

# Traveling with Tubas & Timpani



## If you plan to check instruments...

- Have your instrument manifest completed early and accurately. A good tour company will make sure the airline is prepared for you. Barring no surprises the day you check-in, this is the best way to avoid extra charges.
- Budget for the charges. In recent years, it's never been certain that groups will be charged for instruments, but it's more and more likely. Be prepared. Your tour company should be able to give you estimates on overage charges based on your airline.



## Pack smart

- Pack small instruments into suitcases or carry-on bags.
- For miscellaneous pieces such as percussion, make sure your cases fall within the luggage measurements to avoid oversize fees.
- Disperse heavy items throughout the group to avoid overweight fees

## If you're traveling within the Continental U.S.

- Consider trucking your instruments ahead of time. Groups have also included their luggage, which can save hundreds of dollars in luggage fees.
- Ask your tour company for estimates on truck rental and an estimate of luggage fees, truck rental may actually cost less and you'll know your instruments are in better hands.



## Build in a cushion

- In addition to ever-changing luggage fees, the exchange rate (for international tours) and airline tax and fuel surcharges adjust daily as well. With so much unpredictability, it's wise to build in a cushion when presenting a price to your group.

Focus the fundraising; hold a fundraiser specific to the need. Ask your community to "sponsor" the transportation of an instrument. You don't need to announce all the details to get the buzz started - give them a ballpark cost and jump start the fundraising process.

And let's all keep hoping that the rash of "fees" doesn't continue to worsen, or soon you'll be budgeting to bring that flute on too.

Contact us or visit the Resource page of our website for additional planning resources such as lists of airline fees and estimation charts.

