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## AABC to Perform Concerts in Asia

> *Month-long tour will begin in Kuala Lumpur and conclude in Shanghai*

(Costa Mesa, CA) A concert tour that has been in the planning stages for more than three years will come to far-flung fruition this summer as The All-American Boys Chorus stages a multi-nation tour of Asia. The 36 choristers, ages 11 to 14, and eight staff members will depart from LAX early Monday, July 15, and return home Saturday, August 9.

During that month they will visit and perform concerts in Kuala Lumpur (Jul. 18-20) and Penang (Jul 22 & 24), Malaysia; Singapore (Jul. 26); Hong Kong (Jul. 30); Shenzhen (Aug. 1); Zhongshan (Aug. 3); Shanghai (Aug. 5). Intervening days will be devoted to sightseeing and other activities.

According to Wesley Martin, the group's music director, choristers will perform a variety of selections, including best-of-Broadway songs such as "Tonight" from *West Side Story*, "Circle of Life" from *The Lion King* and "Lida Rose" from *The Music Man*. They'll also present medleys featuring the California sounds of the Beach Boys, tunes from Dixieland, selections from the Big Band era and jazz standards as well as songs in Malay and Chinese.

"The Chorus definitely has a trademark repertoire and spirit, which will not be absent," says Martin. "But we also want to perform for our audiences music with which they likely will be more familiar. Overall, our intention is to share with them some of America's favorite vocal music as a gift."

He adds that "we expect to receive much in return from our hosts and audience members and others we meet in Asia." The concert tour will be "a two-way cultural exchange."

Referring to the trip as a "quasi-state-sponsored tour," Anthony S. Manrique, Chorus executive director, reports that "these are all high-level concerts, arranged by national presenters who deal with opera companies and other touring groups."

*(more)*

## BOYS CHORUS ASIA TOUR/2

“It’s a prime opportunity for us to show a very positive image of American youth,” Manrique continues. He adds that “it’s also wonderfully enriching for the boys to travel overseas, meet people from other cultures, form impressions and bring home lasting memories.”

Preparatory meetings for the tour “have been stressing that the choristers will be in a different world and that they’ll need to take time to adjust, to experience the sights and sounds and smells and tastes,” says Martin. They’ll be prepared—literally, in some senses—to “eat it up.”

Manrique reports that parents are covering a portion of the choristers’ touring expenses and that other Chorus supporters have made donations. Asia sponsors are providing most of the ground transportation, accommodations and meals, as well as concert fees.

For more about The All-American Boys Chorus, and to get additional details on the Chorus’s program for boys 8 to 15 years old, visit [www.taabc.org](http://www.taabc.org)

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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**The All-American Boys Chorus**, founded in 1970, is a nonprofit organization headquartered on the Orange County fairgrounds in Costa Mesa. Its mission is to provide each Chorus member with the training, motivation and opportunity to develop and exercise qualities of leadership within an exceptional program of choral music conducted in an environment of the highest moral standards.

Membership is open to boys (ages 8 to 15) of all races, faiths, creeds, nationalities and ethnic origins.

Chorus members have performed across the U.S. and Canada, in Russia, other parts of Europe and Japan. Concert tours take place each summer and in early fall, with the touring chorus usually numbering 32 to 36 boys. Currently, some 110 boys are part of the program, which boasts nearly 1,000 alumni.

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