

*A Once-in-a-Lifetime International Music Experience*

# TRAVEL TO EUROPE WITH



## 2 Weeks of Performances and Sightseeing

Pre-Tour Rehearsal Camp June 12 - 14, 2026 ♫ European Performance Tour June 18 - July 3, 2026

UNITED KINGDOM ♫ FRANCE ♫ SWITZERLAND ♫ GERMANY ♫ AUSTRIA  
BAND ♫ CHOIR



## TRIP HIGHLIGHTS:

Visit European Countries  
Iconic Performance Sites  
Unforgettable Experiences  
Matchless Opportunities  
and More

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PRESENTED BY:

# Tour HIGHLIGHTS



Here is your chance for the experience of a lifetime as a member of **Michigan Musicians Abroad**.

1. Experienced leaders who have traveled and performed in Europe on many occasions.
2. A traveling staff of outstanding Music Advisors and chaperones drawn from music educators across the area.
3. A tour backed by the expertise of the professionals at Music Travel Consultants, based in Indianapolis.
4. Carefully arranged concert sites for the countries we visit.
5. Comfortable accommodations with excellent hotels in each country.
6. An itinerary that features a careful selection of large cities with their iconic landmarks, picturesque mountains and landscapes and smaller towns with their charm.
7. A tour that brings music, history and culture together for all participants.
8. An opportunity to meet other talented musicians at our rehearsal camp preceding the tour. Often the bonds made at our camp last many years.
9. An opportunity to share our music with European audiences. Their warm embrace won't be forgotten.
10. A chance to broaden one's horizons, to be a richer person, to appreciate the similarities and differences among cultures and to return to the United States as a more thoughtful, appreciative citizen. You will come to understand that we are much more alike than we are different.

## QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

### WHAT DOES THE LAND PACKAGE COST INCLUDE?

All concert arrangements, tourist class hotels with bath or shower, two meals per day, all sightseeing per itinerary, necessary entrance fees per itinerary, tips, motor coach transportation throughout the tour, driver expenses, music advisors and administration.

### CAN I GUARANTEE THE PRICE?

Yes. All payment plans require an initial deposit of \$500 on or before June 15. Airfare will be added to the land package cost approximately eight months prior to departure. Additional payment information will be discussed at the enrollment meetings.

### WHERE WILL THE REHEARSAL CAMP BE HELD?

Grand Valley State University

### CAN ADULTS ENROLL?

Yes. We encourage adult travelers to join our exciting tour.

### CAN CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 15 TRAVEL?

Yes. We make provisions for travelers under 15 with special permission or when traveling with an adult parent or guardian.

### WHY A CONCERT TOUR?

The music directors are firmly committed to providing an opportunity for student musicians to experience the joy of international travel combined with music-making. In our many years of travel abroad, we have witnessed how participants can be transformed through these experiences.

# Spring 2025 Meeting SCHEDULE

In general, you should plan to attend the meeting nearest your home. If you can't make that meeting, you may attend any other meeting that fits your schedule. We encourage students and parents to take advantage of the earliest meeting dates possible. Meetings will last approximately one hour. During the meeting, you will receive all the details regarding the tour from the music directors, local staff and representatives from Musicians Abroad.

## **Saturday, May 3, 2025** ✅ 4:00 PM

Grandville HS - Band Room  
4700 Canal SW. Grandville, MI. 49418  
Off of Canal St, pull into the 2nd parking lot, which is the Auditorium parking lot. Enter through Door L.  
HOSTS: Ross Huber (989-254-7000), Lauren Davidson (269-689-7544)

## **Sunday, May 4, 2025** ✅ 3:00 PM

Lowell MS - Auditorium  
750 Foreman St. SE. Lowell, MI 49331  
Park in front of the building and enter through the main doors.  
HOST: Kate Bredwell (616-889-3329)

## **Tuesday, May 6, 2025** ✅ 7:00 PM

Goodrich HS - Auditorium  
8029 Gale Rd. Goodrich, MI 48438  
Go to the main parking lot and enter through the auditorium door.  
HOST: Aaron Orkisz (810-423-4321)

## **Monday, May 12, 2025** ✅ 7:00 PM

Kelloggsville HS - Band Room  
4787 Division SE. Wyoming, MI 49548  
Park in front of the building and enter through the doors to the left of the main entrance.  
HOST: Amanda VanderMeulen (616-293-6568)

## **Tuesday, May 13, 2025** ✅ 7:00 PM

Plainwell HS - Choir Room  
684 Starr Rd. Plainwell, MI. 49080  
Park in lot to the left of the Performing Arts Center, in front of the track/football field. Use the athletic entrance with the long blue awning covered walk-way.  
HOST: Rachel Quillian (269-455-8033)

