



WORLD PROJECTS
EXPLORE THE WORLD WITH MUSIC

GREATER CONNECTICUT YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

CHRISTOPHER HISEY, DIRECTOR



2026 AUSTRALIA PERFORMANCE TOUR

including the 35th Australian International Music Festival

MELBOURNE – SYDNEY

June/July 2026

(dates are to be confirmed)

Tour Produced By:

World Projects Corporation

Deborah Gibbs, CEO

Natalia Abrego, Production Manager

Current as of March 7, 2025

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GREATER CONNECTICUT YOUTH ORCHESTRAS
Full Orchestra, String Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, & Jazz Band
Christopher Hisey, Director
2026 AUSTRALIA PERFORMANCE TOUR
June/July 2026

Current as of February 28, 2025 – Itinerary details subject to change

DAY ONE: June/July 2026 – NEW YORK DEPARTURE

Time TBD Arrive at New York area airport (TBC - possibly JFK, LGA, or EWR) and meet your World Projects Tour Manager who will assist you with check-in. Pass through security and proceed to your departure gate.

Time TBD Depart for Melbourne, Australia.
There may be a stop / change of planes en route.
Overnight en route.



DAY TWO: June/July 2026

Cross the International Date Line en route.

DAY THREE: June/July 2026 – MELBOURNE ARRIVAL (meals/movies in flight, D)

Morning Arrive into Melbourne!

Victoria's capital, Melbourne (pronounced Mel-bun), is a cultural melting pot. For a start, more people of Greek descent live here than in any other city except Athens, Greece. Multitudes of Chinese, Italian, Vietnamese, and Lebanese immigrants have all left their mark. With elegant tree-lined boulevards and a raging cafe culture, Melbourne maintains a distinctly European feel. Expect wonderful architecture both old and new and green spaces like the Royal Botanic Gardens. Wander down atmospheric laneways, often adorned with street art. This cosmopolitan city is also Australia's culture capital, with vibrant dining, shopping, and nightlife scenes.

Collect your luggage and move through customs and immigration. Meet your local Australian Tour Managers and load the coaches.

Depart on a Melbourne City Tour, including a guided walk through some of Melbourne's best arcades and laneways – Royal Arcade, Block Arcade, Centre Place and Degraeves Street.

Afternoon Lunch on own en route.
Mid-afternoon, transfer and check into your 3-star hotel.
Free time to settle in and freshen up.

Evening Enjoy a Welcome Dinner as a group in Melbourne followed by and early night!





DAY FOUR: June/July 2026 – MELBOURNE (B, D)

Morning Breakfast as a group at the hotel.
After breakfast, transfer to Phillip Island (*approx. 1.5 hours*).
On arrival on Phillip Island, visit the Koala Conservation Centre where you will get to interact with many of Australia's unique native animals such as eastern grey kangaroos, Tasmanian devils and koalas.

You will be captivated by the gorgeous coastline, scenic trails, and astonishing array of wildlife, including Australia's largest fur seal colony, Little Penguins and koalas. Phillip Island is also famous as the home of the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix.



Afternoon Lunch on your own in the local area.
After lunch, board your coaches and travel to the Nobbies Rock formations.

Located on the western tip of Phillip Island, The Nobbies' unique rock shapes and formations accommodate many of the native penguins, fur seals, and seabird life within the Phillip Island Region.

Enjoy a visit to the Penguin Parade Information Centre where you will have the opportunity to gain greater insight into the cute seabirds and the area they call home. You will see the penguins become visible as they waddle back to their sand burrows after a day of fishing for food in the waters surrounding Phillip Island.



After enjoying this tour, board coaches and return to Melbourne.
Evening Dinner on your own with AUD \$30 cash handout. Afterwards, return to the hotel.

DAY FIVE: June/July 2026 – MELBOURNE (B, D) – Exchange Performance (All Ensembles)

Morning Breakfast as a group at the hotel.
After breakfast, depart for a Yarra River Cruise.

Once the main source of food for indigenous Australians, the Yarra River is Melbourne's most valuable natural resource and vital to the city's economic prosperity. Your cruise will take you by some of Melbourne's landmarks.

