



PAX MUSICA | 2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

2584 Musicians, 45 Tours, 5 Continents, 3 Festivals

Professional Orchestras Tour 3 Continents

Cincinnati, National,
St. Louis, Minnesota:
Asia, Europe, North America

Collegiate Orchestras Tour 4 Countries

Yale, Harvard, Stanford:
Russia, Argentina, Mexico &
Cuba

15 World Premieres

New Music from
Azme, Theofanidis,
Childs, Vivancos, Ešenvalds

Serenade! Honors JFK 100

16 Choirs from 12 Countries

Prague Summer Nights

Mozart's *Figaro* & *Flute*
in Salzburg, Tábor

*Still Standing Strong
with Refugees*

*ICF: Changing the Choral
Landscape in India*

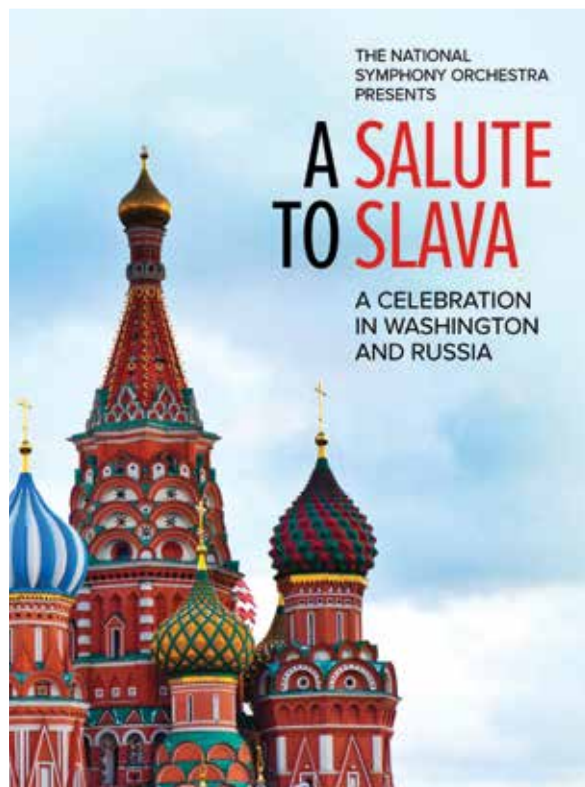
*Plus, Choral Concert Tours to
Spain, England, South Africa,
Galápagos, Canada & the U.S....*



National Symphony Orchestra, Christoph Eschenbach Salute “Slava” in Russia

Eschenbach’s Farewell Finds Alisa Weilerstein Playing Two Concerti in Moscow, St. Petersburg

For the final international tour of his decade-long run as Music Director of the **National Symphony Orchestra**, **Christoph Eschenbach** celebrated the 90th anniversary of the birth of former NSO maestro **Mstislav Rostropovich** with *A Salute to Slava*, which included a six-day tour to **Moscow** and **St. Petersburg, Russia** at the end of March.



“The best I’ve ever heard the NSO play.”

— ANNE MIDGETTE, WASHINGTON POST

Eschenbach’s celebration featured cellist **Alisa Weilerstein** performing **Shostakovich’s** First Cello Concerto, as well as the **Elgar** Cello Concerto. During their three-concert tour, the NSO also performed **Shostakovich’s** Symphony No. 8, **Schubert’s** Symphony No. 9 and **Tobias Picker’s** *Older and Lost Rivers*.

This tour marked the first time any U.S. orchestra had participated in the **Mstislav Rostropovich Festival**.

Thank you, dear **Christoph**, for so many wonderful memories on the road! 🍷

Cincinnati Symphony, Louis Langrée Tour Europe; Symphony and Pops Go to Asia

Cincy by the Numbers: 12 Cities, 7 Countries, 250 Musicians, 5 Soloists, 2 Festival Debuts (Proms & Edinburgh)

In March, both the **Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra** and **Cincinnati Pops Orchestra** spent two jam-packed weeks in **Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai, Tainan and Taipei** with pianist **Alexander Gavrylyuk** and violinist **Cho Liang Lin**. This was the first international tour for the orchestras under **Louis Langrée** and **John Morris Russell**, who performed well-received concerts and explored well-known landmarks.