## **Thursday, May 15, 2025** ✅ 7:00 PM

South Lyon HS - Choir Room  
1000 North Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178  
Park in the visitor/staff lot located off 11 Mile Rd and enter through the auditorium entrance doors underneath the big clock.  
HOST: Andrew Hathikhanavalala (734-635-8949)

## **Friday, May 16, 2025** ✅ 7:00 PM

Fennville HS - Band Room  
4 Memorial Dr. Fennville, MI 49450  
Park in the athletic parking lot and enter through door #25.  
HOST: Paul Andrews (586-419-0501)

## **Sunday, May 18, 2025** ✅ 3:00 PM

Harbor Springs HS - Band Room  
800 State Rd. Harbor Springs, MI 49740  
Please park in the main lot off of Spring Street.  
HOST: Patrick Ruddy (810-287-1072)

## **Monday, May 19, 2025** ✅ 7:00 PM

Traverse City West HS - Band Room F120  
5376 North Long Lake Rd. Traverse City, MI. 49685  
Please enter through the main entrance on either side of the school. Find the Performing Arts Wing, which is in the NW corner of the commons area.  
HOSTS: Chad Mielens (989-450-0759), Andrew Schafer (248-877-8043)

## **Tuesday, May 20, 2025** ✅ 6:00 PM

West Shore Community College - Band Room  
3000 North Stiles Rd. Scottville MI. 49454  
Enter the building and follow the signs to the band room.  
HOST: Curt Isakson (231-282-0389)

## **Wednesday, May 21, 2025** ✅ 7:00 PM

Buchanan HS - Auditorium  
401 W. Chicago St. Buchanan, MI 49107  
Park in the back lot. Enter Door #3  
HOST: Katie Persak (616-644-7910)

## **Tuesday, May 27, 2025** ✅ 7:00 PM

Shelby HS - Band Room  
641 North State St. Shelby, MI 49455  
Enter at the Athletic entrance to the HS.  
HOST: Curt Isakson (231-282-0389)

## **Thursday, May 29, 2025** ✅ 7:00 PM

Holt HS - Band Room  
5885 Holt Rd. Holt, MI 48842  
Drive around the HS building and park across from the football stadium. Enter through door #17.  
HOST: Mike Emerson (517-242-5545)

## **Friday, May 30, 2025** ✅ 7:00 PM

Holland HS - Band Room - K1854  
600 Van Raalte Ave. Holland, MI 49423  
Park in student parking lot right off of Van Raalte Ave, across the street from the front of HHS near the tennis courts.  
HOST: Bethany VanOss (616-990-6647)

## **Saturday, May 31, 2025** ✅ 3:00 PM

Charlotte Performing Arts Center  
378 State St. Charlotte MI 48813  
Enter through doors 37 or 39. The Choir room is the first door on the left past the restrooms.  
HOST: Zach Everly (734-652-5918)

## **Sunday, June 1, 2025** ✅ 2:00 PM

Grand Valley State University  
- Band Room 1515  
Haas Center for Performing Arts (PAC)  
- 1 Campus Drive, Allendale, MI 49401  
Park in parking lots H or K. A map of the Allendale campus can be found at [www.gvsu.edu](http://www.gvsu.edu).  
HOST: Barry Martin (616-331-2579)

The meeting schedule is subject to change.

Please visit the website for a complete and updated list of meeting dates, times and locations.

Please direct all questions to [michigan@musiciansabroad.com](mailto:michigan@musiciansabroad.com) or 800.616.1112

# International Performance Tour **ITINERARY**



## **Friday, June 12, 2026 • Check In, Meet and Greet – Grand Valley State University**

Get checked in to the dorms, meet your roommate and move into your room. The evening will include rehearsal and recreation time with your newfound friends.

## **Saturday, June 13, 2026 • Rehearsal Day**

After breakfast, you'll spend a full day in sectionals and rehearsals working on the performance literature.

## **Sunday, June 14, 2026 • Rehearsal, Bon Voyage Concert**

Your final rehearsals occur throughout the day and culminate with a concert for your family, friends and supporters. Head home for a few days of rest and repack before your trip to Europe.

## **Thursday, June 18, 2026 • Travel Day**

It's up early as we depart from an international airport for your flight to Europe!

## **Friday, June 19, 2026 • Arrive in London, Windsor Castle**

Welcome to London! Pass through customs and grab your luggage. We will transfer and tour Windsor Castle, check in to your hotel and enjoy a nice dinner. Get some much-needed sleep!

## **Saturday, June 20, 2026 • London Sights, Concert**

Enjoy the sights and sounds and learn about the city on a guided panoramic tour. You'll have some time to lunch in Borough Market, a wholesale and retail market hall in Southwark. It is one of the largest and oldest food markets in London, dating back to at least the 12th century. The Concert Choir will perform.



