



# The Friendship Ambassador

A tradition of service to the field

Volume 32, Issue 2 - Spring, 2004

## PEACE THRU CULTURAL EXCHANGE CONCERT TOURS AS CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

### Tracking a Successful Tour



G P  
R O  
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E E  
ITALY  
'04

Grosse Pointe High School students enjoy the lovely weather (and good artistic climate, too) in Italy last winter.

Concerts and exchanges were developed by FAF for the school at professional theatres, three high schools, the Vatican, and during Carnivale celebrations in Venice, Florence, and Rome.

Grosse Pointe's talented director, Ellen Bowen, a long time FAF supporter, is pictured below with FAF ED Patrick Sciaratta and the students, just prior to the fun tour. The students, above, were caught relaxing for a moment between concerts on the *Spanish Steps*!

"The trip was a wonderful success. Our guides were excellent; we did get to sing at the Vatican for a Mass in St. Peters and it was wonderful. The educational tours were excellent and the guides for them were well organized. The final dinner was excellent. Thank you for your work. It was good working with you again," *Ellen Bowen. March 2004*



### Perform, Exchange, Learn, Enjoy ...

## Become Tomorrow's Leaders Today

### A Youth Assembly at the United Nations

To learn more about this event, go to: [www.faf.org/youthassembly.html](http://www.faf.org/youthassembly.html)

Bring a group & perform; or send an individual representative to network



## August 17, 18, 19, and 20, 2004

United Nations Headquarters, New York City, New York, U.S.A.  
Workshops, Plenaries, Concerts, Special Events

with extensions:

**August 21 & 22 - NYC Excursions, Concerts!**

and

**August 23 & 24 - Leadership Training in Cultural Diplomacy  
at the Wainwright House, Milton Point, Rye, New York**

*Affiliated with the United Nations*

Apply today: [www.faf.org/youthassembly.html](http://www.faf.org/youthassembly.html) – space is very limited

### Perform During 2000+ U.N. Gathering This Fall

Perform in the Katherine Hepburn Garden at Dag Hammarskjold Park across from the United Nations during **Youth Art Presentations** for a major, public U.N. event.

**September 9, 2004**

### Open Opportunity to Perform at the U.N.

Other concert and touring dates at the United Nations available through FAF. Call with **your** available dates and we will arrange concerts, tours, and exchanges. Groups are encouraged to stay in our new home in New York, the Wainwright House, affiliated with the United Nations, as a base for a complete NYC itinerary.

## Highlights in This Issue

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## A Fund Raising Idea Like No Other

Friendship Ambassadors Foundation has created an easy, fun, no-cost, low- to no-overhead way to raise considerable funds – without having to buy candy, wash cars, rent expensive benefit halls, or risk uncertain grants. Most importantly, it is an approach that builds lasting positive public relations in the community ... and might even be an aid to peace-building worldwide.

*What could be so important, fun and easy as all that?*

**FAF's nonprofit, fund raising cultural group tours.**

No cost whatsoever to the companies we serve, fully tax deductible as allowed by law, and a great way to extend an already planned trip so it becomes a stellar fund raising success, too. Visit our web site to discover how to make *any* tour into a fund development tool through 'companion tours'. While in our group tour section, you'll see a fascinating food, wine and culture fund raising tour for those times when you are not traveling. Donated funds to your organization are built into our culture tours.

The companion tour can be accomplished with any established concert or educational tour. FAF's special food, wine and culture tour (Go to: [www.faf.org/travel/travelindex.htm](http://www.faf.org/travel/travelindex.htm)) is a very special, eleven-day, upscale experience that will retail for \$3,400 (pp/land only). \$400 from each traveler on this tour is refunded directly back to your organization with absolutely no fees or UBIT (IRS: Unrelated Business Income Tax) to your organization. Even a small group of ten couples nets your organization \$8000 with no rentals, fees, purchases or obligations.

