





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 THE NETHERLANDS WITH CLASSICAL MOVEMENTS

If you think of the **Netherlands** solely as a tranquil still-life by Vermeer, you may be in for a surprise. Much of its countryside—with cows grazing in fields near canals and old windmills—does suggest the timeless serenity captured by so many Dutch painters, but in its cities you'll find a more unexpected sort of harmony—one that balances tidy traditional architecture with a very modern point of view.

Highlights: The Netherlands' main attractions include museums, historical sites, contemporary culture, **Amsterdam**, windmills, cheese, dikes, shopping, tulips and other flowers, castles and palaces, art, bicycling, cruises on canals, festivals and diamonds. Full of history and charm, the Netherlands offers much to travelers, including many museums and cultural sites. Art and history lovers will enjoy the many opportunities to see European art at its finest, including many masterpieces from Dutch **masters as well as** other painters. There are also many parks and other outdoor venues to choose from, including various open-air museums. Beer enthusiasts should be sure to stop by a brewery for a taste of some world-renowned Dutch beer.

Main Cities:

Visit **Amsterdam** with centuries-old houses along the canals, the **Anne Frank House**, and Rembrandt masterpieces at the **Rijksmuseum**.

You will also want to visit **Delft, the City of Tiles**, with its quaint shops, restaurants, windmills, canals and, of course, its famous **Delftware pottery**.

Haarlem has beautiful medieval houses, a 13th-century city hall, tulips and the **Teylers Museum** (science, technology and Dutch art). At **St. Bavo Church**, you can see a 5,000-pipe organ that Mozart played as a child.

Rotterdam, which is a large and modern port city 45 miles southwest of Amsterdam, has a 605-ft **Euromast Space Tower**. From the tower you'll have a gorgeous view of the **Erasmus Bridge**; a modern suspension bridge nicknamed "the swan." Rotterdam is also home to **Doelen Hall** which houses the world-renowned **Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra**. The official governmental seat (but not the official capital) of the country, **The Hague** is a beautiful city of parks, trees, government buildings, and gardens. With its footpaths and bike lanes, it is tranquil and orderly—a nice respite from the bustle of Amsterdam.

Shopping: Shop for **diamonds**, licorice, cheese, decorative tiles and **wooden shoes**. You can spend hours shopping for Delftware. Other coveted items include antiquarian prints and antiques. The Netherlands' many open-air street markets provide a unique shopping experience. Markets may be general purpose or specialized, touting antiques, art, books, organic products and stamps.

Food and Drink: At Dutch restaurants, you'll find excellent seafood and fish dishes (especially oysters and herring, which are a popular street food), **stamppot** and delicious pea soup (usually served in winter). Marvelous cheeses include Goudse, Edammer and Leidse (a Dutch specialty is the introduction of such herbs or spices in the production process as cloves, cumin, caraway or nettle). When it's in season, **white asparagus** (cultivated in Limburg) begs to be tasted. If you need a quick sandwich, go to a shop offering **broodjes**. In many places, French fries are sold on street corners. The best are called **vlaamse frites** (Flemish fries), made from cut potatoes rather than potato pulp pressed into the shape of a French fry. Don't forget Dutch pancakes (**pannenkoeken**), usually eaten for lunch or for dessert. The Netherlands also boasts some of the best **Indonesian food** in the world! This stems from the fact that Indonesia was formerly a Dutch colony-- native Indonesian recipes were imported into Holland after the Dutch settlers fell in love with the spicy flavors. For real Dutch courage, try **jenever**, the delicious Dutch gin. It's much milder than the English version and is served in little shot glasses. Also sample the berry-flavored gin called **bessen jenever and beerenburg**, an herbal liqueur. The world-famous **Heineken Beer** is also made the Netherlands, and the **Heineken Brewery** in Amsterdam is definitely worth a visit.

Neighboring Countries: The Netherlands is bordered by **Germany, Belgium** and the **North Sea**. We also recommend a tour to the Netherlands, Belgium and **France** if you are looking to expand your tour.



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

PERFORMANCES AND CULTURAL IMMERSION

The Dutch are great music lovers. Live orchestral and choral performances are perhaps what music enthusiasts in Holland value above all. Classical music is a particularly strong presence here, thanks to high-caliber orchestras and innovative chamber ensembles. World class orchestra performances are quite frequent and accessible to all throughout the Netherlands. Perhaps the most notable example of such an ensemble would be the **Amsterdam Philharmonic – Concertgebouw**, as well the **Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra**, which is widely renowned as one of the best symphonic orchestras in the world.

The **churches** of the Netherlands (Amsterdam's 800 year old Oude Kerk in particular) frequently hold **organ and choral concerts**—these are a particularly nice venue option for the summer months during which many Dutch concert halls are on hiatus. During the warm weather months, **festivals and free public concerts** are often held in **open air spaces** such as parks and squares.

The Netherlands boasts a plethora of opportunities for **exchanges, collaborations and joint concerts** with local Dutch ensembles.

Workshops and **master classes** with local and international master musicians are also a good option for groups visiting the Netherlands.

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Classical Movements starting traveling to the Netherlands in **1997** with major symphony orchestras and expanded its concert tours with other ensembles such as adult and youth choirs. Tours have included the **Children's Chorus of Sussex County, Minnesota Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** and the **Yale Alumni Chorus**.

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!"

Sherry Agar, Board of Directors [The Yale Alumni Chorus Foundation]

"You did such a spectacular job of following the ever-moving target in the months before the trip, finding us the venues we needed and working with us to make the tour the enormous success that it was. And then once the tour began, there you were, always thinking of how to improve things, quietly taking care of the problems from lost taxes to too-many Delft passengers. There are many smiling YAC faces as a result of your hard work and great competence."

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."



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

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."

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 is the go-to company for ensembles planning concert tours."

Baltimore Sun, Tim Smith, June 29, 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