



# The Friendship Ambassador

A tradition of service to the field

Volume 30, Issue 6 - Summer, 2002

Půvecké sdružení pražských učitelek

## An Invitation for cooperation and visit to the Czech Republic

From the Czech Women's Choir

Interested choirs at all levels are invited to be in friendly communication through a concert tour hosted by this well-respected choral organization through Friendship Ambassadors Foundation.

Prague-based Lady Teachers' Choir (Pevecké sdružení pražských učitelek) is an amateur, female community choir from the Czech Republic. Although established in 1912, we are young choir. Our repertoire is very disparate, starting with classic music, through the folk songs to the production of contemporary composers. We would like to offer our friendship to any choir from USA interested in cultural cooperation coming to us through Friendship Ambassadors Foundation.

Please contact FAF at their local address

We are looking forward to your reply !!!

Ivan Zelenka  
Conductor

Fly to the Czech Republic on  
CSA Czech Airlines



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the only Airline flying non-stop to Prague

Official airline of FAF' concert  
tours to Central/Eastern Europe!



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Tours: real  
contact with  
local arts  
organizations;  
never a  
fabricated  
program or a  
wasted  
moment!**

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NOTE OUR NEW EMAIL!! [friendlyam@faf.org](mailto:friendlyam@faf.org)

# Before you decide:

More FAF host groups interested in your concert tour!

*Exclusive news for FAF participant groups: this is what sets us apart. We do not fit your group into a manufactured festival but invite you to discover other people's cultures through a musical experience that will last a lifetime.*

*Note: Similar opportunities exist in the Czech Republic for dance groups, womens organizations, and active, educational tours of all kinds.*

## The Prague Children's Opera Company and Music Conservatory

### Ms. Jirina Markova, Director

(SKOLA HUDBY a ZPĪVU JIŘINY MARKOVÉ - PRAGUE A DĚTSKÝ OPERA) has hosted several FAF concert tours in Prague since 1999.

Ms. Markova (right, in concert with the Czech Philharmonic in Prague) writes: *"This unique musical cooperation yields mutual cultural and experiential benefit. Our School, which has the youngest members at 4-year and the oldest is a 71-year old, are looking forward to future cooperation with FAF groups. We are also looking forward to meeting you and to sharing with American Choirs our music and experiences during forthcoming trip to USA, later in 2002 through friendship Ambassadors Foundation!."*

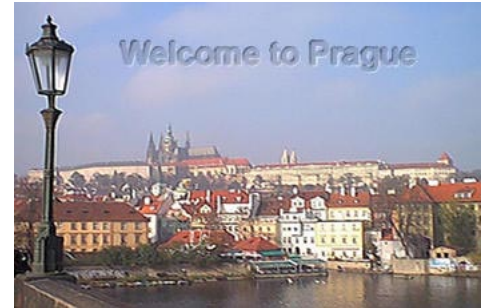


## The GESHEM CHOIR

The 24 member Choir, conducted by Marek Slechta, cordially invites a similar U.S. CHOIR to visit the Czech Republic - the most beautiful country in Central Europe - and to spend some days with us in Golden Prague, the wonderful, historical city of Europe. We would like to share our enthusiasm for singing spiritual songs, especially Negro Spirituals and Songs from Taize, with you during concerts and workshops. We would be happy to share with you a unique cultural understanding through Music.

We are looking forward to our mutual cooperation; please contact FAF for more details and our available dates for cultural exchange in 2003!

GESHEM Choir  
MAREK Slechta, Conductor



## CSA Czech Airlines, the carrier of FAF's culture tours ...

has its headquarters in the very heart of Europe. From Prague-Ruzyně Airport it offers connections to the majority of main European destinations and to transit points in North America, Asia, the Middle East and North Africa. CSA offers a wide selection of services at a high international standard.



At the present time, Czech Airlines is not only a recognized air carrier, but also an efficient and competitive company. In 1999, 2064099 passengers were transported on regular flights and this number is increasing every year. Their services too are improving every year. In cooperation with other important world airlines, they have adjusted their timetable and extended the number of destinations to which they offer connections. A completely transformed fleet on regular flights is also a mark of effectiveness.

