



# Off We Go!



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## Capturing Your Memories

As you have figured out, this is going to be a journey of a lifetime! Of course, going to Italy and Austria in the prime of your youth is a life-changing event that not too many of your friends will have the opportunity to participate in. There's Rome and Vatican City, Florence, Venice, Salzburg, and Vienna, not to mention our day trips to Innsbruck, Siena, Cremona and Bad Ischel. This trip will be packed with events and performances, so be prepared to take it all in!

Your Directors strongly encourage you to preserve your memories in some way, whether through photography, artwork, or journaling. If you're a shutterbug, you have several options. If you bring a digital camera you can upload your pictures into an online photography server or PDA; take traditional photos and see what you have captured at home; if you're artistic, sketching people and places that we visit is a simple and personal way to capture what you see. A journal to chronicle your memories and thoughts is a wonderful way to preserve how you feel at that moment in time. Never neglect to write down which cathedral and city you are taking a picture of: after this whirlwind tour and the rush to get ready for the start of the next school year, oftentimes the names of sites eclipse your memory. Collect ticket stubs, quotes, photos, postcards, and other souvenirs to compile when you are back home. Your thoughts, diary notes, sketches, pictures and personal anecdotes are something that you will cherish for years after your initial taste of travel. I know that I still look upon my teenage travels to Europe with much fondness. Seeing Europe change over the decades is a unique experience that I still share with others. We hope that you'll enjoy sharing yours with your friends and family upon your return!



### Questions about the Trip? TEXAS YOUTH ORCHESTRA

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### Questions about Billing? *Music Celebrations International*

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**In Italy for 30 years  
under the Borgias  
they had warfare,  
terror, murder,  
bloodshed - they  
produced  
Michelangelo,  
Leonardo da Vinci  
and the  
Renaissance. In  
Switzerland they  
had brotherly love,  
500 years of  
democracy and  
peace and what did  
that produce?  
The cuckoo clock.**

*Orson Welles*

## Sparing Change

You've sold wrapping paper, washed cars, played gigs, and sold more tins of popcorn and candy bars than the state of Texas can ingest in a year, for your high school spring trip, but now it's time to finish fundraising for this trip. MCI (our tour company) has a great little feature on fundraising on their online blog. Check it out at:

<http://musiccelebrations.blogspot.com/>

Some ideas are not exactly doable for our group, but we love their suggestion of the sponsorship letter. Check out the article at this website:

<http://musiccelebrations.blogspot.com/2004/10/05/fundraising-the-sponsorship-letter/>

Perhaps the local Kiwanas, your church, or your high school organizations offer scholarships for summer study, which this certainly qualifies! Ask family, local businesses and your church for donations. Even \$5 will help!

## Spotlight On...

### *Gallerie dell'Accademie*

The history of the Academy Gallery began under the vision of the Grand Duke of Pietro Leopoldo of the Lorraine family. He united all of the Florentine drawing schools under one "Academy," whose aim was to exhibit paintings of its pupils. Much of its masterpieces have changed over its 200-year history because of works that have been removed from convents and other Florentine museums.

However, the most notable occupants of its hallways include Michelangelo's David, Sanzio's "St. John the Baptist," numerous 18<sup>th</sup>-century sculptures and the impressive collection of Medici and Lorraine instruments.



## A Packing Philosophy

Packing is a topic that receives more attention than it deserves. Many travelers agonize over which baggage to buy, what clothes to pack, and whether to fold trousers over jackets or vice versa. Yet the only really important thing to remember is Imboden's First Law of Packing:

*"Don't take more than you can carry, or less than you need for your trip."*

Having said that, I'll ignore my own advice and discuss the three basic philosophies of packing:

### 1. Less is more.

At its extreme, this philosophy is exemplified by the reader of an Arthur Frommer travel guide whose only bag was a lightweight tote. Her summer travel wardrobe consisted of nylon underwear, a black top and skirt, and a black sweater for chilly evenings. Every night, she stripped off her clothes and washed everything in the sink of her hotel room. By morning, her wash-and-wear clothing was dry (or so she hoped), and Ms. Basic Black was ready for another day of sightseeing or travel. The one-outfit-for-all-occasions approach won't work for everyone, (myself included) and I suspect that it might get tiresome after a few mornings of slipping into damp or mildewed undies. A more realistic approach is to use a carry-on bag or backpack of standard under-the-seat dimensions, perhaps with a small travel bag for a camera, guidebook, maps, etc. This works best if you're a budget traveler in summer and don't need many clothes.

