

VaAM GRAM

The Official Newsletter of the Virginia Ambassadors of Music



Music Celebrations

Flight, Hotel, Itinerary, & Concert information can be found at Music Celebrations Portal (where you paid for the trip)

- Go. to portal.musiccelebrations.com
- Login
- Select "My Trip Documents" tab
- Select "Current Itinerary" (drop down)
- Questions? Call 1-800-395-2036.

What is the 10 minute rule?

It has been said, "To be early is to be on time. To be on time is late. To be late is unacceptable."

Particularly when it comes to moving 200 people on four coach buses.

We follow the "10 minute rule." Which means that we are always ready to go TEN full minutes before the stated time. Boarding coaches in Europe, one person being 5 minutes late can cause the whole group to be more than 30 minutes late to our destination because we schedule our times to leave based on the optimal times to miss the traffic.

At camp we practice adhering to the time minute rule. So it's sure important to be (ten minutes early) on time.



Vienna

Vienna, the capital of Austria, is a city renowned for its rich cultural heritage, imperial history, and vibrant arts scene. Located on the banks of the Danube River, Vienna has been a major European center for centuries. It was once the heart of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and still reflects its grandeur through its stunning architecture, including the Hofburg Palace, Schönbrunn Palace, and the iconic St. Stephen's Cathedral.

The city is famously associated with classical music and has been home to legendary composers such as Mozart, Beethoven, and Strauss. Today, Vienna continues to celebrate its musical legacy with world-class concert halls like the Vienna State Opera and Musikverein. Beyond music, Vienna boasts a thriving museum culture, including the Kunsthistorisches Museum and the Belvedere, which houses Gustav Klimt's masterpiece *The Kiss*.

Vienna is also known for its high quality of life, consistently ranking among the most livable cities in the world. It combines historical charm with modern infrastructure, extensive green spaces, and efficient public transportation. The Viennese coffeehouse culture, recognized by UNESCO, offers a unique social experience where locals and visitors enjoy coffee, pastries like *Sachertorte*, and conversation in elegantly preserved cafes.

Education and intellectual life thrive in Vienna, home to the University of Vienna, one of the oldest in Europe. The city is also a hub for international diplomacy, hosting organizations such as the United Nations and OPEC.

Whether exploring its baroque streets, relaxing in the Prater park, or enjoying a night at the opera, Vienna offers a seamless blend of tradition and innovation. It stands as a testament to Austria's history while embracing the future, making it a captivating destination for travelers and a beloved home for residents.

VaAM Camp Rehearsals

Make sure to practice your music before camp. The more you practice the more fun you will have playing.

Make sure to keep up with where your music is. A new copy will cost \$25

July 2nd: Camp starts at 9:00 AM and ends at 5:00 PM.

As we begin camp, we are starting with the VaAM 10 minute rule: be ready to go 10 minutes before the stated time. Everyone needs to be at Champe, moving to seats, and ready to play at 8:50. This makes rehearsal so much easier.

Calendar Items

For everything that is VaAM go to: www.Virginiaambassadors.com
Look for the calendar tab.

July 2,3 VaAM Music Camp

July 4 Day Off

July 5,6 VaAM Music Camp

July 6 7:00 PM Bon Voyage Concert

July 7 - July 20 European Tour!

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Facebook:

Virginia Ambassadors of Music

Flying with VaAM

We are so excited that we are taking a direct flight to Paris and that once we get there we will immediately be doing some sightseeing! We will not make it to the hotel room until that evening. You will need a backpack for the flight to carry personal items in. In that back pack, it is super important that all students pack:

- Change of clothes
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush & toothpaste

You might want to bring:

- Eye cover for sleeping
- Headphones for noise cancelling, etc.
- Lip balm
- Chargers with adapters for Europe
- Sunglasses
- Lightweight water bottle (trust us not your Stanley)
- Hand sanitizer
- Other items needed in order to freshen up after the flight and to be ready for a day of activity in Paris (something like baby wipes for your face, etc.)

Most people choose to change clothes, etc. on the plane before we land.

Time to be at Dulles July 7th

For international travel it is imperative to get to the airport three hours in advance of our flights. We get organized before we go through security to make sure that everyone knows where to go and what to do. After security, the airlines start the boarding procedure a lot sooner than they do for domestic flights. So we want to make sure that we are ready to get on the plane to Europe.