Later in August and September, the CSO roved all around Europe: **Edinburgh, London, San Sebastian, Santander, Eindhoven, Utrecht,**



Antwerp and Paris with violinist **Renaud Capuçon**. A highlight of this 20-day tour was the orchestra's debut at the **Edinburgh International Festival**, where they performed **Copland's Lincoln Portrait**, narrated by "Tywin Lannister," himself, actor **Charles Dance**. (The piece was narrated elsewhere on tour by *Matrix* star **Lambert Wilson**.) From Scotland, the CSO went on to have their long-awaited first appearance at the **BBC Proms**. After venturing to **Spain, Netherlands and Belgium**, the tour closed out in **Paris** with the world premiere of a new critical edition of **Gershwin's An American in Paris** by musicologist **Mark Clague**. 🎵



15 World Premieres from 10 Countries and Our First Composer-in-Residence, Kinan Azmeh

Eric Daniel Helms New Music Program Continues Commissioning Around the Globe

2017 was truly a prolific year for **Eric Daniel Helms New Music Program**. In March, **Kinan Azmeh** (b. 1976) was announced as its inaugural Composer-in-Residence. In this brand-new role, **Classical Movements** will commission Dr. Azmeh to compose works for orchestral, chamber and choral ensembles.

A native of **Damascus, Syria**, the **New York**-based clarinetist frequently performs with and composes for **Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble**, which won the 2017 "Best World Music Album" **Grammy** for *Sing Me Home*.

On being named CM's first-ever Composer-in Residence, Azmeh states: "It is a dream for a composer to be part of such an inspiring collective as Classical Movements, who are trusting my creativity and whose support will help me search and reach a little bit deeper within."



June saw the premiere of **Billy Childs'** (b. 1957) *In Gratitude* for **Chorus America** host ensemble **Los Angeles Master Chorale** and **Christopher Theofanidis'** *The Game*, celebrating the centennial of the **Baltimore Symphony Orchestra**.

For the **2017 Serenade! Washington, D.C. Choral Festival**, the Helms New Music Program commissioned 10 works by composers from the festival's featured countries, each piece inspired by the five ideals JFK championed: Justice, Freedom, Courage, Service and Gratitude. 🇺🇸



2017 Eric Daniel Helms New Music Program World Premieres:

American **Jonathan Leshnoff** – *Dancin' Blue Crabs*
American **Christopher Theofanidis** – *The Game*
American **Billy Childs** – *In Gratitude*
Haitian-American **Sydney Guillaume** – *Ansanm-Ansanm (All Together We Sing)*
Latvian **Ēriks Ešenvalds** – *High Flight*
Spanish **Bernat Vivancos** – *L'ametller (The Almond Tree)*
Indian **Madhup Mudgal** – *Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam (The World is One Family)*
American **Con Fullam** – *Under One Sky*
Bulgarians **Milena Jeliaskova, Milena Roudeva** – *Orissiya (Destiny)*
Mongolians **Egshchiglen** – *Freedom of the Steppe*
Zimbabweans **Insingizi** – *Bom Bom Jeys (It is important to know who we are...)*
Indians **Madras Youth Choir** – *Musical Tribute to JFK*
Argentinian **Oscar Escalada** – *Misa para el Tercer Mundo (Mass for the Third World)*
South African **Mokale Koapeng** – *Wings of Peace and Love: Reflections on Bheki Mseleku*
Moroccans **Siraj** – *Hope*

Serenade! Celebrates JFK Centennial, Peace Corps at Kennedy Center

As the finale to the Kennedy Center's own year-long John F. Kennedy centennial celebration, Classical Movements' **Serenade! Washington, D.C. Choral Festival** was truly grand, featuring ensembles from **Bulgaria, Canada, China, India, Northern Ireland, Latvia, Mongolia, Panama, Spain, United States, Zimbabwe** and a multi-nation choir of refugee girls.



The grand finale concert featured both individual and collaborative performances by the 16 international ensembles invited to our 7th annual Serenade!—each hailing from a country that represented some facet of President Kennedy's life and work, particularly his pivotal role in the creation of the Peace Corps.

Here are just a few of the many wonderful groups that participated in Serenade! this summer.



Combining traditional instruments from the Central Asian steppe with vocal techniques from its Nomadic and shamanistic traditions, **Egshiglen** explored the soundscapes of contemporary Mongolian composers and reimagines traditional songs.

