




*Classical
Movements*

**CHOIR, ORCHESTRA
AND BAND TOURS TO
CENTRAL EUROPE**





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Travel Specialists for Music and Performing Groups

WHY CENTRAL EUROPE WITH CLASSICAL MOVEMENTS

Central Europe (Austria and Switzerland, Liechtenstein, perhaps also Czech and Hungary)

With a distinct, picturesque landscape and rich history different from other European regions, Central Europe is a favorite tour destination for many choirs and orchestras, worldwide. Made up by Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, the Czech Republic, and Hungary, Central Europe is certain to deliver on all accounts.

Austrian Highlights: Tour Austria to celebrate classical music in its birthplace! Vienna, offers a rich history, full of splendor and brilliance. Austria was the birthplace of some of the world's most celebrated musicians, including Haydn, Strauss, Schubert, and of course Mozart. The lovely baroque town of Bad Ischl; the city of Graz which is one of the country's prettiest cities; Innsbruck set at the base of the spectacular Alps; Linz set on the Danube River where Anton Bruckner was born in the suburb of Ansfelden; Melk with its incredibly ornate Benedictine abbey. The catacombs of the Stephansdom; the Innere Stadt (the historic city center), with its winding back streets and baroque churches; Schonbrunn Palace and gardens. Many of the sights in and around Salzburg were featured in the 1965 movie *The Sound of Music*. Those familiar with the film will recognize the Residenz, Mozartplatz, the Dom, Mirabell Palace and Hellbrunn Castle.

Shop for crystal, costume and fashion jewelry, clocks, sweaters, china, hand-painted Augarten porcelain, loden coats, hats, wood carvings, enamel, petit point, and art. Austrian cuisine is hearty, delicious and versatile. Dishes include excellent soups, Wiener schnitzel, tafelspitz, and a dizzying array of sausages, trout, chicken and wild-game dishes. Hungarian goulash, Serbian roasted peppers and Italian gelato are also widely available, remnants of the days of the Hapsburg Empire. Made in Salzburg, Mozartkugeln (small balls of chocolate-covered marzipan) are wonderful. Don't leave the country without sampling some local beer or wine—both are wonderful.

Czech Highlights: Prague, Czech Republic, is a city of stunning physical beauty. The capitals of many other European nations were flattened or heavily damaged during World War II, but Prague survived intact. The Charles Bridge; Old Town Square with its candy-colored buildings and spires; Prague Castle and its 1,000-year-old St. Vitus Cathedral; the cliff-top fortress of Vysehrad; the delightful cobblestoned streets of Mala Strana. Brno, the Czech Republic's second-largest city, merits at least a day to enjoy its impressive medieval architecture. Cesky Krumlov, an incredibly well-preserved medieval town, is a maze of cobblestoned streets and charming Renaissance facades built along a loop in the river and overseen by an enormous 13th century castle. We think Telc is Moravia's prettiest Renaissance town—things seem unchanged since the 1530s, which is why UNESCO made it a World Heritage Site.

Shop for Bohemian garnets, antiques, jewelry, puppets, peasant frocks, hand-knit shawls, wooden toys, embroidered clothing, hand-painted eggs, and fur hats. Roast pork, sauerkraut and dumplings constitute the traditional national meal—it's served almost everywhere. Other favorites are potatoes, beef and duck. One good thing about eating local dishes is that you can wash them down with Czech beer.



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PERFORMANCES AND CULTURAL IMMERSION

Whether it is a cathedral choir, symphony orchestra, or chamber ensemble, this cluster of European countries is sure to exceed any expectations. Ensembles include the Vienna Philharmonic, Vienna Mozart Orchestra, Budapest Symphony Orchestra, Czech National Symphony Orchestra, Lucerne Festival Strings, Vienna Boys choir, Monteverdi Choir, and Magnificat Children's Choir.

Cultural and musical exchanges with local ensembles. Workshops and master classes with expert clinicians. Outreach concerts to local schools and non-profit organizations. Some of the annual festivals include Salzburger Festspiele (July to August). Classical Movements produces our own festival in Austria and the Czech Republic called the Rhapsody! Children's Music Festival in Vienna, Salzburg and Prague since 2002.

