




Classical Movements
 CHOIR, ORCHESTRA
 AND BAND TOURS TO
BELGIUM





319 Cameron Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, USA
Tel: +1 (703) 683-6040 • Fax: +1 (703) 683-6045
E-mail: info@ClassicalMovements.com
Website: www.ClassicalMovements.com

Travel Specialists for Music and Performing Groups

WHY BELGIUM WITH CLASSICAL MOVEMENTS

For many people, thoughts of **Belgium** often involve **chocolate**: sipping oh-so-rich **hot chocolate** at sidewalk cafes; strolling down cobbled streets with a **chocolate ice-cream cone** in hand; buying a **gaufre (waffle)** slathered with melted chocolate sauce from a street vendor; stepping into a favorite **chocolatier**. Others think of the country's **first-rate museums** filled with the work of **Flemish masters**. But our favorite aspect of Belgian life is what we consider some of the **best food and drink** on the continent.

Highlights: Belgium's chief attractions include **Brussels, history, architecture, diamonds, caves, beer, friendly people, pastoral countryside, Flemish art, Bruges, museums, churches, colorful processions and pageants, cultural festivals, nice beaches and chocolate**. Belgium is a particularly nice destination for those who have a good sense of history, who appreciate fine architecture and good food, and who wants to see a wide variety of attractions.

Main Cities: The world's **diamond capital** and home of Flemish Baroque painter **Peter Paul Rubens, Antwerp** is a joy to visit. **Bruges** is known for its **scenic canals, ancient squares and architecture**, and some of the **best lace** in Belgium. **Brussels** has **fine museums and restaurants**, as well as some of the **best classical music and opera** in Europe. The **old medieval university town** of **Ghent** is set on the banks of three rivers—the Lys, Lieve and Scheldt.

Shopping: Shop for **Belgian lace, diamonds, chocolates, earthenware, ceramics, crystal, antiques, linen, both new and antique tapestries, copperware, pewter, wooden carvings and toys, and leather goods**.

Food: **Flemish** and **French** are the two basic styles, and both include wonderful dishes made with **meat** (beef, lamb and pork), **fish, vegetables and fruit** (the fresh cherries and strawberries are excellent when in season). Justly famed **Belgian waffles (gaufres)** are wonderful, too, and you can get them covered in anything from fresh fruit to chocolate sauce. And, of course, you can't leave Belgium without sampling the **chocolates**. You'll see two kinds: **Pralines** (with added flavors or fillings, such as nuts or liqueur) and **caraque** (pure, unadulterated chocolate).

Neighboring Countries: **Belgium** is sandwiched between **France** to the west and the **Netherlands and Germany** to the east. **Luxembourg** lies to the south, and the **English Channel** is to the north. We recommend combining a tour to Belgium with the Netherlands and/or France.

PERFORMANCES AND CULTURAL IMMERSION

Classical music is just as popular as jazz concerts and other contemporary styles and **takes center stage** in multiple venues around the country. Performances from the **Belgian National Orchestra, the Liege Philharmonic, Charlemagne Orchestra** and a whole host of ensembles from all over Belgium play regularly in the capital of Brussels and other cities.

Venues include **churches** in **Brussels, Ghent, Bruges** and other cities. One example is the **Eglise des Minimes** which is home to the orchestra and choir of **Chapel of Minims (Chapelle des Minimes)** at the **St. Jean and Etienne church**.



319 Cameron Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, USA
Tel: +1 (703) 683-6040 • Fax: +1 (703) 683-6045
E-mail: info@ClassicalMovements.com
Website: www.ClassicalMovements.com

Travel Specialists for Music and Performing Groups

There are an incredible number of **festivals** and **cultural events**, and from May to September they literally flourish in every town district and in the most remote villages. The **Fête de la Musique** takes over Brussels on and around the summer solstice along with many other festivals.

There are many **Universities and Conservatories** for **exchanges, collaborations** and **joint concerts**. The **Royal Music Conservatory Brussels** is one of the main sources of classical music performances in Brussels.

There are also many opportunities for **exchanges, collaborations** and **joint concerts** with **local youth orchestras and choirs**.

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Classical Movements has arranged concert tours to Belgium since **1996**. Groups have included the **Philadelphia Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Vocal Essence**, the **Children's Chorus of Sussex County**, and many others.

TESTIMONIALS

Deborah Mello, Artistic Director [The Children's Chorus of Sussex County]

"It was an amazing 2 weeks - the best tour choir ever, singing in some of the most beautiful spaces in Europe. Thanks to Amy and Classical Movements for planning a spectacular tour, and thanks to Marianne (our Tour Manager) for executing a life-changing experience for us all!"

Simon Woods, Former VP Artistic Planning and Operations [The Philadelphia Orchestra]

"We've worked with Classical Movements since 2000. Since that time we have developed a very successful partnership. They are responsive, creative, attentive and reliable. We couldn't ask for more from a travel agent."

Michael E. Bielski, Senior Vice President & COO [The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra]

"Let me thank you for the work Blue Heart's staff [now Classical Movements] did on our spring tour to Europe. I want to especially commend Tanya who was able to work out the many intricacies of not only group travel but of individuals who had their own 'special arrangements to make.' Keeping everyone happy in an orchestra is not an easy task. Everyone appreciated the fact that when we arrived in every hotel, it was ready. If there was a problem with any part of hotel or transportation arrangements, a Classical Movements staff member was always in advance of the orchestra solving them. I look forward to working with you on our next domestic tour."

Kathy Fok, Music Director & Principal Conductor [Hong Kong Children's Choir]

"I want to thank you and everyone of Classical Movements for organizing such meaningful event. What an enriching experience for all of us! My children keep sharing their wonderful experience with their friends and families via internet.... You guys 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]

"Thank you for inviting me to be a guest conductor for Classical Movements. 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...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."



319 Cameron Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, USA
Tel: +1 (703) 683-6040 • Fax: +1 (703) 683-6045
E-mail: info@ClassicalMovements.com
Website: www.ClassicalMovements.com

Travel Specialists for Music and Performing Groups

PRESS

A Limited Selection

“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

“Few companies can count 2,034 clients in their very first year of operation.”
Jax Fax, June 1994

“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

“Russia was an exhilarating, eye-opening experience. 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 has followed its clients’ suggestions to map out its expanding portfolio of tours to among other places, China and Europe.”
Tour and Travel News, May 8, 1995

“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

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

“...[Blue Heart Tours offers] sightseeing and time for independent exploration in Paris and south of France, including Nice, Cannes, Monaco, Avignon, Nimes, Les Baux, Arles, Marseilles, Cassis and Camargue,. Enjoy flowers, herbs foods and wines. Highlights include Cezanne’s studio in Aix, a bakery museum in Lubernon; Palais des Papes in Avignon; the Amphitheater in Nimes; Roman Ruins and the van Gogh asylum in St. Remy; the Cloisters in Arles and a safari dinner and horse ride in Camargue.”
International Travel News, December 1996