




Classical
Movements

CHOIR, ORCHESTRA
AND BAND TOURS TO
RUSSIA AND THE
UKRAINE





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Travel Specialists for Music and Performing Groups

WHY RUSSIA AND THE UKRAINE WITH CLASSICAL MOVEMENTS

Russia Highlights: Russia is simply a fascinating place—from the imperial beauty of **Moscow** and **St. Petersburg** to the bleakly romantic Siberian countryside. Russia's main attractions include art, magnificent (and restored) cathedrals and monasteries, treasures and palaces of the czars, the performing arts, health spas, river cruises, historic sites, spectacular scenery, **Siberia** and Moscow's **Kremlin**.

Ukraine Highlights: The main attractions of Ukraine include antiquities, mountains, cathedrals, **Black Sea beaches**, art, historical sites, relics of Soviet culture, and the historical sections of **Kiev, Odessa, Yalta** and **Lviv**.

Moscow Highlights: The Kremlin, including the 15th-century churches and other marvels of Russian architecture; **Christ the Savior Cathedral**; the stunning gold cathedral at the Novodevichy Convent; **St. Basil's Cathedral**; Victory Park, a huge park dedicated as a World War II memorial; the Moscow Metro; the coronation gowns, coaches, crowns and **Fabergé eggs** in the **Kremlin Armory**; a trip to the Old Circus or the **Grand Moscow State Circus**.

St. Petersburg Highlights: Beautiful churches (Kazan Cathedral, Smolny Cathedral, Church of the Savior on the Spilled Blood, St. Isaac's Cathedral and Alexander Nevsky Monastery); the **Peter and Paul Fortress**; Palace Square (Dvortsovaya Ploshchad); a river or channel cruise for a different perspective of the city; masterworks of European painting at the **Hermitage Museum**; a walk through the empire of fountains in **Peterhof**.

Other Cities in Russia: **Suzdal** is one of the oldest towns in Russia, dating from 1024. It's full of onion-domed churches, monasteries and other examples of traditional Russian structures. **Vladimir** has three 12th-century structures that claim to be the first examples of "white-stone" Russian architecture: St. Demetrius Cathedral, the Cathedral of the Assumption and Vladimir's Golden Gate (part of the city's defenses). The city of **Norvgorod** is more than 1,000 years old. It retains a well-preserved Kremlin and old city center.

Shopping: In Russia, shop for **matrioshkas** (nesting dolls), fur hats, caviar, vodka, wall plaques and tiles, **amber** from Kaliningrad, wood and metal sculpture, painted enamel jewelry, hand painted lacquerware, hand-embroidered table cloths from Ivanovo, as well as balalaikas and other musical instruments. In Ukraine, shop for avos'ka (knit bags), rushniks (decorative towels), hand-painted pysank and **krashenki** (Easter eggs), plates and wall plaques from Petrikivka (a village famed for its ceramics).

Food and Drink: Russian cuisine is hearty—dependent on root vegetables such as potatoes, cabbage and beets, as well as such staples as flour, butter and eggs. Most entrees are composed of beef, pork or fish. **Vodka** may be the national drink of Russia, but tea (chai) is close as the second beverage of choice. Ukrainian cuisine is hearty and substantial including the **borscht**, Lviv sausage and, of course, chicken Kiev.

Neighboring Countries: Russia and the Ukraine can be combined with a tour to the **Baltic States (Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia)** and/or **Scandinavia** (especially Finland).



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PERFORMANCES AND CULTURAL IMMERSION

St. Petersburg and Moscow offer an array of performances opportunities where cultural events are flourishing.

Palaces of St. Petersburg Music Festival (June – July): Concerts at the exquisite palaces of the Tsars.

White Nights Arts Festival in St Petersburg (June – July): While the sun hardly sets, many musical concerts, theatrical performances, street events, fireworks and other celebrations take place throughout Moscow, St Petersburg and the Golden Ring area.

Moscow and St. Petersburg both have a **Music Spring Festival** which occurs during April and May, with classical music concerts held at various venues.

Concerts take place in amazing concert halls, performing arts centers, conservatories, museums, palaces, gorgeous Cathedrals, intimate churches, and outdoor venues.

Cultural and musical exchanges with local ensembles.

Workshops and master classes with expert clinicians.

Outreach concerts to local schools and non-profit organizations.

