



**Oldham Music Centre**  
**Concert Tour, Liege, Belgium**  
**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 26th July 2022**

**FINAL INFORMATION**

You are now in possession of the confirmed tour itinerary. This will only change if logistics dictate so during the tour. It includes the emergency tour leader number and UK point of contact numbers. Please only use these in the case of real emergencies.

**DOCUMENTATION**

**Passports**

The validity and safe keeping of your passport is your responsibility. I have asked you to allow me to make copies of all tour members passports. This has proven invaluable in the past when passports were lost or misplaced whilst we were abroad. The copies I held allowed us to proceed and no-one was held at a border. I have now checked all tour members passports and all have at least 6 months clear validity beyond the dates of the tour. The only exception is two people who are waiting to receive passport renewals.

**Health/EHIC and GHIC**

European Health Insurance cards remain valid until their expiry date, after that you can apply for a Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) which offers very similar health care protection.

<https://www.gov.uk/global-health-insurance-card>

Travel insurance will cover costs of repatriation etc. but will not cover the cost of minor hospital or A&E visits.

**Passenger travel Insurance**

This is included in the tour package and will cover small personal belonging etc. If you have any high value items, you are taking you may wish to take out an individual policy to cover them. These are usually not expensive for a 7-day trip. **NB Insurance of your instrument is essential and is your responsibility. Often an instrument will not be covered by a general household policy.** Check with your instrument insurer that you will be covered abroad.

**Covid 19**

UK is currently on the "green" list in Belgium, meaning there are no Covid 19 restrictions in place, however, we have to transit through France and there are restrictions and requirements for this part of the journey. Also, Phantasialand is just over the boarder in Germany, we may encounter checks there.

**You must have proof of your covid 19 vaccination status.** The easiest way to do this is to be registered on the NHS app (not the covid 19 app, the general NHS app). All students 12 and over are eligible to do this. Once registered for the app you can apply for a covid 19 “pass”, which usually has validity for a month or so. This could be done once prior to the trip, the pass QR code can be saved as a screenshot on your phone and will last for the whole trip. As a backup you could also print this and keep it with your passport. We will check that everyone has a means of covid 19 immunity proof before we depart. **You will not be able to travel without it.**

**The NHS app can take up to a week to validate once you have applied, do it now. Don't leave it until the last minute.**

### **Equipment/Logistics**

#### **Luggage**

One medium suitcase and a smaller day bag for when we are out on excursions.

I have included a packing list but obviously you do not have to follow it precisely, it is only to try to make sure you don't forget something obvious. I do recommend you check it through. Please limit yourself to one medium sized suitcase. We are only away for 7 days and the busy itinerary means that there will be no opportunity to be changing into more than one “outfit” per day apart from concert dress. Plan your wardrobe with a few options but don't bring unnecessary items. **You do need to bring your own towels** and I suggest a plastic bag to put a damp towel in for the return journey. **Hairdryers are not provided** in the rooms, so once rooming is confirmed I suggest you plan who is taking their hairdryer and you share.

#### **Money**

All the excursions are paid for so spending money is for food on the journey to and from Liege, lunch on the days stated on the itinerary (15euros should cover a modest lunch), any souvenirs, extra snacks and there are additional attractions at some of the excursion sites that they might like to pay for. Breakfast and an evening meal is provided every day. Make sure they know to hold back some money for food on the return journey, a significant part of which will be in England. Get your Euros before departure because the exchange rates on the ferry etc. will be expensive. You may be able to use cash machines in Belgium but I would not rely on it.

#### **Instruments**

Ensure you have all the instruments you require for the tour. This is not as stupid as it sounds, we have in the past had people so excited about the trip they have arrived at the Music Centre without their instrument. It can be a good idea to pack small instruments, flutes, piccolos and some clarinets inside your suitcase, then you have one less item to worry about. It is very important that instruments are in cases that we can pack and stack for transit. If you only have a soft case for your instrument, please contact me as soon as possible and I will try to source a hard case for the trip. Your instrument must be insured for the trip. **Check your instrument insurance covers you for Europe.**

#### **Concert wear and polo shirts**

We will have a different coloured polo shirt for each concert. These are being printed at the moment and have been paid for by FFOMC. You will be asked to come in and collect your set in the next few weeks. You will be able to keep them as a souvenir after the trip. You will need black trousers/skirt/dark shoes for the concerts. No very short skirts, two of our concerts are in churches and this may be frowned upon.

**Code of conduct**

The full code of conduct was sent out previously, but I shall send it out again. This will be adhered to and not relaxed at all. There will be no under 18-year drinking of alcohol. Any over 18's will be expected to behave sensibly, setting a good example to the younger musicians. We do not expect any tour participant to smoke or use a vapour inhaler. If this is a problem please contact me immediately. Listening and following instructions is essential for the safety of the whole group.

**Consent forms and medicines**

You have all returned consent forms stating what standard medicines may be administered, dietary requirements and any prescriptions medicines that are taken. If you have any prescription medicines they must be transported in their original, labelled packaging, showing your name in case customs wish to compare them with your passport. Unlabelled packets of pills are really not a good idea at border checks!

**Mobile phones**

If you are taking a mobile phone, it will be your responsibility and I suggest you check what your providers rules are for data roaming in Europe. Since Brexit some providers have started charging for data and you don't want to find you have a huge bill on your return. If you are relying on your mobile phone for proof of your covid 19 immunisation status, ensure that it has the battery life to last until we reach border control.

I have tried my best to cover all the information you may need but please get in touch with me if there is anything else you need to know. If it is something I may have to ask the tour company or accommodation about, ask me soon so I have enough time to get the answer.

Kind regards,

Jonathan Leedale (Tour leader)

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