Having represented **India** during the third annual International Choral Festival at Lincoln Center and the brand-new John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 1972, the **Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Choir** came back to the banks of the Potomac after a 45-year absence, bringing fresh energy to Indian classical music.

Latvian Voices returned to Serenade! for the second time. The a cappella sextet brought a vast repertoire, including sacred works from the choral canon, traditional folk tunes, inventive transcriptions of popular songs, original compositions and a world premiere by fellow Latvian, **Ēriks Ešenvalds**.

Prize-winning Bulgarian/French ensemble **Balkanes** brought their unique blend of humor, nostalgia and magic to Serenade! with a program of original songs based on traditional Balkan folk music and liturgical songs from the Slavonic tradition. 🐣



Yale, William & Mary, Michigan Tech Perform Throughout the Rainbow Nation, Including a World Premiere

Three of America's Oldest Universities Tour South Africa

The **Dr. Jeffrey Douma**-led **Yale Glee Club** capped their 155th season with seven South African concerts, showcasing the breadth and artistry of YGC's repertoire: early polyphonic motets, masterpieces of the choral canon, brand-new works for choir, beloved African-American spirituals and international folk songs. One further highlight found the Yale Glee Club performing under conductor **Naum Rousine** and the **KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra**.

Under the baton of **Dr. Jared Anderson**, the **Michigan Tech Concert Choir** prepared a thoughtful, diverse program of both sacred and secular songs. South African audiences reveled in MTCC's stellar renditions of the Ndebele folk song "Shosholoza" and with **University of Johannesburg** choral director **Renette Bouwer's** setting of the 42nd Psalm, sung entirely in Afrikaans.

Under the dual direction of **Dr. James Armstrong, Jr.** and **Dr. Jamie Bartlett**, the **Choir of the College of William & Mary** and the **Botetourt Chamber Singers** toured with a world premiere—*Wings of Peace and Love: Reflections on Bheki Mseleku* by noted South African composer **Mokale Koapeng** (b. 1963). A moving tribute to one of Durban's most influential jazz musicians, this was his second composition for the **Eric Daniel Helms New Music Program**, as well as the second work Classical Movements has commissioned for William & Mary. 🎭



Morgan State, Westminster, Toronto Children's Entertain Packed Venues in the Iberian Peninsula

Three Top North American Choirs Tour Spain and Portugal

The globe-trotting **Morgan State University Choir**, led by Dr. **Eric Conway**, traveled to the cities of **Madrid, Segovia, Toledo, Granada, Málaga, Coín, Seville** and **Lisbon** to share their music, bringing crowds to their feet at every single concert. In his tour blog, **Conway** remarked, "I believe that our collective mission of sharing the Morgan choir's music with new audiences was accomplished in such a mighty way that the region will absolutely *never* forget the sounds of the Morgan State University Choir."



Two choirs had the honor to be selected for the **International Federation for Choral Music's 11th World Symposium**. The excellent **Toronto Children's Choir** was the only children's chorus selected from all of North America to participate in **Barcelona**. Artistic Director **Elise Bradley** directed the choir, entralling audiences with their mature voices. Their performances in historic venues were greatly enjoyed by the international crowds, which also included the Canadian Ambassador to **Spain**.



The glorious **Westminster Choir of Rider University** was another participant in the Symposium. Under the direction of **Joe Miller**, the choir also premiered a work by Spanish composer, and 2017 alumni of the **Eric Daniel Helms New Music Project, Bernat Vivancos**. Gorgeous venues and large audiences loved their beautiful sound. 🎵



Yale, Juilliard Bring Together Old and New in India

Historically-Informed Baroque, Balanced by a Brand-New Work

In March, two esteemed early music ensembles, **Yale Schola Cantorum** and **Juilliard415**, embarked on their debut Indian tour. Under the expert baton of **David Hill**, Yale and Juilliard combined forces to perform the world premiere of Indian-American composer **Reena Esmail's** *This Love Between Us: Prayers for Unity*, featuring **Rabindra Goswami** on sitar and **Ramchandra Pandit** on tabla. The ensembles took **India** by storm, and Classical Movements garnered great press in all of India's dailies.

