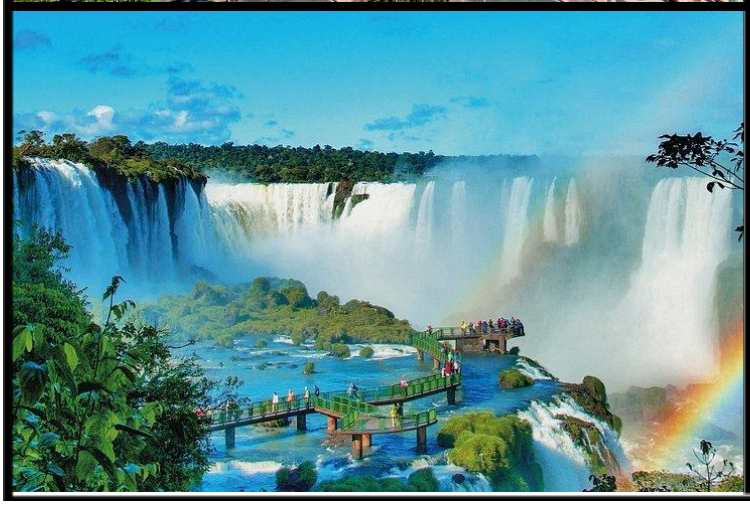
Join PYCO on our next
International Performance Tour!

Brazil & Argentina 2027

Rio de Janeiro *(Brazil)* **-** ***Iguazu Falls*** *(Brazil/Argentina)* **-** ***Buenos Aires*** *(Argentina)*

Thursday, July 15 – Sunday, July 25, 2027

Open to all instrumentalists, singers, and guests.



150 Lake Drive, Suite 103, Wexford, PA 15090 412-600-5369 info@pyco.org pyco.org

Join PYCO on a Historic Musical Journey to Brazil & Argentina!

Get ready for the musical adventure of a lifetime! The **Pittsburgh Youth Concert Orchestras** (PYCO) and the **Pittsburgh Choral Ensemble** (PCE) are joining forces for a historic 2027 Performance Tour. From **July 15-25, 2027**, we'll be bringing the sound of Pittsburgh to South America—and we want **YOU** to be part of the magic.

Why this tour is unmissable:

- **A Historic First:** Be part of the very first youth orchestra from Pittsburgh to perform in these vibrant countries!
- **The Ultimate Insider Tour:** Benefit from Artistic Director Pablo Ardiles' local knowledge and personal connections in his native Argentina for unique experiences you won't find anywhere else.
- **Safety First:** We've specifically chosen two of the safest countries in South America for our journey.
- **Open to All:** Whether you are an instrumentalist, a singer, or a "Tour Guest" (family and friends), there is a spot for you.

Ways to Participate

1. As a Musician: Whether you are a current PYCO student, an alum, a musician from another organization or from the community, we want your talent!

- **Orchestra:** Open to instrumentalists of all ages. To join or ask questions, contact Artistic Director Pablo Ardiles at 412-600-5369 or info@pyco.org.
- **Choir:** Open to singers of all ages. To join or ask questions, contact PCE Director Tim Heavner at timothyheavner@gmail.com.
- **Rehearsal Commitment:** To ensure we sound our best, orchestra members must attend at least three of the four scheduled rehearsals at the PYCO School of Music. Mark them in your calendar!

    - Sunday, June 6, 2027 @ 6:00 PM
    - Sunday, June 20, 2027 @ 6:00 PM
    - Wednesday, July 7, 2027 @ 7:30 PM (Combined Orchestra & Choir rehearsal)
    - Sunday, July 11, 2027 @ 6:00 PM (Combined Orchestra & Choir rehearsal)

2. As a Tour Guest: Friends and family are more than welcome to come along! You'll enjoy the full tour itinerary and inclusions, with the flexibility to explore on your own if it fits the group schedule. A Land Package is also available for those planning to meet the group in Brazil directly.

How to Secure Your Spot

- **Register Online:** Visit pyco.org, go to the navigation tab "Brazil-Argentina 2027" and select "Tour Registration"
- **Registration Fee:** A $125 fee per participant is required to register. This is not an extra cost—it is a deposit that counts directly toward your total tour price!
- **Set Up Your Account:** Once registered with PYCO, you will enroll and set up your account with our core tour operator, WorldStrides. Go to performing.worldstrides.com and enter Trip ID **"PYCO-2027"** in the **Enroll** window.

