



 *Classical Movements*

CHOIR, BAND, AND ORCHESTRA TOURS TO

CUBA



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Travel Specialists for Music and Performing Groups

WHY CUBA WITH CLASSICAL MOVEMENTS

1. Subject to Approval by the US State Department and the U.S. Treasury Department.
2. Subject to an Official Invitation and Approval by the Cuban Authorities.

Cuba's leading attractions are **massive forts, beautiful beaches, colonial architecture, friendly people, a vivacious culture, exquisite tropical scenery, romantic and sensual music, the world's finest cigars, sizzling cabarets, classic automobiles, Cuban history, and culture rich in art and music.**

Havana: With its unique **colonial architecture**, a wealth of **museums**, fascinating nightlife and magically nostalgic atmosphere, Havana—Cuba's capital and economic hub—is the most fascinating city in the Caribbean. Step back in time in **Havana's Old City** with its perfectly restored **old plazas**, take a stroll on the **Malecon at sunset**, enjoy a **rumba performance** in the Callejon de Hamel on Sunday or a show with spectacular, scantily clad mulata dancers at the Tropicana, and admire the **beautiful art-deco mansions of Vedado and Miramar.**

Pinar del Rio: The romantic **Vinales Valley** in Pinar del Rio province is a popular day excursion, but spend the night there if you can in order to enjoy the spectacular sunset and sunrise over the mogotes (limestone mountains) of the valley. You can also visit a **tobacco farm** there.

Santa Clara: The city of Santa Clara houses the imposing **mausoleum** in which revolutionary hero **Che Guevara** is buried, while **Trinidad** is an architectonic treasure trove of the 18th century, with **cobbled streets** and **historic sugar mills.** **Elegant Cienfuegos**, intimate **Remedios** and bustling **Camaguey** are other hidden colonial gems.

Santiago de Cuba: In every sense, **Santiago de Cuba** is the hottest city of the island. Enjoy a performance of **old musicians at the Casa de la Trova**, join a **percussion session**, or participate in the raunchy carnival that takes place in July.

Shopping: Cuban cigars, handmade humidors and Rum, handmade clothing, dishes and trinkets, including lacework and hand-embroidered clothing, old books and stamps (including stamps of the former Soviet Union), CDs and tapes of Cuban music. U.S. citizens returning from Cuba are subject to stiff government restrictions on the import of Cuban products.

Food and Drink: Rice, beans, meat, vegetables (mainly potatoes), roast pork, plantains, a mojito (rum with mint, sugar and lime),

PERFORMANCES AND CULTURAL IMMERSION

Perform in **great halls, theatres, cultural centers, basilicas, churches, seminaries, museums, libraries, and music schools.**

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

Cultural and Musical Exchanges: There are several possible opportunities including visiting music schools and interacting with their student ensembles.

Collaborations and joint concerts with local ensembles.



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Outreach Performances are all possible at many levels in major cities and smaller towns and in many amazing venues.

You can also visit **Cultural Centers** to learn about the rich Afro Cuban culture, their gods, dances and traditions.

Humanitarian Projects: There a variety of Humanitarian projects opportunities such as assisting local senior's centers, centers for children with special needs and orphanages. You can paint as well as help with minor constructions repairs. You can sing, dance, and create arts and crafts together. You can also collect vegetables from their gardens and cook together. They are many things you can do to bring joy to these unprivileged communities. Donations will be welcome depending on the projects: books in Spanish, arts and crafts supplies, pencils, pens, notebooks, music, clothing, toiletries, bedding, etc. Americans need to get special licenses for humanitarian projects also.

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Classical Movements have done tours to Cuba during the Clinton administration back in the 1990's and early 2000's and then started again in 2010. Groups have included the **Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra, New Amsterdam Singers, San Francisco Girls Chorus, St. Paul's School Choir and String Ensemble, University of Michigan Men's Glee Club** and the **Yale Alumni Chorus**.

TESTIMONIALS

Paul Rardin, Associate Director of Choirs [University of Michigan]

"This was by far my most memorable tour in six years with my choir. Our exchange with the students on our very first full day of the tour was so exhilarating that my first thought was: How can we possibly top this? Remarkably, we did top it, at least once each day for the rest of the tour. Whether a concert to a sold-out house, a master class with a superb professional, a Rumba lesson from a 96-year-old instructor/philosopher/seminarian, or a magical end-of-tour banquet in an outdoor plaza in Havana Vieja, Classical Movements saw to it that our tour wildly exceeded all of our expectations."

Susan McMane, Artistic Director [San Francisco Girls Chorus]

"I've been extremely happy with our tours we've taken with Classical Movements these past six years. We have used them exclusively for international touring, because they have worked so hard for us, getting us featured at prestigious international venues such as the Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo, Japan; the Gateway Music Festival in Beijing, China; and the upcoming 4th of July concert in Havana, Cuba. They have excellent national staff that listen to your needs, as well as important musical contacts in major cities internationally. Through Classical Movements we have been able to sing at amazing venues to full audiences around the world. If you are interested in a top-notch musical, as well as educational tour, I recommend you employ the services of Classical Movements."

Colin Lynch, Director of Chapel Music [St. Paul's School]

"While diplomatic relations between our two countries are distant and strained, our students and the people of Cuba were able to quickly find an incredible commonality through the language of music. My fears of going to a relatively unknown country were immediately dissipated when I experienced the warmth and hospitality of our hosts. Thanks to the amazing work of Classical Movements I am proud to know that we were an instrumental part in building a bridge between our two countries."

Jeffrey Smith, Music Director [Philadelphia Boys Choir and Chorale]

"As always, Classical Movements created a fantastic tour for our choir. We were booked in excellent venues with great audiences, and the boys were exposed to some amazing culture experience. Having worked with the top professional



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musical ensembles in the world, the staff members of Classical Movements care a great deal about the logistics of performing, and they never miss a beat.”

Eunice Lee, Member [Associate of Yale Alumni]

“I realize that it must have taken extraordinary efforts to organize a service tour of that magnitude. Thank you for arranging a safe journey for all of us and for providing us with many opportunities to become culturally acquainted with the Dominican Republic. I especially loved how you arranged for the President to greet us!

It is obvious that the trip has ignited many passions and evoked an array of emotions by serving those truly in need. It was a total privilege to take part in such a meaningful project. I believe it was mentioned somewhere that by participating, we would change lives in the Dominican Republic but in actuality, it was also our own lives that would change...I know mine has and I thank you for contributing to that effect.”

Peggy Neilson, Manager [St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra]

“The tour when really well. The two guides were outstanding! Bus drivers just fine. ..we accomplished what we set out to do. You worked wonders!”

PRESS

“The Minnesota Orchestra and Osmo Vänskä, its music director, announced today that it will travel to Cuba for two performances in Havana this spring The tour is being arranged by Classical Movements, the Alexandria-based concert tour agency and presenter which has made something of a specialty of Cuban travel over the last 18 years, bringing ensembles to and from the country despite the travel restrictions that necessitated special permission through the U.S. Treasury Department.”

[The Washington Post](#), Anne Midgette, February 12, 2015

“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 28, 2012

“This choir's (Schola Cantorum Coralina of Cuba) 17-trip is part of the Serenade International Choral Series organized by Classical Movements.”

[Baltimore Sun Blog: Clef Notes](#), Tim Smith, November 1, 2012

“Deputy Chief of US Mission Kent Logsdon thanked the Classical Movements for organizing such an amazing concert tour.”

[Georgia Messenger](#), Salome Modebadze, June 28, 2011