



 *Classical Movements*

**CHOIR, ORCHESTRA  
AND BAND TOURS TO  
UNITED KINGDOM**





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*Travel Specialists for Music and Performing Groups*

## WHY THE UNITED KINGDOM WITH CLASSICAL MOVEMENTS

Explore the land of John Milton, Shakespeare, Henry Purcell, Benjamin Britten and Vaughan Williams. The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy with a royal family, comprised of **England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales**, and the Crown Dependencies of the **Isle of Man** and the **Channel Isles**. The UK today is a diverse patchwork of native and immigrant cultures, possessing a fascinating history and dynamic modern culture, both of which remain hugely influential in the wider world. Although Britannia no longer rules the waves, the UK is still a wonderfully historic, diverse, and beautiful destination.

**Highlights: Buckingham Palace, Piccadilly Circus, Westminster Abbey, Cambridge and Oxford Universities, Edinburgh Castle, Stonehenge, and Belfast Castle.**

**History:** The union between England and Wales began in 1284 with the Statute of Rhuddlan. It was formalized under Henry VIII with "The Laws in Wales Act" in 1536. In another Act of Union in 1707, England and Scotland agreed to permanently join as Great Britain, more than 100 years after the Union of the Crowns in 1603 when James VI of Scotland inherited the English throne. The union of Great Britain and Ireland was implemented in 1801 with the adoption of the title "The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland". 1921 formalized a partition of Ireland; six northern Irish counties remained part of the United Kingdom as Northern Ireland. The current title, "The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland," was adopted in 1927.

**Shopping:** Great British souvenirs include: **porcelain tea sets, English tea, woolens, linens, crystal glassware, tartan plaid, high fashion, Cadbury chocolates, Scotch whisky, Irish whiskey, and gin.**

**Food:** Despite jokes and stereotypes, British food is actually very good and high quality. Popular British dishes include: **fish and chips** (deep-fried, battered cod, served with French fries/chips, and often dressed with malt vinegar), **black pudding** (a sausage made of congealed pig's blood, cornmeal, and various seasonings), **Cornish pasty** (beef and vegetables baked in a folded pastry case), **Eccles cake** (flaky-pastry cake with raisins), **haggis** (mixture of sheep innards, minced meat and oatmeal boiled in a sheep's stomach), **Sunday dinner/roast dinner** (Traditionally eaten on a Sunday, the meal consists of a roasted joint of meat and roast potatoes and steamed/boiled vegetables and **Yorkshire pudding**), **pork pies, scones and clotted cream, sausage rolls, and Welsh cakes** (scone-like cakes studded with raisins and dusted with sugar). Due to its large population of Indian immigrants, and the fact that India was once part of the British Empire, England boasts some of the world's best **Indian food**. The popular "Indian" dish, **chicken tikka-masala**, was actually invented in England.

**Drink: Tea** is a quintessential part of British culture. Tea is traditionally drunk at 4pm daily with a small snack such as **biscuits** (cookies), **scones**, or even savory items such as small **tea sandwiches**. For a pick-me-up, visit one of Britain's **pubs** and try a pint or half-pint of **British ale, lager, hard cider, or scrumpy** (a type of cloudy English cider). **Scotch whisky, Irish whiskey, single malt Welsh whiskey, and gin** are the four "national liquors" of the UK. **Pimm's** is also a popular British liqueur, made from gin, spices, and citrus fruit, and often mixed with sliced fruit or vegetables.



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## ENGLAND

**London:** A vast and diverse metropolitan region to itself, the capital city of both England and the United Kingdom, a global capital of finance, fashion, and culture. Visit **Buckingham Palace**, the official home of the Queen, which is open for tours during the summer months. Also be sure to see the **London Eye**, **St. Paul's Cathedral**, **Tower Bridge**, the **Tower of London**, **Big Ben** and the **Houses of Parliament**, **Piccadilly Circus**, **Trafalgar Square**, **Westminster Abbey**, and the tallest building in the EU, **The Shard**.

**Bath:** Located in the West Country of England, Bath is famous for its Georgian and Victorian architecture, street art, cider, and the world famous **Roman Baths**.

**York:** an ancient cathedral city with a history that dates back to before Roman times. Visit the **York Minster Cathedral**, the ruins of **St. Mary's Abbey**, **King's Manor**, **Eboracum Legion Bathhouse**, **York Dungeon**, and take a walk atop the ancient **city walls**.

