



 *Classical Movements*

CHOIR, ORCHESTRA
AND BAND TOURS TO

Switzerland



Travel Specialists for Music and Performing Groups

WHY SWITZERLAND WITH CLASSICAL MOVEMENTS

Switzerland showcases three of Europe's most distinct cultures. To the northeast is the clean and correct, 8-to-5-working, Swiss-German-speaking Switzerland; to the southwest you find the wine drinking and *laissez-faire* style known from the French; in the southeast, south of the Alps, the sun warms cappuccino-sippers loitering in Italian-style piazzas; and in the center: classic Swiss alphorns and mountain landscapes. Binding it all together is a distinct Swiss mentality.

Highlights: Switzerland is known for its **mountains (Alps** in the south, **Jura** in the northwest) but it also has a central plateau of **rolling hills, plains, and large lakes**.

History: The Swiss Confederation was founded in 1291 as a defensive alliance among three cantons. In succeeding years, other localities joined the original three. The Swiss Confederation secured its independence from the Holy Roman Empire in 1499. A constitution of 1848, subsequently modified in 1874, replaced the confederation with a centralized federal government. Switzerland's sovereignty and neutrality have long been honored by the major European powers and the country was not involved in either of the two world wars.

The political and economic integration of Europe over the past half century, as well as Switzerland's role in many UN and international organizations, has strengthened Switzerland's ties with its neighbors, however, the country did not officially become a UN member until 2002. Switzerland remains active in many UN and international organizations but retains a strong commitment to neutrality.

Shopping: Switzerland is famous for a few key goods: **watches, chocolate, cheese, and Swiss Army knives**. Good quality Swiss **felt-wool hats, linen and lace**, as well as traditional **dirndl and lederhosen** garb are also a great purchase while in Switzerland.

Food: Swiss cuisine combines influences from the German, French and North Italian cuisine. Switzerland was historically a country of farmers, so traditional Swiss dishes tend to be plain and made from simple ingredients, such as potatoes and cheese. Popular Swiss dishes include: **Raclette** (cheese fondue), **Älplermagronen** (A kind of gratin with potatoes, macaroni, cheese, cream and onions, and, stewed apple on the side), and **Rösti** (A flat, hot potato cake fried in hot butter or fat). Each area of the country, each region has its own types of cheese – the diversity of products created from one single base ingredient – good Swiss milk – is quite astonishing! Such as, for example, the soft and melting **Vacherin** cheese, the aromatic **Appenzeller**, the full-flavored **Sbrinz**, or the **Emmentaler**, famous for its big holes. Of course, don't go to Switzerland without trying the **chocolate! Lindt, Teuscher** (try the champagne truffles) and **Sprüngli** are some of the most renowned chocolate brands available.

Drink: Wine is produced in many regions of Switzerland. **Riesling X Sylvaner** is a common white wine produced in German-speaking parts of the country, while **Chasselas** is the most common white wine in the French-speaking parts of the country. **Pinot noir** is the most popular red grape in both the French-speaking and the German-speaking part, while this position is held by **Merlot** in the Italian-speaking part. **Absinthe** is being distilled officially again in its Val-de-Travers birthplace, in the Jura region of Switzerland, where it

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originated. Long banned by a specific anti-Absinthe article in the Swiss Federal Constitution, it was legalized again in 2005, with the adoption of the new constitution. Other spirits include: **damassine**, a liqueur produced by distillation of the damassine prune from the damassinier tree and is produced in the Canton of Jura, and **Bon Pere William**, a famous regional Swiss brandy produced from pears.

Zurich: Zurich is the largest city in Switzerland and is located at the end of **Lake Zurich**. It is a major center of international banking and the home base for many prominent Swiss companies. There are beautiful churches such as the **Grossmuenster Cathedral** and the gothic **Fraumeunster Convent**. **The Lake Promenade** stretches along the lake and features many wonderful sightseeing opportunities and clean **beaches**; there are also more than **50 museums** and around **100 art galleries**; great restaurants, renowned **opera**, classical music **concerts**, and **theater**.

Other Cities:

Berne: the capital of Switzerland at the shores of the crystal-clear green-blue **Aare River** with an amazingly well-preserved **old-town** that features 4 miles of **arcaded walkways** along streets decked out with **fountains and clock towers**; great restaurants abound, as do bars and clubs.

