



The leader in choir and orchestra concert tours

Minnesota Orchestra's CUBA 2015 Tour Media Coverage (links):

ENGLISH

Minnesota Public Radio News

Author: Euan Kerr

Date: May 11, 2015

“the Minnesota Orchestra had an ace in the hole — a strong relationship with **Classical Movements**, a specialized tour company with personnel that has longstanding connections in Cuba. At the orchestra's request the company went into overdrive.”

<http://www.mprnews.org/story/2015/05/11/mn-orchestra-cuba>

Minnesota Star Tribune

Author: Graydon Royce

Date: May 11, 2015

“Neeta Helms, whose Virginia-based **Classical Movements** arranged the trip, said many parties in Washington, including the State Department, are well aware of the trip.

“This is the kind of musical diplomacy that has the intention of changing things,” she said.”

<http://www.startribune.com/symphonic-diplomacy-is-goal-of-minnesota-orchestra-s-cuba-trip/303236621/>

Minnesota Public Radio News

Author: Euan Kerr

Date: May 13, 2015

“That's where **Classical Movements** came in. The Alexandria, Va.-based company has long arranged tours for the Minnesota Orchestra. It also has deep connections with Cuba. The orchestra needed those connections, because in Cuba, it couldn't simply arrive and rent a hall, said Neeta Helms, president of **Classical Movements**. There are regulations to satisfy.

“You have to know the right people and you have to know the right steps and the order in which to ask for permission,” she said.”

<http://www.mprnews.org/story/2015/05/13/cuba-logistics>

New York Times

Author: Michael Cooper

Date: May 16, 2015

“Once the pieces were in place, the orchestra's tour organizer, **Classical Movements**, had 110 days to make it happen”

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/15/arts/music/minnesota-orchestras-cuba-trip-puts-it-at-the-cultural-vanguard.html?_r=0

Minnesota Star Tribune

Author: Graydon Royce

Date: May 16, 2015

“Culture is a very important bond between the people of these two countries, despite what happens politically,” Olompo Compas said. “It is very impressive to have them here.”

<http://www.startribune.com/minnesota-orchestra-s-concert-friday-night-in-cuba-draws-enthusiastic-crowd-of-music-fans-media/303981221/>

Associated Press

Author: Jeff Baenen

Date: May 9, 2015

“The orchestra, led by music director Osmo Vanska, will become the first from the U.S. to perform in Cuba since President Barack Obama made a surprise announcement in December with plans to restore full diplomatic relations after a half-century. The last major U.S. orchestra to perform in Cuba was the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra in 1999.”

<http://www.usnews.com/news/entertainment/articles/2015/05/09/trip-to-cuba-represents-minnesota-orchestras-revival>

The Washington Post

Author: Anne Midgette

Date: February 12, 2015

“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. (Classical Movements is presenting the Cuban chorus Camerata Vocale Sine Nomine in Washington, DC on February 21st.)”

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/style/wp/2015/02/12/minnesota-orchestra-to-play-in-cuba-in-may/>

Minnesota Star Tribune

Author: Graydon Royce

Date: May 15, 2015

“As the first major U.S. orchestra to visit Cuba since President Obama’s December overture to normalize relations, the Minnesota Orchestra is here to play concerts Friday and Saturday nights, but the school visits are a key part of this historic trip.”

<http://www.startribune.com/at-cuban-schools-minnesota-orchestra-musicians-teach-and-learn/303808971/>

Associated Press

Author: Beth J. Harpaz

Date: Monday, May 18, 2015

“A thrilled crowd gave the concert a standing ovation. Smaller groups of U.S. classical musicians have visited Cuba in recent years, but a 1999 visit by the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra is believed to be the last by a major orchestra.”

http://www.philly.com/philly/entertainment/20150518_Minnesota_Orchestra_wows_Havana.html#PYozyawr78ROesqE.99

Fox News Latino

Author: Fox News Latino staff

Date: May 17, 2015

“The U.S. government gave special permission for a direct charter flight from Minneapolis to Havana for the event, putting four tons of equipment and 160 people on an Airbus 330.”

