

1. I followed up on the query made during the rehearsal last night about new visa requirements. This is the answer from John Crozman (Culture Path).

*Canadians DO NOT need a visa to travel to Schengen countries (which include Italy and Malta) if they are staying under 90 days. What people are hearing about, is that sometime in 2024 (we do not know when!) the European Union is planning on implementing a **travel authorisation system** called **ETIAS**. They have been working on this since 2016 and they keep delaying it. It is basically a pre-screening procedure to keep unwanted people (ie criminals, people with no documents etc.) from showing at their borders. Basically everyone from VISA exempt countries will need to go online and fill out an electronic form with their passport and other information and pay a small fee (around \$10 CAD). You then get approved or denied!. The ETIAS travel authorisation will be valid for three years or until the travel document you used in your application expires - whichever comes first. You can read more info about at the following link:*

<https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/etias/>

*The USA has had a similar system called ESTA since 2009. Canadians generally do not know about it because we are exempt because of our special relationship with the USA. In fact Canada also has a system for visa exempt countries, the eTA, that started in 2016.*

2. The other announcement was from Trish. Our last Monday night rehearsal is August 21. The Saturday and Thursday rehearsals will continue as scheduled in August. The Fall rehearsal schedule will be coming soon.