myself with it. I was addicted to *il nasone*. My final confirmation of this was when I found myself demonstrating the *nasone*-squirting trick to English-speaking tourist kids. It really is the cutest trick in Rome, especially when you find a kid who doesn't know what to do.

The Italians joke that a cheap date takes his girl to *il nasone* for a drink. You can just grab your bottle and meet me there. I love them, every one.

Respecting Local Citizens

When you are traveling, remind yourself that you are a guest - whether you are in a different country or a different city. The following ideas will help you be better prepared for the culture of your destination.

"When you travel, remember that a foreign country is not designed to make you comfortable. It is designed to make its own people comfortable."

Clifton Paul Fadiman

- ❖ Research your destination before you travel. Find out about local practices, customs, greetings and religious traditions to help you respect and better understand the local practices, customs, greetings, and religious traditions to help you respect and better understand the local people and culture. Talk to other travelers to find out about recent experiences and information that may not be found in guidebooks.

- ❖ Welcome diversity. Travel is all about having an open mind and being inquisitive. Remember that although certain local customs may initially seem strange, they can represent thousands of years of cherished history and culture.

- ❖ Respect the local culture. When conversations focus on local politics, religious customs, and methods of dress, be objective and try to understand the local perspective. If you do have opposing views, share your ideas rather than imposing them.

- ❖ Learn a few words. Try to learn some words in the local language such as "thank you" "please" and "hello" to show respect for the culture.

- ❖ Religion. In some countries, there is no clear distinction between religious and civil law. Don't assume that religion is simply a matter of personal choice.

- ❖ Dress appropriately. You should respect any dress code required for admittance into places of worship, such as covering up shoulders and legs and removing your shoes.



SUMMER REHEARSAL SCHEDULE*

Saturday, June 3 - 9a to 5p

Friday, June 16 - 5 to 7p

Saturday, June 17 - 1 to 5p

June 30 - 5 to 7p

Saturday, July 1 - 1 to 5p

HOME CAMP: July 5-7: ALL DAY;

July 7th at 7p - "FAREWELL CONCERT"

Dallas location - Southern Methodist University

Houston location - Seven Lakes HS

**Schedule is tentative and subject to change*

MORE TECH LINKS – “These are a Few of My Favorite Links” (ROME)

Want to Send a Roman E-Card?

<http://www.roman-empire.net/cards/card.html>

Timeline: Ancient Rome

http://www.exovodate.com/ancient_timeline_one.html

Vatican City

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0108136.html>

The Spanish Steps

http://www.greatbuildings.com/buildings/Piazza_di_Spagna.html

The Sistine Chapel

http://mv.vatican.va/3_EN/pages/CSN/CSN_Main.html

St. Peter's Basilica

<http://www.aviewoncities.com/rome/sanpietro.htm>

The Ancient Olympics

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/Olympics/>

Italian Cars (*the ones you'll really see, not your dream cars*)

<http://www.slowtrav.com/italy/driving/cars.htm>

Gladiator...the Movie

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0172495/>

Everything Historically Wrong about Gladiator...the Movie

<http://ablemedia.com/ctcweb/showcase/wardgladiator1.html>



Attention Dallas-Area TYO Families:

Please let us know if you are willing and or able to host one, two or three of the Houston TYO members during home camp on July 5-7. Duties would include room, board and transportation to and from SMU on those days. Contact Deb at dlperkins@sbcglobal.net

Questions about the Trip?

TEXAS YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Deb: 972-839-8879

Dez: 713.294.9315

E-mail: tyo2006@sbcglobal.net

Questions about Billing?

Music Celebrations International

Carol Navarro

carol@musiccelebrations.com