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Travel Specialists for Music and Performing Groups

WHY SOUTH KOREA WITH CLASSICAL MOVEMENTS

With strong ties to Japan and China, Korea has recently emerged as one of Asia's cultural and economic powerhouses. Culturally the country has a rich history of powerful kingdoms, Confucian traditions and traditional Korean dance and folk music. Not to be missed is the chance to sit on floor cushions and dine on the traditional bulgogi. Thin, savory beef strips and crisp vegetables are cooked on a table top grill served with a spicy dish of kimchi relish on the side. After you've had your fill, go shopping for fine silks, pottery, ornate calligraphy, dolls, and bamboo ware or explore the ancient, traditional martial arts, such as taekwondo, hapkido, ssireum, and taekkyeon.

A visit to the mountains, the serene countryside or the soothing coastline will display the diverse and dramatic landscape Korea offers. Journey to some of the country's most popular destinations, such as Seoul, Gyeongju, Busan, Jeju Island, Daejeon, and Daegu; See ancient temples in the Songnisan National Park; Experience the splendor of Darangee Village to witness the farming fields that span over 100 tiers on the side of a steep mountain slope; Visit the Boseong Green Tea Field or Juknokwon, the dense bamboo forest in the village of Damyang. Be sure not to miss these captivating sites.

CULTURAL IMMERSION

The present musical landscape in South Korea is diverse and lively. Traditional ceremonies and dance performances take place throughout the year and are highly recommended. The Museum of Contemporary Art offers a glimpse of more modern artistic forms, and concerts are given regularly at various venues.

Concerts are presented at gorgeous concert halls, opera halls, cultural and arts centers, university concert halls, churches, and national historic sites or museums. Collaborative concerts and workshops with local ensembles and cultural exchange activities are possible. Korea offers a myriad of very fine orchestras and choirs including the Bucheon Philharmonic Orchestra, KBS Symphony Orchestra, Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, National Chorus of Korea, Yonsei Choir, Daejeon Philharmonic Choir, Songpa Women's Choir, Yonsei University Concert Choir, Cool~a Cappella, Polytechnic University Chorus, Ajou University Glee Club, Seoul National University Choir, World Vision Children's Choir and many others. These ensembles perform at outstanding venues, such as the Seongam Arts Center, National Theater of Korea, Daegu Opera House, Busan Cultural Center, Gwan-Ak Hall and many more. The country's high standard of classical music ensures excellent quality. So, be sure to visit Korea not for K-Pop, but to experience, truly beautiful classical music.

AMAZING PERFORMANCES

Numerous festivals run throughout the year in Seoul and other cities such as the Busan International Performing Arts Festival, Daegu International Musical Festival (DIMF), the World Vision International Children's Choir Festival, and many others. There are some opportunities to be hosted by local ensembles in home stays. Outreach concerts to local schools, universities, non-profit organizations and the US Military are also possible.

Visit to centuries-old palaces like Seoul's legendary Changdeokgung or a fascinating look at the DMZ, where stern-looking soldiers and razor wire recall the tensions with their Northern neighbor. Also not to be missed on the many graceful temples which dot the countryside or the world's oldest Confucian royal shrines, Jongmyo, in Seoul.

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

We have had groups visiting this part of the world since 2001. Classical Movements also does numerous customized tours to Korea on a regular basis which can be tailored to your individual expectations.

We have contacts in all major cities and towns in Seoul, Daejeon, Daegu, Busan, and Jeju Island.



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TESTIMONIALS

Diane Syrcle, Executive Director [Portland Youth Philharmonic Tour]

"Classical Movements created an exceptional tour for PYP. The planning and execution of the trip from negotiation with airlines, rental equipment, sight-seeing, and daily logistics were handled in such a way that the orchestra could do what they do best -- make beautiful music."

Jeff Alexander, President & CEO [Vancouver Symphony Society]

"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. To be the first professional Canadian symphony orchestra to perform in China since 1978 was a great honour. Cultural and business relationships between Canada, British Columbia and each tour country were clearly enhanced, and we are grateful to all of our sponsors and funders for making the tour a reality."

Mikhail Shtangrud, Music Director [Colburn Children's Choir]

"I absolutely loved the Rhapsody Festival as well as working with Classical Movements. I read on your website that a client of yours said that once anyone tours with you, they would never tour with anyone else, and now I see why. Everything was great. I loved the other conductors and working with the Guest Conductor was fantastic."

Ella Buchanan Hanify, Music Director [The Seraphim Choir of Chilton Saint James School]

"Our choir trip was a marvelous success- from every point of view- musically, organizationally, comfort, socially, food, and also in terms of the historical and cultural knowledge through the excellent tour guides. The excellent organization, and the warmth and friendliness of everyone was wonderful. The planning was well paced with a good balance of rehearsals, tours, performances and free time-just wonderful! Well done to all. We do look forward to planning our next trip and we would certainly work with Classical Movements again."

Louis Scaglione, Executive Director [Philadelphia Youth Orchestra]

"The entire staff at Classical Movements, Inc. could not be more helpful, accommodating and knowledgeable. International touring, especially for youth orchestras, requires a tremendous amount of planning and organization. Classical Movements has not missed a beat."

Lorraine Granderson, Music Director [Bishop Anstey High School Choir]

"I must thank you again for the wonderful time we all had on this trip. It was more than we expected and more than we could have dreamed about. Congrats to everyone at Classical Movements for putting together a wonderful experience for so many."



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PRESS

A Limited Selection

“[Joan] Gregoryk [founder and artistic director of the Children's Chorus of Washington] stresses the benefits for children being exposed to the world of classical music and to different cultures at such a young age.”

Prague Post, Stephan Delbos, July 20, 2011

“Blue Heart Tours “Tale of Two Great Russian Cities” package ... is the lowest price I was able to find for summer departures, and there is no add-on fare to New York. The package includes a full-day trip into the countryside to visit the monasteries and cathedrals in the 11th-century village of Suzdal.”

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

“This choir's (Schola Cantorum Coralina from Cuba) 17-day trip is part of the Serenade International Choral Series organized by Classical Movements, a Virginia-based firm best known for handling travel arrangements for orchestras and other ensembles.”

Baltimore Sun Blog, Tim Smith, November 1, 2012

“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

Vancouver Symphony invited to Beijing Festival

“The highlight of the trip will be an appearance at the Beijing Music Festival in October,” says the unsigned article, “where the VSO will represent Canada. ... The VSO plans to perform in Beijing, Vancouver’s sister city Guangzhou, Shanghai and Victoria’s sister city Suzhou. Concerts are also planned for Seongnam in South Korea, and the Special Administrative Region of Macau. ‘It is clear that the symphony’s internationally acclaimed status has resulted in the tremendous honour of being the first Canadian symphony orchestra in 30 years to be invited to perform in China,’ said Vancouver-Burrard MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] Lorne Mayencourt.”

Vancouver Province, February 4, 2008

“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 Tours DBA Classical Movements