<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/lifestyle/2015/05/16/minnesota-orchestra-played-to-sold-out-house-in-havana-as-tensions-ebb-between/>

Minnesota Public Radio

Author: Euan Kerr

Date: May 15, 2015

“The energy was evident as hundreds of teenage students at the Escuela Nacional de Arte packed into the school's entryway. They stood in the sweltering Havana heat ready to greet the visiting musicians who had come to teach master classes.

<http://www.mprnews.org/story/2015/05/15/mn-orchestra-cuban-students-share-global-language>

New York Times

Author: Michael Cooper

Date: May 16, 2015

“The Teatro Nacional, a 2,056-seat theater on the Plaza de la Revolución, was sold out. Two dozen photographers and videographers swarmed the aisles. The Minnesota Orchestra's concert here Friday night was greeted not only as a rare chance to hear an orchestra from overseas, but as a symbol of the rapprochement between the United States and Cuba.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/17/arts/music/minnesota-orchestra-in-groundbreaking-cuba-tour-sells-out-house.html>

The Pioneer Press

Author: Ross Raihala

Date: May 13, 2015

“the orchestra staff contacted **Classical Movements**, a Virginia-based company that specializes in choir and orchestra tours and festivals. The orchestra has worked with the company in the past and offered it the chance to handle the logistics of a Cuba trip. **Classical Movements** has been doing smaller-scale projects in Cuba for 18 years. "But we've never had an orchestra of this importance go to Cuba," said Neeta Helms, **Classical Movement's** founder and president. "It's very rare for any orchestra to go to Cuba.

http://www.twincities.com/localnews/ci_28106716/minnesota-orchestra-taking-off-historic-trip-cuba

Minnesota Star Tribune

Author: Graydon Royce

Date: May 16, 2015

“Traveling is a bonding experience — as the musicians, board members, donors and community supporters are finding out. The Cuba trip is historic not only on diplomatic and national terms, but also because of the personal capital it has developed.”

<http://www.startribune.com/musical-diplomacy-blooms-in-the-havana-heat-on-minnesota-orchestra-s-cuba-trip/303951901/>

The Conversation.com

Author: Danielle Fosler-Lussier

Date: May 15, 2015

“When Minnesota Orchestra members perform with professionals and teach student musicians in Cuba, they demonstrate respect and support for Cuba's musical life, now and in the future.”

<http://theconversation.com/the-minnesota-orchestra-goes-to-cuba-what-can-musicians-hope-to-achieve-41879>

Minnesota Star Tribune

Author: Graydon Royce

Date: May 18, 2015

“After a palpably emotional program at the Teatro Nacional, the Minnesota contingent decamped to a Havana club — jamming and dancing with Cuban musicians who said they were very happy to play with these American visitors.”

<http://www.startribune.com/minnesota-orchestra-s-last-late-night-in-havana/304065981/>

BBC News***Building musical bridges between US and Cuba***

Date: May 16, 2015

Reporter: Will Grant

VIDEO LINK

“So far, the main cooperation between the two countries has been via cultural, artistic and sporting exchanges. Now, the Minnesota Orchestra is set to play in Havana, the first US orchestra to visit the island since the historic thaw was announced last December.”

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-32762780>

Minn Post

Author: Scott Chamberlain

Date: May 18, 2015

“Right from the beginning it was clear we were witnessing something of historical importance. I lost count of how many photographers were there, desperately trying to get **that** historic shot.”

<http://www.minnpost.com/arts-culture/2015/05/two-nights-minnesota-orchestra-cuba-powerful-performances-engender-palpable-uni>

Al Jazeera

Ash-Har Quraishi

Date: May 17, 2015

VIDEO LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZLCqEmWcJew>

New China TV

Date: May 17, 2015

VIDEO LINK**NEETA HELMS** interview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5fqBqnkB7k>

CCTV America

Date: May 16, 2015

VIDEO LINK

Minnesota Orchestra performs in Cuba!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5eWY-3Ooss>

CBS Miami

Date: May 15, 2015

Author: Elliott Rodriguez

VIDEO LINK

“It’s great honor for us to be the first North American major orchestra visiting here and we are like artists ambassadors of art,” said Minnesota Orchestra Musical Director Osmo Vanska. “We are ambassadors of Minnesota, ambassadors of the U.S. and that’s a great honor for us.”

