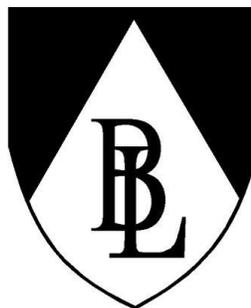


CHOIR NOTES

December 20, 2016



Choir Notes is the newsletter for the Bishop Lynch Choirs. It comes via email, and the information is also posted on the Choir Website: <http://www.bishoplynch.org//page.aspx?pid=286>. If you still can't get enough, find us on Facebook ("Bishop Lynch Choir") and ask to join the group!

This Week's Headlines



Director's Notes – Week of December 18th
Support the Choir: Buy Groceries and Gifts!
Dates for Your Calendar

Director's Notes – Week of December 18th

The 2016 Christmas Concert, "Canti di Natale" was a great success!

Congratulations to all the choir students for a terrific concert! You all performed beautifully, and you certainly brought us an audience that seemed to love every minute of the carols, songs, and hymns that were sung!



ANDIAMO À ROMA! - It's time to go to Rome! Here are a few last-minute announcements:



❖ All travelers should have received their Peter's Way Tour packets no later than Wednesday of this week, as they were mailed out last Thursday from New York. Those packets contain itinerary information for both "Performers" and "Non-performers", as well as color coded luggage tags that should be put on your luggage before you leave.

- ❖ **AIR TRAVEL:** please remember to check on your airline's website before leaving, to ensure that you know the correct terminal to go to at DFW. Since none of the flights are direct international flights, the terminals may change from one day to the next, so keep up-to-date on where to go!





STUDENTS MUST ARRIVE 3 HOURS BEFORE DEPARTURE TIME FOR CHECK-IN. This ensures enough time to get them checked in through the Group Check In Desk, deal with any luggage or boarding issues, and get them through security to their gates. **PARENTS-** be aware that Group Travel operates differently than traveling for business or with family, so please exercise patience as we work to get all students checked in and on their way!

- ❖ **ITINERARIES:** Students have been given copies of their Performer Itinerary. There is also a copy attached to this email. Please note that those families traveling to Rome have a slightly different itinerary to be followed, but there are many times when the schedules coincide; definitely at all of the performance opportunities.
 - Our policy is the “Rule of Four” when in Rome- we are asking that ALL students travel in groups of NO FEWER than 4 students, when they have time to eat lunch, look around sightseeing areas, or shop for souvenirs. **This is for safety reasons, and students who do not follow this policy will be limited in their ability to perform with the choir, and will be limited to spending any small group time with their faculty chaperones.**
 - **STUDENTS WHO MISS A “CALL TIME” OR “CHECK-IN TIME” will forfeit the opportunity to perform in the next event, and will be asked to sit with chaperones for that event. Repeated lateness to Call Times will require a meeting with Mrs. Leos to discuss how best to proceed. Please be mindful of the fact that there are 76 singers and 16 chaperones that must meet timelines, and that YOUR missing a check-in time means that some group’s schedule will be impacted, which in turn, impacts all of us.**



REMINDERS:

- ❖ **Money-** students have been reminded to exchange US dollars for Euros BEFORE leaving for Rome. The attached handout, “Guidelines for a Great Trip” contains updated information about the suggested amounts to exchange. Remember, these are just suggestions-some students can get by with much less, others require a bit more- depends on how much they intend to spend on souvenirs and meals!
 - ❖ **BRING:** your camera and your phone! Take lots of pictures!
 - **Your chargers for those items!**
 - **An adapter-** to make sure you can plug in your American plugs into Italian outlets (which have round holes).
 - **Converter and/or transformer?** You probably don’t need either, but I’m including this information so you can make your own decision, based on what is packed!

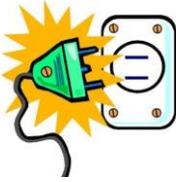


Below is an excerpt from an online article published by REI, regarding the need and use of converters and transformers:

Electricity Converters and Transformers

If you’re traveling with certain devices, such as older hair dryers and irons, you may also need a voltage converter or transformer.

