

Rosman Middle and High School Band to London, England

Frequently Asked Questions

How was the Rosman Band selected for this performance?

-I received an email as a personal invitation by the conductor of this event, Dr. Gary P. Gilroy last November. He stated that he only invited quality band programs who were recommended by some of my “elite colleagues”. Typically, bands have to apply and then send in recordings for this type of performance opportunity. Being invited waives this process for Rosman, and is considered a high honor for us, as well as for the Transylvania County School District.

Who is Dr. Gary Gilroy and what are his credentials?

-Dr. Gary P. Gilroy is a Professor of Music and Director of Bands at California State University, Fresno. He is the director of one of the finest collegiate marching bands on the west coast, and has been awarded several national honors as well as the International Sudler Shield Award from the John Philip Sousa Foundation. He is also an ASCAP-award winning composer, and is in high demand as guest conductors for many honor bands throughout the United States.

When is this trip?

-We will depart from Atlanta, Georgia on June 17, 2012 and return to Atlanta on June 24, 2012.

How is this trip part of the curriculum?

-This trip is to perform in various venues in and around London, England as part of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. My band will prepare specifically assigned music for a Gala Concert as well as music for a Rosman-only performances.

How will I select RMHS students to participate?

-Any 7th through 12th grade student who is currently enrolled as a band student and who meets the criteria outlined for all performance activities* is immediately eligible to attend this trip. Additionally, as a reward to the highest-achieving students who were a direct result of this personal invitation, I have invited the 2011 seniors Lacey Fisher, Ben Higdon, and Kandyce Norton. Criteria for eligibility is:

- Student must be a year-long member of the RMHS Concert Band, not missing more than 2 unexcused after-school rehearsals and/or performances (in the case of the graduates, they must attend at least 4 rehearsals and be responsible for their payment in full).
- **Student must be a reliable, contributing member at all rehearsals and performances. Not coming prepared to class and/or rehearsals as well as not meeting expectations for participation outlined by Mrs. Smith can eliminate you from the trip and your money will not be refunded.**
- Student may not be permitted to attend the trip if school administration determines he/she is ineligible (this could include ISS, OSS, other).
- Student must pay deposits in full and rest of payment in full as these become due.
- A student may become ineligible if he/she is directly or indirectly responsible for a situation that causes a severe behavioral or safety concern for any participant in the trip.
- Once the deposits have been sent, no money will be refunded if student is unable to attend the trip, unless the student has purchased travel insurance through Kingsway International Concerts.
- Student and Parent must sign a form agreeing to all criteria for the trip, which will be notarized.

How much does it cost?

-We will be traveling with the group Kingsway International Concerts (KICconcerts), and the student package

price is \$3095.00. This does not include passports, excess baggage charges*, some meals on the trip. The package price does take into consideration foreign exchange rates and probable adjustments for inflation.

*baggage charges will be arranged upon approval, depending on size and weight of instruments that will be needed for performance.

-Factoring in these other items for purchase, **the total trip will be approximately \$3400.00 per student.**

How will this trip be paid?

-We will fundraise much of this money, but students will ultimately be responsible for their own accounts. Our ideas for fundraising are:

- All chaperones and “guests” will be responsible for their own fees for this trip.
- Students gather sponsors from individuals, businesses and/or non-profit organizations.
- Benefit concert with well-known musicians at Brevard Music Center
- Perform for community with specific intent to gather donations for this trip
- Numerous smaller-scale fundraising campaigns yet to be determined
- Grant application through Target designed for field trips

What deadlines are applicable?

The first payment deadline is March 5, 2011 of \$250.00 per person. Then, \$650 per person in May, June, September, and December. Final payment by February 5, 2012.

If the school board does not issue a waiver of Policy, will the band pursue the opportunity as a community group?

No

Why or why not?

As the organizer and leader of this trip, I think it is only appropriate to accept the invitation (and subsequent responsibilities of the trip) as the director of the Rosman Middle and High School Band Program. It is my opinion that our band would need the support of the school and the school board in order to generate support from our communities, as well as for raising funds.

If the school board does issue a waiver of Policy, and the band cannot raise enough money for the trip, what will happen to the deposits sent? According to KIconcerts, the first payment is fully refundable until the due date for the second payment. Additionally, 50% cancellation fee will be refunded from the date the second payment is due, and no refunds will be given within 90 days prior to departure.

For an additional \$155 per person, the band can purchase trip insurance, which, if received by January 15, 2011 adds the benefit that the band can “Cancel for Any Reason” as well as cover pre-existing illness issues that may occur for one or more passengers. Insurance paid after Jan. 15 does not include these two benefits.

If this trip is approved, I will purchase the trip insurance for each student traveling, and encourage all chaperones to do the same.

What will the band do with the money raised if the trip is canceled at any time during this process?

Depending on the amount we have raised, the band will purchase new instruments for the program and/or participate in the trip to Disney World, as was originally planned for February, 2012.