<http://miami.cbslocal.com/2015/05/15/u-s-orchestra-makes-historical-visit-to-cuba/>

Additional links with photos:

<http://www.startribune.com/minnesota-orchestra-departs-this-morning-for-cuba/303590721/>

http://www.twincities.com/music/ci_28053683/minnesota-orchestras-cuba-concerts-will-be-live-mpr

<http://kstp.com/article/stories/s3792004.shtml>

<http://knpr.org/classical/2015-05/dont-miss-minnesota-orchestras-historic-havana-cuba-performance-may-15-and-16>

SPANISH

CubaDebate

Date: May 17, 2015

“La Orquesta Sinfónica de Minnesota se despidió el pasado sábado de La Habana con un concierto en el que rindió tributo a la música cubana, y que comenzó con la ejecución de los himnos de Cuba y Estados Unidos.”

<http://www.cubadebate.cu/noticias/2015/05/17/se-despide-orquesta-de-minnesota-con-tributo-a-la-musica-cubana/#.VVpcV IVhBc>

Vanguardia

Date: May 16, 2015

Author: La Jornada

“Con la batuta del director finlandés Osmo Vänskä, la agrupación desarrolla un intenso programa artístico-cultural...”

<http://www.vanguardia.com.mx/laorquestasinfonicademinnosotaregsaacubadespuesde85anos-2322328.html>

el Nuevo Herald

Date: May 16, 2015

Author: AFP

“Al final de la función de dos horas, el publicó, que abarrotó el Teatro Nacional, aplaudió por más de cinco minutos a la orquesta de Minnesota (estado del centro norte de EEUU).”

<http://www.elnuevoherald.com/noticias/mundo/america-latina/cuba-es/article21165696.html>

Radio Habana Cuba

Author: Martha Ríos

“La Orquesta de Minnesota, una de las más destacadas agrupaciones sinfónicas de EE.UU. y la primera de ese país en visitar Cuba desde el acercamiento entre ambas naciones en diciembre pasado, cumplirá con un variado programa que incluye visitas a centros estudiantiles, realizará clases magistrales e intercambios con músicos cubanos.”

<http://www.radiohc.cu/noticias/cultura/55686-proximo-a-comenzar-cubadisco-2015>

Diario de Cuba

Date: May 5, 2015

"Será un privilegio para la Orquesta de Minnesota llevar a cabo este evento para el público en La Habana" digo Kevin Smith

http://www.diariodecuba.com/cultura/1430842920_14389.html

Juventud Rebelde

Date: May 11, 2015

“Ahora regresan para convertirse en la primera gran orquesta de los Estados Unidos que pisa el suelo de la Mayor de las Antillas después de 1959.”

<http://www.juventudrebelde.cu/cultura/2015-05-11/de-minnesota-a-la-habana/>

Granma

Date: May 4, 2015

Author: Michel Hernández

Fue fundada en 1903 como la Orquesta Sinfónica de Minneapolis y, en un primer momento, alcanzó renombre por sus giras por todo Estados Unidos. Casualmente su primer periplo fuera de ese país la trajo a Cuba, donde subió a los escenarios en 1929 y 1930 con un sonado éxito de público.

<http://www.gramma.cu/cultura/2015-05-04/la-orquesta-de-minnesota-por-repetir-su-historia-en-cuba>

Suenacubano.com

Date: April 29, 2015

Sin dudas, esta visita de la Orquesta de Minnesota a la Isla constituye un momento trascendental para la música coral y la cultura cubanas en este 2015 que se vislumbra glorioso para el arte.

<http://suenacubano.com/news/0bea3ff6ee5e11e4a2913860774f33e8/ofrecera-conciertos-en-la-habana-la-orquesta-de-minnesota/>

Progreso Semanal

Date: April 28, 2015

Author: Alain Valdés Sierra

Casi noventa años después, de ellos más de 50 sin relaciones diplomáticas entre La Habana y Washington, regresa a la isla caribeña la ahora Orquesta de Minnesota para ofrecer dos conciertos en el marco del más importante evento musical del país: la Feria Internacional Cubadisco 2015, que en esta edición estará dedicada a la música sinfónica y coral.

