




Classical Movements

**CHOIR, ORCHESTRA
AND BAND TOURS TO
TRINIDAD AND
TOBAGO**





711 Princess Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, USA
Tel: +1 (703) 683-6040 • Fax: +1 (703) 683-6045
E-mail: info@ClassicalMovements.com
Website: www.ClassicalMovements.com

Travel Specialists for Music and Performing Groups

WHY TRINIDAD & TOBAGO WITH CLASSICAL MOVEMENTS

Trinidad and Tobago is a nation consisting primarily of two Caribbean islands just off the northeastern coast of Venezuela. The country is the most industrialized and one of the most prosperous in the Caribbean. Overall, tourism is not a major industry (though the island of Tobago has proportionally more), leaving the islands replete with **natural unspoiled beauty not found in most other Caribbean countries.**

Highlights:

Trinidad and Tobago offers an authentic Caribbean experience of markets, music, islands, colorful people and a huge carnival second only to Rio. It also has historical sites, museums, unique shopping, beaches, nature reserves, rainforests, beautiful and varied scenery, costal cruises, and wonderful, hearty food.

Some of the things that must be experienced include a visit to a **pan yard in Port of Spain**. They are the outdoor areas where musicians in **steel bands** gather to practice their compositions. There are pan yards throughout Port of Spain, and many turn into popular nighttime spots where fans gather to listen to the music. Another must is just a scenic, spiraling, 45-minute drive north of Port of Spain, **Maracas Bay** is home to one of the most popular beaches in Trinidad. White sands, blue-green waves and a lush, mountainous backdrop, not to mention decent facilities and amenities on site, all combine to make Maracas a great place to wile away a day.

Billed as a nirvana for naturalists, the island of Tobago is a prime destination for eco-tourism. **The island's Main Ridge Forest Reserve is the oldest protected tropical rainforest in the western hemisphere.** Visitors can hike a variety of wide, misty trails to take in the forest's incredible biodiversity.

History:

The islands were first inhabited by Arawak and Carib people, who settled here from the South American mainland, and whose descendants make up a small minority of the population. **Trinidad was discovered by Christopher Columbus, who claimed it for Spain.** Under Spanish rule, large numbers of French settlers established cocoa plantations in Trinidad and imported slaves to work them. The British seized the island in 1798, and abolished slavery. To make up for the labor shortage the government encouraged heavy immigration from countries such as Portugal, France, Germany, China, and most importantly India. Trinidad was united with Tobago in the 1880's.

TT eventually achieved complete independence on August 31, 1962. Throughout the sixties and seventies, the country prospered thanks to large deposits of oil and natural gas, becoming the wealthiest nation in the Caribbean. The country has a cosmopolitan society inhabited by many different peoples and cultures who live together in relative peace and harmony.

Food and Drink:

Due to its varied background, Trinidad and Tobago has excellent and varied food options. In particular, the Indian roots have added to some of the **best foods of any country in the world.** If you can't tolerate extremely hot and spicy food, be sure to let the cook or waiter know in advance.

Popular throughout T&T are tasty **rotis**, Indian flatbreads stuffed with Channa (chickpea curry), usually some meat, and other items (including green beans also known as bodi, pumpkin, and mangoes).

Another must try in T&T is the famous **Bake and Shark** or Shark 'n Bake. Most easily obtained along the north coast near Maracas Bay, pieces of Shark are deep fried, served in cut fried bread called "fried bake", and accompanied by various sauces, most popular of which is a puree of chadon (pronounced "shadow") beni (a herb similar to cilantro.)



711 Princess Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, USA
Tel: +1 (703) 683-6040 • Fax: +1 (703) 683-6045
E-mail: info@ClassicalMovements.com
Website: www.ClassicalMovements.com

Travel Specialists for Music and Performing Groups

Being a former sugar cane colony, Trinidad and Tobago is famous for its **Rum**. Popular brands of Rum are **Black Label** and **Vat 19** by Fernandes and White Oak, Old Oak by Angostura.

If you have a sweet tooth, there are many local sweets and candies to sample like Toolum, Tambran Ball, Guava Cheese, Sugar Cake, Paw Paw Ball, Benna Ball, Jub Jub, Kurma, Barfi, Ladoo, Peera. Many of these will be available on the "lookout" on the way to Maracas Beach, and prepackaged in some supermarkets.

PERFORMANCES AND CULTURAL IMMERSION

Calypso music, **soca** music and **steel pan** is what Trinidad and Tobago is best known for, including internationally in the 1950s through artists like **Lord Kitchener** and **Mighty Sparrow**; the art form was most popularized at that time by **Harry Belafonte**.

Venues include the **Lord Kitchener Hall** at the **National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA)** in Port of Spain, Trinidad and the **Southern Academy of Performing Arts (SAPA)** in San Fernando. **Daaga Hall**, at the St. Augustine Campus of **The University of the West Indies**.

With so many wonderful choirs and great musical opportunities also available are: **cultural and musical exchanges** with **local ensembles**, **workshops** and **master classes** with **expert clinicians** and **outreach concerts** to **local schools** and **non-profit organizations**.

