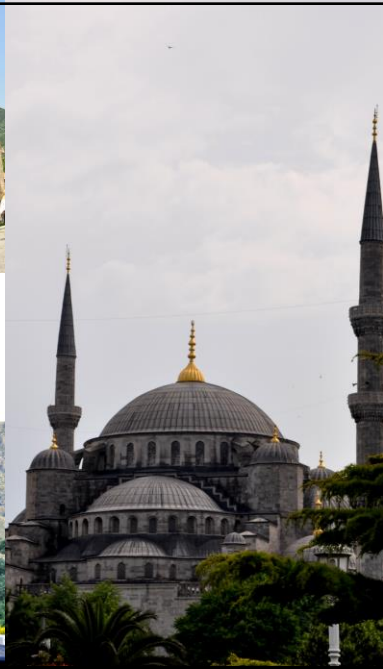


 *Classical Movements*

CHOIR, ORCHESTRA  
AND BAND TOURS TO

**TURKEY**





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*Travel Specialists for Music and Performing Groups*

## WHY TURKEY WITH CLASSICAL MOVEMENTS

**Highlights:** Turkey offers historical sites, museums, shopping, palaces, mosques, architecture, spas, beautiful and varied scenery, and good food. Turkey's historical attractions are one of the country's biggest draws, allowing visitors to travel back through time and imagine the rise and fall of ancient empires. The magnificent Roman ruins of Bergama (Pergamum) and Ephesus (Efes) along the Aegean coast are justifiably among Turkey's most popular sights. The surreal "fairy chimneys" and cave dwellings of Cappadocia, in the center of the country, are also a visitor favorite, as are the region's many small wineries. Travelers who venture farther afield will be well-rewarded by the strange stone guardians atop Mount Nemrut, the melancholy ruins of the ancient Armenian capital of Ani, the religious sites of Sanliurfa and the dramatic cliff-side Sumela Monastery near the Black Sea coast.

**Ancient Cities:** One look at the names of its ancient cities and landmarks confirms Turkey's place in the history of human civilization: Constantinople (formerly Byzantium and later Istanbul), Troy, Midas, Antioch (Antakya), Philadelphia (Alasehir), Halicarnassus (Bodrum), Mount Ararat.

**Shopping:** Shop for hand-woven rugs and kilims, Iznik tiles, ceramics, silk, jewelry, alabaster, onyx, embroidery, brass samovars, meerschaum pipes, copperware and brassware. Other not-so-obvious Turkish specialties are bath products, from natural olive soap to light cotton towels and fluffy cotton dressing gowns.

**Food and Drink:** Turkish food is well-seasoned and delicious—reminiscent of what many people think of as Greek food. Rice, lamb, fish (along the coast), pistachio and hazelnuts, eggplant, onions and other vegetables are common ingredients. The produce is great; sample fresh giant cherries and figs, in particular. Excellent yogurt, used in desserts or salads, is also available. Turkey also produces a lot of wine, although it varies widely in quality; brands to look for include Sevilen and Sarafin. The local spirit is the aniseed-flavored raki (similar to Greece's ouzo or French pastis), which is usually partaken mixed half-and-half with water and chilled with ice.

**Istanbul:** The ancient grandeur of Aya Sofya (Hagia Sophia); the Ottoman architectural masterpiece Sultan Ahmet Camii (the Blue Mosque); the lavish home of the sultans, Topkapi Palace; the newer but no less lavish Dolmabahce Sarayi (Dolmabahce Palace); the color and bustle of Kapali Carsi (Grand Bazaar); the Byzantine mosaics of Kariye Camii (the Church of the Holy Savior in Chora); the tiles and artifacts of the Arkeoloji Muzesi (the Archaeological Museum); carpets and ethnographical objects in the Turk ve Islam Eserleri Muzesi (Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum)

**Other Cities:** Visit the capital of Turkey since 1923 - Ankara, the ancient Syrian capital of Antakya, the Mediterranean town of Antalya, the ancient Roman city of Aphrodisias, the ancient city of Pergamon (Bergama), the first capital of the Ottoman Empire - Bursa, the ancient Christian kingdom of Cappadocia with Goreme Valley, the ruins of Ephesus, the birthplace of the Greek poet Homer - Izmir, the spiritual center - Konya, the popular spa town of Pamukkale, the ancient Lydian capital of Sardis, the archaeological site of Troy, and many other cities and towns.

**Neighboring Countries:** The country is bordered by Greece, Bulgaria, Georgia, Armenia, Iran, Iraq and Syria. You may consider combining your tour to Turkey with Greece. Another adventurous option is to combine Turkey with Georgia and Armenia.



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## **PERFORMANCES AND CULTURAL IMMERSION**

Venues include concert halls, culture and art centers, museums, ancient Roman amphitheatres, university halls, churches and others.

Major symphony orchestras include the Istanbul State Symphony Orchestra, Izmir State Symphony Orchestra, and others.

Army, Air Force and Navy bands not only play on special military occasions, welcoming ceremonies and national holidays but also give concerts abroad. Some municipality bands play on special days and ceremonies in big cities and towns.