The tour included stops in **New Delhi**, **Mumbai** (née **Bombay**) and **Chennai** (née **Madras**) and multiple collaborations with many local choirs. In **Chennai**, under concertmaster **Robert Mealy**,



Juilliard415 performed their own concert, as well as a joint concert featuring both ensembles. Also in **Chennai**, **Yale Schola Cantorum** took part in Sunday services at historic **St. Mary's Church**, the oldest Anglican church east of the Suez Canal and the oldest British building in India. St. Mary's has historical connections to Yale's founder (and Governor of Fort St. George in the 1600's), **Elihu Yale**, whose marriage was the first to be recorded at the church.

Yale and Juilliard were awestruck by some of India's extraordinary monuments, palaces, temples, churches, forts and gardens. Indian-born president of CM, Neeta Helms, ensured a high dose of the country's unique culture by having the groups taste local cuisine, walk through a lively slum, observe working traditions from washermen to lunch delivery men and attend a concert by a leading Indian classical and dance school. 🇮🇳



Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra Performs with Star-Quality in Argentina

America's Oldest Orchestra, George Li Debut in Rosario, Buenos Aires, Tucumán, Córdoba

In early summer, Classical Movements presented four exhilarating performances by the internationally-renowned **Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra** of Cambridge, Massachusetts—the oldest symphonic orchestra in America, established in 1808—during their first-ever concert tour to **Argentina**.

Care of conductor **Federico Cortese**, the HRO traveled with an expertly curated program including the famous suite of four dances from *Estancia*, the ballet celebrating Argentine country life by **Buenos Aires**-born composer **Alberto Ginastera**, as well as Tchaikovsky Competition medalist **George Li** performing **Liszt's** First Piano Concerto.



Befitting the oldest American orchestra, HRO has a long and storied tradition of fostering all the arts at home in their Greater Boston community and that collaborative spirit proved equally as strong internationally.

As HRO President **NaYoung Yang** noted, “We are excited to partner with an orchestra made up of the best musicians from a youth ensemble comprised of underprivileged children, who remain passionate about the transformative power of music.” 🎻



Classical Movements: Still Supporting Émigrés, Everywhere

In addition to naming Syrian-born **Kinan Azmeh** as our first Composer-in-Residence, this season, Classical Movements continued its support of refugees the world over.

At our initiative, hours before their full **Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra** concert with Music Director **Louis Langrée** at the **TivoliVredenburg**, CSO violinists **Charles Morey**, **Paul Patterson** and **Sylvia Mitchell** performed a 30-minute program of chamber music and jazz with pianist **Michael Chertock** and saxophone player **James Bunte** for and with refugees from **Syria**, **Afghanistan** and **Northern Africa**. In mere days, Classical Movements located a total of 11 refugee musicians, as well as replacement instruments, as so many of them had to leave home without them. Following a presentation by the CSO musicians, performers and audience switched roles, and the musicians from Syria shared their own music. The quintet of CSO musicians then joined their Syrian counterparts in a most exciting exchange of musical ideas. A Q&A session with all involved parties—audience, Americans, refugees and their hosts, **Welkom in Utrecht** and **Wijk & Co.**—ended this delightful afternoon of international music-making and fellowship. 🌍



For our **Serenade! Choral Festival**, we sponsored **Pihcintu**, a choir of refugee girls based in **Portland, Maine**. “Pihcintu” comes from the Passamaquoddy American Indian/First Nations tribe of Maine and New Brunswick, Canada, roughly translated as “when she sings, her voice carries far.” Those who have had the privilege of hearing these girls understand precisely why award-winning songwriter and producer **Con Fullam** chose it as the name for this choir of inspirational immigrants.

Hailing everywhere from the **British West Indies**, **Burundi**, **Cambodia**, **China**, **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, **Egypt**, **El Salvador**, **Ethiopia**, **Ivory Coast**, **Kazakhstan**, **Kenya**, **Lebanon**, **Rwanda**, **Saudi Arabia**, **South Sudan**, **Uganda**, **Vietnam** and **Zambia** to **Somalia**, **Sudan** and **Yemen**, Pihcintu helps to restart these young girls’ lives, teaching them valuable skills and forging a strong community in their new home. 🌍

Our third annual **Prague Summer Nights: Young Artists Music Festival** extended the opportunity to experience the wonderful festival performances by supplying 300 free tickets to clients, employees and volunteers of the **Caritas Internationalis** in **Salzburg, Austria**—nearly half of which went to refugees. Classical Movements is proud to support not only refugees, themselves, but also the people who work every day to better the lives and well-being of those displaced. 🌍

