USEFUL INFORMATION

Where are we staying?

From Monday 24 July until Thursday 27 July we will be staying at Edinburgh Central Youth Hostel, 9 Haddington Place, Edinburgh, EH7 4AL

In an emergency parents may also ring Andrea Hemmett on 07980 618019 or Wendy McDonald on 07838 472548

Staff going on tour are: Andrea Hemmett Wendy McDonald Jacques Moran Matthew Barks Jay Robertson Alex Robinson

Edinburgh Central is located in the heart of the city, close to Calton Hill. You will be able to walk to most of the sights we are planning to visit. The concert venues are also close by, though we are planning to utilize the coach for ease of access with instruments. The accommodation for musicians is in dormitories with ensuite facilities. The staff are in three twin rooms. You will need to bring a towel.

The hostel has communal spaces which you will be able to access as well as a café bar. WiFi is free for all guests.

Breakfast and dinner are provided at the accommodation (apart from Tuesday evening when we will be eating at Pizza Express a short walk away). Timings for meals are included in the itinerary.

You will need to bring lunch with you for the journey up to Edinburgh and we will be stopping en route too. Whilst we are away, you will need to find your own lunch. As we are so centrally located, there are lots of cafes, restaurants and shops near to the hostel and also to the places we are visiting.

On Monday afternoon, after checking in and unpacking, we will have a rehearsal at St Giles Cathedral. This is the only full rehearsal whilst we are away and is an opportunity for the extra players to slot into the orchestra – please make them very welcome! This is also where we will be performing on Monday evening.

The other concert is on Wednesday 26 July in the afternoon. This venue is outdoors with a covered stage area where famous musicians such as Sir Tom Jones, Mark Ronson, Madness and The Pet Shop Boys have performed!

We have several excursions included in the tour package; to Edinburgh Castle and the National Modern Gallery of Scotland. There is also some "free time" in the itinerary and there may be opportunities to climb up Calton Hill (near the hostel) and possibly Arthur's Seat, though this depends on the weather and time constraints. There are also plenty of shops and Princess Street Gardens nearby too.