

VA-NATIONAL MEDICAL MUSICAL GROUP

Hail Britannia 2009!

Main Trip November 5 - 12, 2009, Optional Extension November 12-15, 2009

THURS. NOV. 5. DEPART WASHINGTON, DC.

Board your transatlantic flight to **London, England. United Airlines Flight #924**, Departs Washington at 10:04 pm (meals on board).



FRI. NOV. 6. LONDON-

Arrive **London Heathrow Airport** 10:15 am. **Half day tour of London.** Begins with a panoramic drive in Parliament Square to Westminster Abbey, then past many other famous sights of London: Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, Whitehall,

Downing Street, Trafalgar Square and Nelson's Column, and a guided tour of St. Paul's Cathedral.

Then travel through the aristocratic area of Mayfair and head for Piccadilly Circus in London's West End, where cinemas, historic theaters, restaurants and bars jostle for space. Check into the 4-star **Hilton Kensington.**

Afternoon free. Evening: Group dinner. (D)*



SAT. NOV. 7. LONDON. Hot English breakfast buffet at hotel. Enjoy day of Leisure in London **OR:** Take Optional half day tour of Windsor Castle and Runnymede. Attend complimentary Evening **Remembrance Concert at Royal Albert Hall.** (B)*

OPTIONAL 1- Windsor Castle and Runnymede: \$65/pp. Windsor Castle: The home of the Royal Family for 900 years, and the world's largest and oldest occupied castle, Windsor Castle's fortified walls dominate the delightful town that has grown up around it. You will see the lavishly decorated State Apartments and St. George's Chapel. Then continue to magnificent **Runnymede**, where King John met his barons in 1215 and agreed to seal the Magna Carta.

SUN. NOV. 8. LONDON. Hot English breakfast buffet at hotel. Enjoy a day of Leisure in London **OR:** Take an Optional Tour of **Shakespeare Country.** Dinner on your own. (B)*

OPTIONAL 2- Shakespeare Country:

\$110/pp. Warwick Castle: With a history of over 1,000 years, Warwick Castle will take you back to a world of banquets, battles and royal splendor. Visit the waxwork displays of Madame Tussauds, see and hear the Earl of Warwick's preparations for battle, and take a look at the ghostly dungeons of torture. **Stratford upon**

Avon: Birthplace of William Shakespeare, the greatest writer in the English language, and home to the theatres of the famous Royal Shakespeare Company. A river winds its way through the town past Holy Trinity Church where Shakespeare is buried. **Oxford:**

Boasts one of the world's greatest universities and some of the finest architecture in Europe with ivy-clad walls protecting beautiful chapels, halls and libraries. Visit Christ Church, the grandest college and, home to Oxford's cathedral. The dining hall was featured in a Harry Potter film. Learn about Oxford's famous students: Albert Einstein, C.S. Lewis, and Lewis Carroll, who wrote "Alice in Wonderland" here.

MON. NOV. 9. LONDON. Hot English breakfast buffet at hotel. Enjoy a day of leisure in London. **OR:** Take an Optional Tour of **Stonehenge and Salisbury.** Dinner on your own. (B)*

OPTIONAL 3- Stonehenge and Salisbury:

\$85/pp. Stonehenge: Travel through the green Wiltshire landscape to Stonehenge, a collection of stones dragged to this lonely plain near Salisbury 5000 years ago. Who built it? Why? These questions have haunted scholars for centuries. Set in a landscape dotted with prehistoric mounds and carvings, Stonehenge enthalls visitors' imagination and hearts. **Salisbury:** Visit the 750 year-old Salisbury cathedral with a 404 ft spire, the tallest in England. In the Chapter House, see



the Magna Carta, the famous agreement made between King John and his barons at Runnymede. Free time to explore the beautiful city, Market Square and the traditional shops.