Concerts are presented at gorgeous concert halls, opera halls, cultural and arts centers, university concert halls, churches, and national historic sites or museums. Collaborative concerts and workshops with local ensembles and cultural exchange activities are possible.

Austrian venues: Wiener Musikverein; Orangerie Schönbrunn and magnificent baroque churches like St. Peter's Church and St. Anne's Church.

Czech venues: St. Vitus Cathedral; St. Barbara's Cathedral; Estates Theatre; Smetana Hall.

Hungarian, Swiss, and Liechtenstein venues: St. Stephen's Basilica; Hungarian State Opera House; Artus Theatre; Pasti Vigado in Hungary; St. Nicholas Cathedral; Grossmunster; Cathedral Vaduz; Schaan Church

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Classical Movements started in 1995 with tours to Austria and the Czech Republic. Groups have included orchestras such as the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and the Boston Symphony Chamber Players to youth orchestras such as the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra, Greater Twin Cities Youth Orchestra and choirs such as the Collegiate Chorale, Oregon Repertory Singers, University of Kentucky Women's Choir, St. Olaf Choir, Washington DC's prime classical music radio station WGMS. We have also had over 34 youth and children's choirs from all over the world attend our Rhapsody! Children's Music Festival in Vienna, Salzburg and Prague. Austria is full of rich cultural offerings and traditions, many dating from when Vienna was the seat of a powerful empire.



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TESTIMONIALS

Cynthia Pickett Steele, Orchestra Manager [National Symphony Orchestra]

"We greatly value our relationship with Classical Movements, and the high quality of work that you provide for the National Symphony Orchestra. We know that you have worked intensively on this tour and it is certainly going to be an asset to have [you] execute the international tour."

Cora Hughes, Tour Planner [The Lexington Singers]

"I just wanted to let you know how exceptional the tour in Europe turned out to be for the singers. The venues were excellent, hotels were great and Constanza was a dream to work with. The highlights were the concert with the Vienna Mozart orchestra and the evening mass at Notre Dame. Salzburg and Innsbruck were great and a lot of fun. Thanks again for putting together a fantastic tour.

"Professional, personable and efficient are only a few words that can describe Classical Movements. I have had the opportunity to personally work with this organization on tours throughout Austria, France and Italy. The venues chosen for performances were top quality and world-renowned and this was a priority for our group. We have performed an evening Mass at the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, with the Vienna Mozart Orchestra, in Salzburg and Innsbruck. [Classical Movements] definitely puts a lot of 'heart' into their work."

Timothy Sharp, Director [Miami Children's Choir]

"I have fond memories of our tour this past summer to Austria and the Czech Republic. The preparations by Classical Movements were very professional and executed like no other tour I have been on."

Michael Semancik, Chorale Director, [Morris Knolls High School Chorale and Wind Ensemble]

"What can I say? It was an amazing experience not only for my students, but for me as well. For my first European trip with my high school kids I was very apprehensive about many things. Having you there for EVERYTHING really made it so much easier and put my mind at ease often. So thank you for all that you did for me. I know it would have not been half as wonderful without your help. The trip was amazing. Our Austrian guides were amazing, helpful, thoughtful, caring and very sweet. I felt very lucky and honored to be working with these people. What I have to say about the entire experience is that Classical Movements really knows how to put an amazing tour together from start to finish. With help at the airport to putting together amazing concerts in Tabor and the Czech museum of music I cannot thank Classical Movements enough. My kids have been changed by experiencing new things and cultures and they were able to focus on performing and having a great time due to the amazing work at your office. I WILL travel with Classical Movements again and cannot wait to start working on another trip! There is such much I can write here, but thank you thank you thank you is what I need to say most!"

Mark Dollhopf [Association of Yale Alumni]

"Great to work with you again... Everything was fantastic!"



