

Northshore Exchange/Chicago Trip November Bulletin

Here is the information for our Exchange Trip to Chicago to perform in June 2015 with the Northshore Concert Band. Please consider all this information and return the Commitment Form by December 1. If you cannot commit by December 1, please return the form with your best answer and the date by which you feel you can commit. We hope that as many WSW members as possible will be able to participate. Spouses/companions are also welcome to travel with us. **IMPORTANT:** Please return the form whether you intend to travel with us or not. If your answer is yes, please attached a check payable to WSW for \$100.00 per person if you are flying with us and/or requesting the hotel stay.

Your commitment is critical. We need to collect commitments in order to align the number of WSW requesting home stays with the NCB homestay hosts, secure hotel rooms (minimum of 10 rooms necessary for the group rate), reserve flight reservations, and recruit subs as needed.

Flights

Our current plan for the best price is two-fold: Our travel agent is holding 75 seats at \$349 for Newark to O'Hare without a deposit until December 7, and will then ask for an extension. Southwest will have flights available in December for LaGuardia to Midway; these may be less expensive. If satisfactory flights become available on Southwest and save us money (they don't charge for checked bags), we will consider the change. You are also welcome fly out early/return later, or drive, or ride horseback; if this is the case, please book your own travel arrangements.

Our travel agent is holding 75 seats on United Airlines for travel from Newark to O'Hare, at \$349.00 per person:

- Friday, June 12, United #194 departs Newark 7:00 pm, arrives O'Hare 8:49 pm
- Monday, June 15, United #1734 departs O'Hare 5:00 pm, arrives Newark 8:21 pm

We will arrange for optional van transportation to/from a convenient parking site to the airport, price to be announced, to save on airport transfer costs. Also consider individual car/van pools to the airport. See the options on the Commitment Form.

Equipment transport

Small instruments should fly with their owners as carry-ons. Large instruments will need to be checked as special baggage on the airline, or you may opt to send your instrument via ground transport (with Ed Herko, who is driving his Suburban to Chicago and back). Check the appropriate box on the Commitment Form if you want to send your large instrument with Ed.

Hotel/Home Stays

All trip participants may elect either a Home Stay in a Northshore Concert Band member's home (at no cost, although a small gift for the host is appropriate), or at the Hilton Orrington Hotel in Evanston (<http://www.hotellorrington.com/>), at \$199.00 per room per night, tax inclusive. Single, double, triple, quad occupancy is the same rate per night. This is a classic hotel in downtown Evanston, close to coffee shops, shopping, the Lake Michigan shoreline, and Northwestern campus. Use the Commitment Form to indicate your roommate preference.

(Continued)

Personal Leave/School Business Day justification

I've written an open letter school administrators to help music educators in the group secure Monday, June 15 as a paid leave day. It is included at the end of this document. Based on suggestions from Evan Cooper (who had 12 years experience as a subject supervisor), I "front loaded" the essential arguments at the beginning of the letter to help with visibility. If any of you need a personalized letter, I will be happy to tailor a customized letter for your supervisor, principal, etc., or for specific circumstances.

Tentative Itinerary

Friday, June 12

Van/carpooling to airport.

Flight at 7:00 pm, LaGuardia/O'Hare. Transfers from airport via NCB members. Dinner and socializing with NCB members in homes and downtown Evanston.

Saturday, June 13

Breakfast in NCB host homes/downtown Evanston.

Group sight-seeing in Chicago, including Wendella Boat Tour of the Chicago River/Lake Michigan (hosted/sponsored by NCB), and group lunch (prepaid in your trip package) with NCB. Individual sight-seeing and dinner options will be available after the group trip, for which you are individually responsible. We will have suggestions ready closer to trip departure.

Sunday, June 14

Breakfast in NCB host homes/downtown Evanston.

11:30 am - sound check at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall (Lunch TBA on NU campus)

1:00 pm - combined rehearsal with NCB

2:00 pm - sound check for NCB

3:00 pm concert; 5:00 pm - NCB-sponsored reception. Dinner with NCB hosts or on your own in downtown Evanston.

Monday, June 15

Breakfast in NCB host homes/downtown Evanston. Day free to explore the area. Lunch on your own. Transfers to airport via NCB members. (If we change airlines to Southwest, departure time and Monday's itinerary will change to reflect an earlier departure.)

Flight at 5:00 pm (all members), O'Hare/LaGuardia. Van/carpooling home from airport.

**Northshore Exchange/Chicago Trip
Commitment Form**

Every WSW member should complete/return this form. In addition, please complete an additional form for every spouse/companion traveling with us.

Name: _____ Instrument: _____

I am a: _____ WSW member; _____ Sub player; _____ Spouse/companion

Address, City, State, ZIP _____

Home phone: _____

Cell phone: _____

Email: _____

_____ I WILL be participating on the NCB Exchange Trip. (A non-refundable check payable to WSW is attached.)

_____ I WILL NOT be participating on the NCB Exchange Trip.

If you are participating, please enter details and calculate your total on the reverse side.

Print name

Signature

Date

NAME: _____

If a spouse/companion, I am traveling with WSW member: _____

Please check your choices and calculate the appropriate total. Cross out the flight/hotel amounts if they do not apply to you. The group meal on Saturday applies to everyone.