Czech Airlines is awarded Best Airlines prize for second time

Prague, February 2002 – On 8 February, Czech Airlines was awarded "Best Airlines on the Czech Market" according to results of a survey, now in its second year, conducted by TTG Czech Republic – the prestigious tourism-industry newspaper. Czech Airlines won the TTG CZECH TRAVEL AWARDS contest last year as well.



## BULGARIA 2003: Orchestras, dance companies, choirs invited



Imagine performing in a 3,000 year old Roman Amphitheatre!

Visit exotic, emerging Bulgaria June 5-15 (extensions available) with your choir, orchestra or dance company and perform with other ensembles and solo artists from around the world! Professional and educational companies invited. Performances to take place in Sofia and Plovdiv (a 7,000 year old city with strong cultural as well as historical perspective).

Educational and youth companies are encouraged to come at the beginning of the month for the choral and dance festival. Subsidies are available. Professional companies are urged to contact the foundation for consideration throughout June. Limited fee and travel grants are available. Bulgarian cultural panels to adjudicate all funding requests.

### "So Many Ways to Dial Home" ... from an article in the *Sunday New York Times* Practical Traveler by Betsy Wade

It is impossible to be comprehensive in a field that is changing so fast: on June 27, the Justice Department moved to block Worldcom, which absorbed MCI in 1998, from acquiring Sprint. Before picking any of the options below, be sure to ask how - and if - the service works in your destinations.

International Mobile Communications offers Worldcell for rent. The company ships Nokia and Motorola phones, which work in 100 countries, to clients by overnight courier. It costs \$75 for the first week, \$50 for extra weeks. Calls on these phones may be charged to calling cards. (888) 967-5323, [www.worldcell.com](http://www.worldcell.com).

Other phone companies with international phones or plans include: Nextel: (800) 639-8359; [www.nextel.com/worldwide](http://www.nextel.com/worldwide). Voicestream (formerly Omnipoint) (877) 666-4246; [www.omnipoint.com](http://www.omnipoint.com); Sprint: (800) 877-4646; [www.youcallhome.com](http://www.youcallhome.com). MCI International Weekends (800) 759-1697; [www.mci.com/international](http://www.mci.com/international). AT&T Direct (800)331-1140, [www.att.com/traveler](http://www.att.com/traveler). Kallback: (800) 959-5255; fax: (800)949-5255.

Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, Inc. 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](http://www.faf.org)**  
**or call 1-800-526-2908**

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



*"Let the FAF Fringe Begin!"*  
- Prague Mayor Jan Kasl 1999

***Everyone knows ...***

about the Budapest and Prague Spring Festivals. But just try getting booked into these prestigious events! Well, FAF can make presentations for all groups during both festivals - as *fringe* events ... and you are invited to join in the festivities. Be one of the first performing groups to appear at the *Fringe!*

***BUDAPEST: March, 2003***

***PRAGUE: May, 2003***



Prague castle, left, and the Fishermen's Bastion over the Danube in Budapest

***FAF CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS ABROAD*** have been seen or heard in *The Sunday New York Times*, *Travel World*, *Travel Weekly*, *BBC*, *CBS*, *PBS*, *Voice of America*, *ArtsNews*, *WFAS*, *Women's Monthly*, *Spotlight*, *Band & Orchestra Product News*, *DW Radio (Germany)*, and local radio and television stations worldwide

## TRAVEL GRANT GUIDELINES

## RE: GROUP DIRECTOR SITE VISITS

### 2 (Two) Travel grant subsidies will be offered to performing arts group directors in 2002.

Through a special grant from CSA Czech Airlines, the cultural tourism airline, a series of travel grants will enable recipients to help familiarize themselves with an FAF program in Central Europe. (Details: November departure; Prague - & second CSA destination available too, upon request; \$350pp, from NY includes r/t from NY/Newark, transfers, breakfasts daily, meetings, and site inspections.)

Complete and return to Friendship Ambassadors Foundation by mail or fax prior to August 1, 2002 (call for extension if necessary). The visit will highlight sites for the 2003 music and dance festival; other group leaders should contact FAF for eligibility. Awardees must sign a letter of agreement with FAF at time of notification stating that they are accepting this opportunity in the name of their arts organization or academic institution and that if they choose to travel with a group in 2003 it will be with FAF/CSA. \$350 will be refunded if group travels in 2003 on the CSA/FAF connection to Central Europe.

