

**If you could write a 'Thank You' to those who contributed funds to our trip,  
What would you say?**

1. Just wow! You couldn't even imagine the changes in our life's and perspectives you made!
2. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MADE MY DREAMS COME TRUE AND ALLOWED ME TO HAVE THE BEST TIME OF MY LIFE!!!!
3. Thank you so much for this irreplaceable opportunity! I cannot express the amount of fun I had.
4. Thank you so much for allowing us to experience a new type of culture, and allowing us to showcase our abilities to other people out in the world that would have never heard of us until the trip.
5. Thank you so much for giving us this opportunity to explore and experience the city. It was amazing and I want to go back already.
6. Truly thank you. My outlook on life, culture, and music has completely changed forever. My spirit for music has been renewed in ways I didn't know were possible. Thank you for expanding my horizons and renewing my passion for the joys of music. I will never be able to thank you enough for saving my soul.
7. I would not only thank the people who funded us, but Kelsey for making this happen. She picked wonderful spots for us to see!
8. I would say thank you because this was a life changing experience for the better, I've been changed for good.
9. Thank you so much for funding our trip. This was a once in a lifetime experience, and I wouldn't trade it for the world. I learned so much, grew as a person, and got to bond with my classmates. Without you, this would not be possible, so thank you so, so much.
10. Thank you so much for allowing us to go on this trip that taught us so so so much and letting us enjoy music and a new city in a new way. Also thank you for allowing me to have my heart and soul live in Nyc!
11. Thank you for everything, I wouldn't have had an amazing experience if it wasn't for you. I have always dreamed of visiting New York and my dream came true. I will never forget amazing memories because of you. I can't express words. I felt like I was in a different world. Thank you!!
12. Your donation gave us an experience that we will never forget as long as we live. Thank you!
13. Thank you so much for the opportunity to grow closer with my friends, get to know people I don't see very often, learn about the history and architecture of New York, visit landmarks I never knew I wanted to see, and watch amazing Broadway shows with my choir family! Your money was well spent and we thoroughly enjoyed our trip!
14. From the bottom of my heart, this trip changed my life and helped me grow in ways that I never expected. I am so thankful that I got to experience exploring this city with my best friends and show off our talents from Cincinnati,
15. I don't even know if I would have words! This has changed my life. I'm speechless. I can't even encapsulate the experience that I've had. Thank you so much for making this possible.
16. I would say thank you so much for giving me some of the most fun days of my life. It was an amazing experience and I am so glad I got to participate and wouldn't be able to without you!
17. Thank you to everyone who donated. Each and every one of you guys gave us a once in a lifetime experience that we'll never forget.
18. I'd like to thank them for giving everyone in the choir a chance to experience the culture of NYC. To see all the views, being able to sing in these historic chapels, and having the experience to transport around the city.
19. Thank you for believing in us and helping us make this trip possible!
20. Thank You so much for contributing to our New York City Concert Tour. The whole choir had a wonderful time in New York City. We made so many great memories together that will last us for the rest of our lives.
21. Thank you so much for giving us an opportunity to grow closer as a group and learn how to be functioning adults. Everyone had such an amazing experience and this trip genuinely changed peoples lives for the better.
22. Thank you for contributing to a once in a lifetime opportunity. We could not have done it without your help!