ELECTRICITY



The world runs on two types of electricity: 110/125V or 220/240V. North American devices run on 110/125V electricity while the majority of the world runs on 220/240V. Converters and transformers change the voltage of electricity to match the voltage of your device.

How to Determine if You Need a Transformer or Converter

The label on your device will help determine if a voltage converter or transformer is necessary. This label may be: a) affixed directly to the back of the device; b) on the AC transformer box of the power supply lead; or c) molded into the plastic on the plug. It is often in very small print.

The INPUT line contains the key information—whether the voltage (V) is single, dual or multi.

- **Single-voltage** items have a small voltage range (such as 100–120V). These small ranges are designed to accommodate voltage fluctuations only and will not accommodate a 220V power supply. Single-voltage devices include older appliances, such as hair dryers and irons.
- **Dual-voltage** devices use a slash to separate the 2 voltages. Example: 120V/240V. Common dual-voltage devices include newer hair dryers, electric shavers and toothbrushes, irons, coffee makers and tea kettles. These do not require a transformer or converter.
- **Multi-voltage** items use a dash to indicate the range of voltages. Example: 100–240V. Common multi-voltage devices include laptops, e-readers, tablets, smartphones, cell phones, MP3 players, cameras and battery chargers. These do not require a transformer or converter.
- **Converter or Transformer?**
 - Single-voltage **electrical** devices (ones that use heating elements or mechanical motors) can use a converter or a transformer.
 - Single-voltage **electronic** devices (ones that use chips, circuits or electronic motors) require a transformer.
 - Good news: Many converters operate as both a converter for high-watt electrical devices **and** a transformer for low-watt electronic devices.

Watts (W) is the amount of power a device uses. Low watts range up to 25W or 50W, depending on the converter. This would be typical of small personal electronics. Electrical heating units will require a “high” setting as they may consume 1000W to 2000W.

- Make sure to check the product specifications on your devices and make certain that your converter is rated for the specified power.
- If you plan on traveling with a *single-voltage device* (electric or electronic), you need to know the power supply at your destination to ensure your device will power up safely. For example, your 110V electric toothbrush will not work with, say, Italy's 230V power unless you have an adapter plug AND a converter.
- Our hotel has a hair dryer in each room, so students don't need to bring those with them, and their electronic devices like iPhones just require a plug adapter for the charging cord.

Non-Performer/Family and Friends Information:

Please note the hotel is the Hotel Cardinal in Rome.

- **Address: Via Leone Dehon 71/ 00165 Rome**

LAND ONLY STUDENT TRAVELERS

For those students who are traveling independently of our group, and meeting us in Rome on Saturday, Dec 31, please note the following:

- We are asking you to meet us at the Hotel Pinewood between 7:00-7:30 pm on December 31. That is when the group will arrive to check in at the hotel. **Please do not check in without the group**, as we sometimes have to re-arrange rooms once we have the group together, in order to ensure that there are chaperones on all floors of the hotel.



If you want to sing at the Blessing of the Creche in St. Peter's Square that afternoon, you will need to:

- § Get to St. Peter's Square via your own transportation;
- § Look for the BL group somewhere near the Nativity Scene, sometime between 3:00-4:00. (We'll be the ones with the bright yellow ball caps!)

§ It is extremely difficult to maneuver luggage, etc. through the crowds at St. Peter's, so we strongly discourage you to bring your luggage with you. Either:

- Leave your student's luggage at your hotel, then meet us at the Pinewood Hotel after the Blessing; OR
- **Drop your student's luggage at the Pinewood Hotel earlier in the day, and ask them to hold it in storage until the group arrives between 7:00-7:30; OR**
- You may have to skip this performance opportunity if the logistics are too crazy, and just meet us at the Hotel in the evening.