Name/Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Has your group ever traveled internationally? \_\_\_\_\_ When will it travel next? \_\_\_\_\_

Have *you* ever traveled on a concert tour or cultural exchange and if so, where? \_\_\_\_\_

Where/When has this choir/institution traveled? \_\_\_\_\_

Number of travelers in your group and where might your group travel in the coming year(s):

Total # in group \_\_\_\_\_ Potential destinations \_\_\_\_\_

**Please use the remainder of this page (use additional sheets if necessary) to explain how this travel grant will help you and the organization you represent; also, tell us about your group's repertoire, age, and expectations:**

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Send this page to:

**Friendship Ambassadors Foundation • 110 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601**

**FAX: 1-914-328-8578 • EMAIL: [friendlyam@faf.org](mailto:friendlyam@faf.org) • PHONE: 1-914-328-8589**

***So, do you want the cheapest tour or the experience of a lifetime?***

**Do you want to go with a package, off-the-shelf tour or do you want a customized experience that is recognized the world over as more than just a tour, but an unparalleled opportunity for growth, too?**

**"On the wonderful work that Friendship Ambassadors Foundation is accomplishing, I commend you on your leadership in promoting cultural exchange between people both young and old around the world."**

**- President Bill Clinton, December 11, 2000**

" We are writing to express our gratitude and appreciation for the invaluable assistance provided by Friendship Ambassadors Foundation to the 3rd International Festival of Movement and Dance on the Volga, held in Yaroslavl, Russia. FAF offered both professional and high-quality assistance and truly made a difference for all involved." - **Lisa First, U.S. Director, & Nadezhda Proshutinskaya, Russian Director, Link Vostok Company, August 1998**

"I appreciate everything FAF has done for my group. Thanks to your involvement, our trip was excellent!" - **Viera Lexova, Bratislava High School exchange tour, October 1998**

"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, Southern Adventist University Choir, 1997**

*More, recent recommendations of support appear on the last page ...*

***Have you heard . . .***

***about the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation/CSA Travel Connection?***

**The Prague and all of Central and Eastern Europe**



**Excellent, group-oriented service onboard  
Transfers through Prague-Ruzyne Airport  
Unparalleled Concert Tour Opportunities**



*...where cultural exchange comes first*



**"You have done a wonderful job!" -  
C. Akers, Choral Director, Hillcrest High School June, 2000**

**Friendship Ambassadors Foundation  
800-526-2908 • Friendlyam@faf.org • www.faf.org**

As seen in *Dance Spirit Magazine* . . .

# Dance for the World!



Friendship Ambassadors Foundation and CSA Czech Airlines offer the *perfect* opportunity for the *perfect* concert tour.

**Perform in Europe, Russia, China, more!** All customized to your group's needs and all on CSA, one of the world's best airlines.

- Great performance sites
- Authentic cultural dance exchanges
- Fundraising and off-season 'culture' tours, too



"FAF provides one of the most important experiences young dancers can have".

*Judy Williams, Movement Laboratory*



"It was a wonderful tour!"

*Cassandra Lacey, Swift Creek Academy*

"What an extraordinary experience this tour was ... sensational!"

*Mimi Wallace, Director of Dance, Northern Westchester Center for the Arts*

## 1-800-526-2908

friendlyam@faf.org • www.faf.org

*Just making travel plans now? Here's a public service for all travelers ...*

## Cultural Events 2002 in the Czech Republic

May 12 - June 3, 2002

**PRAGUE SPRING - 57th year**

International music festival; Prague concert halls, churches and theatres

June 9 - 28, 2002

**DANCE PRAGUE - 14th year**

International festival of contemporary dance art and motion theatre

July - August 31, 2002

**VINCENC MORSTADT'S PRAGUE**

Visual Arts Exhibition in Kinsky Palace

September 6 - November 24, 2002

**PRAGUE WALKER - JIRI VSETECKA (PHOTOS)**

Exhibition in the Theresian Wing of the Old Royal Palace in Prague Castle

*Continued, page 7 ...*

### Is your group traveling this summer or next? Here are some tips to remember:

- Make three photocopies of passports, international and U.S. Drivers Permits, visas, and the itinerary. Leave one set at home, put one in the carry on luggage, and one in the stored luggage.
- Call and verify that your insurance company will cover medical care received in other countries. Medicare, generally, does not.



