

Paris News!!

The official newsletter of The Hartford Chorale's Tour
"Americans in Paris 2014"

Tour Payment Schedule (again!)

Many tour participants continue to call or email, asking about the payment schedule, so here it is again!!!

Tour Package	Total Cost	PAYMENTS AND DUE DATES				BALANCE* DUE 4/1/14
		5/1/13	6/15/13	9/15/13	1/15/14	
BASIC	\$3,800	\$400	\$900	\$900	\$800	\$800
L/O	\$2,500	\$400	\$900	\$800	\$400	
S/S	\$750		\$200	\$200	\$200	\$150
N/S	\$100			\$100		
E/D*						

Basic = Basic Tour including International Air Transportation

L/O = Land Only [Basic Tour without International Air Transportation]

S/S = Single Room Supplement

N/S = Non Singer Supplement

E/D = Other: Extension or Deviation * (such as the formal extension tour or an extended stay in Paris, etc.)

* Costs are not yet firmly identified

Please print or save this information to your file of Tour information. (You do have a file of Tour information, right??)

Reminders: Tour Financial Obligation and Trip Insurance

Financial Obligation. As you know, we are now well underway with our Paris tour project. It promises to be a fabulous musical and cultural experience! In order to make this the ultimate reality, all tour members have a financial obligation. Remember: All payments are to be made as specified and on time and are non-refundable, even if you end up not going on tour.

Trip Insurance. As a reminder, since the Chorale signed the tour contract with our main tour vendor, ACFEA, in May 2013, all tour members are responsible for the entire cost of

the tour. We continue to urge you to purchase some form of trip cancellation insurance. There are many different types available through many vendors, including your own insurance agent, AAA and possibly AARP as well as the Travel Guard Insurance example sent out to all tour members in June. Should you have questions about Travel Guard Insurance, contact them directly at

www.TravelGuard.com/partners/ACFEA/003700

or telephone them at 1-888-385-4839.

Again, we can't encourage you enough to obtain trip insurance to protect you in case of an unforeseen circumstance that could cause a cancellation or interruption of your travel plans.

Coffee with Coffey

Maestro Richard Coffey
Music Director, Hartford Chorale



Americans in Paris is up and running in high fashion! I am delighted that the Hartford Chorale will bring its musical gifts to the City of Lights next summer. Our tour steering committee, Susan Adams, Dawn Bauer, and Joanne Huelsman, are doing an outstanding job of moving this gigantic ship through the waters, with Paris the destination.

As is the case in tours such as this, not everything is cast in stone (until the tour is over!), but so far, we have had no curve balls or troubling issues. Our agency has confirmed for us that we will in fact (and as hoped for) perform the Maurice Duruflé *Requiem* in the very church where Duruflé himself, and his wife, Marie-Madeleine Duruflé-Chevalier, served as musicians for decades, namely St. Etienne-du-Mont,

within the academic center of the Left Bank.

It gets better... The organist for that concert will be world-renowned Thierry Escaich, the organist at this great church. This means that we will sing the Duruflé *Requiem* in the Duruflé church, accompanied on the Duruflé organ, and played by the Duruflé successor-organist!

It is also a pleasure to announce that our baritone soloist for the *Requiem* will be Chai-lun Yueh, well known to the Chorale as our diction coach and performance expert for *The Yellow River Cantata* last fall, as well as for our China tour in 2008. Chai-lun has led vocal master classes for us during our January conclaves and is well known throughout this region, and beyond, as a baritone soloist *par excellence*. Such good news!

As to our other performances, more to follow! Stay tuned and remember that we continue to welcome singers for this adventure.

C'est magnifique!!

Tour Rehearsal Schedule

All Tour Rehearsals will take place at the Hartford Chorale's regular rehearsal site:

St. James Episcopal Church
1018 Farmington Ave.
West Hartford, CT.

Rehearsals run from 7:15pm until 10pm.