PLEASE NOTE: Our buses will go straight from the airport to St. Peter's Square. We anticipate arriving between 1:00-2:00, depending on the flight arrivals being on time and getting everyone through Customs. Then the group travel students will have time to get lunch before we head to the Nativity Scene to be there when the Pope arrives. We are only singing a short (2 minutes) of music.

ALSO PLEASE NOTE: When we head to the hotel after the blessing, we will check in to rooms, and students will have dinner at the hotel that night. LAND ONLY Students should plan on being at the hotel no later than 7:30 in order to have dinner with us!

TV COVERAGE OF VATICAN EVENTS

All Papal Masses and Audiences are covered by EWTN/ Catholic TV in the United States. Here is the schedule for our time there:



Sunday, Jan 1- Feast of Mary, Mother of God

○ **PAPAL MASS**- begins @ 3:00 A.M. (Yes, I know- there's a 7 hour time difference!) Tune in a little earlier, and MAYBE they will show us! We will be sitting BEHIND the altar, behind the POPE! We will be wearing choir formal attire...

○ **PAPAL ANGELUS**- begins @ 5:00 A.M.- We will be in St Peter's Square for this...along with half a million others- BUT, we will have those BRIGHT YELLOW HATS that might make it easier to see our group, as they pan the square!

Wednesday, Jan 4- PAPAL AUDIENCE

Begins @ 2:50 A.M.- again, we will be standing in St Peter's Square (weather permitting), hoping to be close enough to one of the avenues that the Pope travels down in his Pope-mobile! And yes, we will

have those BRIGHT YELLOW HATS, so we can be seen by His Holiness! Depending on the time, we MAY be able to sing a SHORT (like 45 seconds) bit of music when they announce our choir!

Friday, Jan 6- Feast of the Epiphany

- o Same schedule as on January 1 for the Mass and the Angelus afterward.
- o We are slated to sing a prelude piece, "Joy to the World," before Mass begins. Here's hoping it will be televised! And again, we will be seated directly behind the altar of St. Peter, wearing our formal choir attire!

LOCAL NEWS AND MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE BL CHOIR IN ROME

We have been approached by Fox 4 news to provide daily updates about our trip, and we know the Texas Catholic wants pictures for an article to be published upon our return. We are reaching out to other media outlets, and will post daily, or as often as internet is available, on BL's social media platforms, which include:

- o School Twitter feed
- o School Instagram
- o School Facebook (I'm not positive about this one...)
- o Bishop Lynch Choir Facebook page
- o FriarChoir1 twitter feed

BL COMPUTER SERVERS WILL BE DOWN FOR MAINTENANCE, FROM WED., DEC. 21-FRI., DEC. 23

- ❖ Please be aware that emails sent during this time may not be received until after maintenance is completed, and so immediate responses may not happen.
- ❖ FOR THOSE QUESTIONS NEEDING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION DURING THIS TIME, please call or text Mrs. Leos' cell phone: 214-205-5871. (If you text, please identify who you are in your message J)

"...and to all, CIAO BELLA!"



See you in Rome!



Support the Choir: Buy Groceries! And Gifts!



The holidays are here, and you can make your Christmas purchases through Tom Thumb, Kroger's, and of course, Amazon!



Shop Tom Thumb and Kroger's for your Christmas dinner feasts. You can even purchase prepared turkeys and hams and all the yummy trimmings! In addition, you can purchase tech devices, books, house furnishings, and so much more through Amazon. Please give all three a try

by signing up for their Rewards Programs, and in doing so, you are helping to support the Bishop Lynch Choir.

Grocery Store Community Partners' Programs

The Bishop Lynch Choir Boosters Organization has established arrangements with Tom Thumb and Kroger wherein the choir benefits with a percentage of your purchases, once you have added the Choir to each store's community partners' program.



Tom Thumb: The BL Choir Good Neighbor Number for Tom Thumb is **2089**. Every Tom Thumb shopper can specify up to 3 different charities on their Good Neighbor Card.