More than 100 festivals are held in Turkey every year. Along with festivals of local scale held in almost every city of the country, cultural events and other festivals of international reach are also organized in major metropolitan centers such as Istanbul, Ankara, İzmir, Bursa and Antalya.

Music is an important part of education in Turkey, and is a part of most or all school systems in the country. High schools generally offer classes in singing, mostly choral, and instrumentation in the form of a large school band or social clubs and communities for Turkish classical or folk music, known as cemiyets. Many public and private schools have sponsored music clubs and groups, most commonly including the marching band that performs Mehter marches at school festivals.

Higher education in the field of music in Turkey is mostly based around large universities, connected to state music academies and conservatories. A conservatory is usually a department of a university, not a separate institution. While many students join conservatories at the usual university entrance age, some conservatories also include a 'Lise' (Lycee), in effect a specialist music school for children aged 14 to 18 years. Conservatories include Istanbul University State Conservatory and Hacettepe University State Conservatory.

## **YEARS OF EXPERIENCE**

Classical Movements starting traveling to Turkey since 1994, with over 50 different trips and in recent years for the Yale Symphony Orchestra, Yale Alumni Chorus, Yale Glee Club and the Yale Institute of Music.



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## TESTIMONIALS

### **Martin Jean, Director [Yale Institute of Sacred Music]**

"To say that I am relieved and thrilled with how these two concert events in Istanbul and Athens came off is an understatement. I couldn't have imagined more successful and meaningful events in these two very different venues than what we had, and, of course, we owe you all very much indeed for coming in to save the day in many ways at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour. We learned a deeper respect for all of you. I'm so happy to get to work with you again in Japan and Singapore, and I know we will make an impact in these areas as well. Thanks to all of you. The work you do really means so much to people's lives and students' education. I know you went above and beyond here, and believe me, we will not forget your collaborative generosity."

### **Gregor Zubicky, Artistic Director [Swedish Chamber Orchestra]**

"We are very pleased to have found Classical Movements to look after our tour. To meet this kind of professional competence, where an understanding of our orchestra's special needs is combined with the ability to get great prices for travel and hotel, is an enormous help. It has certainly taken a great load off my mind to know that we can concentrate on the music!"

### **Ed Greenberg [Yale Alumni Chorus]**

"We thought you did a wonderful job steering our large group of singers and non-singers through three countries during two jam-packed weeks."

### **Dr. Janet Galván, Artistic Director & Rhapsody! 2010 Guest Conductor [Ithaca Children's Choir]**

"Thank you for inviting me to be a guest conductor for Classical Movements. It is an honor to work for such a fine company who puts music at the center of musical tours. I was aware of the importance of impressing the orchestra, and we did it! Yes, this is a business, but along with running a business, you are changing lives daily... Again, what a pleasure to work for you as a guest conductor. Classical Movements treated me very well, and this allowed me to do good work."

### **Bill Weber [Yale Alumni Chorus]**

"Just a note to say what a terrific job I think you did on the recent YAC tour. Quiet, unassuming, dependable, thorough and consistently effective. All of that and a real pleasure to deal with, too. Congratulations and thank you for all that you did to make the tour such a success. It was a real pleasure to meet you."

### **L. Clancy [Virginia]**

"Culturally and historically Turkey was a delight and your tour offered value and enjoyment... All in all, I thoroughly enjoyed myself."

### **Pauline Roche [Virginia]**

"It was truly a great trip... great entertainment and beautiful country."



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## **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.”

Baltimore Sun, Tim Smith, June 29, 2012

“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

*Yale Choir at Haliç Congress Hall*

Quote: Yale’s choir boasts 250 members and is considered one of the most reputable university choirs in the world. The choir is visiting Istanbul in the context of its 150<sup>th</sup> year celebrations. Yale singers will be joined by Turkey’s Tekfen Philharmonic Orchestra, consisting of musicians from 23 neighboring countries. The concert will feature a diverse repertoire ranging from Ralph Vaughan Williams’ ‘Dona Nobis Pacem’ to the Turkish folk song ‘Niksar’in Fidanlari’ and Mendelssohn’s ‘Italian Symphony’. The opening piece ‘A Dream and a Song’ composed by Colin Britt specifically for this occasion will make its world debut tonight.

The Hilton Daily, June 18, 2011

“A university choir established 150 years ago in the United States is preparing to perform in Turkey for the first time as a part of its European tour. The musical director and conductor of the Yale Glee Club said the group chose the destination “because of the wonderful friendships they discovered in Turkey.” The Turkish word ‘dost’ (friends for life) is the reason [we are performing in Istanbul],” said Jeff Douma. “Because we take ‘dost’ seriously, we wanted to visit Turkey to celebrate our singing tradition with our newfound friends.”...The Yale Glee Club has been called the United States’ “singing university” because of the remarkable tradition and history of choirs at the school. “It is our mission to travel to parts of the world that are not often exposed to the musical traditions of US colleges,” said Douma. ...”

Hürriyet Daily News, Hatice Utkan, August 5, 2010