Further, these fund-raising package tours increase your public image at home while they help a good cause at the same time. A \$100 donation is also included for Friendship Ambassadors Foundation; this is also fully tax deductible to each and every traveler and goes to support our work with youth reconciliation, peace building cultural exchanges abroad, and to aid young people who lost parents on 9/11, among other related projects (for a full listing of our work, please visit our website: [www.faf.org](http://www.faf.org)).

### FAF MOVES ITS U.S. HEADQUARTERS

Friendship Ambassadors Foundation is moving! Our new home is the famous Wainwright House on Milton Point in Rye, New York. Wainwright House is a replica of an actual French Chateau named Raincheval in Doullen, France. Dag Hammarskjold, the first Secretary General of the United Nations, Joseph Campbell (whose work inspired the epic Star Wars movies) J. C. Penney, and Dr. Norman Vincent Peale have all used Wainwright House as an educational and retreat center in their work. The property is on five waterfront acres with three separate buildings in an exclusive area of Westchester, a mere 30 minutes from midtown Manhattan. **Why not stop by for a visit?** We can sleep about thirty to forty adults on site -you can *virtually* visit the property at [www.wainwright.org](http://www.wainwright.org) – *we look forward to seeing you there!*

At Wainwright, FAF will be able to house small ensembles, group leaders on planning visits, and others. We will also produce the works of international ensembles traveling to or from concert tours abroad. *New contact information will follow soon. June 7 is the anticipated move-in date!!*

**The Wainwright House property has:**

History

Beauty

Charm



Opportunity for Growth

*Tour Sample from our site. Visit [www.faf.org](http://www.faf.org) to find loads of sample itineraries. Here is a popular one!*

## Bulgaria and the Czech Republic



### *A Programme of Performances and Exchange*

Facilitated by Friendship Ambassadors Foundation

Following is a preliminary Itinerary -- Performance schedule subject to approval



**Day One — (D, B)** Depart from the United States any hub airport near your home.

**Day Two — (L, D)** Arrive in Prague for a changeover, transit flight to Sofia, Bulgaria. Arrive late afternoon in Bulgaria. Eat a light lunch onboard. Meet your private coach and guide who will be with you the rest of the way! Transfer to Plovdiv. Check into your accommodations and relax before dinner with the group and your local hosts.

**Day Three — (B, D)** Welcome to Plovdiv, a UNESCO Cultural Heritage site and one of the oldest, working cities on earth (7,000 years old!). Take a walking tour of Old Town where many of the venues will be for your performances. Take in the street performances and al fresco art exhibits in one of Europe's most authentic old world cities. Reception with your local host choir.

Plovdiv -- The Renaissance town of Old Plovdiv was built during the 19th century. Today it has survived as a unique architectural ensemble on the three hills. Its houses reveal the remarkable urban culture of Bulgarian builders, as well as their sense of harmony and their creative power. The brilliant architecture with its noble, stylish simplicity could be called rightfully the Baroque of Plovdiv. The Bulgarian people have always been proud that Old Plovdiv was restored and preserved as a large open museum in order to stay for future generations. Today Old Plovdiv is an autonomous area within the modern town with a municipality of its own. It is declared an architectural museum reserve with over 150 monuments of culture - houses from the National Revival period. Its magnificent houses are turned into museums, galleries, workshops, restaurants, and pubs, such as "Puldin", "Trakijski Stan", "Alafrangite", "The House of Ritora", "The Old House". There are also parlours and studios of painters and wood-carvers. Families from Plovdiv own many of those houses.

**Day Four — (B, D)** After breakfast take part in festival activities. A workshop is also included today. There will be a concert tonight for the group. Plan for festivities afterwards with your hosts and the audience.

**Day Five — (B, L)** After breakfast board a bus to travel to the ancient Bachkovo Monastery to the south. Passing through the town of Assenovgrad, adults will want to sample the spectacular wine with a history that predates the Romans! Plan for a joint concert with a local Bulgarian arts group in this town tonight before we return home to Plovdiv.

