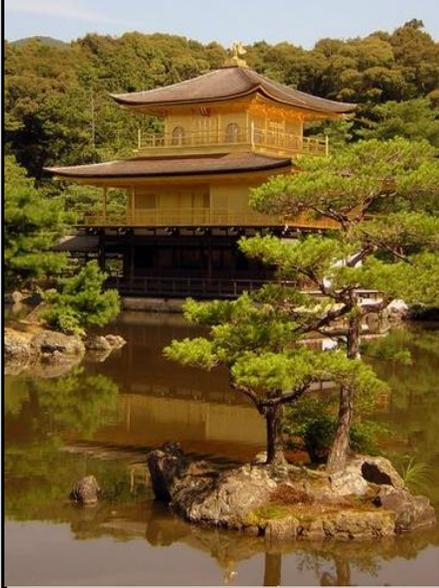



Classical Movements

CHOIR, ORCHESTRA
AND BAND TOURS TO

JAPAN





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Travel Specialists for Music and Performing Groups

WHY JAPAN WITH CLASSICAL MOVEMENTS

Highlights: Among Japan's chief attractions are Mount Fuji, gardens, shopping, cherry blossoms, cultural attractions (from palaces and historic sites to sumo wrestling and Kabuki theater), bullet trains, beaches, war (and peace) memorials, traditional crafts, and religious shrines and temples. Throughout the country there are 14 natural and cultural UNESCO World Heritage sites that are worth a visit, and more that are up for consideration.

Main Cities:

Tokyo: The serene Meiji Shrine; the Buddhist Asakusa Kannon Temple and its bustling surrounding market streets; the view of the city from atop the Sky Deck; Tsukiji Fish Market; a performance of traditional Japanese drama at the National Theater of Japan

Osaka: Osaka Castle; Sumiyoshi Taisha Jinja Shrine; Shitennoji Temple and the monthly flea market; Kuromon Market; Shinsaibashi-suji shoutengai (shopping street); Herbis Plaza ENT high-end shopping mall.

Kyoto: Abundance of temples, palaces, gardens and museums; Golden Pavilion (Kinkakuji); 17th century Nijo Castle; Kiyomizu Temple, on a hillside at the east edge of the city, is famous both for its waterfall and for the stunning view from its vast wooden terrace.

There are many other cities to visit either for their sights or concert opportunities including Hiroshima, Nagano, Nagasaki, Nagoya, Nara, Sapporo, and Yokohama.

Shopping: Shop for pearls (including black pearls from Okinawa), lacquerware, silks, woodblock prints, pottery, furniture, jewelry, cloisonne, paper lanterns, yukatas (the cotton robes worn to the bath), dolls, Imari porcelain, shells, red coral, cameras, china, crystal, art, local handicrafts, calligraphy supplies, karate gear, kitchen knives, packaged seaweed, green tea, kites (especially traditional kites), beautifully printed books, toys, comic books, weavings and silk screens. You can purchase good-luck charms (usually covered in silk brocade) from the gift shops of the many shrines.

Food and Drink: As would be expected, Japan's sushi and sashimi are excellent. Other specialties include Kobe beef served as steak (very expensive) or in sukiyaki; cooked salt- and freshwater fish (often served whole); miso soup; and a wide variety of vegetable dishes. Tempura and teriyaki are two popular ways of preparing seafood and vegetables. Chilled mori soba (cold buckwheat noodles) are refreshing in the summer, and hearty nabe hot pots are warming in the winter. If you're feeling a little adventurous, try broiled eel—it's delicious. Tofu is commonly eaten; either chilled with a simple dip, cooked in soups and stews, or basted and grilled (tofu dengaku). Green tea is the preferred beverage with many meals. You should sample some sake while in Japan—the famous rice wine is more akin to liquor than a wine and can be an acquired taste, but it's an essential part of the Japanese experience.



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PERFORMANCES AND CULTURAL IMMERSION

The Japanese embraced Classical music during the second half of the 19th century and have become leaders in the tradition. A musical tour to Japan is the quintessential cultural and musical experience.

There are many organizations supporting symphony orchestras to choral associations.

Concerts are presented at gorgeous concert halls, Christian churches, and national historic sites or museums.

Collaborative concerts and workshops with local ensembles and cultural exchange activities.

