



New York Memorial Concert Series All Groups Urged to Perform - Two Tours Offered



In response to the terrible events in our home city, Friendship Ambassadors Foundation asks traveling groups seeking new options to consider joining one of two NYC tours in the coming year.

Many in the nonprofessional artistic community and among academic travelling concert groups have requested an opportunity to respond to the tragedy and add to the healing among us all.

Youth groups: An exciting side light for younger concert groups will be the opportunity (upon request) to meet and exchange with international young people interested in peace through cultural exchange (part of FAF's UNESCO related Youth Reconciliation Series).

Tour #1: Holiday Memorial Services in New York*

December 26 - December 30, 2001
Perform at memorial services during the holidays in Manhattan. Visit all the important sites; reside in Westchester, north of the City.

(Groups already considering: please decide by 11/15/01)

Tour #2: Spring Rebirth Festival*

Late May - early June, 2002. Call for exact dates: 1-800-526-2908
NYC Memorial Arts Series Planned; dignitaries expected to attend.

***Need Free Air tix? See bot, pg 2!!!**

The Festival of Light: Music and Dance at its Finest

Come sing, play, and dance at the unique Festival of Light, Europe's hottest new international arts festival.



In 2002 the Bulgarian festival will focus on American music: all choirs, orchestras and dance companies are invited to apply. Through a special arrangement with Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, the Festival of Light will welcome US-based academic and youth groups at all levels to augment their professional program.

Concerts take place throughout June, in the capital, Sofia, at the prestigious Palace of Culture, as well as in Plovdiv, Veliko Tarnovo, Varna by the sea, and other destinations.

Ask for an application early so we can ensure your invitation!



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Don't NOT travel in 2002 - Cultural Exchange at Home!

Cultural exchange and exciting concert and educational possibilities can occur WITHIN the United States, to be sure! Not planning to travel abroad in '02? Then give FAF a call and allow us to prepare a tour to "Chinatown", "Little Italy", Dutch Amish country, or any other number of regional, cultural communities within a drive away! Cost efficient, safe, educational, and tax deductible with FAF!



Chepelare Goin' to Carolina In My Mind

Where???

Chepelare, Bulgaria is a beautiful village in the Rhodope Mountains, white with snow and ski runs in the winter, covered with green, tall Oregon-like pines all summer.



And what music, what dance! This is an excellent, safe, friendly and inexpensive destination for YOUR next group concert or culture tour.



Have a great and memorable time in this simple yet rich village on the mountain. Their young people are well-versed in native folk music and dance; their customs make them the exact kind of community you would

want to visit - all in total travel safety and at a price you can definitely afford. (More .. see next column)

HOT NOTES ... Free Air Tickets!!!

Delta Airlines announced today, October 2, 2001, that it will provide 10,000 FREE air tickets to/from New York for passengers from throughout the other 49 states. Find out how to get these for *your* group or call FAF for more details!!

Chepelare ...

A New FAF Host Destination

Exclusive arrangements have been made to accept a limited number of American groups in this one-of-a-kind destination, year round.

"As mayor of Chepelare, it is my great pleasure to invite groups traveling with FAF to visit our lovely and cultural town.

"We have many music, dance and other cultural and educational groups awaiting your arrival and interested in both exchanges and performances ... we welcome youth, academic, community and senior groups of all kinds seeking meaningful cultural and educational exchanges, the kind that FAF is known to prepare for groups worldwide. Let the exchanges begin!" - *Mayor Todor Bozukov, Chepelare*

Call for details! 1-800-526-2908



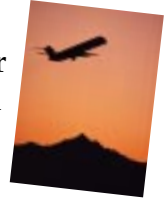
Friendship Ambassadors Foundation is a 501(c)(3), nonprofit, tax exempt organization dedicated to promoting peace through cultural exchange. Founded as a project of *Readers Digest* in 1973 and re-established in its current format in New Jersey in 1985, FAF has affected millions by facilitating travel for tens of thousands of active, global participants. For more information, visit our website:

**www.faf.org
or call 1-800-526-2908**

Planning a concert or culture tour to the Baltics, China, Central Europe, Latin America, Polynesia?

Check out the new FAF website and see an itinerary that can be customized Just For You!

