



 *Classical Movements*

CHOIR, ORCHESTRA,  
AND BAND TOURS TO

**AUSTRIA**





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## WHY AUSTRIA WITH CLASSICAL MOVEMENTS

Austria is full of rich cultural offerings and traditions, many dating from when Vienna was the seat of a powerful empire. There's plenty of music, too. This is the country of **Mozart** and **Johann Strauss**, **music festivals** in Alpine settings, and the original setting of **The Sound of Music**.

**Vienna Highlights:** The **catacombs** of the **Stephansdom**; the **Innere Stadt** (the historic city center), with its winding back streets and baroque churches; the wonderful imperial buildings along the **Ring**; the **Staatsoper** (famed opera house); the **Hapsburg tombs** in the Kaisergruft; **Schonbrunn Palace** and gardens; the tombs of the composers at the **Zentralfriedhof**; **Belvedere Palace** and the **Albertina**; the Treasury, Imperial Apartments and Sisi Museum in the **Hofburg**; the **Sigmund Freud Museum**; Mozart's only extant address, the **Mozarthaas**.

**Salzburg Highlights:** 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**. Other sights in Salzburg include **Altstadt** (old town); **Festung Hohensalzburg**, the large white castle that looms on a cliff above the historic quarter; **Mozart's birthplace**; **Franziskanerkirche**; **Mozarteum**, containing concert halls; **Mozart's Wohnhaus**.

**Other Cities:** The lovely baroque town of **Bad Ischl**, summer residence of Emperor Franz Josef and other royal family members; 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.

**Shopping:** Shop for crystal, costume and fashion jewelry, clocks, sweaters, china, hand-painted Augarten porcelain, antiques, leather goods, loden coats, hats, wood carvings, enamel, petit point, art, old books, pottery, local handicrafts and recordings of Viennese waltzes.

**Food and Drink:** Austrian cuisine is hearty, delicious and versatile. Austrian 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, as is topfenstrudel (made with cream cheese). Schlagobers, or whipped cream, is served in coffee and on various sweets. Don't leave the country without sampling some local beer or wine—both are wonderful.

**Neighboring Countries:** Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Italy, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein.

### PERFORMANCES AND CULTURAL IMMERSION

Vienna and Salzburg provide the perfect setting for classical music. Music pours out of **great halls**, **churches**, **conservatories**, and **palaces**.



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Some of the annual festivals include Salzburger Festspiele (July to August).

**Cultural and musical exchanges with local ensembles.**

**Workshops and master classes with expert clinicians.**

**Outreach concerts to local schools and non-profit organizations.**

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.

## **YEARS OF EXPERIENCE**

Classical Movements started in 1995 with tours to Austria. 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, Bard College Conservatory 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.

## **TESTIMONIALS**

**Selina Midkiff, Music Director [Appalachian Children's Chorus]**

"We had a fabulous time. The venues were amazing!! The accommodations were lovely!! We could not have asked for a better guide!! The musical experience was extraordinary!! Once again, thanks for all of your hard work, Classical Movements, to make this experience such a grand one."

**Lorraine Granderson, Music Director [Bishop Anstey High School Choir]**

"I must thank you again for the wonderful time we all had on this trip. It was more than we expected and more than we could have dreamed about. Congrats to everyone at Classical Movements for putting together a wonderful experience for so many."

**Debbie Mello, Music Director [Children's Chorus of Sussex County]**

"I would like to extend my congratulations and sincere thanks for an incredible tour to Vienna, Salzburg and Prague. The performance venues were fantastic and varied. Our tour guide Margarit was exceptional – providing excellent information and possessing a wonderful sense of humor, which is essential when traveling with children. Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity!"

**Minnetonka Chamber Choir [Roger Hoel, Music Director]**

"Everything about this festival was perfect. I could not think of anything to change or improve. Great thought and care went into the planning of this festival. It was from A to Z very well done!"



