

Finland & The Baltics: The Hidden Treasures of Europe

YOCJ Tour: June 27 ~ July 5, 2020 | Firebird Fine Arts Tours

Itinerary

June 27th (Sat) JFK to HELSINKI

7:05PM Depart JFK on Finnair flight #AY 6 to Helsinki

June 28th (Sun) – HELSINKI to TALLINN

10:10 AM Arrival at Helsinki Airport
11:30 Approx. departure from airport
12:00 Lunch in Helsinki
3:15 Ferry departs Helsinki for Tallinn
5:15 Arrival in Tallinn, hotel check in
7:30PM Dinner



June 29th (Mon) TALLINN

Breakfast buffet

9:00 AM We will have a walking tour to discover this proud capital of Estonia located on the Toompea Hill, the historical and medieval heart of the city, covered in cobble stone streets and filled with medieval houses and alleyways. Tallinn's old town, still protected by the remnants of a city wall, has been astonishingly well preserved and is also included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

12:30 **Lunch on your own** and free time for shopping

3:00 Receive rental instruments

3:30pm **Master class by Jüri-Ruut Kangur**

5:45pm Return to our hotel

7:00 PM Depart by bus from the hotel for a visit to Tallinn's open-air museum. We'll enjoy dinner here in the medieval Kolu Inn.

Estonian folk singers and dancers will perform at dinner.

June 30th (Tue) TALLINN and CONCERT ~ Breakfast

9:30 AM We depart for the magnificent Kadriorg Palace, <https://kadriorumuseum.ekm.ee/en/> built by Tsar Peter the Great for his wife, Catherine I, in 1718. The grandiose palace and gardens are an amazing example of Tsarist extravagance, but just as important a reason to visit is that this is also home to the foreign art collection of the Art Museum of Estonia. We'll make an inspiring stop nearby at the **Estonian Song Festival** grounds, the site of one of the largest amateur choral events in the world with 30,000 singers of all ages! Find out what special role music has played in Estonia.

12:30 PM Lunch together

2:00-5:00 YOCJ Rehearsal followed by meeting with host musicians to get acquainted and rehearse joint pieces. Return to hotel. Change into concert attire and have a snack.

8:00 PM **OUR CONCERT**

Dinner afterwards at the Peppersack Restaurant

July 1st (Wed) TALLINN to RIGA with a stop in PÄRNU

Breakfast buffet

9:30 AM This morning we depart Tallinn for Riga.

11:30 AM We will stop in Pärnu (2hr., 127km from Tallinn), Estonia's premiere spa town for lunch

1:30 PM After lunch we will depart for Riga (2hr45min, 183km), the route is scenic, along the coast of the Gulf of Riga (Baltic Sea)

4:15 PM Arrival in Riga, check into your hotel

An evening visit to the **Latvian Academy of Music** to gain insight and enjoy the world of Latvian music, both folk and classical. The cultural traditions of Latvia are rich and interesting in vocal and instrumental music and dance. A **Mini-Seminar** includes a professor's lecture and musicians' contributions.

8:00 PM Dinner

July 2nd (Thu) RIGA & CONCERT

Breakfast buffet

9:00 AM We begin our Riga sightseeing tour which will include the Old Town & a plethora of Art Nouveau architectural sights. Riga was founded in 1201 and is a former Hanseatic League member. Its historical center is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, noted for its Art Nouveau architecture, as well as its charming 19th-century wooden architecture. Riga has been designated the European Cultural Capital of 2014, and you will come to appreciate this distinction!

12:00 **Lunch on your own/if desired, also buy snack for later**

2:00-4:00 Receive rental instruments at the Dome Cathedral, our proposed concert site. Meet singers from Second Riga Gymnasium Choir, Edgar Vitols, conductor & rehearse with them. Return to hotel: freshen up, change.

7:00 PM **OUR CONCERT** / Dinner afterwards

July 3rd (Fri) RIGA to TALLINN to HELSINKI

Breakfast buffet

9:00 Depart Riga for Tallinn

12:00 Lunch in Pärnu

1:30 Depart for Tallinn

3:30 Arrival in Tallinn

4:30 Ferry departs for Helsinki

6:30 Arrival in Helsinki,

Transfer to hotel

8:00 Dinner



July 4th (Sat) HELSINKI ~ Breakfast buffet

10:00 AM Guided walking tour of Helsinki: A city of the sea, Helsinki was built along a series of oddly shaped peninsulas and islands jutting into the Baltic coast along the Gulf of Finland. Spectacularly entwined with these bays, inlets and islands, Helsinki's boulevards and backstreets are filled with magnificent architecture, intriguing dining options and groundbreaking design. The city's 400 or so parks make it inviting in the summer

12:30 PM We will end our tour at Helsinki's Old Market Hall first opened in 1888 <https://vanhakauppahalli.fi/626-2/#> Here you will have **Lunch on your own** & the opportunity to shop for traditional Finnish products. Just a 2 minute walk away is the Market Square, where there's also the possibility to shop for Finnish souvenirs and goods.