In an effort to improve our nonprofit service to the field, our Hungarian staff manager and local, U.S.-based web interns have upgraded the FAF website. The new site will be up and ready for inspection by October 15.



Please "hit us". To learn more about our organization, go to: FAF.ORG. For travel information, itineraries and more, visit: FAF.ORG/TRAVEL. To see what we are doing around the world to promote peace, read about our latest program, aimed at finding peace in the Balkans, and as seen on CNN and in The New York Times,; FAF.ORG/BYRSS. Let us know what you think and how we can improve it even further to serve you better! See you online!

Finland for \$549pp, complete

Special news for group leaders ONLY from Finnair and FAF!

Come visit FAF's Finland for only \$549pp, fully escorted; **(\$499pp at your leisure)! Fully refunded if your group travels with Friendship Ambassadors Foundation in the coming year!**

A Friendship Ambassadors Foundation representative will accompany you on a visit to potential performance venues and to meet with local arts organizations, too. Or, you can go it alone and just enjoy the splendor of this city of culture.



Through a special arrangement with Finnair and our cultural partners abroad, group leaders (only) are invited to see Finland for \$549 (from New York/JFK) for a long weekend this fall or spring. Companions are welcome for an additional \$175pp; single rooms are also available for an additional cost.



The price includes round trip air on Finnair, one of the world's best airlines, from New York, transfers, first class hotels with breakfasts daily, accommodations based on double occupancy (singles and companions slightly higher). Group leaders can opt to be escorted or travel on their own in this very friendly, 'walkable' capital city.

Departures are on Wednesdays and return on Sundays. Call for availability. Ask for Josephine, at: 1-800-526-2908!

All travel is also fully tax deductible as allowed by law, whether your group travels with us or not! Don't delay, book your Finnish experience today!

A Travel Report from Patrick Sciaratta FAF Executive Director; Continuing Education Faculty, SUNY/Purchase

September 28, 2001

I write today from Rome. I am with a group that is giving support to Boys Town outside of Italy's capital city. These senior citizens do not fit the normal mold of FAF travelers. But, like the tens of thousands who have traveled with us, they share an intense interest in cultural exchange. In my mind, they are the best messengers of hope against the madmen of terror.



Each of us here comes from the New York metropolitan region. Sometimes we weep for those we knew at home. However those who came are also aware that we are sending a message to all by being here just now. In this way, these folks are exactly like those who have chosen to travel with FAF over our nearly fifty year history: They are intrepid and committed to a mission of promoting peace through cultural exchange.

We hope you will join FAF this year in a global, cultural exchange or concert tour. Either to one of our international destinations or, this year for the first time ever, in a memorial tour to our home city of Manhattan. Like these intrepid seniors, FAF believes it is time to recommit to cultural exchange in one form or another, in one place or another, as our contribution to a better world.



FAF groups tour worldwide and also take advantage of cultural exchange, a mainstay of all FAF tours

Below is an excerpt from a recent article in Reisen Magazine; translation provided through the efforts of Szilvia Agoston, manager of our Hungarian office. It may prove useful to any first-time travelers in this most challenging year for cultural group travel.

A Useful "Packing List" for Cultural Travelers

1. Find information about the country you are about to visit before you leave. Do not limit yourself to tourist guides, but read a novel about the country and follow the reports in the newspapers.
2. Do not visit only the tourist attractions. Try to be aware of the daily life on the street, in the markets, in the park or on the bus.
3. If possible, make use of local facilities so that the locals can also benefit from your visit.
4. Learn some of the language, even if it's only a few words. People will certainly appreciate it.
5. The people whose culture you will be visiting may have a different concept of time, and will probably have a different understanding of keeping to appointments. Take this into account.
- 6.. You can learn a lot about the habits and customs of the local people simply by observing them closely. If you do this, you will be struck not only by the differences, but also by the similarities.
7. Be aware of others' feelings and try to avoid offending them by your own behavior. This applies, for example, to ways of dressing and taking photos.
8. Try to make a habit of listening, instead of always knowing the answer.
9. Try to concentrate on telling people what you like about the country, rather than what annoys you. The people know perfectly well what their problems are.
10. You can embarrass people or even put them at risk by discussing too openly such sensitive issues as religion or politics.
11. Finally, don't worry about making 'mistakes'. If you are open to other ways of life & show respect, people won't take offense.