**Caritas
&Du**
Salzburg

St. Louis Sojourns to Spain and Carnegie Hall; Minnesota Flies South to Florida

Major Midwest Orchestras Set Sights on Spain, South Florida, Manhattan

The **St. Louis Symphony**'s February tour to Spain—their 18th overall with Classical Movements—found outgoing maestro **David Robertson**, Robertson's brother-in-law, violinist **Gil Shaham**, Swedish trumpeter **Håkan Hardenberger** and some 110 SLSO musicians and staff performing two separate programs of **John Adams**, **Korngold** and **Dvořák's Ninth** and **Rolf Wallin**, **Copland** and **Beethoven's Seventh** for packed venues in **València**, **Madrid** and **Oviedo**.

The following month, the SLSO headed east to **New York City's Carnegie Hall** with **John Adams' *The Gospel According to the Other Mary***. Direction was under maestro Robertson, preparation by **St. Louis**

“David Robertson...an unstinting advocate for new work.”

—NEW YORK TIMES



Symphony Chorus leader Amy Kaiser. The 70-year-old composer, himself, made his way to 57th Street, listening intently to musicians and soloists, which featured three (count ‘em, three!) countertenors.

With frigid, single-digit temperatures back home in Minneapolis, the **Minnesota Orchestra's** five-day trip down to sunny **South Florida** in January—the ensemble's 21st tour with Classical Movements—proved as well-timed as maestro **Osmo Vänskä's** tempi in the Fifth Symphony of **Sibelius**. MacArthur “genius” cellist **Alisa Weilerstein**—her second tour with CM in 2017—added a Bohemian touch via her spirited performance of **Dvořák's Cello Concerto in B Minor**. 🍷



“One of the best Beethoven symphony performances heard in South Florida in recent seasons.”

— SOUTH FLORIDA CLASSICAL REVIEW



Classical Movements Establishes India Choral Fellowship

CM Sends First-Ever Fellow Kevin Fox to Foster India's Voices

In 2017, Classical Movements announced that distinguished singer, conductor and educator **Kevin Fox** would become our first-ever **India Choral Fellow**. Founding Artistic Director of the Grammy-winning **Pacific Boychoir Academy**, the fantastic Mr. Fox traveled to **New Delhi**, **Mumbai** and **Chennai** for a two-month engagement, working with over 1,000 singers.



With the launch of our inaugural **India Choral Fellowship**, Classical Movements seeks to stimulate the growth and foster the development of that distinctively Indian choral tradition. Working together with local partners, blending Western classical music's rich history with the ancient and vital heritage of Indian classical music, we hope to inspire a new generation of composers, conductors, clinicians and choral musicians throughout India. 🇮🇳

Cape Town Male Voice Choir, Cenestra Male Choir Sell Out South America with South African Sonorities

Longtime Clients Make Grand Debut in Argentina and Uruguay

Cape Town Male Voice Choir and Cenestra Male Choir, led by **Peter Roux** and **Themba Madlopha**, respectively, received an amazing welcomes—filling **Buenos Aires' Kirchner Cultural Centre** (the third-largest hall in the world) with their sensational South African songs. Even more astonishing, in **Montevideo**, the capital of **Uruguay**, there were just as many audience members standing as seated! The choirs, together numbering 90 men, also sang four other concerts and attended workshops where they taught South African songs and learned local songs; the highlight was working with Argentina's well-known native son, a leader in choral music worldwide, **Oscar Escalada**.

This multitude of men made time for a visit to a gaucho



ranch, taking in the bucolic landscapes on horseback. The trip took an especially festive turn when the groups attended a Candombe workshop, replete with drummers, dancers and a parade through the streets. A boat trip discovering the lifestyle



of the Tigre Delta, visits to Eva Perón's grave at Recoleta Cemetery, Pope Francis' home cathedral, the neighborhoods of **La Boca**, **Palermo** and **San Telmo**, taking in a tango show and dining on steak and Argentinean barbeque rounded out the tour of a lifetime. 🇦🇷

Stanford Symphony Orchestra Dances in Mexico, Cuba

Californians Collaborate with Cuba's Leading Dance Company

In June, CM presented four action-packed performances by the internationally acclaimed **Stanford Symphony Orchestra** during their 12-day concert tour of **Mexico** and **Cuba**. As Director **Anna Wittstruck**, herself, noted before the tour: "The Stanford Symphony aspires to be not only ambassadors for music new and old, but also conduits for cross-cultural exchange."



