

Summa Cum Laude - International Youth Music Festival Vienna

Our five days in Vienna on the European Music Tour 2017 were a memorable experience I will always cherish. The 63 students from Camberwell Girls Grammar participated in this world renowned event. CGGS was one of five groups representing Australia at the festival. The other countries that performed were: China, Austria, Israel, USA, Canada, Philippines, Hungary, Japan, Spain and Denmark. We were tremendously fortunate to have had the opportunity to listen to amazing musical ensembles from around the world.

During our stay in Vienna, we were able to participate in valuable master classes. Every group received feedback for their pieces from guest conductors and they shared some beneficial tips for our performances during the trip.

Summa Cum Laude means 'with greatest honour' in Latin. The SCL Festival was classified into two sections: Celebration and Competition. Camberwell Girls' performed in the Celebration component. We were able to perform in impressive concert halls and churches.

Being able to play and sing in these amazing settings taught me so much about the history and importance of music around Europe. During the Summa Cum Laude Music Festival, we were able to witness a broad array of talent from around the globe. Not many people my age can say that they have performed in Vienna. I am thoroughly grateful for having the chance to travel to Europe with CGGS. ~ *Olivia Banitsiotis, Year 7*

Prague – City of a Hundred Spires

Prague, the City of a Hundred Spires, was an unforgettable experience for many of the girls. We arrived by bus on the 14th day of the tour, Wednesday 12 July, after an early wake up. On the way to our main city of Prague, we stopped by the small town of Telč for lunch and a bit of shopping. This was our first taste of Czech Republic and it has by far left an astounding influence on me. The small fisards and local churches brought the feel of community to every one of us. After our quick hour of roaming the town, we hopped back onto the bus and made the final stretch to Prague city. There was definitely a different atmosphere here, one that we all loved. We met up with St. Paul College Primary School from Hong Kong at the hotel and got to know them really well over the course of the 2 days. A tour of the city and the Prague Castle with our Czech Tour Guide and a little bit of shopping made the experience an unforgettable one, let alone the 2 meals on river cruises down the Vltava River. ~ *Madi Parfuss, Year 10*

Salzburg

We were very fortunate to spend two whole days in Salzburg, Austria. The city of Salzburg is incredibly musically iconic, being the birthplace of Mozart, and also the filming location of 'The Sound of Music.' We visited and even performed in Salzburg Cathedral (Dom), where Mozart was baptised and spent much time when he was young. After being taken on a guided tour of the city, we took a self guided tour of Mozart's

birth house, where we spent lots of time reading about his life and looking at the exhibition pieces, which included many letters and portraits from Mozart's time.

On our second day in Salzburg, we were taken to a lake beside mountains, where we were able to swim and have lunch. We were then taken to the hall of the Mozarteum University for a formal performance.

Performing in a hall where many internationally renowned ensembles perform was an incredible experience for all of us. ~ *Tatjana Skabar, Year 11*