

John Schnelle
Director of Choral Activities
International Tour Proposal
April 8, 2015

WHO:

The 12-14 singers in HHS VOX chorus and eight chaperones/guests; 20 people total.

WHAT:

A five-day concert tour of the west of Ireland that includes performances at area historic sites, a series of collaborative workshops and concerts with area schools, and workshops on traditional Irish music taught by leading experts and performers.

WHERE:

Our flight from Boston will land at Shannon Airport, Co. Clare, Ireland. Although exact locations are still in the planning process, we will spend five days traveling the west of Ireland (Cos. Galway, Clare, Kerry, and Killarney).

WHEN:

Because other international trips running the week of April vacation 2016, our tentative timetable would be **either of the first two weeks of May** so as not to cannibalize students from the other trips.

WHY:

An international singing tour of Ireland would provide an invaluable opportunity for learning experiences outside the classroom for our young singers. In this vein the students would gain valuable perspective from working with native Irish choruses, thereby strengthening their individual and collective musicianship.

HOW:

Tour organized through Music Contact International. To help students afford to travel to Ireland a series of fundraising activities and initiatives will be arranged for this summer.



**HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL "VOX"
CONCERT TOUR OF IRELAND
MAY 4 - 10, 2016**

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2016

DEPART FROM BOSTON

Depart **Boston Logan Airport** on a flight bound for **Shannon, Ireland**. Select meals, snacks and refreshments will be served on the flight.

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2016

ARRIVE IN IRELAND

Morning arrival in **Shannon, Ireland**. Upon arrival in **Shannon**, your **Music Contact International tour manager** will greet your group at the airport.



Together, board your waiting motor coach and travel to **Galway**.

Stop en route at the majestic **Cliffs of Moher**. Situated on the Atlantic Ocean and bordering the Burren Area, the Cliffs of Moher are one of Ireland's most spectacular sights. Standing over 750 feet above the ground at their highest point and stretching to nearly five miles long, the Cliffs boast one of the most amazing views in Ireland. On a clear day, the Aran Islands are visible in Galway Bay as well as the valleys and hills of Connemara. To the south of the cliffs is Hag's Head and was once the site of a castle. The cliffs reach their highest point just north of O' Brien's Tower,

built by Cornelius O' Brien, a descendant of Brian Boru (who defeated the Vikings in battle), as a special rendezvous point for his favorite lady friends. The Tower is adjacent to the sea stack, *Breanan Mór*, which stands over 230 feet above the foaming waves and is home to some of the Burren's wildlife.

After your visit and time to stretch your legs, board your motor coach and continue on to Galway, passing through the **Burren** region along the way.

Upon arrival to Galway, check in to your hotel. Settle in and refresh before joining your tour manager on an Orientation Walk to get a feel for the local ambiance.

A special **Welcome Dinner** will be planned for your group at a local restaurant.

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2016

GALWAY

FRIENDSHIP CONCERT & WORKSHOP*

After breakfast in the hotel dining room, embark on a **locally guided morning tour of Galway and its environs**. Galway is a delight with its narrow streets, old stone and wooden shop fronts, lively restaurants and busy pubs. The city has attracted a bohemian crown of musicians and artists, which add much to the character of this interesting town. Stroll the quaint, narrow streets lined with stone and wooden storefronts—which carefully preserve the charming atmosphere of old-world Ireland. See the **Spanish Arch**, through which Spanish wine and spices are said to have entered the city, and the **Collegiate Church of Saint Nicholas**, the country's largest medieval parish church that is still in use. Pass through **Eyre Square**, in the center of which is **Kennedy Park**.



A stone tablet commemorates a visit from the American president in 1963. See **Lynch Castle**, former home to the most powerful of Galway's 14 founding families.

Return to the hotel with time to prepare for your upcoming concert.



HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL "Vox"
CONCERT TOUR OF IRELAND
MAY 4 - 10, 2016

Visit a Galway area music school where your choir will be invited to **perform a friendship concert*** with the Irish students. Enjoy singing for each other and getting to know one another through your shared love of music!

After the concert, return to your hotel where a **workshop on Irish music and drumming** will be arranged.

This evening, **dinner** will be served to your group at the hotel or a nearby restaurant.