## **Sunday June 21, 2026 • London Sights, Concert**

After an early morning breakfast, off we go to experience the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace. Changing of The King's Guard takes place in front of Buckingham Palace. Next, you'll visit the Tower of London, officially His Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress. The Tower of London is an historic castle on the north bank of the River Thames. The Concert Band will have a performance then you'll have a leisurely evening to enjoy the city. You might want to see a Broadway show in the West End.

## **Monday, June 22, 2026 • Ferry Ride, Paris**

You'll be up early to check out of the hotel as we make our way to France. Board the ferry in Dover and arrive in Calais. On to Paris and hotel check in and dinner.



## **Tuesday, June 23, 2026 • Paris Sights, Concerts**

Paris is the city of love and offers many sights including Notre-Dame Cathedral, Arc de Triomphe and The Louvre Museum. Shopping and the excitement of the city abound. The Concert Choir will perform followed by a dinner cruise on the Seine River.

## **Wednesday June 24, 2026 • Palace of Versailles, Concert, Montmartre**

After breakfast, you'll board the coaches to travel to Versailles Palace, the summer palace of Louis XIV. Admire the state apartments, Chapel and the Hall of Mirrors. There are numerous historical buildings in Versailles, including the one in which, on September 3, 1783, the Government of British King George III, by signing the Treaty of Versailles, recognized the independence of the 13 United States. Following the Concert Band performance, we're off to Montmartre. The charming hilltop Montmartre district, also known as La Butte, is a former artists' village once inhabited by Picasso and Dalí, and home to the domed Sacré-Cœur

# International Performance Tour **ITINERARY**



basilica. Scale the many steps up to Montmartre for an amazing view of the city and wonderful dinner.

## **Thursday, June 25, 2026 • Travel to Switzerland, Swiss Folklore Dinner**

Time to load up the suitcase and board the coaches. You'll be mesmerized by the beauty of the terrain as we travel to Switzerland. Tonight we will have dinner in Lucerne then leave for Andermatt.

## **Friday, June 26, 2026 • Mount Pilatus, Travel to Germany**

Grab a good breakfast and check out of the hotel. You'll see breathtaking views from Mount Pilatus, a mountain massif overlooking Lucerne in Central Switzerland. It is composed of several peaks, of which the highest is named Tomlishorn. Enjoy a leisure afternoon in Lucerne.

## **Saturday, June 27, 2026 • Andermatt, Ensemble Concert**

Today will include some sightseeing and shopping in Andermatt followed by a full ensemble concert.

## **Sunday, June 28, 2026 • Neuschwanstein Castle, Oberammergau, Germany**

Enjoy a great traditional breakfast and load your suitcase once again as we begin our travel to Germany. On our way, you'll visit Neuschwanstein Castle, a 19th-century historicist palace on a rugged hill of the foothills of the Alps in the very south of Germany, near the border with Austria.



## **Monday, June 29, 2026 • Dachau, Munich, Oberammergau, Concert**

Just outside Munich, you'll experience Dachau Concentration Camp. Dachau was one of the first

concentration camps built by Nazi Germany and the longest running one, opening in March of 1933. The camp was initially intended to intern Hitler's political opponents, which consisted of communists, social democrats and other dissidents. You'll have free time for shopping and lunch in Munich before we travel back to Oberammergau for dinner and full ensemble concert.



## **Tuesday, June 30, 2026 • Salzburg, Vienna Austria**

We are up early as we depart for Salzburg where you will have time to explore the old town and grab lunch before we travel to Vienna Austria later in the day.

## **Wednesday, July 1, 2026 • Walking Tour of Vienna, Central Cemetery**

After breakfast, your day of sightseeing begins with a drive along Ring Boulevard, Hofburg Palace and the State Opera. Learn why Bruckner, Brahms, Beethoven and Strauss called this Austrian capital home. Visit St. Stephen's Cathedral and see the midday parade of historical figures at the musical Anker Clock and Central Cemetery.

## **Thursday, July 2, 2026 • Vienna, Concert, Farewell Dinner**

Start the day with a hearty breakfast as we begin our final full day overseas. We'll have our final full ensemble performance today followed by a special Farewell Dinner.

## **Friday, July 3, 2026 • Flights Home**

It's the last morning of a magnificent tour filled with experiences that will stay with you forever. We're off to Vienna International Airport for departure. Today you will gain back the six hours you lost on your flight to London many days ago! We return to the U.S. excited, enthused and exhausted yet enriched.

# Meet Your MUSIC DIRECTORS



## Barry Martin

Barry D. Martin is Professor of Music and Director of University Bands at Grand Valley State University. His responsibilities at GVSU have included conducting the Symphonic Wind Ensemble/Chamber Winds, conducting the Concert Band and the GVSU Laker Marching Band.