TUES. NOV. 10. LONDON. Hot English breakfast buffet at hotel. Enjoy a morning of leisure in London. Afternoon Rehearsal. Evening Free **OR**. Take an *Optional Dinner Tour*. (B)*

OPTIONAL 4 – Thames River Dinner Cruise: \$145/pp. Breathtaking river views, relaxing atmosphere, a four-course meal and after-dinner dancing – the perfect indulgence. The four-course à la carte dinner features modern European cuisine, served and presented by the friendly crew. While dining and dancing you'll cruise in style past London's famous sights – Houses of Parliament, London Eye, Tate Modern, Millennium Bridge, Shakespeare's Globe, St. Paul's Cathedral and Tower Bridge. Don't miss this exquisite experience.



WED. NOV. 11. LONDON. Hot English breakfast buffet at hotel. Morning Free. **Afternoon rehearsal and Evening Performance, at London's Westminster Central Hall (picture).**

Gala Farewell **Banquet** in the evening. (B, D)*

THURS. NOV. 12. LONDON/WASHINGTON OR CARDIFF. Hot English breakfast buffet at hotel. *Return flight – United Flight #919, departing 12:00 noon to USA from London Heathrow airport for those not going on the Optional Extension. Arrives Washington Dulles 3:33 pm.* **OR**. Coach transfer to **Cardiff**. Stop at **Bath** famous for its elegant Georgian architecture. Enjoy a panoramic tour of Bath with its beautifully proportioned streetscapes. See Bath Abbey and the Pulteney Bridge, modeled on the Ponte Vecchio in Florence. Also visit the Roman Baths, the best preserved Roman spa from the ancient world. After lunch on your own, travel to **Cardiff** with a brief tour of the city. Check in to the 4-star **Mercure Holland House Hotel**. Group Welsh Dinner at Cardiff Castle including a tour of the lavishly decorated apartments. (B, D)*

FRI. NOV. 13. CARDIFF. Hot English breakfast buffet at hotel. Enjoy a day of leisure in Cardiff

OR: take an Optional Tour to **South Wales Valley**. (B).

OPTIONAL 5 – South Wales Valley: \$75/pp. Breathtaking countryside, enchanting castles and the depths of a real coal mine - all in a day. Start at Big Pit Mining Museum for an underground tour of a 150 year old iron and coal mine. Discover how this area became the heart of the industrial revolution and how Blaenavon has become a World Heritage Site. Heading north, enter the Brecon Beacons National Park for a tour of breathtaking countryside. Rolling green hills, jagged peaks, lakes, rivers and waterfalls are all on show. Stop for lunch at the National Parks' visitors centre, at the centre of this area of striking natural beauty. Trail south through the 'Iron Town' valley of Merthyr Tydfil to discover a mighty fortress with a Welsh village still at its outer walls - Caerphilly Castle, the largest Welsh castle.

SAT. NOV. 14. CARDIFF. Hot English breakfast buffet at hotel. Enjoy a day of leisure in Cardiff **OR:** take an Optional Tour to **Historic Wye Valley**. (B).

OPTIONAL 6 – Historic Wye Valley: \$85/pp. Begin with a visit to one of Europe's most astonishing Roman military sites at Caerleon - "Fort of the Legion". Explore the amphitheatre where gladiators fought, the bath house around which much of a Roman soldier's life revolved and the National Legionary Museum displaying the archaeology of a way of life which existed 2000 years ago. Cross the majestic Usk and Wye rivers to reach the spectacular monastic ruin at Tintern Abbey, trailing in the footsteps of the Cistercian monks with tales of dedication and treachery. Following a lunch stop at the nearby Abbey Mill Craft Centre, and maybe a walk along the banks of the Wye river, continue onto Raglan Castle described as the finest late-medieval fortress in Britain. Astonishing views of the Monmouthshire countryside along the way.

SUN., NOV. 15. CARDIFF/LONDON/WASHINGTON. Hot English breakfast buffet at hotel. Transfer to **London Heathrow airport** (arriving 12:30 pm). *Return flight – United Flight #925, departing 4:20 pm from London Heathrow airport. Arrives Washington Dulles 7:48 pm.*

* **ABBREVIATIONS:** B=Breakfast, D=Dinner included in tour price.