### 2. More is better.

Years ago, the upwardly mobile British traveled to the Continent with a maid, a steamer trunk, and a rubber toilet-seat cover. In turn, my mother always traveled with a Samsonite cosmetics case to round out our family's collection of floral-motif Pullman bags and two-suiters. Today, the "more is better" crowd is likely to pass up the steamer trunk and toilet-seat cover, but it isn't unusual to see well-heeled tourists arrive at the airport with expensive suitcases, garment bags, and golf-club cases. There *is* one obvious downside to the take-it-all philosophy: there may not be porters at every turn; ergo, you have to tote your own luggage. And there's an airline formula that says (suitcase) x (number) = (increased likelihood of loss). If you decide to travel heavy, spend a little extra on baggage insurance.

### 3. Enough is Enough.

This is my approach. If I'm exploring the tranquil islands of Phuket, I'll pack differently than I would for a German opera itinerary. And if I'm staying in one city, I may take a larger folding garment bag rather than my 36" pullman on my whistle-stop tour of European capitals.

**Bottom line:** Don't make more than you need, but don't shortchange yourself, either. If you like dressing for dinner, or if you're an ice dancer who visits a new skating rink on every trip, then by all means take the clothing or equipment you need to enjoy yourself.



## Teach a kid Geography - Send a Postcard!

An elementary school geography class at Littlerock Elementary School (in Washington) is hoping that you can help their kids learn about different places in the world by sending them a postcard from your trip. As a part of their "Passport Club" they learn about different cities in different countries by the postcards they receive from all over the world. If you want to take the time to send them a postcard from somewhere on your trip, please do. Here is their address:

Littlerock Elementary  
 Passport Club  
 P.O. Box C  
 Littlerock, WA 98556



**There are two kinds of travelers in the world: those who packed light and those who wish they had.**

*- Travelsense.org*

## TYO Packing Information

Due to the nature of our trip, we must ask that all of our travelers adapt to our packing limitations. Since we are counting on ourselves to tote our own luggage, we ask you to take heed of the following guidelines:

- ✓ All travelers are limited to one (checked) suitcase, one carry-on bag, and one personal item.
- ✓ Violinists and violists: your instrument IS your carry-on. Should you need extra space, make friends with a low stringer and pack some of your items in their carry-on luggage.
- ✓ Cello players: your instruments will be packed and checked under the plane. Be sure that you have a hard case; wheeled cases will make your life easier.
- ✓ Bass players: both of your instruments will be packed into one box and checked under one of your names. Additionally, one of you will be checking an additional traveling case which will contain the stands and amps. (see below)
- ✓ Student musicians should bring a collapsible music stand. These stands will be packed in a separate traveling case and will be available at all rehearsals and performances.
- ✓ All bass players should pack their bow in a hard case. This hard case may be packed into your regular suitcase.
- ✓ All string players will have an instrument packing session to ready their instrument for the 14-hour flight, immediately following our Farewell Performance on Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ Hotels will have basic items such as hair dryers, linens...no need to pack those.
- ✓ Try to keep irreplaceables at home.
- ✓ Check this website for a list of prohibited items from TSA:  
[http://www.tsa.gov/public/interapp/editorial/editorial\\_1012.xml](http://www.tsa.gov/public/interapp/editorial/editorial_1012.xml)

### PACKING WEBSITES...and you thought WE were thorough!

Our favorite European guide...Rick Steves

[http://www.ricksteves.com/plan/tips/tips\\_menu.htm](http://www.ricksteves.com/plan/tips/tips_menu.htm)

The Art and Science of Travelling Light

<http://www.onebag.com/home.html>

Your Source for Travel Packing Tips; Take Off with Just One Carry-on!

<http://www.travelite.org/>

Commonsense Travelsense

<http://www.travelsense.org/tips/packing.asp>

Build your own packing list!

<http://upl.codeq.info/index.jsp>



## Packing Q&A



### What should I pack in my carry-on luggage?

- ✓ Your passport, Wallet, and other ID like a driver's license
- ✓ Insurance cards, Credit cards, Travelers checks, Coupons
- ✓ Airline, Cruise or Train tickets
- ✓ Itinerary with confirmation numbers and addresses and phone numbers of where you'll be staying
- ✓ Travel brochures and maps
- ✓ Lots of crisp one-dollar bills for all those tipping opportunities
- ✓ A small amount of local currency for immediate use to hold you over until you can make it to a currency exchange, if you're planning foreign travel.

