

Musical Escapades Through Italy

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS ACCEPTED ON MUSICIANS' BEHALF

Raising the funds to make the trip to Italy may seem impossible at first, but many musicians have done it! The most common way participants raise money is by seeking tax-deductible donations from friends, family and other supporters. People love to support students who are educating themselves and doing good things in the world. As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, we can accept tax-deductible donations up to the cost of "Musical Escapades Through Italy" plus airfare.

- Apply to many sources: Friends, Family, Music Teachers, Service Clubs. Many participants have raised enough money to participate in our music tours and programs through \$25, \$50 and \$100 donations.
- Tax Deductible Donations on behalf musicians should be accompanied by the Sponsorship Form.
- Feel free to use parts of the letter below as a sample to create your own. Make it personal!

SAMPLE LETTER OF SPONSORSHIP

Dear _____,

I have been playing the violin for about eight years and have participated in various orchestras, including the Lighthouse Youth Orchestra, Redlands Youth Symphony, and San Bernardino County Honors Orchestra. As an integral part of the Lighthouse Youth Orchestras, I have been able to attend multiple musical festivals, where my orchestra has won first place in our division as well as many gold ratings. Individually, I have also received an Outstanding Musicianship Award for my musical contribution to my ensemble. In addition to my experience as an orchestra member, I have also had the privilege of participating in a few chamber groups as well as performing repertoire for solo competitions.

I am very excited to announce an amazing opportunity that I have the chance to be part of next summer. The Mountaintop Strings of California, directed by Sharon Rizzo, is planning a three week Italian performance program called "**Musical Escapades Through Italy**" that will take place from June 19 to July 10, 2022. This program accepts musicians from all over the country, and I have been accepted by audition. We will be rehearsing and performing in Tuscany, Perugia, and Venice. This is a chance for me to grow as a musician and perform and rehearse in some wonderful historic venues, such as Vivaldi's own Church, the Chiesa della Pietà in Venice, and in the iconic hill town of San Gimignano, we will be rehearsing in the 14th century Monastery of Sant'Agostino. We may also have an opportunity to perform in The Pantheon in Rome and other famous basilicas. While we will perform mostly Baroque and Classical music, we will also be putting together a Jazz & Pop program as an invitation has been made to participate in the Umbria Jazz Festival, which takes place in Perugia, Italy. This is one of the most important jazz festivals worldwide and has had many well-known artists perform. While this is a musical program, there are also a number of opportunities to explore and experience the abundance of culture that Italy has to offer.

The tuition for this program costs \$4,999. This price includes accommodations in centrally located areas, concert venues, ground transportation, some meals as well as a few group excursions. In addition, I would also be responsible for my airfare which could be an additional \$1,100 - \$1,500. Participation in a program like this would not be possible without the generosity of people such as yourself, which is why I am reaching out to you. If you are willing and able, I would greatly appreciate any monetary donation that you could provide as I work to raise the money needed to participate in this wonderful program. As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, Mountaintop Strings is able to accept donations, which are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the law, up to the cost of "Musical Escapades Through Italy", plus airfare, on my behalf. (See the form on the next page). Feel free to contact me with any questions that you may have! You can reach me directly at (your email address & phone number). I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Thank you for your support,

Your name