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Classical Movements has been putting together tours to Trinidad and Tobago since 1995.

TESTIMONIALS

Cynthia Pickett Steele [National Symphony Orchestra]

"The National Symphony has a long and happy relationship with Classical Movements, a premiere concert touring company. Our tour would not have been a success without them! This year, Classical Movements is celebrating their 20th year of arranging concert tours around the world. The National Symphony Orchestra was their first orchestra client 15 years ago, and the Americas Tour 2012 marks the 25th tour Classical Movements has arranged for the NSO. To celebrate the occasion, they graciously invited us to a delicious steak dinner and captivating Tango show in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Our musicians and staff had a wonderful time and learned a bit about Argentina's culture too. Thank you, Classical Movements - we're looking forward to working with you for our 2013 European Tour!"

Lorraine Granderson [Bishop Anstey High School Choir of Trinidad]

"I must thank you again for the wonderful time we all had on this trip. It was more than we expected and more than we could have dreamed about. Congrats to everyone at Classical Movements for putting together a wonderful experience for so many."

Christoph Bachmann [Founder and Musical Director of Choirs at the Winterthur Conservatory]

"I have toured many countries, but never have experienced such a professional relationship with a tour organization. Memories of a perfect itinerary, round-the-clock assistance, unforgettable memories of cordial encounters, impressive landscapes, and great concerts remain with us."



711 Princess Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, USA
Tel: +1 (703) 683-6040 • Fax: +1 (703) 683-6045
E-mail: info@ClassicalMovements.com
Website: www.ClassicalMovements.com

Travel Specialists for Music and Performing Groups

Dr. Thomas Duffy [Director of Bands, Yale Concert Band]

"Once again we enjoyed comfortable accommodations, scintillating excursions, and top notch concert halls... the tour that you produced has generated another branch in our international network. Thank you for another pioneering musical adventure."

Susan McMane, Artistic Director [San Francisco Girls Chorus]

"I've been extremely happy with our tours we've taken with Classical Movements these past six years. We have used them exclusively for international touring, because they have worked so hard for us, getting us featured at prestigious international venues such as the Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo, Japan; the Gateway Music Festival in Beijing, China; and the upcoming 4th of July concert in Havana, Cuba. They have excellent national staff that listen to your needs, as well as important musical contacts in major cities internationally. Through Classical Movements we have been able to sing at amazing venues to full audiences around the world. If you are interested in a top-notch musical, as well as educational tour, I recommend you employ the services of Classical Movements."

Timothy Sharp [Music Director, Miami Children's Chorus]

"Thank you Classical Movements for once again planning an outstanding performance and sightseeing experience for the Miami Children's Chorus to Italy. With a fully compacted schedule, we saw first-hand the attention your company pays to the smallest of details... Bravo!"

Dr. Jefferson Johnson [Director of Choral Activities, University of Kentucky]

"The University of Kentucky Chorale had a fabulous tour with Classical Movements! It was well-planned and implemented... The tour was a wonderful musical and cultural experience for our students. Classical Movements came through again!"

Tara Park [Association of Yale Alumni]

"The week went by really quickly and everyone was sad that it was over. I was very sad to come home, I felt so productive on the trip, loved being somewhere new and beautiful and in the company of exceptional people--I'm still missing it! But I was very happy to have had the experience and I look forward to doing something similar in the future. I also wanted to tell you that the whole trip was a huge success! What a wonderful tour. Thanks again for making it possible."

Nancy Seeger [Youth Orchestra of the Americas]

"I wanted to thank you for all your efforts on behalf of YOA. It was great having you with us overseeing the logistical details of the travel process and I enjoyed working with you."

Peggy Neilson, Manager [Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra]

"The tour went really well. The two guides were outstanding! I think we accomplished what we set out to do... You worked wonders!"



711 Princess Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, USA
Tel: +1 (703) 683-6040 • Fax: +1 (703) 683-6045
E-mail: info@ClassicalMovements.com
Website: www.ClassicalMovements.com

Travel Specialists for Music and Performing Groups

PRESS

A Limited Selection

“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 is the go-to company for ensembles planning concert tours. The firm's who's-who list of clients includes the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Morgan State University Choir and National Symphony Orchestra, not to mention the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra and Vienna Philharmonic.”

Baltimore Sun, Tim Smith, June 29, 2012

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

Baltimore Sun, Tim Smith, June 29, 2012

“Deputy Chief of US Mission Kent Logsdon thanked the Classical Movements for organizing such an amazing concert tour.”

Georgia Messenger, Salome Modebadze, June 28, 2011

“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

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

The Citizen: Weekend Vibe, Sibusiso Mkwanazi, July 2010

“Few companies can count 2,034 clients in their very first year of operation.”

Jax Fax, June 1994

“...raucously enthusiastic audiences, packed houses, rave reviews, radio broadcasts, and extended ovations...”

Peabody News, September/October 1996

“It is difficult to classify Blue Heart Tours... If there are defining characteristics, they would be the ability to keep prices low by watching costs and to provide value for clients.”

Travel Agent, December 18, 1995