**Coe College Bands**  
**Concert Tour to Taiwan 2008**  
(* B= breakfast, L= lunch, D= dinner)

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**Day 1 – August 3rd, Sunday: Depart for Taiwan**

Depart the Chicago O’Hare International Airport with your chosen carrier for your international flight (UA 0109) to Taiwan at 10:00 am. Please arrive early at the airport. Please double check with Friendship Ambassadors Foundation in advance for check-in times and other requirements. You flight lands in Los Angeles at 12:10 pm; your connecting flight CI 0005 departs at 3:55 pm. Try to get some rest on board. To minimize the effects of jet lag, we advise to avoid sugars, caffeine, salts, and alcohol. Drink a lot of water to keep hydrated.

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**Day 2 – August 4th, Monday: Arrive in Taiwan (All meals en route)**

Arrive Chiang Kai Shek International Airport in Taoyuan, Taiwan at 8:10 pm local time. Claim your luggage and board your private motor coach. Meet your local English speaking FAF Tour Manager and head to the Chientan Youth Activity Center – your accommodations for your stay in Taipei. Have a refreshing and relaxing night after your long flight and recover from your jet lag!

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**Welcome to Taiwan!** Taiwan has a rich, colorful history. It became a protectorate of the Chinese Empire in 1206, the year the great Mongol conqueror Genghis Khan founded the Yuan dynasty. The island was made a prefecture (county) of the coastal mainland province of Fukien in 1684, and in 1885, during the Ching or Manchu dynasty (China's last reigning house), Taiwan was proclaimed a separate province of China. For centuries Taiwan has been familiar to the West as Formosa, a name derived from the 16th century Portuguese mariners who, on sighting the island from a galleon, named it "Ilha Formosa!" (Beautiful Island!). The official Chinese name for the Pescadores (Fishermen's Isles), a name also given by Portuguese mariners, is Penghu. The archipelago is located in the Taiwan Strait, and forms one of the 16 counties of Taiwan province.

The Japanese went to war with China in 1894 following a dispute over Korea. By the treaty of Shimonoseki, concluded in 1895, Taiwan and the Pescadores were ceded to Japan. Under another provision, Korea, over which China had exercised sovereignty, was declared independent and, as expected, was subsequently annexed by Japan. Taiwan and the Pescadores were restored to Chinese rule at the end of World War 2 in 1945. The principal city of Taiwan is Taipei, which since 1949, has been the provisional capital of the Republic of China (ROC). The ROC was born in the Wuchang Revolution which erupted in 1911. The ROC was formally established on 1912 and brought the republican form of government to Asia. Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the nation's founding father, sought to create a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people".

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Day 3 – August 5th, Tuesday: Taipei (B, L)
Board your private motor coaches for your guided Taipei city tour. Begin the day’s tour by visiting the Martyr's Shrine, where you can appreciate the exchange of guards at each hour. This shrine is an imitation of the Beijing’s Forbidden City, and is dedicated to the martyrs who sacrifice their lives during the Chinese civil war.

Transfer to the must-see National Palace Museum in Shih-Lin, Taipei, and observe the decades of Chinese civilization history and art that is housed in this museum. The National Palace Museum is a pride of Taiwan, and ranks as one of the four best museums in the world, in a class with the Louvre, the British Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The museum holds the world's largest collection of Chinese artifacts, around 700,000 items in all. Some of the oldest artifacts in the collection of the museum are pieces of prehistoric pottery over 5,000 years old. The vast majority of these art objects are from the private collection of China's emperors.

Today you will be treated to a lunch reception by the City of Sanchung. Return to your hotel to prepare for your 3-hour rehearsal today at your performance venue the day after tomorrow, which will be at the Sanchung City Dome Auditorium.

Tonight, visit the most popular Shilin Night Market. With Dozens of stands selling clothing, shoes, and a wide variety of items, Shilin Night Market is also jammed with stores, eateries, and cafes. Have dinner on your own here. It is a long-time favorite among residents and tourists, locals and foreigners. Located in the Shi Lin (Shihlin) area, it surrounds Yang Ming Theater, extending in all directions as far as Wen Lin, Ji He, Da Dong and Da Nan roads.

Return to your hostel for your overnight stay.

Day 4 – August 6th, Wednesday: Taipei – Yingge – Taichung – Taipei (B, L, D)
After breakfast at your accommodation, board your private motor coaches for your day trip to Yingge, old time 'capital' of pottery, and Sanshia. Visit Yingge’s museum and the Tzi Shi temple in Sanshia, then stroll a bit in its old streets.

Yingge is a pottery town, known as the "Jingdejhen of Taiwan", having several hundred pottery plants and equal numbers of
pottery shops that sell their products. Jianshanpu Road is the origin of the local ceramics industry, and even today it has an old square coal-fired kiln chimney that serves as its landmark. Every October the town holds the Yingge Ceramics Festival; and, if you want to learn about the development of ceramics in Taiwan, the place to go is the Yingge Ceramics Museum.