The proposed** rehearsal dates are:

Wednesday, June 4, 2014
Wednesday, June 11, 2014
Monday, June 16, 2014
Wednesday, June 18, 2014
Monday, June 23, 2014

**Please be advised that this schedule is tentative and *subject to change*.

International Air Transportation

Back in the spring, most of you indicated your preference for flights – either arranged by the tour vendor or self arranged (for those of you who wanted to try to use air-miles or whatever). Since then, other options have been made available to us. The options we now have are as follows:

- 1. Vendor arranged flights for the Basic one week Musical Tour;**
- 2. Vendor arranged flights for the Basic Musical Tour plus a “deviation” such as extending your stay in France by a few days or a week or whatever, during which time you would be “on your own”, making your own individual ground arrangements (hotels, ground transportation, sight-seeing, etc.) If you wish, we can also help you make these ground arrangements through our tour vendor. The resulting charges will depend on what, specifically, you choose to do;**
- 3. Vendor arranged flights for the Basic Musical Tour and for the Official Extension Tour to the Loire Valley (which, by the way, is very close, geographically, to Normandy and Brittany!);**
- 4. Self arranged flights, to include both the basic Musical Tour plus the Official Extension Tour to the Loire Valley;**
- 5. Self arranged International flights.**

If this last option is chosen, please be aware that all singers MUST be in Hartford to attend all the June rehearsals.

Because of these additions, we need you to consider ALL of these options and, again, let us know your choice, **ASAP!**

Getting to Know Maurice Duruflé

Sarah Hager Johnston, Member, Hartford Chorale

Much has been written about the complex character of French organist, composer, and teacher Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986), who is often described as brooding, retiring, filled with doubt, and unhappy. Yet Duruflé's music, particularly his choral writing, shimmers with light and optimism, and moves us utterly with its transcendent piety. Duruflé, though outwardly reticent and often reclusive, was a man of buoyant and unwavering Christian faith, a confident belief that supported and infused his creative works.

Born in Louviers, in France's Normandy region, Duruflé showed early musical talent, and at the age of ten (1912) entered the nearby Rouen Cathedral Choir School. During his six years there, he studied voice, organ, piano, and theory. Most importantly, as a member of the Cathedral choir, he participated in the daily chanted liturgies, absorbing the contours, modes, and atmosphere of Gregorian chant. “A great page opened before me,” Duruflé said years later, reflecting on the revelations and inspirations of his experiences in Rouen, particularly the Gregorian chants sung in the Solesmes style, which he described as “...this marvelous Gregorian chant with all its suppleness, its flight, its mystical radiance.”

In 1920, Duruflé entered the Paris Conservatoire, where, as an exceptional student, he earned numerous prizes and honors. Among his celebrated teachers in Paris were the best organists and composers of the day, including Charles Tournemire (1870-1939), Alexandre Guilmant, Louis Vierne (1870-1937), and Paul Dukas (1865-1935). In 1942, Duruflé joined the faculty of the Conservatoire, teaching organ, harmony, and improvisation. Among his organ pupils was the acclaimed Marie-Claire Alain (1926-1913), the most recorded organist in the world and a gifted teacher. Among her students was our own Richard Coffey.

Though today's audiences know Duruflé primarily as a composer, he was acclaimed as an organ virtuoso and was much in demand as a recitalist. His career began at Rouen, where as a student he assisted the choir organist. In Paris, he served as assistant organist to Tournemire (at Basilique Ste-Clothilde, 1916-1927) and Vierne (at Notre Dame, 1929-1931). In 1930 (age 28), Duruflé became principal organist at St. Étienne-du-Mont in Paris, a post he shared with his wife, Marie-Madeleine Duruflé-Chevalier after 1953, and which he held until his death in 1986. The Duruflés enjoyed several successful American tours together, and Madame Duruflé-Chevalier continued touring after his death, including stops in Hartford (*Requiem* and other works at Asylum Congregational Church, 1974) and New Britain's South Church (recital, 1992). For several reasons – his busy career as teacher, performer, and church musician; his natural reticence; his lack of confidence as a composer – Duruflé wrote little music, publishing only about a dozen completed works.

*This is the first of a series of “program notes” to provide context for our Parisian adventure. In upcoming essays, I'll explore the influence of Gregorian chant in Duruflé's music, especially his *Requiem*; consider the role of the architecture of St. Etienne-du-Mont in the shaping of the *Requiem*; provide program notes on the music of the *Requiem*; and more.*