**Cambridge** is a gorgeous, green, university city located in the county of Cambridgeshire. Often regarded as one of the most beautiful cities in the world, Cambridge is home to the **University of Cambridge**, which includes the beautiful **King's College** and **King's College Chapel**, **Queen's college** and its **Mathematical Bridge**, **Trinity College**, **St. Johns College**, **Corpus Christi College**, as well as many other semi-independent colleges.

**Oxford** is the oldest university city in the United Kingdom, and is located 50 miles west of London in the county of Oxfordshire on the rivers Thames and Cherwell. Colleges of **Oxford University** include **Worcester College**, and **Christ Church College**, among others. **Medieval churches** and **colleges** dominate the bustling modern town and add an air of romanticism to the city. Picturesque architecture and a vibrant modern life set in the rolling **Magdalen College** countryside of Oxfordshire make this city a great destination.

## SCOTLAND:

**Edinburgh:** As the capital city of Scotland, Edinburgh combines medieval relics, Georgian grandeur and a powerful layer of modern life with contemporary avant-garde. In Edinburgh, medieval palaces rub shoulders with the best of modern architecture, Gothic churches with amazing museums and galleries. Both **Old Town** and **New Town** of Edinburgh are listed as **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**. Visit **Edinburgh Castle**, **Craigmillar Castle**, the **Abbey and Palace of Holyroodhouse**, **St. Giles' Cathedral**, the **houses of Scottish Parliament**, the **Scott Monument**, and the **Royal Botanic Garden**.

**Glasgow:** The largest city in Scotland, Glasgow is located at the west end of Scotland's **Central Belt** on the banks of the **River Clyde**. In 2008, Glasgow joined the cities of Seville and Bologna in being named a **UNESCO City of Music**. Visit the **Theatre Royal Glasgow**, **Glasgow Cathedral**, **Glasgow Cross**, **George Square**, and the **City Chambers**.

## WALES:

**Cardiff**, the capital city of Wales, is on the south coast of the south **Wales plain**, with a shoreline on the **Bristol Channel**. Visit **Cardiff Castle**, the **Millennium Stadium**, the futuristic **Millennium Centre**, the



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**Norwegian Church, Llandaff Cathedral, Castell Coch, Beaupre Castle, Caerau Castle Ringwork, Penmark Castle, and Cathays Park.**

**Swansea** is located in on the south coast of Wales. Due to its coastal location, Swansea was once a medieval market town and port. It is also the UK's first designated "**Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.**" There are many museums and parks to visit within the city, as well as beautiful landmarks to see, such as **Swansea Castle**, the **Guildhall**, **Arther's Stone**, **Oystermouth Castle**, and **Mumbles Pier**.

#### **NORTHERN IRELAND:**

**Belfast**, the capital of Northern Ireland, is located at the mouth of the **Lagan River** on **Belfast Lough**. Visit **Belfast Castle** on **Cave Hill**, the **Stormont Parliament Buildings**, **St. Anne's Cathedral**, shop along **Royal Avenue**, and see the world renowned **Political Murals** throughout **Falls Rd.** and **Shankill Rd.**

**Derry** (or **Londonderry**): Situated on the banks of the **River Foyle**, Derry is the second largest city in Northern Ireland and one of the oldest inhabited places in the whole island of Ireland. Derry is the only remaining completely intact **walled city** on the island of Ireland and one of the finest examples of a walled city in Europe. **St. Columb's Cathedral**, the **Apprentice Boys Memorial Hall**, and the **Derry Courthouse** are some of the historic buildings within the walls. There are also many museums to visit, such as the beautiful **Guildhall**, the **Tower Museum**, and the **Free Derry Museum**.

**Neighboring Countries:** Ireland, France, Belgium, the Netherlands

#### **PERFORMANCES AND CULTURAL IMMERSION**

Venues include the **Canterbury Cathedral**, **Royal Albert Hall**, **St. Anne's Cathedral**, **King's College Chapel**, **Llandaff Cathedral**, and **Christ Church Cathedral**.

Symphony orchestras include the **London Philharmonic**, **English Chamber Orchestra**, **Scottish Chamber Orchestra**, **Cardiff Philharmonic**, **Cardiff University Symphony Orchestra**, and the **New Belfast Sinfonia**.

