



Eltham Choral Society Concert Tour 2018 **Lisbon**

Newsletter No.4

URGENT UPDATE

Our Eltham Choral Society trip to **Lisbon** next year is approaching, but, as Rod announced at last Thursday's rehearsal, we are having to make some significant alterations to the plans which will affect us all. Our plans included flying to Lisbon with easyJet but **OneStage**, who are making the necessary arrangements for the tour, have now received the schedules and prices for 2018 and they have changed dramatically from the original estimates. We have, therefore, had to seek the best available alternative and have decided on the following changes.

Date change

1. We will be travelling in the late-May Bank Holiday week 2018 but will have to bring the trip forward by one day, leaving on **Tuesday, 29 May** instead of Wednesday, 30th and returning on **Friday, 1 June** instead of Saturday, 2nd. We will be flying by **TAP**, the Portuguese airline from Heathrow Airport. All transfers from Eltham to the airport and from Lisbon Airport to our hotel are included in the price of the tour. It will also mean a very early start.
2. Accommodation will still be at the 3* **Hotel Roma** in Avenida de Roma in Lisbon. We remind you that we will be staying on a B&B basis with two sharing a room.
3. **Hotel Roma** is a bright, modern hotel with a bar and a choice of restaurants and is in a lively residential and shopping area. It has 24-hour, multilingual reception, a concierge and lift, and rooms are air-conditioned and have cable/satellite TV, hair dryers, etc. The hotel also offers a dry cleaning and laundry service, currency exchange, safe-deposit box and souvenir/gift shop.



The view over Belem

4. Plans to perform two concerts while in Lisbon remain the same. Suggestions are that we could sing in either the **Sé Cathedral**, the **Basilica dos Martires** or the **Igreja de Sao Roque**, all rated among the finest churches in Lisbon. As all the churches are in the heart of the city, we will keep travelling to a minimum and allow the greatest possible time to explore the city's attractions. Exactly which of the churches we will perform in will not be known until sometime in early 2018 as Portuguese churches only confirm their schedules in the year itself.

The Cost

5. We presently have 57 people on the tour plus Max and Andrew. We will need to charge a figure of **£640** per person based on the new airfare figures This is £15 above the previous estimate of £625 but is still inclusive of transfers to and from the airports, all travel costs to/from performance venues, accommodation on a B&B basis, performance fees for our MD and accompanist, basic insurance and a gratuity for our courier. Anyone requiring a single room will be required to pay a supplement of around £36 per night for the three nights. As usual, we hope to arrange a group meal in a local restaurant to mark the end of the tour and we hope to be able to include this within that figure.

What next?

It is important now that we have sufficient funds to hand to be able to pay the airfares to OneStage when the flight booking is confirmed. So, **we now require the next instalment of the cost from everyone as follows:**

Paid to date:	initial deposit	£125 pp
	confirmation deposit	£100 pp
Now due:	air fare	£220 pp
18Apr18:	final instalment	£175 pp plus any single room supplements.

We will be able to accept instalments at any stage if it is of any help to you.

We would prefer to receive payment by bank transfer if possible to Barclays Bank, sort code 20-98-57, account number 60864064. Please enter 'Tour' and your name as reference and please note that this is a specific tour account and not the account to which you may pay your annual subscriptions. Otherwise we can accept cheques payable to Eltham Choral Society.

Finally

We very much regret that it has been necessary to change the plan originally outlined but the cost of leaving the plan unchanged would have been prohibitive. **If the changes make it impossible for you to stay with the tour**, please let a member of the organising group below know **this week**. **Please note that we have to confirm our intention to proceed with this tour by Tuesday, 10 October to secure these flights.**

Tour Committee

The committee members are:

Rod Tutt
Pam Fanshawe
Sue Mack
Val Seaton, and
Tony Crowe