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016

GALWAY-KILLARNEY

WORKSHOP OR EXCHANGE*

Following breakfast in the hotel, check out and load your luggage onto the motor coach. Depart this morning for **Killarney**.



A stop will be made en route in Clare or nearby where your choir will have the opportunity to **participate in a traditional Irish music activity or workshop**. County Clare has been known as the home of Traditional music, due to the annual calendar of festivals throughout the county. The season starts in February and runs through October each year, with festivals including week-long summer schools, weekends celebrating musical legacies, and weekends that have no festivals host weekly and daily music sessions in the local pubs. If your travel dates fall over a festival weekend, you will have the opportunity to partake in the festival activities.

Take some time for lunch in chaperoned groups, then

continue on to Killarney and check in to your hotel.

Dinner will be served to your group this evening.

SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2016

KERRY

CHURCH SERVICE*

Enjoy breakfast, then transfer to a local church where your choir will be invited to perform the music during the morning worship service. Enjoy singing a brief repertoire for the congregation after the service as well!

Following the service, board your coach and embark on an excursion along the famous **Ring of Kerry**. This route covers the 179 km circular road starting in Killarney heading around the Iveragh Peninsula and passing through Kenmare, Sneem, Waterville, Cahersiveen and Killarlin. Along the route, you will see **Molls' Gap**, with spectacular views of the Macgillicuddy's Reeks mountains, and the famous **Ladies View**, a scenic point with a unique perspective of the three lakes of Killarney all surrounded by the Kerry Mountains. Ladies View received its name due to the admiration Queen Victoria's ladies-in-waiting gave for the view when they visited the area in 1861.



Return to Killarney and step aboard a **jaunting car** in **Killarney National Park** to discover areas of the Park that you might not otherwise visit. Relax as your jarvey drives the horse and carriage through the magnificent scenery of the National Park, much of which is inaccessible to motorized vehicles.

Tonight, **dinner** will be arranged to complement your schedule.



HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL "VOX"
CONCERT TOUR OF IRELAND
MAY 4 - 10, 2016

MONDAY, MAY 9, 2016

KILLARNEY – LIMERICK

FRIENDSHIP CONCERT*

Following breakfast in the hotel, check out and load your luggage onto the motor coach. Depart for **Limerick**.



Upon arrival in Limerick, transfer to a local school where your choir will be invited to **perform a Friendship Concert** with the Irish students. Enjoy performing for each other and exchanging over your shared love of music! There will be time to meet and mingle with your hosts following the concert.

In the late afternoon, visit **Bunratty Castle and Folk Park**. Bunratty Castle is one of the most complete and authentically restored medieval castles in Ireland. Built in 1425 and plundered on many occasions, it was restored in 1954 to its former medieval splendour with furnishings and tapestries capturing the mood and style of the times. Within the grounds is Bunratty Folk Park,

which demonstrates everyday life in rural Ireland of the 19th century. It contains reconstructed farmhouses, cottages and shops, and great care has been taken to make its buildings as authentic as possible. It is a living museum; animals are tended, bread is baked, butter is churned, walls are whitewashed and roofs are thatched.

Tonight enjoy dinner at the **Bunratty Medieval Banquet**. This festive occasion includes a delicious meal and entertainment, including a selection of Irish medieval and traditional songs and instrumental music by eleven entertainers. There will be ample opportunity to recount the highlights of your tour!

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2016

SHANNON – BOSTON

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and depart for the **Shannon Airport** and your return flight to the **United States**.

**All concert opportunities proposed in this itinerary are pending final confirmation and availability at time of booking. Your group's final program will be determined by confirmed times and locations for concerts, workshops, lectures and other activities. Although your ensemble's exact itinerary will vary to accommodate performance schedules, the same type of concerts, activities and caliber of venue will be included in your ensemble's final concert tour program.*



MUSIC CONTACT INTERNATIONAL

**HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL "VOX"
CONCERT TOUR OF IRELAND
MAY 4 - 10, 2016**

TOUR DETAILS

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES:

✿ FLIGHTS

Roundtrip airfare on direct, regularly scheduled flights from Boston to Shannon and from Shannon to Boston

✿ ACCOMMODATIONS

5 nights in good hotels (3-star), double occupancy, including all hotel service charges and taxes:
2 nights Galway
2 nights Killarney
1 night Limerick

✿ TRANSPORTATION

Transportation as described in the itinerary in a modern climate controlled motor coach with a professional driver

