

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Sophomore Kristina Pflum and juniors Darin Knobbe and Lexi Howard of Chase County Schools returned June 25 from a trip across Europe, playing and singing music under the Nebraska Ambassadors of Music.

Students were chosen for the band and chorus by teacher recommendation and the ensemble's instrumentation needs, according to CCS band teacher Agnes Strand.

Knobbe said there were about 160 students, with staff and adults filling the numbers out to 200.

After attending a band camp in Fremont June 6-8, the students flew to London. Their itinerary also included Paris, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Italy and Germany.

Besides singing in the chorus, Knobbe played baritone saxophone, Howard played tenor saxophone and Pflum played flute.

Knobbe, 17, said the band mainly played outdoors in parks and town squares. The choir mainly performed in churches.

Howard's favorite country was Switzerland. She spent her 16th birthday in Zermatt, shopping and touring the Matterhorn.

She ruefully remembers that that's also the day she fell off some steps and tore her pants, needing therefore to purchase new jeans.

Knobbe's favorite country also was Switzerland, but his favorite visit was to Sacre-Coeur, a Catholic church at the summit of the base of Montmartre in Paris.

Pflum's favorite country also was Switzerland, but the Eiffel Tower and Paris were her favorite spots.

Traveling with the Nebraska Ambassadors has whetted the appetite for more travel for the students.

And, working with large groups was also fun. Knobbe said, "We sang in a pretty big band and choir that was different than Chase County, under the direction of Class A and B school directors."

Howard, 16, added, "It's nice to have full instrumentation. I liked it a lot."

Pflum, 15, said she learned "to have fun with music and not be like all serious."