Many festivals are held in the United Kingdom each year, including the **Edinburgh International Festival**, **Edinburgh Fringe Festival**, **London International Choral Festival**, **Oxford Leier Festival**, **Bath International Music Festival**, **Belfast Festival**, and the **Proms**.

**Cultural and musical exchanges** with **local ensembles**, **workshops** and **master classes** with **expert clinicians** and **outreach concerts** to **local schools** and **non-profit organizations** are also available.

#### **YEARS OF EXPERIENCE**

Classical Movements has been putting together tours to the United Kingdom since 1994

Some of our past clients to the United Kingdom have included the Minnesota Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, Swedish Chamber Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Vocal Essence, Choral Arts Society of Washington, the Young People's Chorus of New York City, Children's Chorus of Washington, James Madison University Choir, University of Maryland Choir and many youth orchestras.



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## TESTIMONIALS

### **Gregor Zubicky, Artistic Director [Swedish Chamber Orchestra]**

"We are very pleased to have found Classical Movements to look after our US/UK tour. To meet this kind of professional competence, where an understanding of our orchestra's special needs is combined with the ability to get great prices for travel and hotel, is an enormous help. It has certainly taken a great load off my mind to know that we can concentrate on the music!"

### **Dr. Patrick Walders, James Madison University Choir [Director of Choral Activities]**

"James Madison University had such a wonderful experience during our trip to England and Wales in July 2009. Classical Movements was extremely efficient and easy to work with, and was able to schedule terrific performing venues and hotels wherever we visited. In our case, they were flexible enough to allow us to connect with a contact I had at the University of London, enabling us to experience a memorable performance of the Durufle "Requiem" in collaboration with the University of London and Imperial College."

### **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."

### **Joan Gregoryk, Music Director [Children's Chorus of Washington]**

"...Once again, the trip exceeded our expectations. All of the travel details were handled perfectly. The concert venues were stellar with huge audiences. Thank you for another extraordinary and memorable tour!"

### **Amy Wagliardo, Director of Operations [Dallas Symphony Orchestra]**

"I wanted to send a note of thanks to you for all your work and guidance on the DSO's recent triumphant return to Europe. There were so many details, many of them a moving target that you were able to effortlessly handle on our behalf. For this we are very grateful and thankful. Beyond the obvious, you got us through missing train cars, an averted train and plane strike, the maestro's changing needs, and an unplanned layover in Miami. And, not to be overlooked, we had seamless airplane travel and hotel check-ins. Given we were hitting these hotels, especially, sometimes before check-in time, with a large group, on sold out days, with a few people changing their preferences as we went, it was really quite revelatory to watch. Always a pleasure, and very much noted. Thank you, thank you, thank you. We very much appreciate your expertise and your efforts"



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## PRESS

### A Limited Selection

“It is difficult to classify Blue Heart Tours (Classical Movements), 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 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 [all over the world]. ‘Choral music is becoming so international,’ Helms says. ‘There was a time when it was all Handel, Bach, Mozart and such. But now there are so many fantastic composers. And in the course of their tours, so many American groups have started learning Maori, Chinese, South African and Brazilian songs.’” ‘In the process of taking American groups around the world, we have had so many exchanges and collaborations, and we’ve had a great number of groups that wanted to come to the States,’ Helms says.

#### **The Washington Post, Mark Jenkins, June 22, 2011**

“Classical Movements, Inc. is a concert touring company dedicated to arranging tours for choirs and ensembles all over the world. Helms calls the group a one-stop shop; booking hotels and meals for the touring ensembles and connecting them with performance venues. In addition, the group also produces four international music festivals every year (in Argentina and Brazil, Austria, South Africa, and Washington DC).”

#### **Bethesda Gazette, Cara Hedgepeth, June 25, 2012**

“Singing together is one of the great and unifying pleasures we humans enjoy, and in so many ways, Saturday’s program at the Church of the Epiphany downtown, part of the Serenade! Washington, D.C. Choral Festival, was a celebration of these pleasures...but the afternoon’s emotional high and strongest affirmation of singing’s power came when the men and women of the Imilonji KaNtu Choral Society from South Africa (not even listed on the program) and members of the Voices of Namibia Choir came up front to jam with the Boston kids. And what a jam it was. Led by Imilonji KaNtu conductor Gobingca George Mxadana, drum in hand, the whole bunch sang, danced, clapped and whooped it up in a joyful noise that brought the audience to its feet cheering”

#### **The Washington Post, Joan Reinthaler, June 5, 2012**