Afternoon Lunch on your own in the local area.
After lunch, load the coaches and transfer to a local church or music program's venue (*TBC – pending school calendar - possibly Scotch College, Melbourne Grammar School or similar*). Upon arrival, greet your hosts and setup for this afternoon's performance.

Exchange Performance for the **Full Orchestra, String Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Band** with a local music program (*TBC – pending school calendar*).

Afterwards, say goodbye your hosts, load the coaches and return to the hotel.
Evening Dinner on your own with AUD \$30 cash handout. Afterwards, return to the hotel.





DAY SIX: June/July 2026 – MELBOURNE → SYDNEY (B,D)

Morning Breakfast as a group at the hotel.
After breakfast, check out of your hotel, load coaches and depart for Melbourne Airport.
Check in for your flight to Sydney.
Depart Melbourne.
Arrive into Sydney!

*Warm-natured, sun-kissed, and naturally good looking, **Sydney** is rather like its lucky residents. Situated on one of the world's most striking harbors, where the twin icons of the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge steal the limelight, the relaxed Australian city is surprisingly close to nature. Within minutes you can be riding the waves on Bondi Beach, bushwalking in Manly, or gazing out across Botany Bay, where the first salt-encrusted Europeans arrived in the 18th century.*



Afternoon Lunch on your own.
Following lunch, enjoy a Sydney Orientation Tour including stops in the Central Business District, Eastern Suburbs and Bondi Beach.
Mid-afternoon, transfer and check-in to a 3-star hotel (TBC).

Evening Enjoy dinner as a group in Sydney, and possibly attend this evening's Festival Concert (*schedule pending*).
After dinner (or concert), return to the hotel.

DAY SEVEN: June/July 2026 – SYDNEY (B, D) – Workshop / Rehearsal Exchange (Full Orchestra)
AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

Morning Breakfast as a group at the hotel.
This morning, transfer to a venue in Sydney (TBC - possibly Sydney Conservatorium of Music).

The **Full Orchestra** will enjoy a 1-hour **workshop** with a member of the festival Faculty at a local venue (TBC).

Afternoon Lunch on your own in Sydney
The **Full Orchestra** may enjoy a possible **Rehearsal Exchange** this afternoon with another participating Festival instrumental group at a venue in Sydney (TBC - subject to availability).
Afterwards enjoy some free time on your own.

Evening Dinner on your own in Sydney with AUD \$30 cash handout, and the rest of this evening is free.





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DAY EIGHT: June/July 2026 –SYDNEY (B.D) – Adjudicated Performance (Full Orchestra)

AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

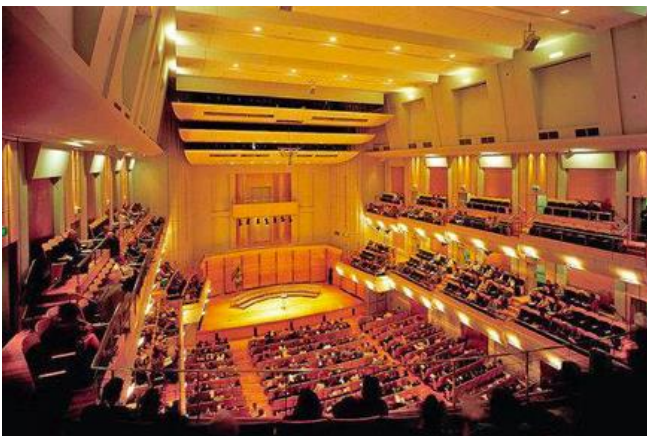
- Morning Breakfast as a group at the hotel.
Depart for Sydney's Taranga Zoo where you will be able to see both international and native animals such as kangaroos and koalas!!
- Afternoon Lunch on your own at the park.
Early afternoon, return to the hotel.
Upon arrival at the hotel, freshen up and change into your performance attire. Transfer to Chatswood Concourse or Verbrugghen Hall (TBC).



*Named after Henri Verbrugghen, the Sydney Conservatorium's founding director, **Verbrugghen Hall** is a world-class concert hall and the largest venue at the Conservatorium, seating a total of 528 over several sections.*

Opened in 2011, The Concourse Chatswood is Sydney's newest professional concert venue. The complex includes a public pavilion, library, cultural spaces and the acoustically advanced concert hall.