Geneva: this center of arts and culture is an international city that is home to around 200 governmental and non-governmental organizations (with some major **UN organizations**) at the end of the beautiful **Lake Geneva**. Geneva is also the founding place of **Calvinism and the Red Cross**. Visit the historic **city center** to see **St. Peter's Cathedral** and climb its tower for breathtaking views of the city including the monumental **Jet d'Eau fountain**.

Lucerne: a beautiful small city in the heart of Switzerland, across the lake from **Altdorf**, where legend has it William Tell shot an apple off of his son's head. Visit **Chapel Bridge**, the oldest wooden bridge in Europe, the **old city walls**, which are still standing in some parts of the city, and the **Lion Monument**, which was built to commemorate the members of the Swiss Guard killed during the French Revolution in 1792. **Mark Twain** once described the Lion Monument as "the most mournful and moving piece of stone in the world."

Lausanne: Located on the northern point of **Lake Geneva**, Lausanne is home to two major universities as well as the **International Olympic Committee**. Visit the old **Cité district** to see the **Lausanne Cathedral, Lausanne Castle**, as well as many museums, theatres, and shops.

Montreux: located on **Lake Geneva**, Montreux is home to the scenic **Château de Chillon**, Switzerland's most visited landmark. This ancient castle was original built as a place for collecting tolls from ships sailing into port, but was made famous by **Lord Byron's** poem "**Prisoner of Chillon**" based on **François Bonivard**, who was imprisoned in the dungeons of the Château as a political prisoner until 1536.

Neighboring Countries: Germany, France, Italy, Austria, and Lichtenstein

PERFORMANCES AND CULTURAL IMMERSION

Venues include the **Tonhalle Zurich, Murten Castle Courtyard, St. Peter's Cathedral, Fraumuenster Church**, and the **Grossmuenster Church**.

Symphony orchestras and choirs include the **Basel Chamber Orchestra, Zurich Symphony Orchestra, Zurich Chamber Orchestra, Orchestre de Chambre Lausanne, Anonymos Vocal Ensemble**, and the **Ars Canora Vocal Ensemble**.

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Many festivals are held in Switzerland each year, including the **Gaia Chamber Music Festival, Festspiele Zurich**, and the **St. Moritz Music Festival**.

Cultural and musical exchanges with local ensembles, workshops and master classes with expert clinicians and outreach concerts to local schools and non-profit organizations are also available.

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Classical Movements has been putting together tours to Switzerland since 1995.

TESTIMONIALS

Cynthia Pickett Steele, Orchestra Manager [National Symphony Orchestra]

"We greatly value our relationship with Classical Movements, and the high quality of work that you provide for the National Symphony Orchestra. We know that you have worked intensively on this tour and it is certainly going to be an asset to have [you] execute the international tour."

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

"...Once again, the trip exceeded our expectations. All of the travel details were handled perfectly. The concert venues were stellar with huge audiences. Thank you for another extraordinary and memorable tour!"

Drostan Hall, Music Director [Camerata Chicago]

"Classical movements handling of the Camerata Chicago European tour was exemplary from inception to completion. Logistics for a tour on this level requires experience, skill and patience. Classical Movements excelled at every level and on all fronts."

Amy Wagliardo, Director of Operations [Dallas Symphony Orchestra]

"I wanted to send a note of thanks to you for all your work and guidance on the DSO's recent triumphant return to Europe. There were so many details, many of them a moving target that you were able to effortlessly handle on our behalf. For this we are very grateful and thankful. Beyond the obvious, you got us through missing train cars, an averted train and plane strike, the maestro's changing needs, and an unplanned layover in Miami. And, not to be overlooked, we had seamless airplane travel and hotel check-ins. Given we were hitting these hotels, especially, sometimes before check-in time, with a large group, on sold out days, with a few people changing their preferences as we went, it was really quite revelatory to watch. Always a pleasure, and very much noted. Thank you, thank you, thank you. We very much appreciate your expertise and your efforts"

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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

“Singing together is one of the great and unifying pleasures we humans enjoy, and in so many ways, Saturday’s program at the Church of the Epiphany downtown, part of the Serenade! Washington, D.C. Choral Festival, was a celebration of these pleasures...but the afternoon’s emotional high and strongest affirmation of singing’s power came when the men and women of the Imilonji KaNtu Choral Society from South Africa (not even listed on the program) and members of the Voices of Namibia Choir came up front to jam with the Boston kids. And what a jam it was. Led by Imilonji KaNtu conductor Gobingca George Mxadana, drum in hand, the whole bunch sang, danced, clapped and whooped it up in a joyful noise that brought the audience to its feet cheering”

The Washington Post, Joan Reinthaler, June 5, 2012