### How do I pack light and yet pack everything I need? The more you travel, the more you know that traveling with the smallest possible amount of luggage is the best way to go. But, how can you cut down on your luggage burden?

- ✓ Coordinate your outfits around a central color so you'll be able to mix and match.
- ✓ Check the weather, so you can bring the most appropriate items. Remember to account for seasonal and daily temperature fluctuations and also keep in mind that increases in altitude will decrease temperature.
- ✓ Plan your outfits daily so you can layer instead of bringing lots of coats.
- ✓ Take a solid color sweater that will match any outfit to use to keep you warm
- ✓ List all the items you are taking and check to see if you really need each item, in other words, is there something else you could take to kill two birds with one stone.
- ✓ Take small sample sizes of toiletries that will last just long enough instead of huge bottles; don't forget laundry detergent for washing in the sink.
- ✓ Don't waste an inch of your luggage space, pack underwear and socks inside your shoes. This will also help your shoes keep their shape. Pack your belts around the edge of the luggage.
- ✓ Use plastic bags. Every bottle that contains liquid should be packed inside a plastic bag. Throw in a few large, lightweight bags to hold dirty shoes, soggy clothes, dirty laundry, or wet bathing suits. Ziploc is your friend!
- ✓ Take some old clothes with only one last wear in them. You can then toss them out and use the room for the souvenirs you'll want to bring home.

### What should I do with my valuables?

- ✓ Leave them at home in a safe place if you can.
- ✓ If your luggage has TSA-approved locks, you should use them.
- ✓ Shrink wrapping your luggage will not only protect the outside of your bags, but also the contents inside.
- ✓ Do not carry valuables in your checked luggage, they will be safer in your carry-on bags.
- ✓ If you do place any valuables in your luggage, hide them in the lower sections of the bags so a quick look inside won't reveal them.

### How can I minimize wrinkled clothing?

- ✓ Don't over pack your bags.
- ✓ Travel with clothing that is less likely to wrinkle.
- ✓ Roll up T-shirts or underwear and wrap your items around them at a fold line. This will help keep a crease from forming.
- ✓ Take the proper size luggage for your trip. Too big a bag will allow your items to move around and make damage and wrinkles more likely.
- ✓ Button the buttons on shirts so items will hang properly.
- ✓ Use plastic dry cleaner bags between items. Make sure the dry cleaner bags do not have any advertising printed on them. The ink can rub off and end up on your clothes.
- ✓ Unpack as soon as possible.
- ✓ Hang wrinkled items in the bathroom while you shower to help steam out the wrinkles.

### What other items must I remember before I leave for Home Camp?

- ✓ Check your luggage (including instrument cases) for non-working zippers, wheels and handles. Be sure that everything is repaired before you depart for Dallas.
- ✓ Be sure to place an ID tag on EVERY bag, this includes items like your music stand that will be packed elsewhere, and carry-ons such as your instrument and purse. Something as simple as a mailing label (with phone number) will suffice. DO this BEFORE you get to the airport.
- ✓ Leave a copy of your itinerary with dates, cities and contact information at home, and one in your suitcase. Should your luggage become lost, it may arrive at your next destination.

## Food in Italy!

Included in your tour is two meals daily; however, there is one meal that you will be fending for yourselves. We encourage you to pool your money with your roommates and friends and buy the local breads, cheeses, and fruit for a delicious picnic! Or perhaps you'll be adventurous and partake of an Italian restaurant! Enjoy your meal and Buon appetite!

### Courses of an Italian Meal

**Antipasti:** The equivalent of hors d'oeuvres.

**Primo:** The first course of a meal. Most likely a starch and/or soup.

**Contorno (optional):** Sides that usually consist of vegetables.

**Secondo:** A meat or fish course. It can also include risotto.

**Dolce:** Dessert. Some choices include fruit, cheese, ice cream, or tiramisu.

### Where to Go

**Ristorante:** High on prices and mostly upscale.

**Trattoria:** A step down from a ristorante. They are more moderately priced.

**Osteria:** Humble establishments that are characterized by simplicity.

**Taverna:** Similar to an osteria. A lower-priced trattoria.

**Pizzeria:** Where pizza prevails.