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

"I absolutely loved the Rhapsody Festival as well as working with Classical Movements. I read on your website that a client of yours said that once anyone tours with you, they would never tour with anyone else, and now I see why. Everything was great. I loved the other conductors and working with the guest conductor was fantastic. I very much appreciated the opportunity to conduct the finale of the Vienna concert."

### **Jon Noyes, Music Director/Founder [Fairfield County Children's Choir]**

"Thank you so much for providing the Fairfield County Children's Choir with an amazing experience in Vienna, Salzburg & Prague. The concert venues were truly incredible, the orchestra was outstanding... My choristers, parents, chaperones and I had an unforgettable time both as musicians and tourists. I hope that we will be able to work with you again."

### **Kathy Fok, Music Director/Principal Conductor [Hong Kong Children's Choir]**

"I want to thank you and everyone of Classical Movements for organizing such a meaningful event. What an enriching experience for all of us! My children keep sharing their wonderful experience with friends and families.... You are amazing and you certainly deserve a big applause! I would love to travel with Classical Movements again."

### **Dr. Janet Galván, Artistic Director & Rhapsody! 2010 Guest Conductor [Ithaca Children's Choir]**

"It is an honor to work for such a fine company who puts music at the center of musical tours. I was aware of the importance of impressing the orchestra, and we did it! Yes, this is a business, but along with running a business, you are changing lives daily. The conductor and musicians from Trinidad told me how much their girls had learned and how valuable the experience was. Again, what a pleasure to work for you as a guest conductor. Classical Movements treated me very well, and this allowed me to do good work."

### **Le Vocalise, Singapore [Lim Bee Na, Music Director]**

"We are still reminiscing the wonderful time we had. Your team at Classical Movements did a fantastic job in organizing all the rehearsals and concerts. I think what we gleaned most from the trip was the wonderful cultural exchange we had with other choirs. On the whole, the feedback from the parents have been very positive with most of them commenting how their little girls have matured over those 12 days. Your organization is a people-centered one and I would be most willing to recommend going with your company for our future tours."

### **Miami Children's Chorus [Timothy A. Sharp, Music Director]**

"There are not enough positive superlatives to express my appreciation for the wonderful tour experience the Miami Children's Chorus had to Austria and Czech Republic. All the preparations and the execution were handled superbly (Classical Movements). This was certainly the most professional tour experience the MCC has ever had."

### **The Seraphim Choir of Chilton Saint James School [Ella Buchanan Hanify, Music Director]**

"Our choir trip was a marvelous success- from every point of view- musically, organizationally, comfort, socially, food, and also in terms of the historical and cultural knowledge through the excellent tour guides. The excellent organization, and the warmth and friendliness of everyone was wonderful. The planning was well paced with a good balance of rehearsals, tours, performances and free time-just wonderful! Well done to all. We do look forward to planning our next trip and we would certainly work with Classical Movements again."



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## PRESS

A Limited Selection

“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... For [children] it’s a trip of a lifetime, and we want to deliver a high-quality music product. Prague allows us to do that year after year.”  
Opus Osm, Mary Matz, July 18, 2011

“It is difficult to classify Blue Heart Tours, a wholesaler that started with one destination and one itinerary but now offers programs in Europe, Africa, and Asia. If there are defining characteristics, they would be the ability to keep prices low by watching costs and to provide value for clients.”  
Travel Agent, December 18, 1995

Classical Movements is based in Alexandria but works mainly overseas, arranging tours by American orchestras and choruses and running music festivals in Brazil, South Africa and Central Europe.  
The Washington Post, June 22, 2011

“Another benefit for the touring youngsters, though, according to their conductor [of the Rhapsody! Children’s Music Festival], 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

“Classical Movements is the go-to company for ensembles planning concert tours.”  
Baltimore Sun, Tim Smith, June 29, 2012

“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

“...raucously enthusiastic audiences, packed houses, rave reviews, radio broadcasts, and extended ovations...”  
Peabody News, September/October 1996