- Evening Sound check on stage for the **Full Orchestra**.
Afterwards, enjoy dinner on your own nearby with AUD \$30 cash handout.
After dinner, return to the venue.
Adjudicated Performance for the **Full Orchestra** as part of this evening's Festival Concert at Verbrugghen Hall or The Concourse Chatswood (venue TBC - 20-minute performance length). You will also have the opportunity to hear other group performances.
Afterwards, load the coaches and return to the hotel for the evening.





DAY NINE: June/July 2026 – SYDNEY (B, D) – Performance (Full Orchestra)
AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

Morning Breakfast as a group at the hotel.
After breakfast, transfer to Circular Quay.
Depart via ferry to the beach suburb of Manly.

*Sydney's only ferry destination boasting an ocean beach, **Manly** caps off the harbour with charm. The surf's good and as the gateway to the Northern Beaches, it makes a popular base for the board-riding brigade. The Corso offers a plethora of shopping and dining opportunities and during all seasons the area is a buzz!*

This morning will be free to enjoy Manly including the beach, the Corso, and much more. There are options to rent surf boards, snorkeling equipment, etc. (*additional costs on own*). Possibly take a short walk around the coast from Manly Beach to Shelly Beach which offers a large variety of marine life which can be viewed in relatively shallow water.

Afternoon Lunch on your own.
After lunch, return to the city via ferry and on to your accommodations to change into concert attire.
Load the coaches and depart for the Sydney Opera House (*TBC*).
Upon arrival you will move through stage door and to your holding space backstage to store your instruments.

*Performance for the **Full Orchestra** as part of this afternoon's Festival Concert in the Concert Hall (20-minute performance length - no sound check). You will also have the opportunity to hear other Festival ensembles perform this afternoon.*

*Described as the eighth wonder of the world, the **Sydney Opera House** is one of the 20th Century's most spectacular architectural triumphs. It is Australia's greatest performing arts center and one of its leading tourist attractions. The Concert Hall recently reopened after a 10-year, multi-million-dollar renovation which enhanced acoustics, installed state-of-the-art staging mechanisms, and improved accessibility.*

Evening Afterwards, load the coaches with instruments and return to the hotel.
Dinner as a group in Sydney and the rest of this evening is free.
Afterwards, load the coaches and return to the hotel.





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**DAY TEN: June/July 2026 – SYDNEY (B.D) – Outdoor Performance (String Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, & Jazz Band)
AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Morning Breakfast as a group at hotel.
After breakfast, transfer to Darling Harbour's Harbourside.
Setup for your outdoor performances.
The *String Orchestra*, *Wind Ensemble*, and *Jazz Band* will each have an *outdoor performance* at the National Maritime Museum at Darling Harbour (20-minute performance length for each ensemble).

Darling Harbour is just a few minutes' walk from the heart of the city, located on the harbour foreshore. The festival works in conjunction with Darling Harbour to provide bands for the Winter Music Program. Darling Harbour was also a major Olympic venue for the Sydney 2000 Games.

Afterwards, place instruments back on the coaches and enjoy free time in Darling Harbour.

Afternoon Lunch on your own.
This afternoon is free to explore Sydney on your own. Late afternoon, board the coaches and return to the hotel.

Evening Enjoy a Farewell Dinner as a group to celebrate your Sydney Performance Tour.
Afterwards, transfer to the Sydney Town Hall or Sydney Opera House (TBC).



Sydney Town Hall has been the seat of the city's administration and the Lord Mayor's office for over 120 years. It is also the public stage and meeting point for the people of Sydney and its visitors. Built on the site of Sydney's first European cemetery, Sydney Town Hall is a striking blend of French Second Empire architecture, with its mansard roofs and wrought-iron cresting, inspired by neoclassical architecture and the Hôtel de Ville in Paris.
Attend (or *perform* as part of, if you are the Adjudicator's choice) the **Festival Command Performance** in the Sydney Town Hall - Centennial Hall (TBC).



After the concert, enjoy the Festival Closing Party and return to the hotel for the evening.

DAY ELEVEN: June/July 2026 – SYDNEY → NEW YORK (B)

Morning Breakfast as a group at hotel.
Check-out of the accommodations and transfer to Sydney Airport.
Arrive at Sydney Airport and check-in for your flights and say goodbye to your Australian Tour Managers.