Tips for Travelers

Feeling Secure in Your Hotel

- Don't answer the door in a hotel without verifying who it is. If a person claims to be an employee, call the front desk first and confirm that this is true and why the person has been sent.
 - When returning to a hotel late in the evening, always enter the main entrance. Be observant and look before entering parking lots or adjacent areas.
 - Close room doors securely and use all the locking devices provided.
 - Don't display guest room keys in public, leave them on restaurant tables, at the swimming pool or anyplace they can be easily stolen.
 - Don't draw attention to yourself by displaying large amounts of cash or expensive jewelry.
 - Don't invite strangers into your room.
 - Place all valuables in the hotel's safe deposit box if one is provided in the room or at the front desk.
 - Check to see that sliding glass doors, windows and connecting room doors are locked.
 - See anything suspicious? Report observations to the front desk.
- (Source: American Hotel and Motel Association and Travel Weekly)

Staying Healthy on the Road

The following may help travelers stay healthy while on the road:

- 1) Plan ahead. A well planned trip (like one from Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, for example) can significantly reduce stress.
 - 2) Protect yourself. Consult your travel medical specialist or doctor to discuss your health issues and determine which vaccinations, if any, are required and/or recommended for the countries you are visiting. Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Website, at www.cdc.gov/travel, for destination specific health risks and up-to-date information on disease outbreaks worldwide.
 - 3) Stay connected. Using the internet or short phone calls and faxes, one can stay in touch with family, friends, and even (gulp!) the office which can minimize anxiety about 'things' piling up back home.
 - 4) Pack well. A small medicine kit that includes a pain reliever; antacids; antidiarrheals; cough drops, and any prescription medication being taken can offer relief from some travel related ailments and prevent minor problems from becoming more serious.
 - 5) Wash your hands, often and with hot water and soap.
 - 6) Eat well-balanced meals, in moderation, and avoid overdoing the alcohol both on the flight (especially) and before major projects.
 - 7) Exercise regularly and do stretches on the plane and in your room.
- (Source: Travel Weekly)

TAKE NOTE: BEFORE YOU CHOOSE A TOUR OPERATOR: GET RECOMMENDATIONS

"Our wonderful trip to Romania and Bulgaria with Friendship Ambassadors Foundation was a positive, life changing cultural and social experience. We learned so much about the world of Eastern Europe ... we enjoyed our guides and itinerary. My chamber choir, faculty chaperones, companions, and I thank you so much!"

"I truly believe that the values, goals, and accomplishments of FAF are critical to world peace. We look forward to continuing a long relationship with your organization."

Dr. Lyn Schenbeck
Director of Choral and Orchestral Activities
Agnes Scott College, Georgia - July 2001

"Many thanks for all your help in making our tour a great success.

"Special thanks to Josephine - she was a great help!"

"Many things have changed over the years at FAF, but your mission is going strong. Keep it up!"

Dr. David Milburn
Jazz Band Director
West Virginia Wesleyan College - August 2001

FAF CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS ABROAD: *As seen or heard in The Sunday New York Times, CNN.COM, Travel World, Travel Weekly, BBC, CBS, Voice of America, ArtsNews, WFAS, Women's Monthly, Journal News, Band & Orchestra Product News, DW Radio (Germany), and in the recent book "CPR for Nonprofits", by Alan Reiss (Jossey-Bass, 2000)*

FAF is an Allied affiliate of the American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA), with sponsorship in part from National Rent a Car, USA





"I don't sing; I do standup."



Wonderful! Now, just the altos ..."

What's a Companion Tour; an Off-Year Culture Tour??

The secret to the fund-raising success of a concert tour is the Companion, or Booster, Tour. These are run by FAF with separate guides, often in different hotels, and with a parallel yet shorter itinerary. The Companions meet the performance tour for certain concerts and receptions, only. They never interfere with the mission or logistics of the main tour. And they are *very* lucrative.

