



## OBJECTIVES

Coordinate the secure, efficient transport of over 100 pieces of musical equipment, instruments, and uniforms across several European countries while staying in step with a tightly scheduled concert and rehearsal timeline. The goal was to ensure that no concert dates were missed and that all equipment returned to the U.S. in perfect condition.

# MOVING MUSIC ACROSS EUROPE

## On Schedule, Across Borders, Without a Note Missed

Military bands have long served as cultural ambassadors of the United States, combining tradition, diplomacy, and artistry. In the summer of 2024, one elite U.S. military band prepared to embark on an international concert tour across Europe. The performances were set to span multiple countries and required an airtight logistics plan to keep the mission on schedule. To manage the complex movement of their instruments, uniforms, and high-value gear, the band turned to Interstate.



## CONCLUSION

Interstate began planning several months before the band's departure. The team worked closely with the client to understand tour dates, transport needs, and item-specific requirements. They organized regular meetings with all stakeholders and created a detailed logistics plan that addressed timing, documentation, and cargo safety.

To simplify international customs clearance, Interstate secured a carnet, which allowed the temporary import of all equipment without additional taxes or duties. Every item listed on the carnet was tracked to ensure it returned to the U.S. after the tour. Custom pallets were built and wrapped in non-transparent shrink wrap for security. Each pallet was labeled and cataloged, ensuring consistent placement of every item at each stop.

Interstate also arranged air freight for the longer legs of the trip and partnered with reliable contacts across Europe to handle regional transportation. Real-time cargo visibility was provided throughout the journey, allowing the team and the client to stay aligned and flexible if changes were needed.

The tour went exactly as planned. No performances were missed, no penalties were incurred, and all cargo returned home safely. Thanks to detailed coordination, experienced global partners, and a client-focused strategy, Interstate helped make this international mission a complete success.

## CHALLENGES

Transporting a full band across Europe presented a unique set of logistical hurdles. The cargo included items made of restricted materials such as ivory and fur, which had to meet international trade regulations. Lithium batteries and exotic wood instruments had to be carefully documented for customs. Some travel legs required air transport, including a special flight between Switzerland and Finland. Additionally, the move schedule had to work around daily rehearsals and evening concerts. Customs regulations and taxes also had to be navigated for each border crossing, which added another layer of complexity.