Afternoon Depart Sydney for a New York area airport.
Note: there may be a stop en route.
Customs and immigration will take place at the 1st point of entry into the United States.

Afternoon/Eve. Arrive into your home airport THE SAME DAY due to the re-crossing of the International Date Line.
Proceed to baggage claim to collect your belongings and say goodbye to your World Projects Tour Manager. Depart for home via your own transportation.

WELCOME HOME!!

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Current as of February 28, 2025 – Itinerary details subject to change

PACKAGE INCLUSIONS:

- ♪ ESTIMATED roundtrip airfare from New York to Melbourne to Sydney and return back to New York (*airfare is ESTIMATED based on 2025 pricing and may be more or less once 2026 fares are released*).
- ♪ Accommodations: Eight (8) nights total at 3-star hotels (*TBC – Subject to Availability*):
 - ♪ Melbourne: Three (3) nights
 - ♪ Sydney: Five (5) nights
- ♪ Meals:
 - ♪ Breakfasts: Daily (eight (8) total) as a group (continental)
 - ♪ Dinners: Eight (8) total including; four (4) as a group at local restaurants and four (4) as AUD \$30 cash handouts
- ♪ Two (2) Full-sized deluxe touring coaches as required by the itinerary
- ♪ One (1) World Projects Tour Manager throughout the tour
- ♪ One (1) local tour manager PER COACH with the group in Australia
- ♪ Sightseeing and admissions per itinerary including:
 - ♪ Melbourne - Melbourne Orientation Tour, Phillip Island Day Tour (including Koala Conservation Centre, Nobbies Rocks and Penguin Parade), Yarra River Cruise
 - ♪ Sydney - Sydney Orientation Tour, Taronga Zoo, Manly Half-Day Trip
- ♪ Workshop, exchange, and performance setup and promotion arrangements in Australia as follows (*all venues are subject to availability – performances may be shared with local ensembles pending school calendar*):
 - ♪ Melbourne – Performance for Full Orchestra, String Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Band at a local church or music program’s venue (*TBC – possibly Scotch College, Melbourne Grammar School or similar*)
 - ♪ Large equipment as provided by exchange hosts (at minimum - Timpani (set of 4), Drum Set, Electric Keyboard & Amp), one (1) string bass with pickup and amp, six (6) student level cellos, music stands, and chairs
- ♪ Australian International Music Festival inclusions as follows (*all arrangements are TBC*):
 - ♪ One (1) adjudicated performance for the Full Orchestra at Verbrugghen Hall at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music or The Concourse Chatswood (*TBC*)
 - ♪ One (1) performance for the Full Orchestra in the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall (*no sound check*)
 - ♪ Three (3) 20-minute slots at the outdoor performance at the National Maritime Museum in Darling Harbour; one (1) each for the String Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Band
 - ♪ One (1) workshop for the Full Orchestra with a member of the Festival Faculty
 - ♪ One (1) rehearsal exchange for the Full Orchestra with another participating Festival instrumental ensemble (*subject to availability*)
 - ♪ Festival T-shirt & program
 - ♪ Festival Plaque for each group
 - ♪ One (1) recording of an indoor performance (*archival use only*)
 - ♪ Access to all Festival events and concerts
 - ♪ Festival Closing Party
 - ♪ Large equipment provided at Festival concert and workshop locations (Timpani (set of 4), Concert Bass Drum, Orchestra bells, Xylophone, Vibraphone, Marimba, Upright Chimes, Drum Set, Gong), one (1) string bass with pickup and amp, six (6) student level cellos, piano/keyboard, music stands and chairs
- ♪ Certificate of Liability Insurance (upon request)
- ♪ Taxes and tolls (where applicable)



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PACKAGE EXCLUSIONS:

- ♪ Ground Transportation to/from home airport
- ♪ All checked baggage fees including second checked, oversize, and overweight fees
- ♪ Additional music instrument rental (such as Double Bass, Cello, Tuba etc.)
- ♪ Bows for rented string basses and cellos
- ♪ Meals, Sightseeing, and Transportation not indicated in the inclusions
- ♪ Tips to local tour escorts and drivers (tipping is not common in Australia)
- ♪ Passport application/processing costs
- ♪ ETA Visa processing (for eligible passport holders – note that almost all US passport holders are eligible for the ETA Visa program)
- ♪ Items of a personal nature (laundry, room service, telephone fee, internet connection, mail, etc.)
- ♪ Travel Insurance
- ♪ Trip Cancellation, Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR), and Musical Instrument Insurance



