Singing in choirs is a valuable and beneficial endeavour for US children and youth. Research shows that choir membership benefits children's academic performance, creativity, self-esteem, memory, accountability, self-confidence, self-discipline, problem solving, and punctuality (Chorus America, 2009), however little is known about the benefits of international touring for young singers.

Keystone State Boychoir is a choral music education program with an international reputation serving nearly 200 singers from ages 8 to 18. It is located in a large US city and has socioeconomic, religious and ethnic diversity within its membership. The choir has toured internationally each year for 2-3 weeks during the summer and winter school holidays. Touring of any kind can act to solidify repertoire and ensemble with daily concerts but what extra-musical benefits can be achieved in 2-3 weeks of international touring which would include singing in schools and churches, being hosted by local youth choirs, staying with local families, eating local foods, touring landmarks and cultural centers, and engaging in cultural activities?

“Travelling and seeing the world can have a profound impact on a young person’s life” (Cody 2009). Honing language skills, increasing self-confidence, learning first-hand new customs and traditions, increasing appreciation for the similarities and differences that exist between cultures, greater diversification of friends and expanding worldviews are benefits of educational travel for middle and high school students that many agree upon (Kulas, 2015; Liberty, 2009).
As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, educators believe that it is important for students to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to cross boundaries and to function in our global society. “Global-mindedness” as defined by Hett is “a worldview in which ones sees oneself as connected to the world community and feels a sense of responsibility for its members. This commitment is reflected in an individual’s attitudes, beliefs and behaviors” and their ability to negotiate boundaries (Hett, 1983).

This paper critically examines the relationship between long-term participation in international touring by youth choir alumni on their life experience and to their development of “globalmindedness” as defined by Hett. Data were collected via telephone interviews with ten alumni choristers of Keystone State Boychoir who have participated in at least five 3-week international tours and their music directors and manager. The lifelong impacts of international touring on these young men will be presented followed by implications for community and secondary school music programs and teacher education programs seeking to develop “globally-minded’ youth and music educators.