

**CONCORD WOMEN'S CHORUS 50th ANNIVERSARY
PROPOSAL FOR TRIP TO ENGLAND: JUNE 17 – 27, 2010**

“LONDON AND THE WEST”

Thursday, June 17: Early morning departure from Boston on flight to London. Evening arrival at Heathrow airport and coach transfer to Strand Palace Hotel. Because of the five hour time difference, you will be wide awake and ready to have some fun before bedtime! Our hotel is only a block from Covent Garden, where there will be lots of cafes and restaurants open.

Friday, June 18: Sightseeing will be available for those who wish to participate. In the late afternoon, we will have an opening reception, followed by DINNER at the hotel.

Saturday, June 19: Rehearsal and lunchtime concert at St. Paul's, Covent Garden. This is the church on whose steps Eliza Doolittle was selling her flowers, when Henry Higgins discovered her. Let's hope an audience discovers us there. The afternoon will be free for more sightseeing or theater visits.

Sunday, June 20: Day trip to the picturesque villages of Lavenham and Long Melford in Suffolk. We will sing an evening benefit concert for the National Trust at Melford Hall – Queen Elizabeth I really did sleep here.

Monday, June 21: A free day. If there is interest in the theater, we can arrange tickets in advance. Our hotel is near the theater district, and the Globe and National Theaters are not far away.

Tuesday, June 22: Midsummer's Day! June in England..... think roses, strawberries, skylarks! We will drive through the beautiful Cotswold countryside, visiting some fascinating small towns and villages, with a stop for lunch at one of England's oldest pubs. We continue to Shrewsbury, near the Welsh borders, where we will be the guests of the Halfway House Ladies Choir. (Incidentally, Halfway House is the name of the village, not a home for people on probation.....) In the evening we will join them in a concert, and they may sing a few of our pieces with us.

Wednesday, June 23: We spend the day in and around Shrewsbury. We are booked to sing a lunchtime concert in Shrewsbury Abbey, a place of worship for nearly 1000 years. There are many sights, including a castle, and beautiful walks in the surrounding countryside.

Thursday, June 24: We set off early, for a morning in Ludlow, “the Windsor of the West”; described by the poet John Betjeman as the most perfect town in England. We will stroll through the town and visit the castle, originally a royal residence. Ludlow was founded by the Normans to defend the nearby English/Welsh borders. The town's architecture contains examples of every style from the last 900 years. After lunch, we will

travel along the Wye Valley, with stops at Hereford Cathedral and the romantic ruins of Tintern Abbey. In late afternoon, we arrive at the Limpley Stoke Hotel, a converted Georgian country house, five miles from the center of Bath. DINNER at the hotel. Limpley Stoke is a lovely small village on the Avon and Kennet Canal. One of its pubs, The Hop Pole, was featured in the movie “The Remains of the Day”, starring Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson.

Friday, June 25: Brush up on your Jane Austen before this day in Bath. We’ll visit the Pump Room, a familiar setting for Austenian encounters; as well as the Roman baths, the Royal Crescent and so many other marvels.

Saturday, June 26: No definite plans for this morning at present. We might have an expedition to nearby Glastonbury or Wells. In the afternoon, we will sing an afternoon CONCERT at a new music festival at the American Museum. In the evening, we will have a farewell DINNER in the hotel.

Sunday, June 27: Coach transfer to Heathrow, for our afternoon flight home. We can make a brief stop on the way, to look at the Neolithic stone circle at Avebury. Those who choose to extend their trip can ride with us, and perhaps pick up rental cars at Heathrow. Early evening arrival in Boston.

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Accommodation in 3-star hotels, such as the Strand Palace in London, in double/twin rooms with private facilities – a single supplement is available upon request
- Full English breakfast daily
- Evening meals on 5 nights
- All admission costs and entrances for sightseeing
- Transportation by private coach throughout (Please note that any group members not arriving or departing with the group will need to make their own arrangements for airport transfers)
- Arrangements of concerts and venues
- Tour Director who will accompany the group throughout the tour.
- Two free places
- All taxes

NOT INCLUDED IN PRESENT QUOTE

- Round trip flights from Boston to London
- Lunches
- Beverages with meals
- Other evening meals
- Optional gratuities/tips

- Travel insurance. We recommend that, as well as coverage for loss of/theft/damage to belongings and health insurance, group members arrange insurance against unavoidable cancellation.

COST ESTIMATE

Jane needs 35 singers to make the trip feasible. We need 40 paying travelers to secure the 2 free places for Jane and Scott. The total number of travelers will be capped at 50, and places will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Singers should sign on by October 15st. After that, available places will be opened to singers' family members or friends, on a first come basis (one per singer). Deposits are not returnable, but are transferable to a substitute. There may be some slight revision of the cost downward, if the present dollar to pound sterling exchange rate continues to hold.

Land Portion:

with 40 paying travelers: \$2250
 with 45 paying travelers: \$2200
 with 50 paying travelers: \$2150
 Single supplement is an extra \$475

Air Fare

We estimate at this time that airfare will be approximately \$1000. We have secured 40 places on British Airways at that price, which will be held without deposit until November 20th. In the meantime, we are working with a local travel agent to find better options. Many singers have asked if they can use frequent flyer miles or book their own tickets, and the answer is yes. If you choose not to travel with the group, you will be responsible for your own transportation to the Strand Palace Hotel in London.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Deposit of \$350 due by	October 15, 2009
Second payment of half of the remainder due	January 15 th , 2010
Final payment	March 15 th , 2010