Deadline to Register: September 21, 2026. While you can join after this date, availability is not guaranteed. Costs may be increased based on the rates at the time of joining, and flights and hotels may be different than those of the participants who have already registered.

Informational & Enrollment Meeting: Sunday, May 17, 2026, at 4:00 PM at the PYCO School of Music.
Pre-Departure Meeting: Sunday, July 11, 2027, at 5:00 PM at the PYCO School of Music.

We can't wait to share this once-in-a-lifetime experience with you and create memories that will last forever!

Best Regards,
Pablo Ardiles, PYCO Artistic Director

PITTSBURGH YOUTH CONCERT ORCHESTRAS

PYCO Brazil & Argentina Tour 2027

Rio (Brazil) - Iguazu Falls (Brazil/Argentina) - Buenos Aires (Argentina)

July 15 to July 25, 2027 (11 days/8 nights)

Day 1 - Thursday, July 15 - Pittsburgh / Rio de Janeiro
- Overnight flight to Brazil (Rio de Janeiro)

Day 2 - Friday, July 16 - Rio de Janeiro
- Meet your tour director and check into hotel
- Rio de Janeiro guided sightseeing tour *(Theatro Municipal, Paço Imperial, Praca XV de Novembro, Cathedral Metropolitana)*

Day 3 - Saturday, July 17 - Rio de Janeiro
- Corcovado mountain ascent via cogwheel train
- Free afternoon/evening in Rio de Janeiro

Day 4 - Sunday, July 18 - Rio de Janeiro
- Gamboa district & "Samba City" guided sightseeing tour *(This district is where the top Rio Samba schools prepare every day of the year for February's Carnival)*
- Academics da Grande Rio Warehouse visit *(Learn about the Carnival parade's history and feel the Carnival spirit. Visit backstage to see where they assemble their floats and try the vibrant costumes!)*
- Cidade das Artes backstage tour & workshop
- Orchestra & Choir performance

Day 5 - Monday, July 19 - Rio de Janeiro / Iguazu Falls
- Fly to Iguazu
- Iguazu Falls: Brazilian side visit

Day 6 - Tuesday, July 20 - Iguazu Falls
- Iguazu Falls National Park: Argentinean side visit
- Orchestra & Choir performance

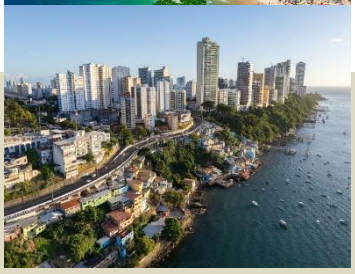
Day 7 - Wednesday, July 21 - Iguazu Falls / Buenos Aires
- Fly to Buenos Aires
- Buenos Aires guided sightseeing tour (*Plaza de Mayo, Congress Hall, San Telmo district, La Recoleta, Metropolitan Cathedral visit)*

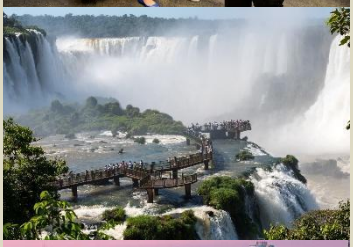
Day 8 - Thursday, July 22 - Buenos Aires
- LEAP Go Gaucho! *(Saddle up for a gaucho-style horseback ride through the stunning Argentinean landscape as you tour a working agricultural ranch. For safety reasons, weight restrictions apply to this activity)*
- Asado cooking class with lunch
- Tango show with dinner

Day 9 - Friday, July 23 - Buenos Aires
- Teatro Colon visit
- San Telmo market visit
- Orchestra/Choir performance

Day 10 - Saturday, July 24 - Buenos Aires
- Free morning in Buenos Aires
- Farewell meal *(lunch or dinner depending on flight time)*
- Fly home (overnight flight)

Day 11, Sunday, July 25 - Pittsburgh
- Arrive in Pittsburgh





This is a flexible itinerary. Some parts may be changed or rearranged to optimize flow and timing for a smoother travel experience. It will be updated as we approach the departure date and as hotels and venues are finalized.