✿ MEALS

Breakfast served daily in the hotel dining room
5 three-course dinners served as follows –
4 dinners served in the hotels or a local restaurants or pubs
Bunratty, Festive Farewell Dinner and entertainment

✿ PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

5 performance opportunities as indicated in the itinerary, pending availability and acceptance:
Friendship Concert in Galway
Workshop in Galway
Musical activity or workshop in County Clare
Sunday Church Service in Killarney
Friendship Concert in Limerick

✿ TOUR MANAGER

A full-time Music Contact International tour manager to accompany your group from arrival to departure

✿ LOCAL GUIDES

Sightseeing tours with local guides as described in the itinerary:
Galway: Guided Tour of Galway
Kerry: Guided Excursion to the Ring of Kerry

✿ ENTRANCES

Entrance to the following:
Cliffs of Moher
Jaunting Car Ride through Killarney National Park
Bunratty Castle and Folk Park



**HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL "VOX"
CONCERT TOUR OF IRELAND
MAY 4 - 10, 2016**

☞ COMPLIMENTARY PLACES

1 complimentary land and air package covering services listed above, based on double occupancy, for a minimum of **15 paying** travelers

☞ MUSIC CONTACT INTERNATIONAL ONLINE ACCOUNTING AND PAYMENT SYSTEM

Group leaders can opt that each traveler in the group make individual trip payments online with credit cards or debit cards. Individuals receive electronic reminders, receipts and statements.

Group leaders can track payments made by each travelers and receive automated reports with current balances and due dates.

☞ CUSTOM TRAVELER'S RESOURCE WEBSITE FOR YOUR GROUP FEATURING

- Day to day itinerary
- Things to Know Before You Go
- Maps
- Helpful links, including recommended reading and websites
- Blog
- Photo gallery

☞ ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Each member of your group will receive:

- A customized handbook including detailed hourly tour itinerary with regional and travel information
- Luggage tags

☞ INSURANCE

Music Contact International, Inc. holds \$5,000,000.00 of Travel Agent and Tour operators Professional Liability Insurance.

Prices based on a minimum of 20 paying travelers (at least 21 total travelers):

LAND PACKAGE PRICE:	\$2,016.00	per person in double occupancy
AIR FARE	\$548.00	estimated based on 2015
FLIGHT TAXES	\$120.00	estimated based on 2015
FUEL SURCHARGE	\$227.00	estimated based on 2015
TOTAL LAND AND AIR PACKAGE: \$2,911.00		

Prices based on a minimum of 19 paying travelers (at least 20 total travelers):

LAND PACKAGE PRICE:	\$2,210.00	per person in double occupancy
AIR FARE	\$548.00	estimated based on 2015
FLIGHT TAXES	\$120.00	estimated based on 2015
FUEL SURCHARGE	\$227.00	estimated based on 2015
TOTAL LAND AND AIR PACKAGE: \$3,105.00		

FLIGHTS, FLIGHT TAXES AND FUEL SURCHARGES are not yet available for your dates of travel. We expect fares to open up for these dates in mid to late June of 2015 and will endeavor to keep you updated on actual prices when they do become available.



MUSIC CONTACT INTERNATIONAL

**HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL "VOX"
CONCERT TOUR OF IRELAND
MAY 4 - 10, 2016**

☞ NOT INCLUDED IN PACKAGE PRICE:

- Checked bag fees imposed by the airline
- Visas and travel documents such as passport fees
- Porter service (available upon request)
- Drinks with meals (except breakfast)
- Any meals not listed above
- Entrance fees and bus services not indicated in the above itinerary
- Instrument rental and transportation
- Tips for tour managers, local guides, and bus drivers
- Travel insurance*

*Travel Insurance can be purchased per individual requests through your custom Traveler's Resource Website.

OPTIONAL PRICES:

\$245.00 per person supplement for a single room

NOTES ON PRICING

LAND PACKAGE:

The prices for land services in this offer are valid until **May 8, 2015**. In order to guarantee these prices, please send a confirmation deposit of **\$1500** and registration materials by this date. Prices cover above dates and listed services only, and are based on current availability. Severe fluctuation in the exchange rates before the group has confirmed their plans can also lead to a change in the price. Therefore, please inform Music Contact International in writing of your confirmed plans when they are made.