## What was the most memorable moment of the trip for you, and why did it stand out?

1. Walking around, and experiencing the New Yorker experience!
2. Seeing the city for the first time on the bus, it made me realize I was finally in NYC with some of my bestest friends.
3. It gave me a sense of freedom that I had never experienced before!
4. The Outsiders. I did not know what to expect but now it is up there with my favorites!
5. The Outsider's Musical was absolutely life-changing! It completely changed the way I view the performing-arts, theater, music, and vocal production. It inspired me to think more about the emotional delivery I need to have in my performances moving forward!
6. I realized I was capable of seeing things on my own. It opened a whole new world of independence for me.
7. Going to Outsiders: the lights, the sets, the production!
8. My most memorable moment was going to the top of the rock. It was beautiful to see the entire city from the top of that building, and it really put how large the whole city was into perspective.
9. Being back in NYC, in general, was SO amazing for me, but being able to see so many shows was really really cool.
10. Everything was amazing, I loved everything about this trip. And making memories with my classmates.
11. Standing on the top of Rockefeller Center and being able to see the entire city from a sky view was a moving and impressive experience because it puts everything about the aura and myth of New York City into perspective.
12. I loved laughing with my roommates, watching Outsiders with the group, and visiting the different landmarks! I loved bonding with the group, learning about the history of New York, and going to Broadway shows with my group.
13. The most memorable part of my trip was the bonds I created with some of my choir members. I felt closer to some of them that I didn't know I'd feel closer to!
14. Driving into New York and singing all the New York songs we were singing was incredible, I was in tears looking at the city lights!
15. The bus ride was genuinely my favorite part!
16. I would say either the churches or the Broadway shows. I enjoyed it because I am a faithful man and I enjoy seeing those churches. The Broadway shows were so cool and I've never seen one before so it was amazing to see all 3. It was amazing!
17. Going to the top of the Rockefeller Center was the most memorable moment of the trip for me as I never thought I would be that high up in the air before. It was the coolest thing to see the vastness of NYC.
18. Top of the rock, gets you to grasp just how big the city is and see the infrastructure of the city.
19. Top of the Rock! I loved being able to see the whole city from high up.
20. Seeing the skyline for the first time on the bus and watching everyone who had never been to NYC eye's light up! Watching everyone's eyes glisten in the lights of Times Square.

## **How did visiting places like Chinatown and Little Italy enhance your understanding of New York City's cultural diversity?**

1. I realized how big of a melting pot NYC is and how it accommodates and celebrates so many different cultures!
2. Visiting Little Italy opened my eyes to so many aspects of Italian culture, and I got to try dishes that I've never had before. We went to an Italian import shop, and I saw so many different types of food.
3. It was really cool to experience the different cultures in one area. I knew it was diverse but seeing it like that was really cool
4. I went to Little Italy and found a traditional Italian restaurant. I am fairly knowledgeable of Italian culture, so it was not shocking when they offered sparkling water before and espresso after. However, espresso after lunch/dinner is not traditional in America. I found a small Italian corner store that sold Italian imported and homemade food. It was cool to see the products they had hanging from the ceiling and the massive cheese wheels.
5. I didn't realize how diverse New York is! It was really cool to see all of these authentic Chinese and Italian restaurants. All the food was amazing and very true to the cultures.
6. It gave me a culture shock. I learned a lot more about cultures that aren't necessarily mine but it was really really really cool seeing those real legit Italian places!
7. It was amazing, I loved the Italian food!! I also love Asian culture, so it was an amazing experience. I felt like I was in China when I first saw chinatown.
8. Walking around a melting pot like New York, and hearing different languages being spoken at the same time was just fascinating. In Little Italy, the staff at the restaurant we ate at were speaking a half broken English and half Italian and you just think back to the early 1900s when thousands of immigrants were pouring into the country through major cities like New York.
9. I did not realize how much diversity existed within New York and how kind the workers were, along with the other people around me!
10. Seeing such a strong Asian community in Chinatown increased my cultural understanding because I was able to see the markets, foods, and interact with members of the community who were different than ourselves.
11. So much enrichment, truly. Traveling to Little Italy was a cultural experience where we got to genuinely see people on the streets advertising their business because they believed in it. Incredible.
12. Visiting places like Chinatown and Little Italy helped me understand how much of a melting pot NYC is. I found it fun to be able to step into different cultures by simply crossing a street.
13. Seeing how different the culture is and all the little shops that feel so local to how the respective country would feel like.
14. Overall, I was shocked by the entire culture of New York. The way that they walk with a purpose and how they interact with each other was different from how we live everyday in Ohio.
15. The city is extremely diverse in culture!
16. NYC is America personified in one singular city. People from all over come to this one condensed city.
17. It was cool to see the various cultures/foods/people that can live in one city. The authentic food added to the experience!