**Days Six and Seven — (B, D)** Sofia to Veliko Tarnovo

After breakfast, we leave Plovdiv for a major concert in the nation's capital: Sofia. Tonight the concert will be at the Palace of Culture, the nation's most important cultural venue. Day Seven is a free day after breakfast to enjoy some roaming time through this unique and spectacular working ancient city.

**Day Eight — (B, D)** Veliko Tarnovo

Today there will be a Sound and Light *laser show* in the Old Town and your concert will coincide with the showing! This is often a highlight of FAF concert tours to Bulgaria and we hope you treasure the experience for years to come!

**Day Nine — (B, L enroute, D)** To Prague

The group will be met at the airport by local FAF staff where you will be taken to your accommodations and given a short orientation to this great city. Dinner with the group and relax in town on your own.

PRAGUE (Praha)--Prague is a beautiful city--one of the most beautiful in the world, we think. Built on seven hills and bisected by the pretty Vltava River, this capital city of 1,211,000 is unique among Eastern European capitals in that it survived World War II nearly intact--as a result, it contains beautiful architecture, ranging from Romanesque and Gothic to Renaissance and Baroque. It's often called "the city of 100 spires" because of its many churches, and it also features numerous parks and lots of trees. For younger travelers, Prague is very much the place to be in Europe, and many foreigners, including a number of American entrepreneurs, have moved in, attracted by the city's beauty, commercial opportunity and low overhead. *Note: This is an overnight stay provided by CSA Czech Airlines, only. If traveling on another airline, this night will not be available and the group may transfer directly back to the United States without any overnight stopover. This evening is a way for the group to experience a short introduction to one of the world's most fascinating, cultural cities for a return visit another day!*

**Day Ten— (B, L, Snack)** After breakfast, check out of the hotel and transfer to the airport in your private motorcoach. Enjoy lunch and a snack onboard during your journey home.

*Enjoy the memories and welcome home!*

## *For-profit tour operators may advertise ...*

that they are 'Not just another concert tour abroad.' However choral directors, dance choreographers, artists, and those interested in promoting peace through the arts and cultural diplomacy through exchange know the difference:

"Friendship Ambassadors Foundation ... its mission is so important, and ... you are accomplishing remarkable things. Best wishes to you and everyone at the foundation!"

William Jefferson Clinton, January 26, 2004



FAF youth counselors with the former President during a 9/11 summer get-a-way.

### GROUP LEADERS:

Need Ideas, Tips, Travel Advice of any kind? Looking for a good itinerary or destination upon which to base a customized tour idea you have had for sometime ...? Why not visit our site

[www.faf.org/travel/travelindex.htm](http://www.faf.org/travel/travelindex.htm)

The Friendship Ambassadors site has an entire area dedicated just for your explorations!

Build a tour around one of our suggested itineraries, create a fund development tour, or a companion tour to help support your main programme, link to sites where you can learn about the weather, how to get good travel insurance, about travel warnings, and read about opportunities for better phone coverage while on tour, how hotels rate in the 'star' system – and, take time to learn about all the other work FAF does (for many, FAF's mission work is WHY they choose us for their concert and other educational tours).

*FAF - one stop for all your group travel needs!*

Just fyi: FAF is the leader in cultural and concert group travel, but it is also a leader in developing and defining a new 'cultural diplomacy' through active exchange among artists, students, families affected by terror, and youth in regions emerging from conflict. FAF also acts as a fiscal and developmental agent for like-minded nonprofits who need assistance with their administrative and fund raising needs.

# Ways You Can Help Us Help Others

We need your help *now* to continue to meet the needs of the communities we serve:

**1) Introduce FAF to Groups Traveling Abroad.** Groups have returned to touring after all that has occurred over the past two years. FAF provides the 'capacity building' and confidence they need now in order to begin exchanging and concertizing in this new environment. Our low-cost nonprofit travel services provide tax deductions and peace of mind - because we know the embassies and cultural counterparts on the ground in virtually every destination.

