

5<sup>th</sup> August, 2021

Ms. Amy Metz; President  
Newsome Band Boosters  
P.O. Box 286  
Lithia  
Florida  
33547

Dear Mrs. Metz

Firstly, might I wish you every success in your role as President of the Newsome High School Band Boosters Organisation.

I do hope that we will be able to work together over the coming months to bring outstanding opportunities to the fine young people who are members of the Newsome band.

The Covid 19 Virus has had a sad impact upon a generation of young people throughout the world, and in particular on the opportunities offered to young people through overseas travel and performance.

As you are fully aware the Newsome band was to have travelled to participate in Rome's New Year's Day Parade in 2021. Because of travel and other social restrictions at the time the invitation was deferred to 2022. It now seems that the band may not be able to travel in 2022, and various other offers have been made to the group about performance in Europe when travel is permitted.

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Of course, travel at the end of 2021 and into 2022 is still perfectly feasible, and the band is most definitely invited to participate in the January 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 event in Rome. However, we do fully understand why, with the incomprehensible stance of the USA CDC and indeed the State Department regarding travel overseas, it may not be possible for the group to be in Rome at the end of this year.

Recently we made an offer to the group that we could arrange a splendid bespoke Performance Tour in the Spring time that that would involve performances in iconic venues in the Eternal City. Participation in the 2022/23 New Year event also remains an option.

Significant funds have been paid by members of the band on an individual basis to our organisation for the planned Performance Tours. We have been able to generously extend the validity of the deposits paid, up to and including our year end 2022/3 events. We have agreed that those who have paid us money, but who have graduated prior to the Performance Tour being undertaken, may pass those funds to a member from a lower year group.

I believe that you have now been sent access to the payment plan programme that was administered by your previous Director – Mr. Reed. By accessing this programme you will see exactly who is enrolled and how much each person has paid. Once it has been agreed when the band will take part in the Performance Tour we will be very pleased to give you every assistance in the working and manipulation of this online accounting programme.

Whilst I regret to say that it is not possible to give an indefinite extension to the validity of the funds paid, but with an assurance that they can be used up until the end of 2022 and the beginning of 2023, we hope that we will be able to welcome the Newsome group to Europe within the next 17 months.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert C Bone', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert C Bone  
Executive Director