



 *Classical Movements*

**CHOIR, ORCHESTRA
AND BAND TOURS TO
SOUTH AFRICA**





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Travel Specialists for Music and Performing Groups

WHY SOUTH AFRICA WITH CLASSICAL MOVEMENTS

The country known for its sunshine, white sand beaches, wildlife and exceptional quality of ethnic and Classical music offers touring choirs and orchestras a myriad of experiences. With a native South African on its staff and organizing tours since 1994, Classical Movements has very close connections with top choirs, venues, orchestras and music organizations in South Africa. Our South African tours and annual choral festival have become major events that many South Africans warmly embrace and look forward to each year.

CULTURAL IMMERSION

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

The most varied and dramatic itineraries that include some of the most unique cultural activities only found in this fantastic part of the world.

A belief that a tour to South Africa should showcase the many faces of South Africa's famous "rainbow nation."

Visits to major sights including the **Cape of Good Hope**, Table Mountain, Scenic drives, Wildlife Safaris, Apartheid museums, Soweto, **Robben Island** and historic locations.

Authentic foods and a traditional South African "**braai**" in varied settings.

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

AMAZING PERFORMANCES

Each concert is hosted with a local South African musical group to showcase all of the musical facets of this beautiful country with its vast variety of choruses from traditional ethnic to the most advanced in Classical music.

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

Concert proceeds to benefit South African music groups and local choirs.

Home stays and hosting options with collaborating choirs are available.

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

We have been planning tours to South Africa since 1994, the year Nelson Mandela was elected President.

With a South African and many musicians on staff Classical Movements will do everything to understand your group's specific needs.

Classical Movements owns and produces the Ihlombe South African Choral festival since 2009 and has now had 58 choirs participate in the first three years.

We arrange numerous customized tours to South Africa each year.

Contacts in all major towns in South Africa including Pretoria, Soweto, Johannesburg, Potchefstroom, Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Durban, Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown, George, Bloemfontein, and Winterton, to name a few!

Classical Movements' numerous clients who have toured Southern Africa include the **Yale Concert Band, Pacific Boychoir, Morgan State University Choir** and **Children's Chorus of Washington**. In our tours, we have arranged in-country collaborations with at least 60 top South African orchestras and choirs. We frequently arrange concert tours around the world for Southern Africa groups such as **Drakensberg Boys' Choir, Voices of Namibia, UCCSA Broadhurst-Botswana** and **Wits Choir (University of Witwatersrand)**.



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TESTIMONIALS

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."

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 all 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 trip 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 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 showed 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 of these choir memories that will last a lifetime."

Anonymous, 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!"

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 harbor, 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."



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PRESS

A Limited Selection

“Despite cultural differences, music does play a huge role in bringing people together. [This was endorsed during the Ihlombe South African Music Festival held at the University of Pretoria on Saturday.]”

Rekord, Pretoria East, Thokozile Mnguni, July 25, 2014

“Classical Movements founder Neeta Helms delivers musicians and singers all over the world with the precision of a Steinway piano tuner.”

The Washington Post, Tom Heath, September 15, 2013

“Toronto Children’s Chorus sings tribute to Nelson Mandela in South Africa . . . The lessons learned in South Africa will never be forgotten.”

Toronto Star, August 1, 2013

“Grand Concert at Pretoria City Hall – exhilarating performances.”

Pretoria News, July 2013

“[P]restigious Ihlombe! Choral Festival”

The Washington Post, Petula Dvorak, July 25, 2013

“[Ihlombe is] a life-changing cultural, social, and educational opportunity to travel to another country.”

The Washington Informer, Gale Horton Gay

April 24, 2013

“Classical Movements is the go-to company for ensembles planning concert tours.”

Baltimore Sun, Tim Smith, June 29, 2012

Ihlombe! Festival brings world's choirs to South Africa”

Beeld, Anna-Retha Bouwer, June 25, 2012

"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. 'I discovered that the common person on the street here is quite likely to sing,' says Helms. 'Like people would describe the Irish or Welsh as singing nations, it is the same here. It really impressed me.' Helms has been doing business with South Africa since 1994. 'The music here is very compelling. People around the world should know about it.' She says that is one of the main aims of Ihlombe, to raise awareness of the extent and quality of choral music in the country."

Cape Times, Terri Dunbar-Curran, August 5, 2010

“Abundant enthusiasm. That is the first thing you notice about Neeta Helms, President of Classical Movements...[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



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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."

The Citizen, Sibusiso Mkwanazi, July 2010

"In keeping with one of the core beliefs of Classical Movements, and building on donations to the three benefactors of last year; some of the profits from the concerts will be shared between South African groups that work to help under-privileged communities and youth programmes. Classical Movements is also empowering local choirs by directly sharing the profits from ticket sales."

Tonight Newspaper, July 2010