**2) Invite FAF to be a part of your community's international development goals.** We regularly address a wide variety of clubs, institutions, and schools concerning the need for all people to learn more about peace through tourism. Invite us to speak to audiences regarding the importance of meeting and exchanging with exotic cultures.



## DID YOU KNOW ...?

Your group can now rest safely at an FAF location in *BOTH* New York and Budapest? (Pictured above is the Hungarian Culture Foundation, our European headquarters; The Wainwright House in Rye, NY is pictured on pages 2 and 8)

Finally, both FAF locations accept small groups and individual group leaders seeking familiarization tours in either or both cities. *Please bring your group to our home soon!*

**3) Introduce FAF to other nonprofits whose interests are similar.** FAF acts as a fiscal agent or development partner for the groups we serve. We look forward to further cooperative efforts in the future.

*Cultures that know each other, tend to live more peacefully together; cultures ignorant of each other tend to breed the most distrust and fear. We're not 'just another tour operator', FAF is a community of shared interests, and we invite you to meet our cultural counterparts throughout the world before you decide on your next group travel experience!*

*Next Spring, bring your high school orchestra or band to the ...*

## **BEIJING INTERNATIONAL ORCHESTR and SYMPHONIC BAND FESTIVAL**

**24<sup>th</sup> March 2005 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005 – Preliminary Itinerary – Contact FAF for official invitation**

<b>Day 1 Thu</b> 24/03/05	Assemble in Beijing, China Evening Cocktail Party and Festival briefing for Group Managers, Musical Directors, FAF representatives, Festival Patrons, Festival agents, and VIPs at the Central Hotel in Beijing
<b>Day 2 Fri</b> 25/03/05	<b>Cultural Exchange Day</b> – groups will be hosted for a half day (am or pm) by the students and staff at the 101 Middle School. Visitors will meet peers, tour classrooms and interact in activities. During the alternative am or pm provision can be made for the orchestra/band practice. <b>Official Opening Ceremony</b> at the Beijing Gymnasium. Chinese youth to welcome guests with performances of traditional instrument ensembles, singing, dancing, acrobats and drama. At the conclusion of the performance the Festival will be declared officially open.
<b>Day 3 Sat</b> 26/03/05	Morning Tour the Hutongs and visit Gongwang Palace. P.M. <b>1<sup>st</sup> Performance Session</b> • Eve. <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Performance Session</b>
<b>Day 4 Sun</b> 27/03/05	Tour to Tiannamen Square, Forbidden City enjoy performance of Beijing Acrobats. Eve. Festival Orchestra and Festival Symphonic Band to practice
<b>Day 5 Mon</b> 28/03/05	A.M. Touring to Summer Palace and visits to craft centers. P.M. <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Performance Session</b> • Eve. <b>4<sup>th</sup> Performance Session</b>
<b>Day 6 Tue</b> 29/03/05	Day tour to Great Wall, Ming Tombs and Peking Duck Festival Banquet. Eve. Festival Orchestra and Festival Symphonic Band to practice
<b>Day 7 Wed</b> 30/03/05	A.M. Touring to Temple of Heaven and shopping at free markets. P.M. <b>Master Class for visiting musical directors and Beijing musical directors to enable presentation of papers and working groups to discuss topics related to School Orchestras and Symphonic Bands.</b> <b>Closing Ceremony</b> at Beijing Gymnasium
<b>Day 8 Thu</b> 31/03/05	Packing up and departing Beijing to return home or continue with optional tours.



On either the afternoon of Day 3 or Day 5 there will be an opportunity for each group to visit the U.S. Embassy for a tour and reception. Each of the hotels can provide a practice room for the band or orchestra. All hotel have recreation centers for the guests to utilize.

