

THE MEDICAL MUSICAL GROUP

POLSKA, LIETUVA & LATVIJA 2018

(Poland, Lithuania & Latvia 2018)

Main Trip-Gdansk & Lidzbark Warminski: August 13-20 * Optional Extension-Lithuania & Latvia: August 20-25

MON. AUG. 13. DEPART USA. Board your flight to Gdansk, Poland. **Make your own flight arrangements.**



HOTEL GDANSK BOUTIQUE

TUES. AUG. 14. GDANSK- Book your transportation from the airport to the **Hotel Gdansk Boutique** in Gdansk (we will provide clear transportation instructions). The Tour starts officially with our **Group Dinner**, at 7:00 pm at the hotel. (D)*



GDANSK

WED. AUG. 15. GDANSK. Hot breakfast buffet at hotel. **Half day tour of Gdansk.** From hotel we go to **Guardhouse at Westerplatte Peninsula**, site of the very first battle of WWII in 1939. Then travel to **Gdansk Shipyard**, birthplace of the Solidarity Movement and the **European Solidarity Center**. Next, a walking tour of Old Town: **St. Mary's Basilica, Długa Street, Golden Gate, Town Hall, Neptune's Fountain**. Afternoon Free **OR:** Optional half day tour to **Oliwa District and Sopot**. Evening free. (B)*



OLIWA CATHEDRAL



SOPOT PIER

OPTIONAL 1 – Oliwa District and Sopot: \$35/pp. Go first to **Oliwa District** and the **Oliwa**

Cathedral. Organ concert in the church. Next transfer to **Sopot** and visit the **Bohaterow Monte Cassino Promenade, Pier and South Park.**



HOTEL KRASICKI, LIDZBARK WARMINSKI

THURS. AUG. 16. TRANSFER TO LIDZBARK WARMINSKI. Hot breakfast buffet at hotel. Transfer by deluxe coach to **Lidzbark Warminski** (2 ½ hours) with stops in **Stutthoff Concentration Camp** which was the first camp built in Poland by the Nazis. During the camp visit you will see: a wooden prison barracks, a former command post building and a gas chamber. Stutthoff Concentration Camp was the first and the longest operating Nazi concentration camp in the territory of Poland. From there we will continue to **Lidzbark Warminski** and visit the **Warmian Bishop's Castle** dating back to the Middle Ages. Then on to our **Hotel Krasicki**. Dinner at Hotel. (B, D)*

FRI. AUG. 17. LIDZBARK WARMINSKI. Hot breakfast buffet at hotel. Enjoy day of leisure **OR:** Optional full day tour to **Olsztyn**. Evening **Rehearsal**. (B)*



OLSZTYN, POLAND

OPTIONAL 2 – Olsztyn: \$80/pp. Olsztyn sightseeing tour. Includes the oldest monuments of Olsztyn: **High Gate, Fish Market, Warmian Chapter Castle, Old Town, Cathedral**, elements of **medieval fortifications**, city and historical buildings, visit to the **Medieval Castle, Museum of Warmia and Masuria region**, where Nicolaus

Copernicus lived. Visit to the oldest Olsztyn's temple, the **Cathedral Basilica**.

SAT. AUG. 18. LIDZBARK WARMINSKI. Hot breakfast buffet at hotel. Enjoy day of leisure **OR:** Optional full day tour to **Frombork**. Evening **Rehearsal**. (B)*



FROMBORK, POLAND

OPTIONAL 3 – Frombork: \$85/pp. Frombork is a small fishing port on **Vistula Bay** and an important sailing and ice-boating center. It is also the seat of **Warmia Bishopric** since the 13th century. In Frombork **Nicolas Copernicus** –the great Polish astronomer –spent 30 years of his life and made some of his famous discoveries. He died in Frombork and is buried in the Cathedral. See some of the city's top sights, e.g. **Cathedral Hill** and **Copernicus Museum**. The hill offers a sweeping view over the **Vistula Lagoon** and **Sandbar**.



