

Hello, eurobrass 2025!

It's always a joy for me to watch the way a eurobrass team comes together. Our leadership team always spends several months gathering recommendations and issuing invitations, but by the time it's done, it's always clear to us that God has assembled *his* team for any given year—and this year is no exception. I'm thankful that each of you has chosen to be part of our work this summer and am looking forward to seeing how God works in and through us during our time together. I can't wait to see (and hear) all of you in just a few months!

This letter is intended to be your one-stop source of information about the tour this summer. It contains three categories of things: travel information that you should read *before* you book your ticket, general information that you can read anytime as you prepare and pack, and questions that we need answers to as soon as possible. By the time this gets posted, your tickets should be booked and you've sent us answers to the questions. So here's everything else:

Music:

1. This year's program is complete; you should have music.
2. The entire ensemble plays standing, including horns and tuba.
3. Due to steadily rising pitch over the past several years, we now tune to A=442 Hz. Please try to set aside some time before the tour to play at and adjust to 442.
4. eurobrass owns the following musical accessories:
 - Music stands
 - Stand lights
 - Horn stands
 - Tuba Stand
 - Mutes: 2 trumpet straight mutes, 2 trumpet cup mutes. I (Kathryn) will also be bringing my own straight and cup mutes, so if I've counted correctly, nobody needs to tote mutes across the Atlantic.
 - Some number of trombone stands and mutes. Angie will communicate with the trombones to figure out who needs to bring what.
 - Please bring any musical equipment you need that's not on this list.
 - We will print sheet music for everyone; of course, you're also welcome to bring the copies you've been practicing from.

Travel

1. If you need help finding a flight to Frankfurt, feel free to consult Chris Woods (chris.woods@greenville.edu). Although he no longer plays with the ensemble, Chris remains an active part of our leadership team, as well as the one of us who has the most experience flying to and from Germany for tour. As a reminder, here are our target arrival and departure times:
 - We'll meet at the Frankfurt Airport on Saturday, July 19 by 10:00 a.m.
 - If you're flying back on August 11, please shoot for a late morning or early afternoon flight (departing no earlier than 11 a.m.). This will make for a considerably more relaxed Monday morning for us and our hosts.
2. Once you've booked a flight, please complete the following two steps:

1. Send a receipt showing your name, airports, and the amount paid to Angie (AHunter@eurobrass.de). This will enable us to prepare the paperwork to have your reimbursement euros waiting for you at rehearsal camp.
2. E-mail Kathryn (KCheney@eurobrass.de) with your flight information, including airport you're flying from, flight number, and day and time.
3. Keep receipts for any extra baggage fees you have to pay for instrument cases—eurobrass will reimburse those.
4. When you agreed to be part of this year's team, you probably got an email from me about the implementation of the ETIAS (European Travel and Information Authorization System), which will eventually require visitors from the US to secure an additional travel credential to enter the European Union. The rollout of this system has been delayed yet again, so it shouldn't affect your travel this summer.
5. **Please make sure your passport is valid for at least 6 months after your date of return to the U.S.** Go, look now. If it's not, close (or at least minimize) this document and begin the renewal process.
6. Our tour itinerary is complete! A list of places and dates was included with our last team update email, and the itinerary will be posted to the website sometime soon.

Packing

1. It's helpful to have a smallish overnight bag to take to host homes, so that you can leave your big suitcase at the church.
2. Weather is unpredictable—could be unmercifully hot, could be raining and in the 60s. Although it's been on the warmer side the past few years, I'd still recommend a light jacket for cool mornings/rainy days. We'll plan on laundry twice during the tour: once before we leave rehearsal camp and once on our day off (August 1).
3. A small iron will be set up in the ladies' changing room before the concert each evening.
4. Host families (and teammates!) love to see pictures of your families. Kathryn especially loves to see photos of your pets.
5. Please bring minor medical supplies: band-aids, ibuprofen, etc. Because of our non-profit status, we can't dispense any of that without extensive documentation.
6. Washcloths aren't always included in German bath linens—if you want to have one while we're parked for a few days at Uder, bring one with you.
7. Earplugs—usually not terribly expensive, often terribly useful.
8. If you enjoy walking outside, particularly in the evening, you might enjoy it a lot more with insect repellent.