### **FAF is promoting the International Festival with the Chinese government:**

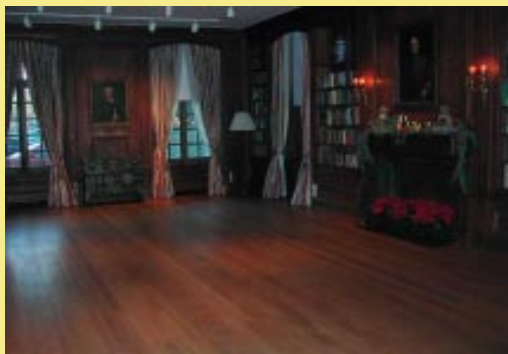
- (a) To promote the lead-up to the 2008 Olympic Games.
- (b) To develop good cultural exchange and foster it through an international network.
- (c) Through the universal language of music encourage global youth to meet with their Chinese peers and participate in a cultural exchange.
- (d) Provide the Chinese musicians with the opportunity to interact with peers from foreign countries: Countries invited to participate include: America(2), Australia(2), Canada(1), China and Hong Kong(4), Europe(2), Japan(2), New Zealand(1), Africa or Russia (1) and Singapore or Korea (1).
- (e) Give the visiting participants the opportunity to develop a greater appreciation and understanding of China, its people, its culture, its customs and its institutions.
- (f) Encourage the visitors to tour China and visit sites that are of historical, geographical, cultural and social importance.
- (g) To advance the personal and social development and the musicianship of the participants.

**Only two U.S. groups are able to receive formal invitations through FAF**

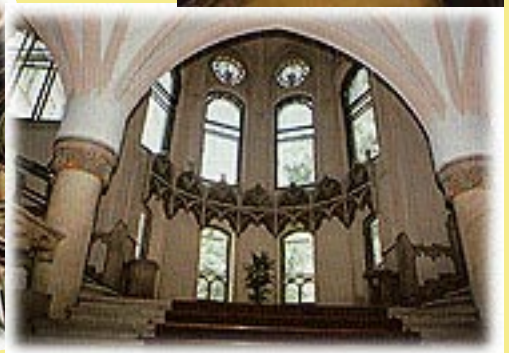
**Contact us today for more details! [friendlyam@faf.org](mailto:friendlyam@faf.org) • 1-800-526-2908**

# Recent Photos • Recent Successes

Photos from FAF's recent projects and exchanges, here at the U.N. and abroad, Shots from our successful healing camps and retreats for families affected by terror *And, a few new shots from our new home in New York and our longstanding home in Budapest*



**Key:** Lions sponsored arts exchange and healing retreats, upper left; Grosse Pointe in performance, upper right; FAF hosts a cultural tourism conference in Eastern Europe, left; FAF presents at UN conference, right; Wainwright House, above and left; FAF's Hungary home (and wine cellar!), lower right and below.



**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**

"Our concert tour show is entitled, 'A Voice to the World.' Did we accomplish that title on this tour with Friendship? Yes. Did we make a difference? Yes. Were our lives enriched by the experience? Yes. Have we helped bridge cultural gaps and understanding? Yes. Would I want Maria Mandova again as our guide? **ABSOLUTELY!** I would trust her with my life! I don't think I've ever felt so comfortable with a guide. Thank you, Patrick, for all of your hard work and vision." *D. Kim Clayton, Synergy, August 2003 (Synergy will travel to Croatia with FAF in 2004!)*

"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 (FAF continues to work with Ms. First as a consultant; L.V.'s next dance gathering in Russia is set for August, 2004)*

"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 (In 2004, Dr. Schenbeck formally joined FAF as an international tour consultant and advisor)*

"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 (Enroute with us again in 2004!)*

"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*



Travel with FAF –  
"Leaders in the field"  
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Visa and Mastercard



Accepted for Tours and Donations



*Our new home ...*

**Friendship Ambassadors Foundation**  
at Wainwright House,  
260 Stuyvesant Avenue  
Milton Point, Rye, New York 10580

Member: Westchester Council on the Arts  
ACDA, IATAN, Chorus America, National  
Band Association, and affiliated with the  
United Nations Dept. of Public Information  
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