FLIGHTS:

At this time, no flight reservations have been made for your group. The tour package prices in this proposal are based on the most currently available group flight quotes for your dates of travel as indicated on this itinerary. Please understand that airfare and seats are subject to availability and can only be guaranteed when seats are reserved. Music Contact International recommends that we secure your group's flights as early as possible in the tour planning process. In order to reserve group space and lock in airfare, a **\$100 per person flight deposit** will be required. Upon receipt of your deposit, our flight department will confirm the best flight option for your group. Therefore, we suggest that you prepare to send us your group's flight deposit upon confirmation of this tour.

FLIGHT TAXES AND SURCHARGES:

Flight taxes and fuel surcharges are subject to change until tickets are issued. For this reason, flight taxes and surcharges are not included in the price of this tour. The exact amount of flight taxes and surcharges will be determined by the airlines at the time of ticketing which normally occurs 30 to 60 days before departure. The amount of the flight taxes and surcharges varies greatly depending on a wide range of factors from the number of scheduled connections to the price of fuel.



MUSIC CONTACT INTERNATIONAL

**HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL "VOX"
CONCERT TOUR OF IRELAND
MAY 4 - 10, 2016**

IMPORTANT TOUR INFORMATION

NOTES ON COMPLIMENTARY PLACES:

One complimentary land and air package is based on a minimum of **15 paying** travelers. Any additional services requested may or may not be included in the complimentary package, such as meals or theater tickets.

CONCERTS:

Indicated in the itinerary are times when and venues where concerts could be planned. We would be glad to pursue any specific venue. All venues are pending final confirmation and will be pursued to the fullest extent once the tour has been accepted and placed under deposit by the client. The proposed repertoires for the tour should be provided to Music Contact International, in addition to the director's and ensemble's biographies, photographs for promotional purposes and a sample CD or mp3 audio file.

MOTOR COACH:

In Ireland, a standard motor coach can seat up to **47 passengers**. Should the group size increase beyond **47 passengers**, an additional motor coach will need to be hired, affecting the cost of the land program. Please notify Music Contact International of the exact size of your group. Additional transfers or a change in itinerary may result in added coach fees.

MANAGER AND LOCAL GUIDES:

Music Contact International will send a professional, full-time manager to accompany your group during the entire tour. The manager will handle all logistics for your group during the tour and provide general information about the region(s) to be visited. Local guides will conduct tours of specific cities and sites as indicated in your itinerary.

OPTIONAL SERVICES:

Music Contact International can make additional meal or excursion arrangements for the group, for example: lunches, museum tours, theater or performing arts tickets. Prices listed for optional activities are subject to reconfirmation at the time a reservation is made. Group discounts may be available.



**HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL "VOX"
CONCERT TOUR OF IRELAND
MAY 6 - 12, 2016**

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2016

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SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016

ARRIVE IN IRELAND

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Together, board your waiting motor coach and travel to **Galway**.

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After your visit and time to stretch your legs, board your motor coach and continue on to Galway, passing through the **Burren** region along the way.

Upon arrival to Galway, check in to your hotel. Settle in and refresh before joining your tour manager on an Orientation Walk to get a feel for the local ambiance.

A special **Welcome Dinner** will be planned for your group at a local restaurant.

SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2016

GALWAY

CHURCH SERVICE & WORKSHOP*

After breakfast in the hotel dining room, transfer to a local church where your choir will be invited to **perform the music** during the morning worship service. Enjoy singing a brief repertoire for the congregation after the service as well!

Following the service, embark on a **locally guided morning tour of Galway and its environs**. Galway is a delight with its narrow streets, old stone and wooden shop fronts, lively restaurants and busy pubs. The city has attracted a bohemian crown of musicians and artists, which add much to the character of this interesting town. Stroll the quaint, narrow streets lined with stone and wooden storefronts—which carefully preserve the charming atmosphere of old-world Ireland. See the **Spanish Arch**, through which Spanish wine and spices are said to have entered the city, and the **Collegiate Church of Saint Nicholas**, the country's largest medieval parish church that is still in use.



Pass through **Eyre Square**, in the center of which is **Kennedy Park**. A stone tablet commemorates a



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visit from the American president in 1963. See **Lynch Castle**, former home to the most powerful of Galway's 14 founding families.

