

## Reflections On The Rhine River Cruise



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Every aspiring quartet dreams of the opportunities that await them when and if they ever reach that ultimate goal of becoming an international quartet champion. One of our biggest dreams was to be able to travel and play our part in Harmonizing the World. Thanks to Patsy Meiser and Harmony Travel, LLC, this summer our dream became a reality. We couldn't have asked for a better first experience abroad!

Our adventure began in the adorably beautiful town of Zurich, Switzerland. There was a fabulous welcome dinner where we met up with old and new friends from all over the world. We sang a few songs and got to hear Harmony Travel Chorus sing as well. Excitement was in the air and could be heard and felt in every chord that was sung that night! After a couple nights acclimating to the time change, it was time to board our ship! We traveled with Avalon Waterways and the entire onboard experience was nothing short of extraordinary!

Our cruise down the Rhine River began in Basil and took us through parts of Switzerland, Germany and France before docking at our final destination in the Netherlands .....Amsterdam! Along the river, the scenery was breathtaking. Every stop was more enchanting than the one before. We were overwhelmed with the beauty of the cathedrals

and castles and our excitement was overflowing in each charming little town that we visited. Along with Harmony Travel Chorus we were able to entertain the ship's passengers on our second night. We were also thrilled to sing in a gorgeous, old Cathedral in Mainz, Germany and outside of the Dom in Cologne. These experiences will never be forgotten and will keep a special place in our hearts forever.

One of the biggest highlights of this trip came at the end of our cruise when we were able to participate in a benefit concert for the No Borders Show Chorus in Amsterdam. This chorus is made up of members from the Netherlands and Germany and will be competing in the Sweet Adelines International Harmony Classic competition this fall in St. Louis, Missouri. It was such a joy to experience their heart and enthusiasm and we were blown away with their performances. They are going to make a big splash in St. Louis and we were honored to have been able to participate in helping them get there. Members of Harmony Travel chorus took donations from their home choruses from all over the United States and were able to present the No Borders Show Chorus with a donation of over \$1400! Way to go Sweet Adelines!

The evening ended with a song sung by ALL of the show participants. That night in Amsterdam, with women and men from all walks of life, singing together... "If we hold on together. I know our dreams will never die. Dreams see us through to forever....."

.....the harmony transcended the ringing of the chords. For that moment in time, we were one people united in song, truly harmonizing the world.....And it was magnificent!

