




Classical Movements

CHOIR, ORCHESTRA
AND BAND TOURS TO

ROMANIA



WHY ROMANIA WITH CLASSICAL MOVEMENTS

A place of mythic legends and dark tales, modern-day Romania impresses with its fine collection of ancient monasteries, age-old churches and character-filled castles. Over the last decade Romania had undergone significant changes and development and is one of the most recent members of the European Union.

Highlights: Romania is situated on the northern tip of the **Balkan Peninsula** on the western shores of the **Black Sea**. It enjoys great natural beauty and a rich cultural heritage. Romania enchants visitors with its scenic views of the **Carpathian Mountains** and unspoiled countryside, as well as its historic cities and busy capital.

History: Romania is a country that has been ravaged by war after war throughout the centuries. Due to its location, Romania has had to endure many invasions from neighboring nations migrating through the area. After both World War I and II wreaked havoc through the land, the country had to deal with another ordeal- the communist rule of Nicolae Ceausescu. His dictatorship destroyed the country's economy and resources with his absurd giant building projects. Under his rule the people were forced to live a low standard of life. A revolt arose in 1989 in **Timisoara** and soon spread to the rest of the country. The dictatorship was overthrown and democracy was re-established. This victory by the people allowed Romania's economy to return to the European market and rejuvenate their cultural status.

Shopping: Buy traditional Romanian **hand-painted eggs** (wooden, ceramic, or real hen's eggs), blown-glass "**Art Galle**" vases, bowls, plates, etc., **porcelain** tableware, small paintings or glass etchings of **religious icons**, traditional Romanian clothing embroidered with brightly-colored thread, such as the **foță** (a richly-ornamented wrap-around skirt).

Food: Traditional Romanian dishes include **mamaliga** (polenta), **bulz** (roasted polenta, filled with cheese, bacon and sour cream), **friptura** (steak), **tocana** (a stew made with meat, vegetables, and lots of tomatoes and onions), **tochitura** (an assortment of fried meats, and traditional sausages served with polenta and fried eggs), **mici** (a kind of spicy sausage), and **sarmale** (stuffed cabbage). Some examples of delicious Romanian street food are **langoși** (hot dough filled with cheese) and **gogoși** (donut-like dough, coated with fine sugar).

Drink: Romania has a long history of over 2000 years of **wine** production. Most Romanian monasteries produce and sell their own wine.

Romania also has a long tradition of brewing **beer**. Popular brands include: **Ursus, Silva, Bergenbier, Timisoreana, and Ciuc**.

The most widely consumed liqueur in Romania is **palinca**, which is roughly 60 percent pure alcohol and is traditionally made in Transylvania. The second most popular is **țuica**, which is a type of brandy made from plums.

Bucharest: the capital of Romania, in which monuments, including the world's 2nd largest building, Romania's **Palace of Parliament**, built during Ceausescu's regime, overlook **medieval and neo-classical neighborhoods**. Take a walk around the city to visit its many historical city squares, including **Revolution Square**, a prominent site of the 1989 Romanian Revolution, or **Piața Unirii** (Union Plaza). There are also many art and historical museums to visit, as well as beautiful gardens such as the **Cișmigiu Garden** in Bucharest's city center.

Timisoara: a university city and industrial center in western Romania. It is often described as the most cosmopolitan city in Romania. Visit **Piața Victorie** or **Victory Square** (also known as **Opera Square**) to see the site of the first uprising of the Romanian Revolution of 1989, as well as **Piața Unirii** or **Union Square** to see the **Catholic Dome**, the **Baroque Palace**, and the **Serbian Church**. There are also many



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lovely parks throughout Timisoara, such as **Botanical Park**, which is widely regarded as the most beautiful in the city.

Constanta: a coastal **Black Sea** town in southern **Dobruja**, Romania that and the oldest attested city in Romania. It is the capital of Constanta county and Romania's largest **seaport**. Visit the **Old Casino**, built in 1911, to see its amazing **Art Nouveau** architecture, the **Statue of Ovid** erected in 1887, as well as many **museums, churches**, and the **Great Mosque** in **Ovidiu Square**.

Transylvania: the most famous region of Romania, a land of **medieval castles and towns, dark forests**, and of course the snowy peaks of the **Transylvanian Alps**. The capital of Transylvania, **Brasov**, is located in the south-eastern part of the region. Its main attractions are the **medieval downtown**, and the proximity to **Rasnov** and **Bran Castle**, made famous by Bram Stoker's gothic, vampire-centric fairytale "**Dracula**".

Neighboring Countries: Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary, Moldova, and Ukraine

PERFORMANCES AND CULTURAL IMMERSION

Venues include the **Bucharest Templul Coral Synagogue, Biserica Neagra** in **Brasov**, and the **Romanian Orthodox Patriarchal Cathedral**.

Symphony orchestras and choirs include the **National Radio Orchestra and Choir of Romania, National Youth Orchestra of Romania, Bucharest Symphony Orchestra, Romanian National Chamber Choir, Romanian Radio Children's Choir, Transylvania State Philharmonic Orchestra** and the **George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra**.

Many festivals are held in Romania each year, including the **Liviu Borlan International Choral Festival** and the **George Enescu 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 Romania since 1998.

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!"



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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 Wagiardo, 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”

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 Reintaler, June 5, 2012