Kroger: Kroger requires re-enrollment in the program every August.

- 1) You need to have a Kroger Plus card in order to register (they are available at the service desk of any Kroger.)
- 2) Register online at www.krogercommunityrewards.com :
 - a. To create a New Online Account:
 - o Create an account by scrolling down to "Texas" and clicking "Enroll Now."
 - o Enter the requested information to create your account.
 - o A link to the My Account will arrive via email. Once you click on the link, next click on: "My Account" ... then "Account Settings" ... then "Community Rewards-Edit"
 - b. If you already have an online account, Go to "My Account" ... then to "Account Settings" ...then to the "Community Rewards- Edit" feature.
- 3) Enter the BL Choir Number: **91225**, or type in Bishop Lynch Choir, and click to confirm. You will then see Bishop Lynch Choir listed as your choice on your "My Account" page.
- 4) If you use your phone number at the register instead of your Kroger Plus card, call 1-800-576-4377, and select option 4 in order to get your Plus card number, then follow steps 2 and 3 above to register BL Choir as your Community Partner.
- 5) Use your Plus card (or phone number) at checkout, so your purchase can count toward each quarterly total.

Complete information about each program is on our website:

<http://www.bishoplynch.org/page.aspx?pid=945>. The dollars earned will benefit all students by enhancing the choir program and reducing your student's out-of-pocket travel expenses.

Amazon Smile Program: BL Choir's Newest Community Partner

The Amazon Smile Program is a website, operated by Amazon, that allows you to shop as usual, but when you check out, the AmazonSmileFoundation will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to the BISHOP LYNCH CHOIR (listed under Bishop Lynch High School, Inc.)



- **To register:** Go to www.smile.amazon.com (**NOT** the usual Amazon website). The first time you visit the site, you will be prompted to select an organization to receive your donation:
SELECT BISHOP LYNCH HIGH SCHOOL, INC (make sure you select the "INC" option)
Eligible purchases are marked with the phrase "eligible for AmazonSmile donation" in the product detail or description area. Eligible purchases include items beyond books, so browse through Amazon, and help raise funds for the BL Choir.
- **How does the Choir receive the donations?** Amazon's Foundation will direct deposit a donation at the end of each quarter (actually 45 days after the end of the quarter.)

Dates for your Calendar



Here is the choir calendar for the 2016-17 School Year. This calendar will be included weekly in Choir Notes and new or edited items (from the prior week) will be highlighted in yellow. Be sure to take a look every week!

Dec. 30 - Jan. 7:	ROME TRIP! A Cappella Choir
Fri, Jan. 6 - Sat, Jan. 7:	All Region Choir Clinic (for students selected for All Region and All State Choirs) and Concert, Location - TBD
Thu-Sat, Jan. 26-28:	All State Choir Weekend (For students selected to All State Choir), Eisemann Center, Richardson
Tue, Feb. 7:	7 pm - Choir Booster Board Meeting – Hinton Board Room (All parents are welcome!)
Tue, Mar. 7:	7 pm - Choir Booster Board Meeting – Hinton Board Room (All parents are welcome!)
Thu, Mar. 31 or Fri, Apr. 1 (tentative):	Concert & Sight-reading Contest/Houston – ALL CHOIRS (tentative)
Tue, Apr. 4:	7 pm - Choir Booster Board Meeting – Hinton Board Room (All parents are welcome!)
April Date TBD:	Middle School Choir Festival – BLHS, All Choirs will assist
Wed, May 10:	4-8 pm - Dress Rehearsal for Spring Concert (MANDATORY), Theater
Sat, May 13:	7 pm - Spring Concert (This is the students' final exam!), Call times will be earlier TBD
Thu, May 18:	Junior Ring Ceremony, During the School Day, time TBD (JV Choir and sophomore girls sing for this event)
Sat, May 20:	7 pm, Baccalaureate Mass at St. Pius Church, (MANDATORY performance for A Cappella, call time will be earlier)