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Classical Movements started in 1992 with tours to **Russia and Ukraine** as Blue Heart Travel. At one time, we were the biggest company to operate tours to Russia. Besides many, many (literally hundreds of groups to Russia) our first major musical tour was in September 1993 when we had the distinct and unique pleasure of arranging the concert tour for the **Choral Arts Society of Washington** in their historic tour to Russia with **Slava Rostropovich** and the **National Symphony Orchestra**.



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TESTIMONIALS

Constantin Orbelian, Music Director [Moscow Chamber Orchestra]

"You are a sensational team and bring multiple talents, not only the most excellent choral partners throughout."

Judy M. Brophy, Former Executive Director [Choral Arts Society of Washington]

"The [Choral Arts] Society's historical tour to Moscow and Leningrad accompanying the National Symphony Orchestra was memorable — not only for the musical high points of singing in Red Square before President Yeltsin and an audience of 100,000 but because of the careful planning, skillful guides, and the extraordinary itinerary provided to us by Classical Movements. We have engaged Classical Movements once again in 1996 to tour Choral Arts for performances in France because of our unqualified trust in their staff — ever mindful of cost as well as quality and richness of experience. I can give them my highest recommendation!"

Kevin Fox, Music Director [Pacific Boychoir]

"The concert in Moscow was a good one to end on. It was sold out and the choir sang well. Having plenty of rehearsal time (± 90 minutes), dressing rooms (including one with a piano) helped ensure a good concert. The audience was very appreciative. It was a well-run hall, there was press coverage, and in general a great concert on which to end the tour."

Peony Wong, Board Member [Hong Kong Children's Chorus]

"Thank you so much for your work before and during our tour, and of course for your extra work as our bodyguard (just kidding). I'm sure the kids enjoyed their time in Russia, which would not be possible without your help. It was an unforgettable experience for them as well for myself. Please send my warm regards to your lovely wife and your colleagues at Classical Movements."

Igor Dmitriev [Konevets Quartet]

"Our memorable participation at the well-executed, 2011, Serenade! Washington D.C. Choral Festival awarded us, as ambassadors of Russian Orthodox music, the opportunity to share our voices with other like musicians and to enjoy the cultural atmosphere created by all who were involved."

Donagh Collins [Dresden Staatskapelle]

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of the wonderful work on the Staatskapelle tour in April. It is always such a pleasure to work with your team, and I hope we will have the opportunity to do so again soon."

Judy Neufeld Urbonas, Assistant Director [Winnipeg Mennonite Children's Choir]

"The wonderful experience we have had in South America would not have been the same without the expertise of Classical Movements, who arranged the tour. All our dealings with Classical Movements were of the utmost order with a professionalism and caring attitude that helped us immensely. We value the relationship with them and would be most happy to work with them again in the future."

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

"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!"



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PRESS

A Limited Selection

“Russia was an exhilarating, eye-opening experience. For comfort and safety a comprehensive tour package run by an experienced company such as [Classical Movements] is the way to go.”

McCall's Magazine, April 1998

“We were met by friendly and caring guides who spoke excellent English and were sophisticated in matters relating to history, architecture and the way of life in Russia, both at the times of the czars and of the Soviet Union. A folkloric performance was of outstanding artistic quality...We were offered flexibility in the choir of the sightseeing sites...My appreciation of the tour itself is quite reliable. I spent two years of my life among the Russians under the Soviet regime and so can appreciate the enormous aesthetic, social and cultural changes that have already occurred in that extraordinary country!!!”

International Travel News, August 1998

Braving a Budget Package Tour of Moscow and St. Petersburg: Just What do You Get for Your Money?

“At midpoint in my trip, bound by rail from Moscow to St. Petersburg, I already knew I had gotten my money's worth and more.”

The Washington Post, James T. Yenckel, May 16, 1993

Russia: Blue Heart Tours Specializes in Wide Range of Packages

“Since 1992, [Classical Movements] has specialized in tours to Russia offering ‘excellent prices on complete tours.’”

Travel World News, October 1996

“The cosmopolitan city of St. Petersburg offers a rich look into the history of the Romanovs.”

USA Today, May 22, 1996

U.S. Leaves its Mark on Red Square

“Save money and go see how much Russia reminds you of the United States, and how its differences make you appreciate your own home all the more. “

Florida Today, July 10, 1994