After the tour, return to your hotel where a **workshop on Irish music and drumming** will be arranged. This evening, **dinner** will be served to your group at the hotel or a nearby restaurant.

MONDAY, MAY 9, 2016

GALWAY-KILLARNEY

WORKSHOP OR EXCHANGE*

Following breakfast in the hotel, check out and load your luggage onto the motor coach. Depart this morning for **Killarney**.



A stop will be made en route in Clare or nearby where your choir will have the opportunity to **participate in a traditional Irish music activity or workshop**. County Clare has been known as the home of Traditional music, due to the annual calendar of festivals throughout the county. The season starts in February and runs through October each year, with festivals including week-long summer schools, weekends celebrating musical legacies, and weekends that have no festivals host weekly and daily music sessions in the local pubs. If your travel dates fall over festival dates, you will have the opportunity to partake in the festival activities.

Take some time for lunch in chaperoned groups, then

continue on to Killarney and check in to your hotel.

Dinner will be served to your group this evening.

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2016

KERRY

FRIENDSHIP CONCERT*

Enjoy breakfast, then visit a County Kerry area music school where your choir will be invited to **perform a friendship concert*** with the Irish students. Enjoy singing for each other and getting to know one another through your shared love of music!

Following the exchange, board your coach and embark on an excursion along the famous **Ring of Kerry**. This route covers the 179 km circular road starting in Killarney heading around the Iveragh Peninsula and passing through Kenmare, Sneem, Waterville, Cahersiveen and Killarlin. Along the route, you will see **Molls' Gap**, with spectacular views of the Macgillicuddy's Reeks mountains, and the famous **Ladies View**, a scenic point with a unique perspective of the three lakes of Killarney all surrounded by the Kerry Mountains. Ladies View received its name due to the admiration Queen Victoria's ladies-in-waiting gave for the view when they visited the area in 1861.



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MAY 6 - 12, 2016

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2016

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Following breakfast in the hotel, check out and load your luggage onto the motor coach. Depart for **Limerick**.



Upon arrival in Limerick, transfer to a local school where your choir will be invited to **perform a Friendship Concert** with the Irish students. Enjoy performing for each other and exchanging over your shared love of music! There will be time to meet and mingle with your hosts following the concert.

In the late afternoon, visit **Bunratty Castle and Folk Park**. Bunratty Castle is one of the most complete and authentically restored medieval castles in Ireland. Built in 1425 and plundered on many occasions, it was restored in 1954 to its former medieval splendour with furnishings and tapestries capturing the mood and style of the times. Within the grounds is Bunratty Folk Park,

which demonstrates everyday life in rural Ireland of the 19th century. It contains reconstructed farmhouses, cottages and shops, and great care has been taken to make its buildings as authentic as possible. It is a living museum; animals are tended, bread is baked, butter is churned, walls are whitewashed and roofs are thatched.

Tonight enjoy dinner at the **Bunratty Medieval Banquet**. This festive occasion includes a delicious meal and entertainment, including a selection of Irish medieval and traditional songs and instrumental music by eleven entertainers. There will be ample opportunity to recount the highlights of your tour!

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2016

SHANNON – BOSTON

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MUSIC CONTACT INTERNATIONAL

**HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL "VOX"
CONCERT TOUR OF IRELAND
MAY 6 - 12, 2016**

TOUR DETAILS

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES:

✿ FLIGHTS

Roundtrip airfare on direct, regularly scheduled flights from Boston to Shannon and from Shannon to Boston

✿ ACCOMMODATIONS

5 nights in good hotels (3-star), double occupancy, including all hotel service charges and taxes:
2 nights Galway
2 nights Killarney
1 night Limerick

✿ TRANSPORTATION

Transportation as described in the itinerary in a modern climate controlled motor coach with a professional driver

✿ MEALS

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MAY 6 - 12, 2016**

☞ COMPLIMENTARY PLACES

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☞ ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

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☞ INSURANCE

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- Drinks with meals (except breakfast)
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- Entrance fees and bus services not indicated in the above itinerary
- Instrument rental and transportation
- Tips for tour managers, local guides, and bus drivers
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*Travel Insurance can be purchased per individual requests through your custom Traveler's Resource Website.

OPTIONAL PRICES:

\$245.00 per person supplement for a single room

NOTES ON PRICING

LAND PACKAGE:

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