LIDZBARK WARMINSKI AMPHITHEATER

SUN. AUG. 19. LIDZBARK WARMINSKI. Hot breakfast buffet at hotel. Afternoon **Rehearsal** for performers, and Evening **CONCERT** at **Lidzbark Warminski Amphitheater**. **Post-Concert Gala Banquet**. (B, D)*



KAUNAS, LITHUANIA

MON. AUG. 20. LIDZBARK WARMINSKI/USA OR TRANSFER TO VILNIUS, LITHUANIA. Hot breakfast buffet at hotel. If you are returning to

USA today, purchase a ticket on the special bus back to the Gdansk airport (2 ½ hours) (we will provide instructions). **OR:** Take the **Optional Extension** transferring by deluxe coach to **Vilnius, Lithuania** (6 hours). Will make a stop in **Kaunas**, the second largest town in Lithuania, During the **Kaunas City** tour, we will visit most of the sites in the Old Town, including **Kaunas Castle, St. George Church, Town Hall Square, the Jewish Quarter, and the Cathedral**. The tour will finish at **Pazaislis Monastery** - a unique Baroque monument, considered to be one of the most beautiful examples of mature Baroque artistry in Northern and Eastern Europe, and distinguished by the quality of its art. Then travel to **Vilnius** and check into the **Holiday Inn Hotel**. **Group Dinner**. (B, D)*



VILNIUS

TUES. AUG. 21. VILNIUS. Hot breakfast buffet at hotel. **Half day tour of Vilnius**, including the UNESCO-listed **Old Town** and its stately Baroque architecture, see **Holy Trinity Church** (Uniates) and **Basilian Gate, Gates of Dawn**, visit **St Anne's Church** a favorite of Napoleon Bonaparte's, **St Theresa Church, Orthodox Church of the Holy Spirit**, the arty neighborhood of **Uzupis** and with its vibrant street art. Tour ends at noon. After lunch, enjoy afternoon of leisure **OR:** Optional half day tour to **Trakai**. Evening **Rehearsal**. (B)*



TRAIKAI CASTLE

OPTIONAL 4 –Trakai: \$45/pp. Tour kicks off with hotel pick up and a scenic coach ride through the stunning landscapes that lie between Vilnius and Trakai. Stop at both the **Trakai Castle and Museum** of the 15th century, located in the middle of **Lake Galve**. In this memorable tour, you'll get an up-close look at Eastern Europe's only insular castle, and learn why it remains one of the most-

visited historical sites in Lithuania.

WEDS. AUG. 22. VILNIUS. Hot breakfast buffet at hotel. Enjoy day of leisure in Vilnius OR: Take Optional half day tour to **Dzukija County**. Afternoon **Rehearsal** for **performers**, and Evening **CONCERT**. Dinner after concert. (B, D)*



GRUTAS PARK WITH SOVIET STATUES

OPTIONAL 5 – Dzukija County: \$60/pp. . Start by the 16th-century village of **Pirčiupiai**. Then visit Soviet-era statues in **Grūtas Park**. Take a step back in time at the ethnographic village in **Zervynos** and see how life played out in centuries past. Discover top attractions such as the **Eye of Ūla** and the **Merkinė Hill Fort** in the **Dzūkija National Park**, and gaze over the **Neman River**. Then, discover 17th-century treasures in the historic village of **Liškiava**.



RIGA, LATVIA

THURS. AUG. 23. TRANSFER TO RIGA, LATVIA. Hot breakfast buffet at hotel. Transfer to Riga by deluxe coach (4 hours). **Half Day Tour of Riga**. As you relax on board, gaze out at the **Freedom Monument** and the **Latvian National Opera**, a unique architectural monument of the 19th century. Travel past the **Latvian Academy of Sciences**, also known as "**Stalin’s Birthday Cake**" and the **Riga Central Market**, Europe’s largest market and one of the most notable structures from the 20th century. Admire the view of the **National Library of Latvia** across the **River Daugava** and learn the legend of **Great Kristaps**, whose wooden sculpture was placed by the river. Continue through the picturesque streets of **Art Nouveau** and learn the mysterious language of building facades, which mystically encoded life stories of home owners. Step out of your bus to explore **Old Town**, the most enchanting part of Riga and a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Enjoy the beauty of this ancient **Hanseatic City**, while

strolling through its cobble-stone and picturesque streets. The walking tour of the Old Town includes the **Dome Cathedral, Church of St. Peter, Large and Small Guilds, Riga Castle, Three Brothers, Blackheads House, Swedish Gate** and a walk through **Trokšņu**, one of Riga’s narrowest streets. Check into **Monika Centrum Hotel (B)***.