Proving music's power to bring countries together, Stanford's concert in **Guanajuato, Mexico** was a collaborative one, featuring a side-by-side exchange with students from **Universidad de Guanajuato's Music Department**. In the capital of **Mexico City**, the SSO accepted an official state invitation to perform inside the chambers of **Senado de la República**, the upper house of Mexico's bicameral Congress.



Upon arrival in the Cuban capital of **Havana**, Wittstruck and Stanford began rehearsing for a joint concert with **Orquesta de Cámara de La Habana** and their conductor, **Daiana García**. Also on the program was the country's most popular dance company, **Lizt Alfonso Dance Cuba**, joining for an inspired rendition of prized Cubano composer and conductor **Guido López-Gavilán's Guaguancó**. 🍷

95 Students Celebrate Prague Summer Nights' Third Season

Our third annual **Prague Summer Nights: Young Artists Music Festival** continues to grow, with 45 faculty and 18 performances. While PSN's usual home, the historic **Estates Theatre**, was under restoration, PSN headed south to the **Große Saal** of the **Mozarteum** in **Salzburg**, as well as other gorgeous venues throughout **Prague** and **Tábor**. Packing in 18 performances over 30 days, singers, instrumentalists, conductors, coaches, directors and arts administrators honed their craft while embracing all the culture the heart of Europe has to offer.

This season, PSN welcomed back opera legend **Sherrill Milnes**, who directed four productions of **Mozart's** *Le nozze di Figaro* with **Maria Zouves**, conducted



by PSN Artistic Director **John Nardolillo**. PSN 2017 also saw multiple performances of *Die Zauberflöte*, under the direction of **Joachim Schamberger** and the baton of **Arthur Fagen**.

The PSN Festival **Orchestra** accompanied the **Berliner Philharmoniker's** **Walter Seyfarth** in the **Mozart** Clarinet Concerto and the **Peabody Conservatory's** own **Amit**

Peled in the **Dvořák** Cello Concerto. New to the festival this year, the **Prague Summer Nights Vocal Academy** gave students the opportunity to understudy principal roles of their choosing, perform in opera scenes and cabaret programs and receive lessons and coachings from PSN's esteemed international faculty.

The press responded to Prague Summer Nights 2017 especially well, with Heather K. Scott of *Strings Magazine* raving, "It's also much like taking lessons within a living, breathing music-history museum. If you think it sounds both dreamy and intense, you're 100 percent correct." Meanwhile, Alejandro Martínez of *Platea Magazine* remarked, "Seen from close up, Prague Summer Nights offers its students everything to establish itself as a formative training program for young musicians." 🍷



Minnesota Youth Symphony, Nachito Herrera Cultivate CM's Cuban Connections

Manny Laureano Conducts Concerts, Exchanges Across the Pearl of the Antilles

Inspired by Classical Movements' historic tour to Cuba with the Minnesota Orchestra in 2015, Minnesota Youth Symphony Orchestra Co-Artistic Director Manny Laureano took the MYS on an eight-day tour of Cuba, performing concerts and exchanges in Havana, Camagüey, Holguín and Santiago de Cuba.



With Cuban-American pianist **Nachito Herrera** performing on every concert, this MYS tour was an exemplar of cross-cultural musical diplomacy, thanks to CM's 20 years of contacts.



As Maestro Laureano noted: "It's important to expose young people to as wide a variety of musical experiences as possible. The chance to communicate through their talents and to be changed by the talents of other young people helps them understand a world wider than their own." 🍷



Yale Symphony Orchestra Debuts in Russia with Yale Pianist Boris Berman

Toshiyuki Shimada Conducts Sold-Out Concerts in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Veliky Novgorod, Yaroslavl

Led by maestro Toshiyuki Shimada, the 70-strong **Yale Symphony Orchestra** performed a program highlighting both American and Russian composers: **Barber, Copland and Ives**, alongside **Khachaturian, Rimsky-Korsakov and Tchaikovsky**. Chair of the Piano Department at **Yale School of Music**, the **Moscow Conservatory-trained Boris Berman** joined for **Béla Bartók's** Third Piano Concerto.

