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Travel Specialists for Music and Performing Groups

Why Ihlombe! with Classical Movements

Classical Movements has very close relationships with the leading choirs, venues, orchestras and top music organizations in South Africa. It is our belief that each concert tour experience should be a joyous learning experience for all participants including the enthusiastic audiences; here are additional reasons to travel to South Africa:

CULTURAL IMMERSION

Workshop opportunities to sing and dance with traditional Cape Malay, Zulu, Xhosa, Afrikaans & English Choirs.

Varied and dramatic itineraries, from classical to traditional concerts and visits to tourist venues & a wildlife safari.

A belief that a tour to South Africa should show case the many faces of South Africa- displaying the multiple cultures that make up this rainbow nation.

Visits to major sights can include the Cape of Good Hope, Table Mountain, Scenic drives, Wildlife Safaris, Apartheid museums, Soweto, Robben Island, Cradle of Human Kind and historic locations.

Authentic foods and a traditional South African “braai” in varied settings with an African drumming session.

Outreach opportunities, choir exchanges in poorer communities, orphanage visits, school exchanges, and home building projects and opportunities to collaborate and potentially contribute to youth choral and music programs.

AMAZING PERFORMANCES

Concerts are hosted with a local South African musical group to showcase all of the musical facets of this country.

Diverse concerts with Traditional African choral ensembles, drumming and rhythms with internationally award winning choirs.

Concert proceeds to benefit South African music groups and choirs.

Home stays and hosting options with collaborating choirs are available.

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

We have had groups visiting South Africa since 1994 (the year Nelson Mandela became President).

A South African on the CM staff and many musicians on staff to understand your group’s specific needs.

Classical Movements owns and produces the Ihlombe! South African Choral festival since 2009 and has had numerous international and multiple South African choirs participate.

Classical Movements also does numerous customized tours to South Africa on a regular basis which can be tailored to your individual expectations.

Contacts in all major towns in South Africa including Pretoria, Soweto, Johannesburg, Sandton, Alberton, Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Durban, Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown, George, Bloemfontein, Potchefstroom and Winterton to name some of those most recently visited.



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TESTIMONIALS

Joan Gregoryk, Music Director – Children’s Chorus of Washington

“The Children’s Chorus of Washington has just returned from the 2010 Ihlombe! South African Choral Festival, and choristers, chaperones and staff all agreed that this was the most enriching and life-changing tour we have taken. The shared concerts with the other international choruses and the South African choirs were musically exciting and the visits to the historic sites that have shaped the recent history of South Africa, including Robben Island, were sobering. We all loved staying at the Game Park and going on the Safari, and were amazed by the physical beauty of the country, including Table Mountain, Cape Town Waterfront, and the Cape Peninsula. We at CCW are grateful to Classical Movements for having the vision to plan and carry out all the details that made this such a memorable tour.”

Timothy Sharp, Music Director – Miami Children’s Chorus

“This was the best travel/performance experience I have ever had. The choirs we performed with were outstanding as were the excursions. The history of South Africa is worth exploring. Classical Movements has crafted an experience in South Africa that is not to be missed. Our lives will never be the same. Thank you for the positive change on my life and the lives of all who experienced Ihlombe 2011.”

Craig Denison, Artistic Director – Florida’s Singing Sons Boychoir

“Classical Movements proved to be the best decision we made for our [2008 Concert tour] to South Africa. Their staff was efficient, friendly and dependable. Our guide - incredible! This company provided a broad diversity of musical engagements that provided fine audiences, high-profile collaborations and attractive venues. With 25 years of touring, I have never experienced such a supportive and dependable company.”

Eric Conway, Music Director – Morgan State University Choir

“Thank you for inviting us to participate in this wonderful IHLOMBE 2009 festival. Musically, we, the Morgan State University Choir had an opportunity to hear some very fine choirs from South Africa and the United States. Culturally, we visited places that will change our lives forever. Our visit to Soweto has shown us how very blessed we are to happen to live where we do and when we do! The South African people are so very warm and receptive, at times I did not even feel like a stranger in a foreign land. I personally know how much time and effort went into every detail of this trip. You have given the students in this choir memories that will last a lifetime.”

Thomas Duffy, Professor of Music and Director of Bands – Yale University Concert Band

“What a trip! Music, social work, scenery, pioneering performances in Swaziland, food, drink, and history! Johan [our guide] was terrific.” - South Africa and Swaziland Tour 2011

Chorister – Children’s Chorus of Washington

“I loved the balance between sightseeing and actual concerts. I felt less like a tourist because I got to interact (and sing) with all the wonderful, different people of South Africa. Thank you so much--this trip has truly changed my life. I know I will be back to South Africa soon, maybe attending the University of Cape Town!”

Terri Dunbar-Curran, Writer – Cape Times Newspaper (A South African Publication)

“Singing is an integral part of our psyche and it’s not uncommon to find small choirs scattered throughout communities. This phenomenon is one which prompted Neeta Helms, President of Classical Movements, to arrange a choral festival to celebrate that talent. One of the aims of the festival is to see choirs performing out of their usual areas, and that goes beyond merely just hosting international groups. Even local choirs will have the opportunity to branch out into new communities.”

Sibusiso Mkwanazi, Writer - The Citizen: Weekend Vibe (A South African Publication)

“Abundant Enthusiasm. That is the first thing you notice about Neeta Helms, President of Classical Movements... It {Ihlombe} showcases not only local talent but unique circumstances too, such as the All Saints Blind Choir from Ga-Rankuwa. They have also partnered with accomplished names in choral music, like George Kamxadana. Then there is the issue of the premiere taking place in Soweto. The township affords the Canadian and American choirs a chance to witness a part of our country that they would otherwise not have seen.”