Tour Inclusions

- Round-trip airfare economy class and other transportation described in the itinerary
- Accommodation in three- or four-star hotels in quad (or occasional triple) rooms with private facilities guaranteed throughout. Double occupancy rooms for adults
- Plentiful daily breakfast to start the day energized and ready to go
- Appetizing, culturally representative dinner daily
- Full time, multilingual, WorldStrides tour director who is LEAP-trained in experiential education
- LEAP! Learning through Exploration and Active Participation - trademarked immersive approach of learning by doing
- Local guide at sites and on city tours as described in the itinerary
- Entrances and transportation to sites and activities described in your itinerary
- Local guide tips; see note regarding other important tips
- Basic Medical, Dental, & Emergency Evacuation Insurance during trip 24/7 On Tour Emergency Support
- Professional development credit for teachers
- **Academic credit for students: Up to three college credits upon course completion (grades 9-12) or high school credit (grades 6-12)**

Tour Exclusions

- Airline-imposed baggage fees
- Any passport or visa fees
- Meals other than specified in the itinerary
- Payment Processing Fees
- Travel deviations (different departure/return dates or routes)
- Allocation of specific seat assignments on flights
- Tips for the WorldStrides Tour Guides and Multi-Day Bus driver **Note that this can be added at your request
- Optional pre-paid tips. This and other customizations will be listed as separate line items in the total trip cost.
- Optional excursions
- Travel Protection Plan/Ultimate Protection Plan
- Additional costs for concert organization including but not limited to venue rental, instrument rental, instrument transportation, marketing, coordination, administration, etc.. Depending on number of participants, this fee can be $0 but no more than $100
- Any other items not mentioned in inclusions

Tour Cost (based on 100 participants)

$4,595 - Performing PYCO student - Triple or quad occupancy room
$4,895 - Adult 23 years old or older - Double occupancy room

Rooming Upgrades:
Double Occupancy: +$360 per person
Single Occupancy: +$680 per person

If you register and enroll with WorldStrides before August 6, 2026, you can opt into a 9-month payment plan ($488.33/adult; $455/student) ending May 6, 2027. You may also set your own payment frequency, provided you adhere to the mandatory deposit and payment deadlines listed below.

Payment Deadlines

Payment	Due Date	Amount per Person
Initial Deposit	When registering for the tour with PYCO	$125
Second Payment	When enrolling & setting up your account with WorldStrides	$375
Third Payment	120 days before departure (March 17, 2027)	75% of remaining balance
Fourth Payment	70 days before departure (May 6, 2027)	Remaining Balance

Cancellation Policy

Before Sept 21, 2026:	100% Refund.
Sept 22 – Dec 17, 2026:	$50 Retained
Dec 18, 2026 – Mar 17, 2027:	$375 Retained.
Mar 18 – Apr 30, 2027:	50% of total cost retained.
May 1 – Jun 14, 2027:	75% of total cost retained.
After June 15, 2027:	100% of total cost retained (No Refund).

While WorldStrides handles core logistics (flights and housing), PYCO coordinates specialized concert arrangements and local activities with multiple tour operators. Because we must meet strict deposit deadlines with global suppliers to secure your spot, adhering to the payment schedule is essential. **After registering with PYCO, follow these critical enrollment steps:**

- **Enroll with WorldStrides:** Go to **performing.worldstrides.com** and enter Trip ID **"PYCO-2027"** in the **Enroll** window.
- **Pay PYCO immediately:** We must forward your funds to WorldStrides within **10 days** of your enrollment.
- **Avoid Cancellation:** Failure to pay PYCO within this window will result in your registration being cancelled by WorldStrides.

Please remember that WorldStrides charges reflect only a portion of the tour; all payments and your final balance are managed through PYCO. Any extra charges applied to your WorldStrides account (deviations, room/seat upgrades, land packages etc.) must also be paid to PYCO. Any payments sent directly to WorldStrides will be returned. **Reminder: All tour payments must be made to PYCO.**

Unaccompanied Minors
For unaccompanied minors aged 13 and older, PYCO provides dedicated chaperone supervision at a maximum 5:1 ratio. Minors under the age of 13 must be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or authorized adult. Code of conduct form must be signed by parents and minors.

Travel Insurance
When selecting travel insurance, carefully review the **'covered reasons'** in the plan details. The **'Cancel for Any Reason' (CFAR)** upgrade typically provides a 50%-75% reimbursement of **non-refundable costs**. Note that CFAR is time-sensitive: it usually must be purchased within **14 to 21 days** of your initial trip payment and requires cancellation at least **48 hours** prior to departure. Standard travel insurance generally **does not cover last-minute or 'change of mind' cancellations**. We recommend inquiring with WorldStrides about their protection plans or comparing independent quotes through resources like **insuremytrip.com**, **travelinsure.com**, or **allianztravelinsurance.com**.

Tour Registration: go to: **www.PYCO.org** and click on the navigation tab "**Brazil-Argentina 2027**".