- Never at the time of a security check-in, nor at any time in the airport, should a passenger make jokes about guns, bombs, or hijacking.



- Take a brochure or business card from the hotel when you go off on your own, in case you get lost later on!

- Women traveling with handbags should only travel with those that zip completely shut and should carry them across their chest or under a coat or sweater. Men should always keep their wallets in their front pocket or use a money belt.

- The amount of duty free you can bring home ranges from \$200-\$1200, depending on the destination. Go to [www.customs.gov/travel/travel.htm](http://www.customs.gov/travel/travel.htm) to know before you go!

## More Cultural Events in the Czech Republic ...

September 13 - 29, 2002

### PRAGUE AUTUMN - 12th year

International festival of classical music  
Rudolfinum, Municipal House and other Prague concert halls and churches

September 20 - October 28, 2002

### FROM THE TREASURY OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM IN KYOTO

Exhibition of 100 works of art from the collection of Japanese art in the National Museum in Kyoto presenting Japanese paintings from the 8th - 15th centuries, wooden sculptures from the 9th - 12th centuries, ceramics from the 7th - 17th centuries, weapons, silk kimonos; Kinsky Palace

October 23 - 27, 2002

### INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL - 27th year

Jazz festival with the longest tradition in middle Europe  
Praha - Reduta, Lucerna, church of St. Vavrinec

October 16, 2002 - January 20, 2003

### CZECH PUPPET

Exhibition in the Imperial Stable in Prague Castle

October 19, 2002 - January 3, 2003

### ISNIK CERAMICS AND THE RESPONSE IN EUROPE

Exhibition at the Zbraslav Castle showing Turkish ceramics from the 15th - 17th centuries

November 5 - 10, 2002

### DAYS OF JAPANESE CULTURE IN PRAGUE

National customs, folklore, theatre, music, dance, martial arts, clothes, calligraphy...

November 2002

### PRAGUE GERMAN-LANGUAGE THEATRE FESTIVAL - 7th year

Festival of theatre ensembles from Austria, Germany and Switzerland

Changes possible

November 2002

### MUSICA IUDAICA - 11th year

International festival of music works of Jewish composers

November 7, 2002 - May 25, 2003

### VACLAV BROZIK

Retrospective exhibition of the most popular Czech painter of historical themes in Wallenstein Riding Hall is prepared on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of birth and the 100th anniversary of death of the painter

All contacts for these festivals may be made thru FAF:

**1-800-526-2908; [friendlyam@faf.org](mailto:friendlyam@faf.org)**



## And how's the weather, anyway??

CNN.Com has a good weather site and if you click on the Business link to the left, you can get into the currency exchange area, too. This is especially helpful when traveling through several countries on one tour. They provide the weather for the next four days.



**Weather.com**, an on-line source for weather reports and the official website of the Weather Channel, announced it added information on flight arrivals and delays to the travel section of its site at: [www.weather.com/travel](http://www.weather.com/travel).

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**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*



"Our wonderful trip to Romania and Bulgaria with Friendship Ambassadors Foundation was a positive, life changing cultural and social experience. 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*

"What an extraordinary experience this tour was; both as an artistic and traveling endeavor. I must offer my sincere appreciation and thanks to you and to everyone at Friendship Ambassadors that help 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 FAF and hopefully do more of these marvelous tours ... This was the BEST!" - *Mimi Wallace, Dance Director, NWCA, July 2000*

"Thank you for you and your colleagues' precious help in organizing the stay of the Fidelissima Choir in New York ... let me express our gratitude and readiness to give the same help to those who need ours in the future." - *Conductor, Fidelissima Choir, Sopron, Hungary, 4/00 upon their return from a U.S. tour aided in part by FAF*



"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 University, February 2000*



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Accepted

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 ACDA, ASTA, IATAN, Chorus America,  
 National Band Association

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