- Companion/Booster tours net between \$150-300 or more per person for the main tour, bring extra free places to the program, and create excellent public relations for the main tour, too, from the general community. A recent FAF Companion tour to Austria and the Czech Republic netted 60 Companions. Each were charged \$300 over the cost of the actual tour. The group netted \$18,000 and three extra free places. They raffled one of those 'frees' and found even more funds. They 'gave away' one of the frees to that year's largest annual donor and received even more from the donor in the following year: talk about strategy! Note: According to new IRS laws, ONLY nonprofits with travel *central* to their mission can now legally offer these without incurring UBIT (unrelated business income tax)!!

How do tours that occur bi-annually become *annual* travel opportunities for group leaders?

- The off-year Culture Tour, prepared by FAF travels to the destination that the leader will bring the group to in the following year. The choir, dance company or educational group does NOT travel, only the leader, with alumni, friends, and organizational boosters. It is prepared as a fun, fund-raiser and provides the group leaders with donations (see above) and free places for themselves. This creates the dual opportunity to excite the community a year in advance of the concert tour about upcoming events while simultaneously creating a working, familiarization tour for the leader.

Group leaders get to see the destination, meet cultural leaders, see venues and hotels: all for free and while helping to raise funds to defray next year's group travel. No matter where the destination, FAF makes it possible. Usually for 9 days / 7 nights, departing on a Saturday and returning on a Sunday; they only take one vacation week away from the working supporters of the main group. FAF prepares these regularly: inexpensively, fully insured, *and* fully tax deductible to all!

International Cultural Exchange

Performance & other speciality tours...where cultural exchange comes first

Friendship Ambassadors Foundation

Low-cost, Development/Travel Opportunities • Authentic, Educational/Artistic Peer Exchange
Tax Exemption Available to Most Participants



"I must tell you how much we enjoyed our trip. My students and I cannot stop talking about it. This is a trip I would do again and certainly recommend to my choral colleagues. I give all of you glowing reports; it has been a pleasure working with you!" - Rick Bushey, Kearsley Choir, March, 2001

"What an extraordinary experience this tour was; both as an artistic and traveling endeavor. I must offer my sincere appreciation and thanks to everyone at Friendship Ambassadors that helped make this trip a huge success ... our experiences in the Czech Republic and Hungary were sensational. I think the experience for the girls will be one they will carry with them always, and one we will all grow from. ... the dancing was magnificent ... It is my sincere hope that we at the NWCA continue our relationship with Friendship Ambassadors and hopefully do more of these marvelous tours ... This was the BEST!" - Mimi Wallace, Director of Dance, Northern Westchester Center for the Arts, July 11, 2000



"We are very pro-FAF. In today's 'make a buck at all costs' world, they are more concerned with service and furthering positive cultural exchanges as a means of creating a better world. Sounds kind of corny, but it's the truth." Kathy Shannon, West Virginia Univ., 2/00

"Thank you for all of your help in getting our trip planned and accomplished. It was a wonderful experience for us, and the concert venues and arrangements were the best we have ever had." - Dr. Annabell Zikmund, University of Nebraska at Kearney, June 13, 2000

"The tour was fantastic. The concert venues ... were exceptional and we had much better audiences than I expected. ... an experience I know none of us will ever forget ... Thank you so much for all of your hard work on this tour. Things went very smoothly. Our guides were wonderful and I know that you ordered the incredible weather just for us." - Luanne Clarke, Alfred University, May 30, 2000



"It was a marvelous tour, smooth, brilliant with daily wonders ... we were really happy with it ... in fact ALL of the accommodations were incredible; quite beyond the beyonds, as the Irish say." - Devon MacNamara, English Faculty, West Virginia Wesleyan College, June 1, 2000

"As in the past, FAF has provided excellent tour management. I really appreciate what FAF has done for me and my students over the past two decades." - Dr. Marvin Robertson, Retired, Southern Adventist University Choir, 1997

Contact us today!

1-800-526-2908

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Visa and Mastercard



Accepted



Friendship Ambassadors Foundation
110 Mamaroneck Avenue
White Plains, New York 10601

Member: Westchester Council on the Arts
ACDA, ASTA, IATAN, Chorus America,
National Band Association

a 501(c)3 not-for-profit, tax-exempt, global arts services agency