He has taught graduate and undergraduate conducting/repertoire and observed student teachers in the Department of Music. In addition, he oversees all aspects of the band program, which grew from three ensembles totaling 110 students upon his arrival in 1994, to a program of over 475 students performing in seven ensembles in 2016. Since 2004 he has served as the Artistic Director/Conductor of the Grand Rapids Symphonic Band, an adult organization which includes music educators and professional musicians from throughout the State of Michigan.



Professor Martin received his B.M. degree in Music Education from the University of Akron and his Master's degree in Music Education from the University of Illinois. In 2016, Professor Martin was selected as the Music Director for the Michigan Ambassadors of Music. This ensemble of 320 high school students took a 16-day tour of Europe in July 2019 and performed in six different countries. In 2022 he became the Music Director of Michigan Musicians Abroad.

In 2013, Martin was selected as the recipient of the University of Akron School of Music Distinguished Alumni Award for his outstanding service to music education. In 2010, he was honored by being selected for membership in the prestigious American Bandmasters Association (ABA). Martin is a member of the National Band Association (NBA) and CBDNA. He also holds honorary memberships in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association, Kappa Kappa Psi Band Fraternity, Tau Beta Sigma Band Fraternity and Mu Phi Epsilon. Prior to joining the music faculty at GVSU, he served as Assistant Director of Bands and Director of the Marching Band at the University of Akron.

Barry is in constant demand throughout the country as an adjudicator, clinician and conductor. His presentations include: The Ohio Music Educators Conference, several clinics and concerts at the Michigan Music Education In-Service Conference, the North Central MENC Convention, the Michigan Music Conference (MMC) and most recently a presentation entitled Developing the Small College Band Program at the 3rd annual National Collegiate Marching & Athletic Band Symposium. He has also served as an adjudicator on several university campuses and has conducted numerous honor bands throughout the Midwest.



## Pamela Pierson

Pamela Pierson has been involved in the process of producing articulate, engaged and empathetic young people, who just happen to want to sing, for 47 years, first at Coloma Community Schools and then at West Ottawa HS in Holland. Now retired from public school teaching, she is currently the director of the adult women's choir Las Almas, a volunteer at Fennville HS and a professor of music at Hope College. Her goal with every choir is to build a family who takes ownership of their prospects, to both understand the meaning of their music and create outstanding performances.

Pam has been involved in every aspect of high school performances: choral, solo and ensemble and chamber festivals, musical theater, multi-generational choirs and honors choirs. An active adjudicator and clinician all over the state, she has conducted State Honors Choir, led sessions

at the Michigan Music Conference (MMC) and the Michigan School Vocal Music Association (MSVMA) Summer Workshop and MSVMA Teacher of the Year. Choirs under her direction have performed many times at MMC, American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) conferences and toured extensively, including Chicago, Cleveland, Nashville, New York City, Milwaukee, Great Britain, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, France and Italy. Pam's choirs have worked one on one with some of America's leading composers, conductors and performers. She has held virtually every position in the hierarchy of MSVMA and has, at last count, 11,060 choral songs on her venerable iPod.

# Meet Your STAFF

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**Aaron Orkisz**

**Adam Bacik**

**Amanda VanderMeulen**

**Amber Emerson**

**Amy DeBoer**

**Andrew Holtz**

**Andrew Schafer**

**Bethany VanOss**

**Brad Davis**

**Brandon Deike**

**Brandon Jerashen**

**Bryan Bredwell**

**Bryce Thompson**

**Caleb Schultz**

**Cindy Hunter**

**Curt Isakson**

**Jenna Thompson**

**Jennifer Orkisz**

**Joel Moore**

**Jon Carrothers**

**Kate Bredwell**

**Kathy Moore**

**Katie Persak**

**Lauren Davidson**

**Matthew Palmieri**

**Michael Emerson**

**Nathan Thomas**

**Patrick Ruddy**

**Paul Andrews**

**Rachel Quillian**

**Ross Huber**

**Tanya Ruddy**

**Zach Everly**

# This **MICHIGAN MUSICIANS ABROAD** Tour Includes:



United Kingdom ♦ London

Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, Houses of Parliament, Tower of London, Crown Jewels



France ♦ Paris

Sacré-Cœur Basilica, Montmartre



Austria ♦ Vienna, Salzburg

Ring Boulevard, Hofburg Palace, State Opera, Anker Clock, Melk Abbey, Salzburg Walking Tour, Mozart's Birth Home, Schonbrunn Palace

Switzerland ♦ Andermatt, Alpnachstad, Lucerne, Zurich Mount Pilatus, Dragon Ride Gondolas, Altstadt Old Town, Lion Monument, Kapellbrücke Bridge

Germany ♦ Munich, Oberammergau

Dachau Concentration Camp, Neuschwanstein Castle, Ammergauerhaus



State Coordinator and Band Director: Barry Martin ♪ Choir Director: Pamela Pierson

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