Registered Charity No 1023904

Eltham Choral Society Concert Tour 2018
Lisbon

Newsletter No.1
Introduction

We are pleased to announce that we are starting to plan the tenth concert trip to Europe by Eltham Choral Society. After successful trips to places as diverse as Bruges, the Rhine Valley, Tuscany, Provence and Catalonia, we are now planning to explore the delights of **Lisbon**, the capital of Portugal in 2018.

As Rod announced recently, we are proposing our tour to Lisbon in Spring Bank Holiday week from Wednesday 30 May to Saturday 2 June 2018 and we are hoping for as many as possible of you and your partners/friends to travel with us. This newsletter is the invitation to apply for a place.

We are proposing to travel with OneStage, and we need to indicate to them the number of people interested in joining the trip as soon as possible. Please take a look at our suggestions below and complete and return the slip at the bottom of this paper to one of the tour sub-committee.

Travel and accommodation
Travel will be by **easyJet** from Gatwick Airport, with transfers from Eltham to the airport and from Lisbon Airport to our hotel included.

Our accommodation will be at the 3* **Hotel Roma** in Avenida de Roma in Lisbon. We will be staying on a B&B basis with two sharing a room. This is a bright, modern hotel with a bar and a choice of restaurants and is in a lively residential and shopping area.

Lisbon is said to be one of Europe's sunniest capitals, the most idyllic months being May to August, when food and music festivals are practically a weekly occurrence. We are looking forward to a colourful and relaxing tour.

The Torre de Belem, Lisbon

Concerts
Two concerts will be arranged as usual. We have been given the Sé Cathedral or the Basilica dos Martires in Lisbon as possibilities, along with the Igreja de Sao Roque, whose bland facade hides one of the most exquisite and decorative churches in Lisbon.

What will it cost?

The possible Brexit effect on currency rates makes it difficult to be precise about the cost of the trip, but we expect it to be in the region of **£620** per person based on a party of 60. The cost is inclusive of all coach transfers, easyJet fares, twin/double room shared accommodation on a B&B basis, performance fees for our MD and accompanist, basic insurance and a gratuity for our tour manager. We intend to arrange a group meal in a local restaurant to mark the end of the tour and we hope to be able to include the cost of this within that figure. Anyone requiring single room occupancy will be required to pay a supplement of about £36 per night.

The final cost is not yet confirmed and is dependent on there being a total number of 60 paying passengers. If there are fewer than 60, the price will inevitably be higher. Alternatively, we may have to reconsider the Lisbon option altogether.

When booking, we will be required to place an initial, non-refundable deposit of around £125 per person to OneStage and we will need to pass this condition on to those joining the trip. It is important, therefore, that those expressing a wish to travel with us must be sure of being able to come or accept the rather heavy consequences. The final payment will have to be completed by early next year. We will be able to accept instalments for the balance if it is of any help to you.

What next?

If you would like to come, please let the tour committee know before the Easter recess and whether you would be bringing a guest. Please consider all the implications above and if you need any further information, do just ask one of us. If you decide not to come, it would be useful to know your reasons.

Tour Committee

This year, we are introducing some new blood to the organising committee. The new committee will consist of:

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

Please complete and return the application form below

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I wish to join the ECS trip to Lisbon in May/June 2018 and I will*/will not* bring a guest, detailed below:
* delete as applicable

Name _____ Voice _____

Guest name _____