

# FESTIVAL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*Updated 10-21-2016*

**1. What is the cost of the trip:**

The total cost of the trip will be in the range of **\$2,000 to \$2,900**, depending on room choice. This total comes from the \$500-600 cost of airfare, \$200-\$300 for meals, and the fee based on room choice below:

Quad	Triple	Double	Single
US \$ 1,238.00	US \$ 1,338.00	US \$ 1,538.00	US \$ 2,128.00

**2. What is the timeline for the deposit and the payments for the trip?**

**Payment: All payments must be made at the ASB office window.** Checks made out to RUHS with student's name and room type in the memo. Credit Cards will also be accepted.

**The \$500 deposit to reserve a place on the trip is due on Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>.** It is essential to return [this slip](#) with your deposit. We need at least *60 deposits to confirm the trip*. **If we do not receive the 60 deposits by this time, the \$500 payments will be fully refunded, and the trip will be cancelled.** Let's get at least 60 deposits to make the trip happen!

**The remaining balance**, which will range from approximately \$1,300.00 to \$2,200.00 (depending on room choice) **is due on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM**, also to ASB. Please contact Jennifer Gabriel ([jgabriel@rbusd.org](mailto:jgabriel@rbusd.org)) if you have any questions about the payment or trip details, and contact Jonathan Erickson ([jerickson@rbusd.org](mailto:jerickson@rbusd.org)) if you have concerns about financing the trip.

**3. What other costs are there?**

Only one dinner meal is being provided on the trip. Thus, we recommend planning for at least \$50 a day for lunches and snacks, and optionally more for shopping and souvenirs. A \$200 prepaid credit card AND \$100 in cash is a good amount to plan for.

**4. In the event that my child cannot attend the Festival after making payments, what is the refund policy?**

World Projects has a cancellation schedule, which is pasted below. This schedule outlines the percentage of payments made that are refundable and until when. That way, all finances can be dealt with internally at the school or organization, and cancellation fees need not be assessed (unless air transportation is involved). World Projects does, however, acknowledge that unforeseen circumstances do arise and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. In the event of a death in the family or illness/injury that prevents travel (as examples), World Projects will review what monies can be recovered from outside vendors (such as airlines, hotels, etc.). These vendors establish their own cancellation schedules, which World Projects must adhere to.

**Timeline:** Oct 25 (\$500 deposit due)    Dec 12 (Full balance due: 1<sup>st</sup> Deadline)    Jan 15 (Full balance due: Final deadline)  
Dec 15: Cancellation deadline to refund 50% of \$500 deposit    Feb 1: Cancellation deadline to refund 50% of full balance

5. **Air transportation: How is airfare factored in?**  
The cost for flights is estimated to be between \$500 and \$600 dollars, and will be part of the total balance due. The \$500 deposit due on October 25<sup>th</sup> will allow us to reserve the flight and finalize the cost. There is no additional deposit for the flights. See Question 1 for more about the total cost.
  
6. **Do chaperones / adults / non-performing travelers have to pay the same package costs as the performers?**  
Yes. In order to keep the cost of participating in the Festival affordable for as many students as possible, World Projects presents a blanket package cost. Creating a reduced rate for non-performers would increase the performer costs significantly, and thus we maintain one cost for all travelers.
  
7. **Does the package cost cover any type of Travel or Medical Insurance?**  
No. Travel and Medical Insurance is not included as there are specific and varied types of coverage available depending on your individual needs. Travel, Medical, and Trip Cancellation insurance can be arranged through World Projects upon request at an additional cost.
  
8. **If parents are not part of the trip can they purchase a ticket to watch the band perform?**  
Tickets to the concert may be purchased at the Carnegie Hall Box Office before, or on the day of the concert for the general public.
  
9. **What is the GPA requirement for students to participate?**  
Your student must have a 2.0 GPA to attend the trip.
  
10. **Will the airlines have accommodations for our instruments; will there be an extra charge for them?**  
Once airline is confirmed we will confirm their luggage charges - most airlines don't charge for the first two items, for instrumentalists it may be their suitcase and instrument, with oversized instruments i.e. tubas, baritone saxophones, there may be additional costs.
  
11. **Chaperones - Can you confirm when the chaperones will be with the students?**  
It is standard on trips like this for students to have time for lunch/shopping on their own, however always staying in groups or pairs, at least. At night the students are expected to stay in the rooms. Chaperones will be with students during planned coaching, meals, shows and sightseeing.
  
12. **Rooming Assignment - How will the rooming assignments be completed? Will it be decided by the organizing group, Administration or will the students be allowed to select roommates?**  
Students can request roommates of the same gender. Please email Jen Gabriel ([jgabriel@rbusd.org](mailto:jgabriel@rbusd.org)) with your request and she will create a spreadsheet to sort the students into the requested quads, triples, and doubles.

Below is more information directly from our trip organizer:

#### **Park Central Hotel**

Our room block is for paid Festival participants only. We do not have a special rate for folks that may be traveling on their own to NYC. **Events**

Scheduled events to include planned coaching, meals, shows and sightseeing are for paid Festival participants only. Folks who may be traveling on their own, are on their own.

## **Schedule**

I've hand-picked my Staff from fellow US Marine Corps musicians who I served with, plus several great young people. We stay on schedule! The elevators in the Park Central Hotel are slow, so please plan extra time, so you will be on time for assemblies!!!

