




Classical Movements

CHOIR, ORCHESTRA AND
BAND TOURS TO
SPAIN AND
PORTUGAL





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Travel Specialists for Music and Performing Groups

WHY SPAIN AND PORTUGAL WITH CLASSICAL MOVEMENTS

Spain Highlights: Spain has 13 World Heritage Cities—Avila, Alcalá de Henares, Cáceres, Córdoba, Cuenca, Eivissa, Mérida, Salamanca, San Cristóbal de la Laguna, Santiago de Compostela, Segovia, Tarragona and Toledo. Each of these cities is filled with monuments and buildings steeped in centuries of history and ethnic diversity. Enjoy visits to Spain's churches, palaces or museums, such as the Gothic La Catedral (La Seu) in Barcelona, the grandiose Alhambra complex in Granada, the mosque in Córdoba, the futuristic-looking Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, the modern art museum Centro de Arte Reina Sofía in Madrid or Pablo Picasso's birth home in Málaga.

Portugal Highlights: Medieval hilltop towns, colorful fishing villages, a cosmopolitan capital, the vine-filled valley of the Douro, wild remote mountains, and beaches. Lisbon has restored medieval facades, wonderful art-nouveau buildings, black-and-white mosaic sidewalks (known as *calgades*), fine museums and plenty of modern shops. Sintra offers castles, palaces, formal gardens and stately homes scattered about the green hills of the area. Évora is a good example of a walled medieval city and has fine architecture dating to the Roman era.

Shopping: Spain offers unique handcrafted items: contemporary and antique paintings and sculpture, knotted rugs, guitars, ornate handmade shawls, decorative pottery, handmade furniture, ornamental combs and fans, and Lladro (Spanish porcelain). Portugal has azulejos (colorful ceramic tiles), porcelain made by Vista Alegre, faience (particularly from Coimbra), leather goods (including shoes), antiques, gold and silver filigree (particularly from Minho Province and Oporto), *cataplanas* (clamshell-shaped copper pans for cooking shellfish and stews), lace, Madeiran embroidery, cork items, Portuguese guitars (they look like enlarged mandolins), needlepoint carpets and *Arraiolos* rugs (be sure to get a certificate of origin—there are a few cheap imitations made in China).

Food and Drink: Spain is known for its wonderful seafood, Iberian or Serrano ham (a dry-cured spiced ham similar to Italy's Prosciutto di Parma), chorizo (a spicy sausage), gazpacho, *salmorejo* and *ajo blanco*, *butifarra* (blood sausage), *paella* (a delicious saffron-flavored rice dish with artichokes, green beans, poultry and rabbit, or fish and shellfish), and *tapas* (small portions of just about anything). Portugal is also known for its wonderful seafood in addition to their rich stew called *feijoada* (Portuguese sausage and fava beans), *leitao da bairrada* (roasted sucking pig), *chicken piri-piri* (spit-roasted with a spicy vinegar sauce), *cabrito* (goat), and soft cheese from Guarda called *serra*. Of course, no meal is complete without a bottle of good wine. Rioja is considered by many to be the best wine-growing region in Spain. In Portugal, most the wines are red, with the best ones coming from Alentejo, Dao and a small area west of Lisbon called Colares.

PERFORMANCES AND CULTURAL IMMERSION

A common destination for many first rate orchestras, youth orchestras and numerous choirs of all kinds, Spain is frequently chosen for touring due to its rich musical history. Concerts are presented at superb concert halls, gorgeous Cathedrals, university concert halls, intimate venues such as local churches and monasteries. Spain has also produced many of the finest choral and orchestral composers and musicians including, Albeniz, De Falla, Rodrigo, Granados, Luis de Victoria, Sarasate, and Casals. Known for its warm climate and beautiful beaches, it's no wonder Spain also inspired some of the world's greatest artistic minds such as, Picasso, El Greco, Dalí, Velázquez, Goya, and Cervantes.

Enjoy the historical city of Burgos to see the palace where Christopher Columbus was greeted by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, or take a day trip to the warm sandy beaches of San Sebastián for swimming and fresh seafood. Stop in Barcelona to experience a traditional Spanish bull fight, or travel to Seville for some Bolero music and Flamenco dancing.



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Follow a terrific trip to Spain by experiencing the vibrancy of Portugal! Relax while listening to Fado music and enjoy a glass of the infamous Port Wine, indigenous to the northern provinces of the country. A continuous series of first-rate music festivals jam-packs Spain and Portugal's cultural calendar throughout the year and especially the summer months.

Collaborative concerts and workshops with local ensembles and cultural exchange activities. Homestays and outreach concerts with local schools and non-profit organizations are all possible.

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

We have had groups visiting Spain and Portugal since 1997.