MONIKA CENTRUM HOTEL, RIGA

FRI. AUG. 24. RIGA. Hot breakfast buffet at hotel. Enjoy day of leisure OR: Optional full day tour of **Hill of Crosses** and **Rundale Palace**. **Farewell Banquet (B, D)***



HILL OF CROSSES



RUNDALE PALACE

OPTIONAL 6 – Hill of Crosses and Rundale Palace Tour: \$85/pp. The **Hill Of Crosses** in northern Lithuania is a site of pilgrimage for centuries. Consisting of a hill boasting hundreds of thousands of crosses of every size and design. It is a powerful testament to religious devotion. The tradition of leaving crosses began after an uprising against the Russian Tsar was put down in 1831. **Rundāle Palace** is one of the most outstanding monuments of Baroque and **Rococo art** in Latvia. It was built in 1740 as a summer residence of Duke Ernst Johann of Courland. The Duchy of Courland-Semigallia, a vassal state of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, was founded in 1561 and existed until 1795.

SAT. AUG. 25. RIGA. Hot breakfast buffet at hotel. *Transfer on your own to Riga airport (we will provide instructions).* (B)*.

ABBREVIATIONS: B=Breakfast, D=Dinner included in tour price.



FLAGS OF POLAND, LITHUANIA, LATVIA & USA

INCLUDED IN YOUR FARE:

ACCOMMODATIONS:

BASIC TOUR

- 2 nights (Aug. 14-16) in the 5-star **Hotel Gdansk** Boutique in Gdansk, double occupancy. Hot buffet breakfast daily.
- 4 nights (Aug 16-20) in the 4-star **Hotel Krasicki** in Lidzbark Warminski, double occupancy. Hot buffet breakfast daily.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION

- 3 nights (Aug. 20-23) in the 4-star **Holiday Inn** in Vilnius, Lithuania, double occupancy. Hot buffet breakfast daily.
- 2 nights (Aug. 23-25) in the 4-star **Monika Centrum Hotel** in Riga, Latvia, double occupancy. Hot breakfast daily.

CONCERTS/PERFORMANCES

- Concert at the **Lidzbark Warminski Amphitheater** on Sunday, August 19, 2018.
- Possible concert in Vilnius, Wednesday, August 22, 2018.

MEALS:

BASIC TOUR

- All breakfasts plus 2 dinners, and a gala banquet.
- All other meals are on your own.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION

- All breakfasts plus 3 dinners (one is a banquet).
- All lunches are on your own.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- All service charges and taxes.
- Gratuities to Drivers and Guides (except on optional tours).
- Free Wi-fi at hotels.

BASIC TOUR

- Half day guided city tours of Gdansk & Lidzbark Warminski.

OPTIONAL BALTIC EXTENSION

- Half day guided city tours of Vilnius & Riga.

NOT INCLUDED:

- **Air Transportation:** *Please make your own flight arrangements!*
- Ground transportation between the hotels and airports in Gdansk and Riga. We will provide detailed instructions on these.
- Entrances/Sightseeing/Meals other than specified.
- Coaching/guiding other than specified.
- Incidental expenses of a personal nature.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS: *Reserve now!! These are limited in size and are based on a strict first come, first served basis. No guarantee for enlisting in them if reservations are made late. If not enough passengers are enlisted, a smaller vehicle may be booked, or the excursion may be cancelled altogether.*

REGISTRATION: *Mail your Registration and check (payable to "MMG") to: **MMG, ATTN: RICHARD KUNTZ, 332 RIVER BEND ROAD, GREAT FALLS, VA 22066-4140.** To qualify for the trip, you must also pay MMG's 2018 registration dues (\$100). You may also register and pay by credit card at our secure Website: www.medicalmusical.org, click on "Poland Tour". Note: A 3% surcharge must be added for the online credit card transaction fee.*

TOUR COST

BASIC TOUR, AUGUST 13-20

FULL FARE (Land Only): \$1,300 per person double occupancy. Deposit \$700 with registration. Priority in excursions is on a First Come, First Served basis. Final balance: June 15, 2018.