Concert Clothes

Men, indoors:

- Black dress pants—no jeans
- Long-sleeved black dress shirt (You'll probably want to bring several.)
- Black socks
- Black shoes
- eurobrass will provide a blue tie

Men, outdoors:

- neutral-colored long pants (no blue jeans, track pants, or sweatpants)
- green eurobrass polo shirt (If you have one already, bring it; if not, you'll receive one when you arrive in Germany.)
- appropriate shoes

Women, indoors:

- Black skirt or dress pants. Please choose something that covers the knees: pants, a long skirt/dress, or a shorter skirt/dress paired with thick black nylons/leggings
- Black dress shirt, long or short sleeved (not sleeveless—shoulders should be covered. We recommend bringing several.)
- Black shoes or nice sandals—no flip-flops
- eurobrass will provide a blue scarf

Women, outdoors:

- neutral colored long pants or skirt (no blue jeans, track pants, or sweatpants)
- green eurobrass polo shirt (If you have one already, bring it; if not, you'll receive one when you arrive in Germany.)
- appropriate shoes

Staying Connected

1. We should have Wi-Fi at the retreat center in Uder where we're rehearsing.
2. Once we're on the road, internet access can be hit or miss: We'll do our best to provide Wi-Fi passwords at any churches that have networks, and you're welcome to ask your hosts if they have a network and can give you the password. That said, unless your host sends you to your room with a bottle of water and the password, please take a few minutes to chat with them before taking off to check your messages.
3. Most wireless providers now offer international plans—if you'd rather not be at the whims of Wi-Fi, check out what your provider offers before leaving the States.

Other Preparations

1. At each concert, a member of the ensemble gives a brief testimony. This doesn't have to be the story of how you first came to Jesus (although it can)—any story about what God is doing or has done in your life, or something he's taught you lately, is fine. Please try to finish yours **BEFORE** you arrive in Frankfurt. Remember, these should be God-focused, personal, and short (**3 minutes maximum**). We'd like to read or hear your testimony before you give it in a concert—while we trust you to tell your own story, we also find that these testimonies often benefit from a read-through before they're spoken publicly (this also helps those of us who are doing the translating). If you finish your testimony before tour (highly recommended!), feel free to send it to Kathryn (KCheney@eurobrass.de) and/or Angie (AHunter@eurobrass.de). **Before you send us your testimony, please time yourself reading it aloud at a normal speaking pace. If this takes longer than three minutes, please figure out what you can trim to get it under 3.**

(German speakers: y'all can have a little longer, since your testimony doesn't need to be translated, but please keep it at or under 5 minutes.)

2. Daily devotions: We try to spend at least a little bit of time every day looking at God's Word together. During rehearsal camp, these times will be led by one of the members of our leadership team, but once we're on the road, we'll turn it over to y'all, with somebody different leading each day. These don't need to be terribly long—about 30 minutes, and we can always use some of that time to sing together—and can be as simple as discussing a passage of scripture together. Please take a few minutes to think about anything you might like to share/think about/discuss with the group.

3. In early July we'll activate the eurobrass prayer blog on Facebook and by email. At that time you'll receive information about how your family and friends can sign up for regular updates during the tour.

Assorted Overseas Travel Tips

1. Those of you coming from the US will receive a \$750 travel reimbursement shortly after your arrival (You'll actually receive the equivalent amount in euros, so there's no need to exchange a ton of money when you arrive in Frankfurt). If you anticipate needing more cash in Germany and plan to use ATMs, check with your bank to see if they have a partnership with a German bank.
2. Electricity: most laptops, tablets, and mobile phones can be charged with just a plug adapter. For small appliances such as hair dryers and curling irons, you'll also need a voltage converter. eurobrass has one voltage converter and several plug adapters available, but if you know you'll need one regularly, we recommend purchasing one at a travel store before you go.
3. Make sure you've made provisions for international health insurance. A few options:
 - You'll often have the option to book travel insurance that includes international health coverage when you purchase a plane ticket.
 - Check with your insurer and see what they offer.
 - Google.

Please be aware that any medical expenses you incur in Germany will be your responsibility.

Prayer Requests

- That God will use our work and our time together for his glory.
- That we grow together spiritually and musically while living well together.
- That God will use us to reach the people with whom we interact.
- That the final logistical details for the tour come together smoothly and well.

Grace and Peace,

Your eurobrass Leadership Team

Kathryn
Angie
Ben
Chris