

Dear GGF Families,

Below and attached are the final details on our week at the Golden Gate Choral Festival. Also attached is the final Marin Girls Chorus schedule. Please read *both* carefully and thoroughly *well* before Sunday, July 12. Both should give you all the information you need to plan your week. Please refer to both for details on what to wear, where to be and when!

Thank you all for sharing this special opportunity with your daughters. This busy, wonderful week would not be possible without all of our parent volunteers pitching in. We will need your teamwork, patience and cooperation during the festival week! This is one of the things that MGC does best – building community, working together and sharing our love of music with others.

Now that the festival schedule has been finalized, the activities, rehearsals and events are out of MGC's hands. If you have questions, you will need to contact the various Piedmont coordinators (see link to website below). Please do not contact our wonderful Barbara! She will not have all the answers this time 😊.

Many of your questions can be answered in the MGC schedule OR on the Golden Gate Festival website: [www.goldengatefestival.org](http://www.goldengatefestival.org).

If this is your first time participating in the GGF, here is a short video that will give you a glimpse of the experience your daughters will have during the week.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHnqhk BIhY>

### **Important Details to Keep in Mind:**

#### **Parent transportation and carpools:**

MGC is providing bus transportation to/from Berkeley & Oakland, but there are two days that have an *optional early parent pick up* (Thursday/Arioso at 5 pm and Friday/all MGC singers at 11 am - see schedule for details). Please use the MGC participant contact list at the end of the schedule to arrange your own carpools or help with pick-ups.

#### **Special note:           Saturday, July 18 Transportation**

**YOU will need to arrange transportation home from the final concert and after-party. If you are not attending the closing ceremonies and concert, you must arrange a ride home from Oakland for your singer and/or your homestay singers. There will not be a bus returning from Oakland Saturday night.**

#### **Homestays:**

Those of you providing a homestay for the week (thank you!) will have an exciting, but intense, week of providing hospitality, transportation and TLC to the visiting Hangzhou choristers. For those non-homestay families, please help share the load by helping with carpools, chaperoning, or offering assistance when possible.

Even though not all of our participating singers are able to host an international singer, we, as the Marin Girls Chorus, are collective hosts, and we should consider all the guests to be “our kids”, just as we do our own singers.

You can also refer to the Homestay Portal on the GGF website for information.

### **Special notes:**

- The most up to date schedule is the attached MGC schedule, NOT the one on the Homestay portal.
- Our charter bus drop off and pick up locations (Drake's Landing Park N Ride and Northgate Mall) are correct and supercede any information GGF has provided!
- The bus bringing Hangzhou to Marin on Sunday, July 12 will arrive at 3 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church of Marin, 240 Channing Way, San Rafael. Only the Homestay families need to be present to welcome the bus.

In appreciation of your hospitality, the festival will provide TWO complimentary tickets to festival events to Homestay families. All additional tickets must be purchased online. Homestay families should have received a promo code in an email to claim their free tickets. If you did not receive the promo code, call or email Jennifer Kay, Festival Administrator: [jkay@piedmontchoirs.org](mailto:jkay@piedmontchoirs.org), [510-547-4441](tel:510-547-4441).

**Special note:** Homestay families must provide transportation for their guests BACK to Piedmont on Sunday morning, July 19. You may arrange carpools with other families if you like. Details on the schedule.

### **Chaperones:**

Each day there will be two parent chaperones with the singers (we have 18 singers, plus our homestay guests), who will accompany the girls on the bus and to the festival activities. Your daughters must stay with the chaperones and Brandon during the Festival hours and activities. They should follow usual event/travel protocols: stay with a buddy, always let chaperones know where you are, etc.

Unless there is an early pick up on the MGC Schedule, the girls must stay with the group.

The homestay singers will travel on the bus with MGC, but during the rehearsals and performances, they will be with the rest of their choir (the other half is homestayng with the Piedmont Choir) and will be supervised by their director and chaperones.

The chaperones are considered paid participants and will have credentials that will give them access to the activities. MGC has TWO chaperone credentials. Please return the credentials to Brandon at the end of your “shift”. If you are chaperoning for a ticketed event, your credentials will give you free admission. Any additional family members wanting to attend must purchase tickets.

Brandon will be with our MGC singers, along with our accompanist, Grace Renaud. Both Brandon and Grace will have additional musical meetings and responsibilities while the singers are at the massed rehearsals, so the chaperones will be the main point of contact each day. Please communicate any special needs or information to the chaperones for that

day (i.e. your daughter is not feeling well, needs medication, is having a meltdown – to be expected on about day 3 – is being picked up by a different person, etc.)

### **Tickets to Concerts:**

There are concerts and events all week, featuring various choirs. Most are free, but the Opening, Closing and Thursday night concerts are ticketed events. All tickets may be purchased on the GGF site, <http://www.goldengatefestival.org/EVENT-TICKETS>. This site lists all the events and locations as well.

MGC's Spotlight Concert will be Tuesday evening (see schedule for details). This event is free.

**Special note:** Homestay families will receive two free tickets to each ticketed event. All additional tickets must be purchased. If you will not be using all your free tickets, please check with other families to pass on your tickets! Homestay families should have received a promo code in an email to claim their free tickets. If you did not receive the promo code, call or email Jennifer Kay, Festival Administrator: [jkay@piedmontchoirs.org](mailto:jkay@piedmontchoirs.org), [510-547-4441](tel:510-547-4441).

### **Singer Attire:**

The “shirt of the day” is listed on the schedule.

Each singer will have 3 shirts to rotate among:

- MGC issue blue polo shirt
- Tie dye shirt which singers will make/take home from July 9 potluck party. Those who can't attend will have a shirt made for them and can pick it up on July 13 on the bus at end of day.
- A gray custom-made t-shirt (called “Chorus T-shirt” on schedule) which will be given out at July 9 potluck or on July 13 on the bus at end of day

Some days the girls will need to bring their entire concert dress ensemble to change into (see schedule). Please have this packed in a labeled “carry on” or “garment bag” and ready to go in the mornings! Singers should bring a small backpack each day for music binder, lunch and water bottles, etc.

**Special Note:** On Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, please send \$10 to \$15 with your MGC singer. Brandon and the chaperones will walk with the girls to a close, off-site location for an afternoon treat (The Lake Chalet or similar).

This WILL be an amazing week for our singers. Thank you for your help in making it so!

Sincerely,

The Board