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT: Deduct \$200 from basic trip price if fully and completely paid and post marked by **April 20, 2018.**

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$250 per person.

OPTIONAL TOUR #1: Half Day to Sopot: \$35.

OPTIONAL TOUR #2: Full Day to Olsztyn: \$80.

OPTIONAL TOUR #3: Full Day to Frombork: \$85.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION, AUGUST 20-25:

LAND ONLY: \$815 per person.

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT: \$100.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$200 per person

OPTIONAL TOUR #4 – Half Day to Trakai: \$45.

OPTIONAL TOUR #5 – Half Day to Dzukija County: \$60.

OPTIONAL TOUR #6 – Full Day to Hill of Crosses and Rundale Palace Tour: \$85.



REWARD TO INDIVIDUALS WHO REGISTER NEW TRAVELERS WHO HAVE NEVER TRAVELED WITH US BEFORE: If you register a new traveler who has never traveled with us previously, you earn a free optional excursion of your choice as long as space is available on that particular excursion.

INSURANCE: VERY IMPORTANT! Purchase your trip insurance when you make your initial deposit, in order to be covered for preexisting conditions! Travel Insurance may come in handy if you must cancel your trip and would help defray some of the cancellation penalties. Purchase trip insurance from your own home insurance or other companies. The following examples have no relationship with MMG, but they are listed as a service to you.

TRAVELEX: Tel: 1-800-228-9792, www.travelexinsurance.com

TRAVEL INSURED INTERNATIONAL: Tel: 1-800-243-3174, www.travelinsured.com

TRAVEL GUARD: Tel: 1-800-826-5248, www.travelguard.com

PASSPORT: VALID PASSPORT REQUIRED. It is recommended that your passport be valid for at least 6 months from the date of departure. No visas are required; however your passport should have 2 fully blank Visa pages in it.

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: June 15, 2018. Reservations may be accepted after that, depending on space and subject to possible late fees.

IMMUNIZATIONS. No required vaccinations. However, the CDC recommends some. See <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list/>.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Full refund minus a \$100.00 fee will be made for cancellations received in writing up to 91 days prior to departure (May 15). After that date, **cancellation fees will be assessed as follows:**

<u>Number of days Prior to Departure</u>	<u>Cancellation Fees as % of Total Tour Price</u>
90-61	15%
60-45	30%
44-31	50%
30-0	100%

Please note: Unused tour portions are non-refundable. Also, purchase travel insurance.

RESPONSIBILITY: MMG and other participating organizations act solely as agents in arranging for transportation, hotel accommodations and other services. We do not assume, and do expressly disclaim, any liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay due to any act, negligence or default of tour guides, or any company or person, agents or employees engaged in transportation, or rendering any service, or carrying out the arrangements for any tour.

FOR QUESTIONS: Call 1-888-6-DoReMi (1-888-636-7364) or 202-797-0700, or send an email to vanmmg@hotmail.com. For updates visit our website www.medicalmusical.org. REMEMBER: PURCHASE TRAVEL INSURANCE!!

IMPORTANT: OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS ARE SPACE LIMITED. FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED!



MMG, a non-profit organization, is the premier medical musical group in America. Its chorus and orchestra members span virtually every state in the Union. Many are associated with the VA, or with medical practice, teaching, or research. MMG's mission is to perform "Music with a Message" – a message of inspiration, healing, national unity, and international brotherhood. MMG received the Congressional Medal of Honor Society's Bob Hope Award for its service to veterans and the Armed Forces, and for its "Veterans Hymn"; as well as numerous other awards and recognitions. Our concerts are broadcast on various television networks.

MMG trips are famous for combining fun, high quality, value, creature comforts and a mission of American friendship and brotherhood around the globe. To date these trips were to: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy (and the Vatican), Morocco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Portugal, Russia, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. Other destinations included the Western Caribbean and Hawaii.



JOIN US IN POLSKA, LIETUVA & LATVIJA 2018!
(Poland, Lithuania & Latvia 2018)

For Questions Call 1-888-6-DoReMi (1-888-636-7364), Email: vanmmg@hotmail.com