3:30 PM Visit the **Temppeliaukio Kirkko (Rock Church)**. It is a stunning Lutheran church that was built into solid rock in the 20th century: <http://www.sacred-destinations.com/finland/helsinki-rock-church-temppeliaukio>

Professional musical performance possibility

8:00 PM Farewell dinner

July 5th (Sun) HELSINKI - JFK

Breakfast Buffet

9:30AM Depart our hotel to Helsinki airport

12:45 PM Depart Helsinki on Finnair flight #AY 5 to JFK

2:40 PM Arrive in the USA



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REGISTRATION INFORMATION

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

STEP #1:

ONLINE REGISTRATION:

Registration will mostly be done online for this tour! Each participant **MUST** complete the online form, found on the Tour 2020 website page. Please only submit **ONE** online form per person. If you realize you have made a mistake after clicking SUBMIT, please **DON'T** submit a second form for the same person. Instead, please email corrections to BOTH Mr. Pugh (contactyocj@gmail.com) and Mrs. Epps (executivedirector@yocj.org)

STEP #2:

- Go to the Tour 2020 website page: <http://yocj.org/concerts-events/finland-baltics-2020/>
- Download, print, & complete:
 1. Parent/Student Contract
 2. Prescription Form (only if needed)
- Photocopy your passport information page

STEP #3:

Please bring your Parent/Student Contract, Prescription Form (if needed), your passport photocopy, & \$1000/person deposit, made payable to YOCJ (\$100 of which is non-refundable) on:

• Tuesday November 5th

Registration is only complete when STEPS #1, #2, #3 are verified by YOCJ.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Tuesday November 5th | Payment #1

\$1000 deposit due from each participant

Tuesday February 4th | Payment #2

\$1000 due from each REGULAR & EXTENDED
\$500 due from each LAND-ONLY

Tuesday April 28th | Final Payment

\$900 due from each REGULAR
\$900 + TBD Fees due from each EXTENDED
\$500 due from each LAND-ONLY

PACKAGES

REGULAR Package (\$2900) includes:

- Round trip air-fare (JFK—Helsinki—JFK)
- All ground transportation on superior coach buses
- 3 star hotel accommodations (doubles & triples)
- 3 meals daily, except for 3 lunches
- All concerts, excursions, events in the itinerary
- Firebird Fine Arts Tour Escorts throughout, 24/7

Packages below are NOT for students traveling w/o parents:

LAND-ONLY Package (\$2000) includes:

Everything in the REGULAR Package...

- **EXCEPT for Round trip air-fare, ground transportation before the flight over, & before the flight back.**
- Land-only participants must arrange their own transportation to the airports in the USA and in Europe.
- **If Land-only participants miss our bus departure from the Helsinki airport, they must arrange their own transportation to our next destination.**
- Land-only participants **MUST** depart the USA for Helsinki, after all YOCJ rehearsals AND the Bon Voyage concert (Friday, June 26, 2020) are done.
- Land-only participants must perform in all YOCJ concerts & Master Classes before departing Europe.

EXTENDED Package (\$2900 + fees TBD) include:

Everything in the REGULAR Package, plus the opportunity to extend your stay past our departure. Additional fees, determined by Firebird, based on how many extra days you stay, will be due. Participants must fly back to the U.S. from Helsinki, and are responsible for all ground transportation after the tour officially ends.

PLEASE NOTE:

- YOCJ welcomes families on this unique tour! Please keep in mind that this is a **student centered trip**. All activities revolve around the set itinerary. All YOCJ students will room together. More info on the way!
- **Trip Insurance** is highly recommended. You are responsible for obtaining your own trip insurance/trip cancellation insurance. We recommend that you review your options on sites such as www.insuremytrip.com
- **Refund Policy:** \$100 per person is non-refundable from the initial deposit. No further refunds will be made after **February 11, 2020**.