January 18, 2011 (updated version that was 1st sent on 1/14)

Greetings Australia Travelers,

All Australia travel plans and arrangements are now beginning to fall into place. We are all becoming very excited as this process accelerates to our take off! Detailed itineraries and everything you could possibly want to know about the trip will be released within the next few weeks. Please also check the web site regarding preparation meetings/presentations which will help you prepare and enhance the music travel experience for everyone! Special rehearsals will begin with the new semester so please stay informed!

ATTENTION ALL CERTIFIED SCUBA DIVERS – If you intend to scuba dive in Australia we need a copy of your certification ASAP! Please deposit your copy into the safe in the band room. Remember – No copy – No divey! If you have not finalized your certification requirements you must make arrangements to do so before we depart. You will not have time to make the number of open water "check out" dives required for certification while in Australia. Please inform us of your plans in this regard.

Students are busy signing up for their rooms. Please consider your adult/and tag along rooming preferences. We will have exact costs for single, double and triple occupancy rooms very soon. All of our costs are based on quad occupancy so please be aware that fewer occupants equal an upgraded price. As an administrative policy, all band students are required to stay in student rooms only and not with families. Room assignment, pricing information and instructions will be coming in the next few days. Watch for it!

We are able to share more information for those choosing to extend their trip to New Zealand. Due to the small number of people signed up, the agent felt it would be more advantageous for travelers to make their own arrangements according to their individual interests. They also felt it would be a fresh change to slow the pace and have some "unscheduled" travel time.

They did reserve a very limited amount of flights – The additional cost of the flight from Sydney to Auckland, New Zealand would be $275 per person. These flights would be available first to the individuals who have already responded and are currently on the New Zealand list. Anyone who did not get on the list initially, but would now like to, will be put on a wait list for a possible opening.

The following is an informational itinerary that suggests hotels and some activities one might want to explore while in New Zealand. <u>All arrangements and costs for hotels, transportation and activities would be the responsibility of the individual.</u>

<u>Saturday, April 30, 2011</u>

This morning, depart your hotel and transfer to Sydney Int'l for your flight to New Zealand.

Flight departs at 9:25 a.m. and arrives into Auckland at 2:30 p.m.

Welcome to New Zealand! There are many places to explore while you are visiting New Zealand http://www.newzealand.com/travel/USA. This is the official tourism website for New Zealand – Another is www.greatsights.co.nz

We recommend Mecure Hotel Auckland – this is a 3 star hotel with several options in the city or we also recommend www.accorhotels.com

Sunday, May 1, 2011

Today you may choose to explore Waitomo (2 ½ hrs driving distance from Auckland) http://www.waitomo.com/ Explore the Glow Worm Caves and Much more

If you choose to stay in Rotorua we recommend: Ibis Hotel (3 star) http://www.rotoruanz.com/accommodation/ibis-hotel-rotorua OR Novotel Rotorua (4 star) http://www.novotelrotorua.co.nz/

Monday, May 2, 2011

Rotorua is known for its natural hot springs and is a MUST SEE! From the Rotorua Museum, to the Jade Factory on Fenton Street, to the Polynesian Spa – Rotorua has much to offer! Other options include Rainbow Springs Kiwi Wildlife Park & The Agrodome Sheep Show http://www.rotoruanz.com/

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Enjoy time in Auckland before heading to the airport. Flight will leave Auckland at 1:05 pm and arrive at Los Angeles's LAX at 6:30 am with a connection that departs at 9:40 am and returns to Chicago's O'Hare International at 3:35 p.m. You will need to arrange for a ride back from Chicago back to your home.

In order to reserve your flight to New Zealand, contact Claudia Barron @ redriderfx@att.net , or 262-544-6349. At the time you confirm your spot a $100 deposit will be due immediately. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Claudia as well.