<http://progresemanal.us/20150428/la-orquesta-de-minnesota-regresa-a-cuba-casi-un-siglo-despues-de-su-primera-visita/>

Martí

Date: April 16, 2015

La cita, que tendrá como contexto la realización en la Isla del **XIX Festival Internacional Cubadisco 2015**, tendrá como protagonista al director musical Osmo Vänskä, quien trae un amplio repertorio de obras clásicas y grandes compositores.

<http://www.martinoticias.com/content/sinfonica-minnesota-celebrara-centenario-habana/91198.html>

Radio Enciclopedia

Date: May 18, 2015

Con motivo del XIX Festival Internacional Cubadisco 2015, evento de amplia convocatoria que deviene uno de los certámenes más importantes en la nación, el reconocido elenco ofrecerá en La Habana, dos presentaciones para abrir oficialmente la cita.

<http://www.radioenciclopedia.cu/noticias/ofrecera-conciertos-habana-orquesta-sinfonica-minnesota-20150429/>

Cuba +

Date: April 28, 2015

Author: Daniela

La presencia de la Orquesta de Minnesota se ha venido anunciando desde hace unas semanas, pues no solo es una de las formaciones de su tipo de mayor prestigio del mundo, sino que ocurre en un momento en que ambos países trabajan de común acuerdo por normalizar sus relaciones.

<https://cubamas.wordpress.com/2015/04/28/la-orquesta-de-minnesota-regresa-a-cuba-casi-un-siglo-despues-de-su-primera-visita/>

Visitar

Date: April 15, 2015

Author: Yeneily García

Ahora son los organizadores del mayor evento del fonograma en la Isla quienes confirman la asistencia de la aclamada agrupación norteamericana, el primer gran conjunto de EE.UU. en visitar La Habana después del 17 de diciembre de 2014, cuando se dio a conocer las intenciones de ambos gobiernos de deshelar actitudes y dejar atrás más de 50 años de incomunicación.

<http://vistarmagazine.com/articulos/orquesta-de-minnesota-viajara-a-la-habana-en-mayo>

Gramma

Date: April 15, 2015

Author: Redacción Digital

La Orquesta Sinfónica de Minnesota, Estados Unidos, celebrará su centenario con dos conciertos en Cuba en mayo próximo, durante la feria comercial Cubadisco-2015.

<http://www.gramma.cu/cultura/2015-04-15/celebrara-su-centenario-en-cuba-la-orquesta-sinfonica-de-minnesota>

Havana live

Date: April 17, 2015

Después de más ocho décadas sin visitar los escenarios cubanos, la Orquesta Sinfónica de Minnesota, Estados Unidos, llegará en mayo a La Habana, para celebrar su centenario, con dos conciertos en el Teatro Nacional.

<http://www.havana-live.es/2015/04/17/sinfonica-de-minnesota-celebrara-su-centenario-en-la-habana.html>

el Nuevo Herald

Date: May 9, 2015

Kevin Smith, presidente y director general, dijo que la orquesta vio una fecha disponible para una gira durante una semana de vacaciones a mediados de mayo. Los músicos aceptaron posponer sus vacaciones, y luego de que los líderes de la orquesta manifestaran su interés de asistir a las autoridades cubanas, el Ministerio de Cultura de Cuba, invitó al conjunto —el único de Estados Unidos— para actuar en el Festival Internacional Cubadisco de La Habana.

<http://www.elnuevoherald.com/entretenimiento/musica/article20578932.html>

La Jornada

Date: May 5, 2015

Author: AP

"Hace 85 años, la Orquesta de Minnesota, que en aquel entonces se llamaba la Sinfónica de Minneapolis, interpretó música de Beethoven para el público cubano. Es muy emocionante y un privilegio para nosotros repetir este programa décadas más tarde", agregó Smith.

<http://www.jornada.unam.mx/ultimas/2015/05/05/despues-de-85-anos-regresa-a-cuba-la-orquesta-de-minnesota-7365.html>

Martianos

Date: May 7, 2015

Author: Guadalupe Yaujar Diaz

La Orquesta de Minnesota es una de las más destacadas agrupaciones sinfónicas de los Estados Unidos y la primera de ese país en visitar Cuba desde el acercamiento entre ambas naciones en diciembre pasado.

<http://martianos.ning.com/profiles/blogs/orquesta-de-minnesota-cumplir-amplio-programa-en-cuba>