Sanshia is a traditional town that has become known in recent years mainly because of its Ching Shui Tsu Shih Temple, which is unique among all the Chinese temples of the world for the painstaking and time-consuming dedication to classical temple arts that is manifested in its modern reconstruction. Sanshia Old Street refers to the south section of Min-Chuan Street. Its length is about two hundred meters, and its architecture dates back to the early days when the Republic of China was newly established. Walking along Sanshia’s Old Street is like walking into a time tunnel; the arched red brick hallways, the traditional architecture, the beams, columns, ancient wooden plaques, the squat maiden walls and the figure carvings upon the buildings are all very unique. Min-Chuan Street was the commercial center in the past, and the commercial stores and alleys that date back to the time of Japanese Occupation are still in good condition. Both the town and its street underwent modification during the Japanese Occupation; streets were expanded, rooftops, walkways, and drainage systems were also re-organized, and it was transformed into a stately, modernized street. During the time of Sanshia’s heyday, the street was lined with shops that sold dyes, manufacturing materials, and tea, and western-style houses were also being built quickly. Nowadays, only the red brick buildings with arched hallways and Baroque styled architecture remain to tell of their past glory.

After lunch at a local restaurant, continue your journey to Taichung for a 5 o’clock rehearsal at the Chong Shan Hall, the venue of tonight’s concert (hosted by the Taichung City Cultural Affairs Bureau). We will provide a boxed dinner and bottled water for you tonight; return to Taipei after your performance.

**Day 5 – August 7th, Thursday: Taipei (B, D)**

After breakfast, continue your guided discoveries of Taipei’s many treasures. First head to National Taiwan Democracy Memorial Hall (formally known as the Chiang Kai Shek Memorial Hall) which is where the National Concert and Theatre Halls are located. A quick visit of the display on CKS will get you a quick idea on the contemporary history of Taiwan.

Next, visit the Lung Shan Temple. Built in 1738 during the Ching Dynasty, the Lungshan Temple (“Dragon Mountain”) is a famous old temple in Taiwan that has survived the 9/21 earthquake, typhoons, and U.S. bombs during World Word II. It is devoted to worshiping Guanyin, Goddess of Mercy, among the most revered Buddhas in Taiwan.
Proceed to **Di-hua Street**, the old time capital of tea/tissue import/export. A walk through the Di-hua Street area gives you a feel of Taipei city's past. The old-town market has scores of shops selling a variety of traditional goods such as Chinese medicines and herbs, temple icons and incense, spices and dried food, colorful bolts of cloth, and bamboo and wooden crafts. It is a fascinating patch of Taipei's past. When you venture to Taipei's Di-hua Street Market, make sure you empty your pockets beforehand. No, there's no pick-pockets to fear. Instead, you will be filling up your pockets with sweets and sundries handed out by the vendors hoping to get you to buy their sundries.

Continue to the **Lin Liu-Sin Hand-Puppet Museum**. The museum highlights the art of puppetry that is very rich and diverse in Asia. The museum focuses on puppets in Taiwan, as well as Guangdong and Fujian in China, marionettes from India and Burma, a special exhibition of Cambodian shadow puppets, and Vietnamese Water Puppets.

Tonight, you will be picked up by your English speaking guide to prepare for your 7:30 pm concert tonight at the Sanchung City Dome Auditorium. Dinner will be arranged at a local restaurant. Make sure to pack your belongings tonight for your departure to Hong Kong tomorrow!

**Day 6 – August 8th, Friday: Depart for Hong Kong (B, D)**

Breakfast at your hotel. Check out and board your private motor coaches for your transfer to the airport. Say goodbye to Taiwan and depart for Hong Kong to continue the second part of your Asian journey. Your flight CI 0607 takes off at 11:50 am and lands in Hong Kong at 1:35 pm.

**Welcome to Hong Kong!** Hong Kong, a Special Administrative Region of People’s Republic of China, has grown from what was a simple fishing village into the world’s fourth largest banking and financial center and eighth largest trading economy. Situated in the southeast corner of China, Hong Kong is made up of four parts: Hong Kong Island, Kowloon Peninsula, the New Territories and the Outlying Islands. Hong Kong Island is the center of economy, politics, entertainment and shopping. Northern Hong Kong Island is the main commercial, shopping and entertainment area; the residential area is located in Eastern Hong Kong Island; and Southern Hong Kong Island known for its sea shores and bays. Kowloon is another flourishing part of Hong Kong. Above all, Causeway Bay, Wan Chai, Tsim Sha Tsui, Yau Ma Tei and Mong Kok are the most popular areas. These areas are busy day and night. The New Territories and Outlying Islands are ideal places to experience a peaceful and natural Hong Kong.
Claim your luggage and board your private motor coach. Meet your local English speaking FAF Tour Manager, Ms. Maggie Cheung and let her lead you on some guided explorations of the local sights:

Visit the Wong Tai Sin Temple. Wong Tai Sin Temple is one of the most famous shrines in Hong Kong. It is dedicated to Wong Tai Sin, or the Great Immortal Wong. The 18,000-m Taoist temple is famed for the many prayers answered: "What you request is what you get" via a practice called Kau Cim. The temple is located on the southern side of Lion Rock in the north of Kowloon.