Russian critics, known for their scrutiny, wrote positively of the four sold-out concerts **Classical Movements** booked over 11 days.

Sergei Bulanov of *Music Life* commended the YSO, saying, "A burning desire to make music, a sincere love for it, are the key qualities of any musician, without which genuine art is impossible. And the Yale Symphony Orchestra again and again proves a shining example of this commonplace truth."

Shimada, himself, remarked, "All the critics asked the same question: 'How can an orchestra sound so good when so many of its musicians are not music majors?'"

Of course, the students were able to squeeze in some sightseeing, too, visiting landmarks like the **Hermitage, Red Square** and **St. Basil's Cathedral**.

The treasures of the Kremlin, the palaces of the Czars, the tremendous influence of the great Russian composers were an enriching experience. In addition to Moscow and St. Petersburg, the orchestra visited the ancient towns of Novgorod and Yaroslavl not only for their rich history and fortresses, churches and wooden architecture, but also for packed concerts.

Classical Movements started back in 1992 with tours to Russia, and the country remains a dazzling experience for any visitor. 🇷🇺



In Ecuador and the Galápagos, Philadelphia Boys Choir & Chorale Explore Ecotourism and Musical Traditions

Musical Endeavors, Concert Exchanges Endear Locals and Seals Alike

In June and July, Classical Movements presented the **Philadelphia Boys Choir & Chorale** on their first-ever tour of **Ecuador**. Under the baton of Artistic Director **Jeffrey R. Smith**—distinguished alumnus of PBCC, himself—this storied 86-member ensemble performed in the Ecuadorian cities of **Quito**, **Ambato** and **Cotacachi**, as well as an exciting outdoor concert on the **Galápagos Island** of **Santa Cruz**.

Traveling with an engaging and diverse repertoire of staples of Americana, sacred works from the choral canon, beloved African-American spirituals and world music favorites,



maestro Smith and the PBCC performed with local ensembles **Cedemusica** and **El Coro Mama Virginia**.

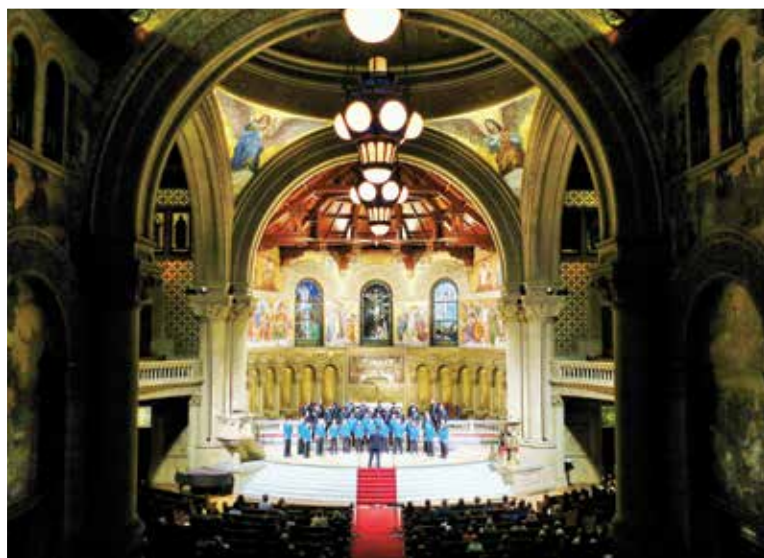
Wowed by the famed natural beauty of the area, on the Galápagos, the Philadelphians saw giant tortoises and marine iguanas. On the mainland of Ecuador, the boys hiked through the Amazon jungle, as well a cloud forest. And in **Quichua**, PBCC participated in an exchange with an indigenous community, who freely shared their music and dance traditions with the young musicians. 🐢



Escolania de Montserrat from Spain, and Gondwana Chorale from Australia Traverse the United States, Coast to Coast

Young Singers from Spain Return, Australians Arrive for the First Time

This season, Classical Movements brought two international youth choirs to the **United States** for unforgettable concert tours. The rarely-heard **Escolania de Montserrat** gave eight exquisite concerts on both coasts of the country, including the choir's very first performances in **California**. Under the baton of Music Director **Llorenç Castelló**—an alumnus of the 750-year-old Catalan choir school, himself—Escolania performed in **New Jersey, New York, Washington, D.C.** and made their long-awaited West Coast debut with two concerts in **San Francisco** and **Pasadena**. These dedicated young musicians benefited from ensembles representative of America's own tradition of young choral singing, collaborating with prestigious choruses in exchanges that left a lasting impression on musicians and audiences.