FLIGHTS:	PAYMENT
_____ I will fly with the group. Book flights for me.	\$349.00
_____ I will fly separately and book my own flights.	
_____ I would like to transport my instrument via ground transport.	
TRANSFERS TO DEPARTURE AIRPORT :	
_____ I can offer to drive and share a ride for _____ (qty) members to the airport.	
_____ I plan to ride to the airport with this driver:	
_____ I want to share a rented van ride (price TBA)	TBA
ACCOMODATIONS:	
_____ I would like to stay 3 nights with a NCB member family. If possible, I would like to be assigned to stay with this WSW traveler:	
_____ I would like to stay 3 nights at the Hilton Orrington.	\$597.00
_____ I would like to stay 3 nights in the Hilton. I would like to share a room with this WSW traveler, and will arrange to pay him/her for my share of the room costs:	
_____ I will make separate arrangements to stay with family/friends in the Northshore area.	
SATURDAY GROUP MEAL IN CHICAGO (ALL MEMBERS)	\$ 30.00
TOTAL OF APPROPRIATE AMOUNTS	
LESS \$100.00 DEPOSIT (FOR FLIGHTS/HOTEL)	\$100.00
BALANCE DUE	

Balance payment will be due in one payment on January 5, 2015, or in two installment payments on January 5, 2015 and February 9, 2015. Payments for van rentals TBA.

Westchester Symphonic Winds
333 Mamaroneck Avenue, Box 485
White Plains, NY 10605

November, 2014

Dear School Administrator:

The music educator named in the attached application is a valued member of the Westchester Symphonic Winds (westchestersymphonicwinds.org), the adult community wind ensemble which has gained tremendous momentum in the past seven years in its residency at the Tarrytown Music Hall. I'm writing to support this music educator's application for consideration for a school business day or personal day on Monday, June 15, 2015 so he/she may perform with us on an exchange concert with the nationally renowned Northshore Concert Band (northshoreband.org), led by Dr. Mallory Thompson, at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. I acknowledge that many current school policies do not allow for absences for personal reasons on Mondays or Fridays. I hope that this letter may provide more than enough adequate professional reasons for the approval of this leave.

Please consider these key elements while weighing the factors in your decision:

- Our ensemble is made up of professional-level players, but they receive no compensation for this or any other performance. In fact, the players pay \$100.00 in dues annually to support the ensemble's budget.
- The positive effect of this program on this teacher's students is incalculable. Students will observe their teachers' dedication as they prepare for this performance trip and will learn about their experience on their return. It will be a remarkable example for your students to emulate, and encourage them to continue their membership in your music program.
- The event afforded by bringing these two ensembles together will go beyond their individual philosophies, and provide the music educators within the ensembles an extensive opportunity for the exchange of ideas, teaching techniques, repertoire suggestions, and includes the promise of continuing this dialogue into 2016 when we complete the exchange. Essentially, this event will offer many of the same opportunities as a professional convention.
- Our ensemble provides invaluable professional development opportunities for its members through the continuing practice of their art and skills.
- The best teachers lead by example. 29 of our 65 members are current or retired music educators. This concert exchange provides an opportunity for these professionals to extend their performance experience, which will directly benefit their students' experience on their return.
- Our host director, Mallory Thompson, is the Director of Bands at Northwestern University and one of the most esteemed wind conductors in the world. Her impact on our members will provide an exponential result on their ensembles back home.
- The Westchester Symphonic Winds was featured in the January 2014 issue of *Teaching Music*, the official magazine of the National Association for Music Education, the umbrella organization which, in turn, supports NYSSMA. The article, "The Renaissance

Teacher,” cited the multiple lives of music educators - as teachers and performers - and how this combination engages their own students at a much higher level than other disciplines. The article, by Cynthia Darling, demonstrated the direct connection between performing teachers and the results on their students: “Music educators are a notoriously multi-tasking bunch. In the classroom, they must be steeped in the technique and knowledge of multiple instruments while also attending to the twin gods of practice and performance. Additionally, music teachers often have an active performance life of their own outside of their full-time teaching duties. For most, the decision to engage in outside performance gigs, be they amateur or professional, as well as other music-related activities, is a personal choice. And yet for many, it is not simply a choice: It is, in fact, the necessary inspiration that feeds them and keeps them evolving as educators and as people.”

- The Westchester Symphonic Winds, now in its twenty-seventh season (and seventh season under my direction), continues to develop its educational outreach. Beyond this exchange, the band has initiated a Side-by-Side concert program, where local student musicians sit alongside our players, giving them a first-hand professional experience.
- The Northshore Concert Band, now in its fifty-ninth season, has a strong education outreach statement included in its mission: “To assist in the music education of young people—the future generation of adult musicians— through the presentation of concerts, clinics, festivals, and scholarships.”

The trip includes travel to Chicago on Friday evening, June 12; an architectural tour of downtown Chicago on Saturday, June 13; individual and combined rehearsals of both the Westchester Symphonic Winds and Northshore Concert Band at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, plus the shared concert featuring both groups on Sunday afternoon/evening, June 14; and travel home on Monday, June 15. The performance and post-concert reception on Sunday preclude travel that evening and necessitate departure on Monday. In June 2016, the Northshore Concert Band will travel here to Westchester County to complete the exchange.

Please give these factors due consideration and approve this application for this teacher’s professional leave for June 15, 2015. There are so many ways your own students will benefit from this choice.

I am happy to speak further on this topic and answer any questions you may have about our ensemble or this exchange program. Please contact me at curt.ebersole@gmail.com or call me at 914.420.7830.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Curt Ebersole
Conductor/Music Director
Westchester Symphonic Winds