RESPONSIBILITY: VA-National Medical Musical Group and other participating organizations act solely as agents in arranging for transportation, hotel accommodations and other services. We do not assume, and in fact, we expressly disclaim, any liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay due to any act, negligence or default of the tour guide, or any company or person engaged in transporting the passengers, or rendering any service, or carrying out the arrangements for any tour, or their agents, servants and employees.

PASSPORT: A VALID PASSPORT IS REQUIRED FOR U.S. CITIZENS. *It is recommended that your passport be valid for at least six months from the date of departure. No visas are required.*

INSURANCE: The following companies are available but they have no relationship with VA-NMMMG. They are listed as a service to travelers. **Important:** *Purchase your trip insurance when you make your initial deposit, in order to be covered for preexisting conditions.* You may purchase trip insurance from your own home insurance company or from these or any other companies:

TRAVELEX: Tel: 1-800-228-9792,
www.travelex-insurance.com

ACCESS AMERICA: Tel: 1-800-284-8300,
www.accessamerica.com

TRAVEL GUARD: Tel: 1-800-826-4919,
www.travelguard.com

REWARD TO INDIVIDUALS WHO REGISTER NEW TRAVELERS WHO HAVE NEVER TRAVELED WITH US BEFORE:

If you register a new traveler who has never traveled with us previously, you earn a free optional excursion of your choice (*excluding Thames River Dinner Cruise*) as long as space is available on that particular excursion.

VA-NMMMG, a non-profit organization, is the premier medical musical group in America. Its chorus and orchestra members span virtually every state in the Union. Many are associated with the Veterans Health Administration – or with medical practice, teaching, or research. VA-NMMMG's mission is to perform "Music with a Message" – a message of inspiration, healing, national unity, and international brotherhood. VA-NMMMG received the Congressional Medal of Honor Society's 2002 Bob Hope Award for its service to veterans and the Armed Forces, and for its "Veterans Hymn"; as well as numerous other awards and recognitions. Our concerts are broadcast on various television networks.

VA-NMMMG trips are famous for combining high quality, value, creature comforts and a mission of American friendship and brotherhood around the globe. To date these trips were to: Australia, Austria, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy (and the Vatican), New Zealand, Portugal, Russia, Scotland, Spain and Sweden. Other destinations included the Western Caribbean (Cozumel, Mexico, Grand Cayman and Jamaica) and Hawaii. Join our fabulous

Hail Britannia 2009!



DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: September 1, 2009. Reservations may be accepted subsequent to that date depending on space and subject to possible late fees.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Full refund minus a \$100.00 fee will be made for cancellations received in writing up to 91 days prior to departure (August 6). After that date, cancellation fees will be assessed as follows:

<u>Number of days Prior to Departure</u>	<u>Cancellation Fees as % of Total Tour Price</u>
90-61	15%
60-45	30%
44-31	50%
30-0	100%

Please note: Any unused tour portions are non-refundable.

FLIGHT FROM WASHINGTON, DC, TO LONDON ON NOVEMBER 5. **United Airlines #924:** Depart Washington Dulles 10:04 pm, arrive London Heathrow 10:15 am (Nov. 6).

FLIGHT FROM LONDON TO WASHINGTON, DC, ON NOVEMBER 12. **United Airlines #919:** Depart London Heathrow 12:00 noon, arrive Washington Dulles 3:33 pm.

FLIGHT FROM LONDON TO WASHINGTON, DC, ON NOVEMBER 15. **United Airlines #925:** Depart London Heathrow 4:20 pm, arrive Washington Dulles 7:48 pm.

DEVIATIONS: Call 1-888-6-DoReMi.

FOR QUESTIONS: *Call 1-888-6-DoReMi (1-888-636-7364) or 202-797-0700, or send an email to vanmmg@hotmail.com. For updates visit our website www.medicalmusical.org.*