

Post Malta Tour Survey

Following every Friendship Chorus Tour, a survey is sent out to get an idea of people's impressions, experiences and suggestions from the tour. **HOWEVER**, everyone is invited to complete the survey as there are questions that pertain to future tours!

All NHFC members are invited to click on the link above to complete the Malta Survey. We value your thoughts and they will be seriously taken into consideration when planning the next tour.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our Tour to Malta was a great success, but was not without its challenges!!

First, the successes.

Collaboration with other choruses, venues and audiences were excellent and the chorus was very well received. Of particular note was our singing of *L-Ahhar Bidwi F'Wied Il-Ghasel*, a traditional Maltese ballad that has deep meaning for the Maltese people. Thanks to Dan Perkins for providing excellent learning tools to help singers learn the difficult pronunciation of the Maltese language, a combination of Arabic, Italian, and Spanish. It was unfamiliar to our American ears and required extra attention and practice. The Maltese audiences demonstrated their appreciation through enthusiastic applause.

The tour also brought an opportunity to collaborate with the Voca chorus in premiering a new piece in Malta, *I Hear You*. This song was composed to highlight the epidemic of mental health concerns in the EU. The rehearsal and performance were both emotional and beautiful experiences. The song was well received by both singers and audience members.

The Voca chorus arranged a special meal following the concert where we tasted delicious (and interesting) Maltese favorites. This author enjoyed the rabbit, but declined trying horsemeat. We were treated by a Maltese band who sang rousing traditional songs and dances. It was great fun!

Christ the King church in Malta provided a stunning venue and welcoming singers. It also provided us a chance to meet an old college friend of Dennis MacDonald, who facilitated the introduction of the church to our tour agency,



Save the date!
NHFC Annual Meeting
Saturday, September 26,
2026

Plan on attending the annual meeting to see what our next destination will be and to elect board members!

Current Board: Officers

Molly Thompson, President
Amanda Simeone, VP
Patte Sarausky, Secretary
Carol Stewart, Treasurer

Members at Large

David Betz
Casey Beull
Karen Jordan
Peter LaBombarde
Mary Lloyd-Evans
Dennis W. MacDonald
Bobbie McGuire
Catherine Miller
Jane W. Van Zandt
Marj Wilkinson
Sara Willingham

Outgoing board members:

David Betz
Mary Lloyd Evans
Dennis MacDonald
Carol Stewart
Jane W. Van Zandt

Other Announcements

NEW ENGLAND VOICES IN HARMONY SUPPORTS NEW HAMPSHIRE BREAST CANCER COALITION

As some of you may know, Betsy Westgate, Molly Thompson and Rita Ralston (Cuba Tour) are members of an all women's barbershop

Classical Movements. A lovely reception followed where we had the opportunity to mingle with members of their choir and parish.

The excursions were very interesting and different. We visited the Citadel, the Mosso Basilica (which has the largest dome in Malta), King's Landing (which was a filming location for Game of Thrones) and ancient neolithic structures. Our guides were extremely knowledgeable about the history of Malta and the locations we visited.

We unfortunately started the tour with a Lufthansa strike in which all of our flights were cancelled and had to be rescheduled. Fortunately everyone made it to Malta. Unfortunately, some travelers arrived two days after the tour started. It was definitely a difficult situation. However, most everyone managed the situation with good humor and supported each other.

The Board of Directors met for an all day retreat on May 23 to debrief the tour, discuss the future and assign committees to work on organizing the 2028 tour. Lively discussion was had and lots of great ideas were shared.

I look forward to working with the Board in moving the Friendship Chorus towards its next tour.

Molly M. Thompson
President
New Hampshire Friendship Chorus

Malta Photos!

Click the button above to enjoy photos from Malta!



chorus, New England Voices in Harmony. And some may know that Betsy is the President of the NH Breast Cancer Coalition.

It is rare to find someone who has not been touched by breast cancer, either as a patient themselves, or knowing a family member, friend or co-worker. As a chorus of women, it seemed fitting to provide an opportunity to raise awareness of the Coalition and provide much needed financial contributions.

Saturday, June 13th at 3:00-5:30, Voices will be presenting a concert to benefit the Coalition. Besides hearing Voices, the Current First Place Area 2 Chorus and two time past International Champions of Harmony Incorporated, competing and champion quartets will be providing top level quartet singing. If you haven't had the opportunity to hear them perform, this is a fabulous opportunity to do so, while supporting a meaningful organization.

Besides donating proceeds from ticket sales, audience members can participate in a silent auction with fabulous items as well as a bake sale.

Founded in 1992, the New Hampshire Breast Cancer Coalition (NHBCC) is a statewide, grassroots advocacy organization whose mission is to advocate for and provide financial assistance to New Hampshire residents with breast cancer. NHBCC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) membership organization. NHBCC invests time, energy and resources in two important areas: Legislation and managing a Support Services Fund.

Please see attached flyer by clicking the button below for more information.

New Hampshire Friendship Chorus | PO Box 2257 | Campton, NH 03223 US

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