Below are the times that we need to see everyone at Dulles:

Purple Bus students from Chantilly, Colgan, Osbourne Park and Westfield

July 7 Arrive at Dulles at 2:30 PM for the 5:30 PM Flight

Blue Bus students from Blacksburg, Giles, Langley, Marshall, Thomas Jefferson, and Yorktown

July 7 Arrive at Dulles at 3:30 PM 6:30 for the PM Flight

Green Bus students from Goochland, Independence, John Champe, Landstown, Lake Braddock, Lightridge, Loudoun Valley, and South County

July 7 Arrive at Dulles at 6:20 PM for the 9:20 PM Flight

Red Bus students from Bishop Ireton, Herndon, James Madison, West Potomac, West Springfield, and Woodson

July 7 Arrive at Dulles at 7:45 PM for the 10:45 PM Flight



Wendy Sue's Suggested Packing Check List

Travel Documents (Must Bring)

- ☐ PASSPORT (on your person AT ALL TIMES)
- ☐ "document safe" for passport worn under your shirt or around the waist
- ☐ your copy of the itinerary from MCI

Musical Equipment (Must Bring)

- ☐ instrument, mouthpiece/reeds
- ☐ music
- ☐ VaAM luggage tags on suitcase and instrument (you get these at camp July 2nd).
- ☐ Access to \$100 in the event that you have to check your instrument (only tenors, baris, horns, trombone, baritone)

Access to Money (minimum amounts)

- ☐ EUR 350 of Euros
- ☐ CHF 45 of Swiss Francs
- ☐ CZK 1200 of Czech Kronas
- ☐ \$30 for use at the US Airports
- ☐ debit card and/or credit card

Clothing (Tip: Roll clothes, outfits, and pack in Ziplocs)

- ☐ 2 uniform pants
- ☐ 2 uniform shirts (VaAM polos)
- ☐ 2 VaAM t-shirts
- ☐ brown, closed toe shoes for uniform (can be same as walking shoes -break them in now)
- ☐ wind breaker, sweatshirt, or sweater for mountains
- ☐ 4 or more polos or t-shirts (remember, you might want to buy shirts there)
- ☐ 2 pants (jeans must be clean and presentable)
- ☐ 4 or more medium length shorts
- ☐ sun visor or hat
- ☐ walking shoes/tennis shoes/serious walking shoes
- ☐ sandals or flip flops
- ☐ swimsuit (optional)
- ☐ socks
- ☐ under garments
- ☐ pajamas
- ☐ light raincoat or folding umbrella (optional, the VAM wind breaker is water resistant, not water proof)

Carry on for the flight (backpack)

- ☐ travel toothbrush, toothpaste, mouthwash (less than 3 oz), deodorant, and travel-pack tissues (trust us: you will want to freshen up a bit after flying all night across the Atlantic.)
- ☐ earplugs, and/or gum for plane ride.
- ☐ neck pillow
- ☐ sleeping mask
- ☐ a change of clothes (you will have been in those clothes for a long time and slept in them)
- ☐ cell phone, headphones, charger, and adapter
- ☐ book or Kindle (load it up!)
- ☐ electronics and chargers for airport and flight
- ☐ sunglasses, prescription glasses
- ☐ prescription medications (inhalers etc, carry with you in your backpack on the plane).
- ☐ playing cards are fun to have
- ☐ journal and pen
- ☐ camera if you're "old school"

Other items in suitcase

Tip: Pack liquids and gels in clear Ziplocs to prevent them from spilling on clothes in your checked baggage.

- ☐ deodorant
- ☐ sunscreen
- ☐ bar of soap (if you don't like hotel soaps)
- ☐ facial cleanser
- ☐ feminine hygiene products
- ☐ **power adaptors** for the countries we will visit
- ☐ washcloth (not all hotels provide an this)
- ☐ shampoo and conditioner (if you prefer your own brand)
- ☐ hair products, brush, hair ties
- ☐ shavers/razors
- ☐ over-the-counter medications (allergy meds, Tums, Tylenol, Benadryl, Dramamine. Keep all meds in original containers with original labels.)
- ☐ first aid kit (Neosporin and Band-Aids for blisters, baby powder/Vaseline in case of chafing, anti-itch cream)
- ☐ small container of laundry soap, plastic hanger
- ☐ plastic bag for dirty clothes
- ☐ hair dryer, curling iron (make sure that you have the proper adapters)
- ☐ small pillow if you're allergic to down feather pillows

... Finally, please bring:

- ☐ Sense of adventure, positive attitude, and appreciation of your wonderful parents who sent you on this adventure and love you dearly!!!!

Remember that your main piece of luggage must weigh fewer than 50 lbs. You might want that bag to be a bit lighter outbound because dirty laundry weighs more than clean clothes. For the flight, you need carry on a backpack and a personal item. That personal item could be your instrument if it is small enough (clarinet, oboe, alto, trumpet.)