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Mikhail Shtangrud, Music Director [Colburn Children's Choir]

"What you do is simply magic! The most attentive and supportive audiences appeared at the most beautiful venues in foreign cities as if with a wave of a wand, just in time for the Colburn Children's Choir concerts. We understand that this seeming sorcery takes lots of knowledge, preparation, and hard work, and appreciate all the behind the scenes effort and dedication that makes touring with Classical Movements so enchanting."

Toshiyuki Shimada, Music Director [Yale Symphony Orchestra]

"All of the Yale Symphony Orchestra's tours under Classical Movements have given me complete security and confidence. From planning to the actual touring, from the check-in at the airport to the final departure, they took care of all the details concerning the trip and the concert arrangements. That way, I could concentrate on music making with ease."

Robert Martin, Director, Conservatory of Music [Bard College]

"I believe I speak for all of us on the Bard tour team in expressing our sincere appreciation for a job well done. Please pass along our thanks and compliments to Haika and the rest of your team. I was very impressed with the care and thoughtfulness of all concerned."

Gary Seighman, Director of Choral Activities [Trinity University]

"We loved working with all of you on this tour and definitely plan on future collaborations."

Jeffrey Smith, Music Director [Philadelphia Boys Choir]

"Classical Movements has to be the best concert touring company in the business. They are completely professional and at the same time very personal, culminating in the highest quality tour with much attention given to the specific needs of the group. The staff is careful to find out exactly what the clients want and to always meet those needs. They are very clear in their communication about your expectations and their expectations. When we use a concert tour company, we always use Classical Movements, and as long as they maintain their high standards we will never use anyone else."

Chuck Moore, Executive Director [Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra]

"Under Classical Movements' direction, our 6-concert tour of Germany and the Czech Republic was flawless from start to finish. We enjoyed a comfortable flight itinerary, nice hotels, good meals, wonderful sightseeing, and most importantly great concerts. Our venues included three stunning contemporary halls, an elegant baroque room, a delightful castle courtyard, and a beautiful spa town. A Smetana festival performance and two shared concerts with German music schools were highlights that our musicians loved. We are all ready to do it again! The Classical Movements staff was awesome!"



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PRESS

A Limited Selection

“Classical Movements founder Neeta Helms delivers musicians and singers all over the world with the precision of a Steinway piano tuner.”

The Washington Post, Tom Heath, September 15, 2013

“Classical Movements is the go-to company for ensembles planning concert tours.”

Baltimore Sun, Tim Smith, June 29, 2012

“Another benefit for the touring youngsters, though, according to their conductor, is the reaction of Czech audiences... Czechs immediately start singing along, tap their feet, and nod in time to the music.” This kind of instant feedback surely boosts the confidence level of any performer, regardless of age or nationality.”

Opus Osm, Mary Matz, August 9, 2011

“The Rhapsody! Children’s Music Festival organizers have chosen Prague as a concert destination for the festival’s various choirs every year for the past decade. Neeta Helms, president of Classical Movements, Inc., explains that Prague has been a destination of choice along with Vienna and Salzburg “because of its beauty and the country’s rich music history, culture, and heritage.”

Opus Osm, Mary Matz, July 18, 2011

“top-notch cast”

Live-PR, July 14, 2011

“Neeta Helms, president of Classical Movements, which works with major orchestras as well as tours by youth orchestras and choirs, says 2009 looks to be its busiest year ever.

Philadelphia Inquirer, David Patrick Stearns, February 6, 2009

“For comfort and safety a comprehensive tour package run by an experienced company such as Blue Heart Tours is the way to go.”

McCall’s, April 1998

Blue Heart Features

“WASHINGTON- Blue Heart Tours is hosting a nine-night Rhapsodies tour visiting Prague, Czech Republic; Vienna, Austria and Budapest, Hungary through September 29. The trip includes a Bohemian Beer night in Prague featuring music and folk dancing, sightseeing in each city, most meals, transportation, and roundtrip air on British Airways; prices start at \$1,499. Call 800-882-0025.”

Travel Weekly, May 15, 1995

Blue Heart Tours DBA Classical Movements