Continue your explorations at the Chi Lin Nunnery, then finish your tour at the Avenue of Stars with A Symphony of Lights. The Avenue of Stars modeled on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, is located along the Victoria Harbor waterfront in Tsim Sha Tsui, Hong Kong. It honors celebrities of the Hong Kong film industry.

After enjoying a Chinese dinner at a local restaurant, head to your accommodations (Hotel Jen) in Hong Kong for check-in and overnight.

**Day 8 – August 9**

**Day 8 – August 9**, Saturday: Hong Kong (B, L)
Have a full day guided sightseeing tour after breakfast today. Visit the Golden Bauhinia Square outside the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on the Wan Chai waterfront, which marks the most significant occasion in Hong Kong’s history - the return of the former British colony to the People’s Republic of China (PRC), and the establishment of the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong.

Take the peak tram to Victoria Peak. Victoria Peak is a mountain in Hong Kong. It is also documented as The Peak locally, and Mount Austin. With an altitude of 552 m, it is the highest mountain on the island.

Next stop is Aberdeen. Aberdeen (1784-1860), Secretary of State for the Colonies in the mid 19th century, is situated at the southwestern corner of Hong Kong Island. It is probably the oldest settlement on the island. Once said to have been a hide-out for pirates who drew heung kong (fragrant water) here, it is now one of the most popular and most expensive residential areas in Hong Kong.

After a Chinese lunch, proceed to Stanley Market. Stanley Market is the place to find silk garments, sportswear, art, Chinese costume jewelry, other souvenirs and a host of fantastic bargains. And when the shopping is done, you can relax at one of the area's pleasant beaches set in sheltered, sandy coves. One is a favorite destination for Hong Kong’s windsurfers. Stanley village also offers an appetizing range of restaurants and snack bars.
Continue to Repulse Bay. Repulse Bay, located in the southern part of Hong Kong Island, is the most spectacular bay in the region. Its name comes from a 19th century battle in which the British army repulsed attacking pirates.

At the end of the day, transfer back to Hotel Jen, the remainder of the evening is yours to spend at your leisure.

Day 9 – August 10\textsuperscript{th}, Sunday: Hong Kong (B, D)

Breakfast at your hotel. Have free time this morning at your leisure. You may consider visiting Tian Tan Buddha, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Within the Po Lin Monastery, in Lantau's mountainous interior, is one of the world's tallest outdoor bronze statues of Buddha, the Tian Tan Buddha, measuring more than 100 feet high and weighing more than 275 tons. It's so large it can be seen from Macau on a clear day. The statue is all the more impressive for its location at the peak of a hill, which essentially forces pilgrims to stare up at it as they ascend. Construction on Tian Tin Buddha began in 1990 and was completed in 1993, on the birthday of Sakyamuni, one of the most revered of all Buddhist prophets.

You may also consider visiting Ocean Park. This marine-theme park embraces both and high- and low-octane buzzes and spectacular zoological attractions; they even breed endangered species here. And there's an educational twist to many of the attractions. The park stretches out over 170 hilly acres, and you can gaze down at much of it from spookily silent cabins of the mile-long cable car that connects the tamer Lowlands area to the action-packed Headland.

After lunch on your own, return to your hotel to prepare for your rehearsal. Board your private motor coaches for your transfer to your concert venue (at 1 pm), which will be at the Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts. The performance is scheduled at 3-4:30 pm. Farewell dinner will be arranged at a local restaurant in Hong Kong. Overnight at your hotel.
Day 10 – August 11th, Monday: Depart for USA (B)
Bid a fond farewell to Asia, because today you will depart, leaping back toward the West. After breakfast at your hotel, board your private motor coach and check in the airport for your flight to the USA. China Air flight CI 0642 departs Hong Kong at 8:05 pm and lands in Taipei at 9:45 pm; connecting flight CI 0008 takes off at 11:20 pm and arrives in Los Angeles at 8:45 pm. Transfer to United Airlines flight UA 0126 to Chicago, leaving at 11:20 pm and arriving at 5:11 am (on August 12). Have a safe flight, and...

Welcome Home

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