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Current as of March 7, 2025 – itinerary details subject to change

NUMBER OF TRAVELERS: 60 – 64 paid travelers

ESTIMATED MULTI-SHARE PACKAGE COST PER PERSON:

60 – 64 paid travelers US \$5,268.00

SUPPLEMENTAL COSTS:

Supplement for Single Room: US \$980 per person

NOTES:

- ◆ **Exchange Rate / Currency:** Costs are based on AUD/USD exchange rate of .63 (as of February 11, 2025). If the exchange rate changes by more than 3%, World Projects retains the right to re-cost the festival/tour.
- ◆ **Payment / Individual Billing:** All fees are in US Dollars. Payments will be made through WeTravel by ACH transfer or credit card. WeTravel charges a transaction fee for any payments made by credit card. Individual billing applies.
- ◆ **Airfare:** ESTIMATED roundtrip airfare has been included in the above costs. Once the tour has been deposited on and actual fares/schedules are available, World Projects will source air seats and inform Greater Connecticut Youth Orchestras. **Price may be more or less depending on actual fares.** Once booked, only the base fare is guaranteed. Taxes and surcharges are subject to change until ticketing. Should additional taxes or surcharges be levied, World Projects retains the right to pass on all such surcharges to Greater Connecticut Youth Orchestras.
- ◆ **Air Baggage Fees:** Baggage fees are set by the individual airlines and are subject to change. Some airlines charge for first and second checked bags and charge additional fees for oversize/overweight bags. Once an airline has been selected for travel, World Projects will inform Greater Connecticut Youth Orchestras of the selected airline’s baggage policies and current fees. Greater Connecticut Youth Orchestras will be responsible for all baggage fees at airport check-in.
- ◆ **Accommodations:** The Multi-Share Package is based on a combination of triple and double occupancy rooms as is available at each hotel. Triple denotes three (3) people per room, three or two beds per room. Sharing beds for triple occupancy may be necessary. The exact rooming configuration may vary between hotels. Package pricing requires a minimum of 25% of the group to be placed in triple rooms. The same price will apply for adults who elect to take the multi-share package. A Single Supplement cost is available for adults who do not wish to share a room.
- ◆ **Coaching:** Coaching is based on two (2) full-sized coaches for total travelers.
- ◆ **Availability / Ground Costs:** This quote is based on 2025 pricing and is subject to availability at the time of booking.
- ◆ **Travel Protection Plan:** World Projects will purchase a Student/Group Protection Plan (post departure) for all travelers of US-based groups (within the 50 states). Details of the plan will be sent to the group leader.
- ◆ **Required Forms:** All travelers will be required to submit signed liability waivers and medical authorizations forms as issued by World Projects to participate in the festival/tour.
- ◆ **Numbers:** World Projects reserves the right to recost the festival/tour should the number of travelers fall above or below the numbers shown above. Group must meet a minimum group size of 60 paid travelers by May 25, 2025. Pricing may be lower for a group larger than 64 paid travelers.

PAYMENT & CANCELLATION SCHEDULE:

Date	Type	Payment	Cancellation / Refund
Due Upon Sign-Up	Traveler Deposit	US \$200 per person	Non-refundable
June 1, 2025	Progress Payment #1	US \$400 per person	50% refundable to July 15, 2025
October 15, 2025	Progress Payment #2	US \$600 per person	50% refundable to December 1, 2025
December 15, 2025	Progress Payment #3	US \$800 per person	50% refundable to February 1, 2026
February 15, 2026	Progress Payment #4	US \$1,000 per person	50% refundable to April 1, 2026
April 1, 2026	Final Payment	Balance in Full	50% refundable to April 15, 2026

Note: Online portal for sign-ups will open on March 22, 2025 through to May 25, 2025. After this initial sign-up period, the portal will open a second time between September 15 through October 15, 2025. After October 15th, any additional sign-ups will only be allowed on based on space availability and may be subject to additional cost.