Classical Movements has had the privilege of taking many world famous orchestras to Spain on multiple tours including the Philadelphia Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and National Symphony Orchestra, Boston Symphony Chamber Players, as well as youth orchestras such as the El Camino Youth Symphony and many choirs such as the Canticum Novum Choir, Pacific Boy Choir, Rowan University Choir, Grace Cathedral Choir of men and Boys, College of William and Mary Choir, Smith College Chamber Singers, the Botetourt Chamber Singers and the Holy Cross College Choir.

Neighboring Countries: Spain and Portugal are a good combination for your tour. Another option would be a tour up the Mediterranean coasts of Spain and France and if time permits, Italy.

TESTIMONIALS

Pamela Getnick Mindell, Conductor [Holy Cross College Choir]

"Thank you for everything with our recent tour. The trip to Spain was really wonderful. The students had a fabulous time, and we are all so grateful for all that you did to make this happen. Everything was so well planned, as always, and the sights were magnificent. The four concerts were all very well received. The audiences were so very appreciative of the music that we sang, never at all jaded. They really wanted to meet us, shake our hands, and talk with us after the performances. I think that this really struck the students and made them realize that they had the power to bring a certain beauty to those who were there. The most touching was our last performance in Malaga. There were a handful of nuns in the audience. One of them came up to me afterwards, held my shoulders, stood about 4 inches from me, and told me (in excited Spanish) something to the effect of 'At the entrance to heaven, there is a circle of angels which one encounters. The music that we brought to the people during our concert was like entering into heaven, like hearing the music of the angels.' She went on for a few minutes, and by the end, I had tears in my eyes. It was very powerful. Again, thank you for bringing this experience to my students and to me. We will never forget the trip."

Cathy Spieth, Executive Director [El Camino Youth Symphony]

"Classical Movements organized fabulous concert halls and great audiences for us in both Spain and France! Thank you, Classical Movements, for an extremely successful series of performances!"

Simon Woods, Former VP Artistic Planning and Operations [The Philadelphia Orchestra]

"We've worked with Classical Movements since 2000. Since that time we have developed a very successful partnership. They are responsive, creative, attentive, and reliable. We couldn't ask for more from a travel agent."

Catherine Doyle Wesolek, Founder & Artistic Director [Peninsula Girls Chorus]

I thought this was an impeccably prepared tour and can't thank you all enough for that. You have a great staff, very responsive, very patient, and very skilled. Thank you! I will look forward to another tour with Classical Movements."



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Lim Bee Na, Music Director [Le Vocalise, Singapore]

"We are still reminiscing the wonderful time we had. Your team at Classical Movements did a fantastic job in organizing all the rehearsals and concerts. I think what we gleaned most from the trip was the wonderful cultural exchange we had with other choirs. On the whole, the feedback from the parents [has] been very positive with most of them commenting how their little girls have matured over those 12 days. Your organization is a people-centered one and I would be most willing to recommend going with your company for our future tours."

Fred Sang, Music Director [Kalamazoo Children's Chorus]

"Thank you for such a wonderful festival. The planning, execution, choirs, venues were all wonderful. We will certainly give your venues every consideration. Again, thank you and all the staff for a wonderful experience."

Amy Younts, Executive Director [Red Rose Children's Choir of Lake County]

"On behalf of the entire Red Rose Children's Choir of Lake County organization we would like to thank you for the great Rhapsody tour. All of our singers will remember their experience in Europe as a positive musical experience. Life time memories and friendships were made. Our singers were so glad to share their passion with other singers from around the world. We really appreciated all the help we received before and during the tour from the staff. Individual issues were handled well. Our guides were superb!!! They certainly made our trip interesting, fun and they were all so kind!"

PRESS

A Limited Selection

"Yale Glee Club's first trip to Spain in more than 50 years early this month 'was fantastic,' says maestro Jeffrey Douma. 'We had a great time. We gave concerts in Barcelona and Madrid and in two smaller towns.'"

-The New Haven Register, Joe Amarente, March 26, 2015

"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

"Classical Movements, Inc. is a concert touring company dedicated to arranging tours for choirs and ensembles all over the world. Helms call 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)."

Maryland Gazette, Cara Hedgepeth, Aug 6, 2012

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

Baltimore Sun, Tim Smith, June 29, 2012

"Neeta Helms, president of Classical Movements, which works with major orchestras as well as tours by youth orchestras and choirs, says 2009 looks to be its busiest year ever. But Helms works hard for that business. The Wednesday flight from Barcelona to Lisbon had the most stringent bag restrictions yet, with hefty fines for those deemed too heavy. But the loaded-down musicians were allowed to board unimpeded. 'Neeta worked her magic,' murmured one."

Philadelphia Inquirer, David Patrick Stearns, February 6, 2009



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