## **How did the Cathedral performances and/or St. Patrick's Ash Wednesday Mass affect your view on spirituality?**

1. It interested me on checking out more cathedrals around the world
2. It was very cool to be able to sing songs in such historical places and connect with that spiritually.
3. Singing in such beautiful churches felt like I was singing right before God in heaven because I was surrounded by beauty.
4. I think that performing in the cathedrals was really beautiful, and I loved how our music filled the space.
5. It made me think about how different and similar varying religions are. The architecture was also STUNNING.
6. I got to see different religions that celebrate Ash Wednesday (The violet for lent in St. Paul's got me, it was beautiful). Someone asked me what the ashes were meant for.
7. It really stuck out to me how much love and spirituality was put into these buildings. It helped me grow in my faith just a little bit because I'd never seen such beautiful churches, and it really showed me the faith that was present in that space. In fact, the church that affected me most was a beautiful church in Greenwich. It was so small, but it was built with heart and affected me the most. Our voices echoed around the room and carried. The architecture was beautiful, and moved me in such a sweet way.
8. It was amazing, I have never seen that many people in church. I felt so happy because I could see many people getting Ash. I am happy to be catholic.
9. The architecture of bigger churches and cathedrals that is now over 100-150 years old is really neat to look at and it is tied to the unity that faith brings about, especially with the amount of people that were flooding St. Patricks on Ash Wednesday just to receive ashes, even without attending Mass.
10. I was amazed at how big the population of religious people there was. I was blown away by the beauty of the cathedral architecture! We saw a religious Sister walking on the sidewalk and it was so cool!
11. It was such a beautiful experience and I loved how much love our viewers had.
12. Singing my solo felt like I was the only person in that entire room. I had chills- it was just me and God in that moment, I also got a good understanding of the strong history in the churches.
13. I could feel the spirit and the love within those Cathedrals.
14. The Cathedral performances affected my spirituality in wonderful ways, as the songs felt like a prayer to God.
15. It felt crazy singing in churches and attending mass in such amazing places.
16. It reminded me why I love, not just the religion, but the architecture of churches.
17. I've always been a religious person. The churches were absolutely stunning! The various religions they have in New York was shocking, I didn't realize that people went to church there, to be honest.

## **How did performing at St. John The Divine and attending shows like “The Outsiders” and “Wicked” change your perspective on the performing arts?**

1. It's shows how many people really love the arts and how it brings people together
2. I realized how much hard work and practice and effort it takes to put on such a huge (almost perfect) Broadway show.
3. It made me appreciate it even more because these shows were masterpieces, especially The Outsiders. Musicals are evolving with their choreography and effects and it shows.
4. I never was a big fan of musicals before, but now I want to go more!
5. It reaffirmed that I want to do theater for the rest of my life!.
6. It made me realize that there is just as much work that goes into performing arts, as there is in professional sports. If I put more work into my education in music, maybe I can perform on Broadway, or sign a contract with a record label.
7. I feel like it really showed the importance of dynamics in conveying a story.
8. It was so nice to watch a professional show. Everyone was so talented both in the dancing and singing and acting aspects of it, and I aspire to be like all of them someday.
9. It makes things so much more real because even though, for me, performing on Broadway seems so unattainable, seeing this really just makes it seem so much more real and more attainable even though I'd be perfectly fine. I would love to perform as Cherry in the outsiders.
10. It gave me more passion to do music and love more musical performances.
11. It shows how much the performing arts should continue to be valued in our society. In the growing age of technology, we have gotten away from the experiences of seeing a play/musical at the theater or experiencing a choir singing in a reverent venue like a cathedral.
12. It gave me a new appreciation for Broadway shows and gave me a sense of awe for the amount of work people put into performing.
13. The symbolism in all of the shows and their use of the props and other things were so inspiring on how small things can have bigger meanings
14. It made me understand that there is such a wide world on Broadway that I have not even begun to touch the surface of. I was so shocked that the Outsiders was my favorite musical and it makes me want to see smaller sized musicals.
15. That gave me a physical reaction, I mean they truly created something so beautiful and moving.
16. These shows really put into perspective for me the dedication that goes into making performing arts shows a success.
17. These were my first Broadway shows and I was so impressed. In Hamilton especially, there are so many lyrics and songs that are in the show. It takes so much work and stamina to perform. I was shocked by how each cast member was able to get through a 3 hour performance with songs one after another.
18. Broadway musicals are very difficult to perform and everything has to be perfect.
19. We, as performers, are such a small part of performing arts. People can have solos and leads but if there's no choir, then there's no depth in the music. Multiple voices harmonizing is what tugs on people's heartstrings.