Outreach concerts to local schools, non-profit organizations and the US Military.

Numerous festivals run throughout the year in the Capital cities and surrounding towns.

If time permits experience a Japanese tea ceremony or the fine art of calligraphy or ikebana or enjoy a Komodo drums or Kabuki performance

There are some opportunities to be hosted by local ensembles in home stays.

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

We have had groups visiting Japan since 1996. We started with multiple tours with our major symphony orchestras such as the National Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and expanded to other ensembles such as the San Francisco Girls Chorus and The Yale Institute of Sacred Music.

TESTIMONIALS

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.”

Martin Jean, Director [Yale Institute of Sacred Music] and Masaaki Suzuki, Conductor [Bach Collegium Japan]

“Our tour to Japan, Singapore, and Myanmar was a revelation. Our students performed the *B Minor Mass* to sold-out houses in some of the top concert halls in these countries. We owe Classical Movements our great debt not only for attending so well to the practical details, but for understanding and being sensitive to our



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mission of using Sacred Music to reach out to the cultures of the world. Maestro Suzuki joins me in congratulating Classical Movements!"

Janell Weinstock, Vice President & General Manager [Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra]

"We had a wonderful experience with your company and thank your staff for working so well with the CSO. In addition to getting very professional and responsive answers from you, our guests were so pleased to work out their travel details with your company. Many orchestra members thanked us for changing to your company. The savings were greatly appreciated and all travel worked out beautifully."

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

"Classical Movements, has decades of knowledge and experience in planning all facets of choral music performance abroad. The spirit and drive of their expert staff creates memorable moments for choristers and families alike. I strongly recommend them for their dedication and commitment to music and to the sharing of American culture abroad."

Jon Noyes, Music Director & Founder [Fairfield County Children's Choir]

"The concert venues were truly incredible, the orchestra was outstanding, guest conductor Janet Galvan is a great person to work with, the other choirs were wonderful, and you and all of your staff were very professional in every way. All of these factors and more combined to make this a fantastic festival! 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."

Vilma Hernandez, Group Coordinator [Harmonies Girls' Choir]

"I do want to say that, I enjoyed the trip to the fullest. Classical Movements did a great job; they seemed to have everything in control, very organized trip. It was a wonderful experience that will stay in my memories."

Jeff Alexander, President & CEO [Vancouver Symphony Orchestra]

"For starters I would like to thank you and everyone at Classical Movements for the wonderful work you did on behalf of the VSO. The compliments continue to flow in on how smoothly everything went. To say we couldn't have done it without you would be the understatement of the year! The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra is extremely proud to have undertaken this historic tour. Audience reaction to our performances was most enthusiastic and it is heartwarming to consider the number of lives we touched through the concerts as well as the dozens of educational activities in which Maestro Tovey and our musicians participated."

Kevin Fox, Artistic Director [Pacific Boychoir Academy]

"The musical and non-musical arrangements were truly exceptional as always. The concert halls were some of the best places we've ever performed...Impressive. We look forward to the next tour with Classical Movements."

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."



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PRESS

A Limited Selection

“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. The firm's who's-who list of clients includes the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Morgan State University Choir and National Symphony Orchestra, not to mention the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra and Vienna Philharmonic.”

Baltimore Sun, Tim Smith, June 29, 2012

“Because of the global music reach of the organization, they are able to attract first-rate choruses,” said Douma.”

Maryland Gazette, Cara Hedgepeth
June 26, 2013

“Neeta Helms, president of Classical Movements, Inc., explains... ‘We are very aware that parents of the children pay a lot to give their children this [travel and music] experience. For them it’s a trip of a lifetime, and we want to deliver a high-quality music product.’

Opus Osm, Mary Matz, July 18, 2011

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

Georgia Messenger, Salome Modebadze, June 28, 2011

“For comfort and safety a comprehensive tour package run by an experienced company such as [Classical Movements] is the way to go.”

McCall's, April 1998

China Made Easy. Really!

“All the Excuses you have for not visiting- it is too far, too expensive, too complicated to arrange- are just excuses.”

Travel Holiday Magazine, 1995/1996

“It is difficult to classify Blue Heart Tours (DBA 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

“Blue Heart (Classical Movements formal name) 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 1995