**Carnegie Hall** – no photos or video recordings are allowed inside of the Hall.

Please limit the number of chaperones you bring with your group for sound check, as I will not be able to seat them in the Hall, they will remain backstage. Please ask those that do come with the group, to not bring cameras or video cameras to the Hall

**You are dressed in performance attire for sound check, because that is when our arranged professional photographer will be taking photos of your group on stage.**

Per our agreement with the Hall, no photos are allowed during the performances. I will share these photos with directors via email (good digital quality) about 10 to 14 days after the Festival. Because I have arranged for a professional photographer, no other requests for photographers will be granted. You have limited time for sound check, so if you want to stage a photo, do so, very quickly. The photographer will be in the center box, 1<sup>st</sup> tier level box seats (center)

You will receive one audio recording of your performance. This is an archival recording only, and may not be sold or used for fund raising. This is the only copy of your recording, no master is provided for us. I will hand this to the director or parent coordinator when you are loading up on departure day. Performance only ensembles, I will need to mail this to you. **No Video is taken of the concert**

## **Tickets for Carnegie Hall**

I will pull tickets for everyone in your paid traveling group. I seat the groups in the front of the house, so that we may pull and or seat groups during the concert. I will provide the tickets for both the afternoon and evening tickets to the director or parent coordinator upon your arrival. All seats are ticketed seating

### **For those traveling on their own:**

Afternoon Adjudicated Concert 1:00pm tickets will cost \$20 per person. Tickets will be available through the Carnegie Hall box office only, 60 days in advance of the concert

Evening Showcase Concert 8:00pm tickets will cost \$30 per person

Tickets will be available through the Carnegie Hall box office only, 60 days in advance of the concert

## **Warm up areas**

There is little room backstage. In some cases warm up rooms will be shared with another group, just not at the same time. Please keep your cases on one side of the room (neatly). There will only be a few chairs in the room, as this is intended for a stand up, warm up room only. We won't keep you in there for very long.

Chaperones, please keep an eye out for trash and help us, by helping to keep the room as neat as possible. Thank You!

We will escort the group to the Hall for sound check, and while you are inside of the Hall for sound check and your performance. We will not escort your group, when they leave or return to the Hall.

All backstage access will be through the 56<sup>th</sup> St. Stage Door entrance and all performers and assigned chaperones must be wearing an artist pass to get in. Folks not coming backstage will not need their artist pass.

After the concerts, it is almost impossible for parents to meet their students at the stage door entrance on 56<sup>th</sup> St, as we'll have almost 300 people leaving the Hall. I suggest that everyone plan to meet back at the hotel in the lobby! It is, just across the street!!

We do have stairs backstage. Ladies with long dresses need to be especially careful.

No horseplay allowed – please talk to your gentlemen about the ladies wearing open toe shoes we don't want guys stepping on toes. We will not rush you, relax and enjoy the experience.

### **Basses & Cello's**

These are good student model instruments. Please bring your own bows!!! No bows will be provided or rented. Please bring your own strings, as a back-up.

We provide up to (2) Basses for the Festival.

If you need additional, they may be rented for \$260 each, for the week (we will split the costs if another group, rents additional Basses, as well).

If you need to rent Cello's, they may be rented for \$130 each, for the week (again, we will split the costs if another group, rents cello's, as well).

Yes, these instruments will be shared. The Basses will remain on stage for all of the groups to utilize.

The Cellos will be handled backstage in the lounge area. I'll ask your students to put them back in the same case they came out of or hand off to the next group.

### **Instrument Damage**

Let's hope that we all travel well and have no damage. If so – first, take the time at the airport to file the damage claim with the airline, as you only have a 24 hour period to make the claim. The buses can wait a few minutes while you take the instrument into the airline baggage office and file the claim(s). I have contact information for the best string, brass and woodwind repair folks in the city.

The issue we face is time..... WP will not handle the instrument, nor will we pay for the instrument to be repaired. We will provide the needed guidance necessary. If the repair person can handle the issue, please assign a parent to handle this issue for you. That parent will need \$\$\$ availability to pay for the instrument to be repaired, so please plan ahead.

### **Lost items**

Please assign someone to always be the last person to leave an area, where the group is gathering. They should scan the area, as they are leaving, to look for left items.

**BUSES** – please assign someone to always be last off of the bus, and to look into all of the seats and overhead areas for items left behind.

**PLEASE ASSUME THAT EVERY TIME YOU GET OFF A BUS, YOU WILL NOT GET BACK ON THE SAME BUS !!!!**

We have a lot of moving parts in this Festival, and often I use the buses as shuttles, so don't assume, treat every off load as the last time you will be on that bus.

(Exception for departure day, if we plan a tour in the morning and then transfer you to the airport on the same day)

**If an item is misplaced or lost, I will do my best, to locate the item:**

It is BEST to address this, to all, before the trip. Each person is responsible for their own items while on the trip. This includes instruments, bags, backpacks, cell phones, ipads etc..... Yes, I've taken a taxi 20 blocks across Manhattan to retrieve (rescue) a violin that was left on a bus.

**Dinner Cruise:**

The Dinner /DJ Dance Cruise is for paid Festival travelers only. There will be no add -on tickets available / this is a closed, charter event for the Festival.

Dress – shirts with collars, dress slacks or new looking jeans. All must wear shoes on the dance floor at all times, so ladies bring flats to dance in!