Composed of the top university-age singers from across the Australian continent, Gondwana Chorale's two weeks at the end of January marked their U.S. debut. Directed by Paul Holley and Carl Crossin, the chorale visited **Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington, D.C. Philadelphia, New York** and **Boston**, performing repertoire that is close to their hearts: new Australian works which capture the mystery and grandeur of their homeland and display the cultural diversity of the Australian people. Vibrant and energetic, this ensemble was a powerful expression of the determination of young Australians working together to create extraordinary musical experiences. 🎭

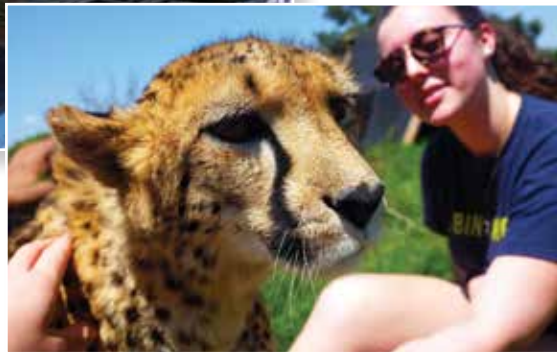
New England Choirs Expand Musical Horizons in Scandinavia, Africa

Choate Rosemary Summers in Norway and Sweden; Groton Go on Safari in South Africa

In June, Alysoun Kegel led Connecticut's Choate Rosemary Hall Chamber Chorus to the cities of Bergen, Oslo and Stockholm on a 10-day tour of Scandinavia. While in Bergen, Norway, the choir performed alongside the famous Edvard Grieg Kor. Choate Rosemary students absorbed the vast history of all their Nordic host countries, wandering around picturesque streets and visiting monuments and museums. The choir enjoyed several choral collaborations and workshops during their time, as well as the beautiful scenery of the fjords and lakes and the culture of art, music, sculpture and architecture. Money was also raised for a worldwide charity in Stockholm during their concert.



In March, the Groton School Choir, under the direction of Dan Moriarty, traveled to South Africa. Performing with local choirs in Pretoria,



Cape Town and George, as well as in evensong at the historic St. George's Cathedral, their tour concluded by singing at the wedding of their South African-born principal's son in Port Elizabeth. Offstage, the Groton students experienced much of the natural beauty of the Rainbow Nation, including trips to the beach, stays at a game lodge and, of course, a safari. The penguins and whales are just one highlight of the Cape of Good Hope. The tour gave the students an insight into South Africa's recent history of the fight against apartheid, as well as the ancient human fossils finds. The garden route's beauty is unsurpassed. Concerts were in halls, churches, schools and townships with varied audiences and lots of musical exchanges. 🐾



Oakland Chorale, Pacific Boychoir Dazzle in Central Europe

Two Choirs Discover Nine European Countries

The **Oakland Chorale**, led by **Dr. Michael A. Mitchell**, traveled to **Italy, Slovenia, Croatia and Austria** as part of their 10-day summer tour, with multiple concerts included performing a Sunday Evening Mass at **St. Mark's Basilica in Venice**. One part of the trip that was especially meaningful to the students was in **Zagreb**, where the choir stayed with host families, rather than in a hotel. This allowed both the musicians and hosts to learn more about each other during a unique cultural exchange.



In July, the **Pacific Boychoir** and **Andrew Brown** traveled to the **Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Austria**. During their two-week stay, the group performed 12 concerts in grand cathedrals, like **St. Stephen's in Budapest**, historic churches, as well as the **Czech Museum of Music**. Venues were packed to hear this 50-member, **Grammy-winning** choir. In **Košice**, thousands crowded the concert, standing wherever they could find space. The choir also participated in a fruitful exchange with the **Bratislava Boys Choir**. In their downtime, the boys were able to visit palaces, museums and Poland's famous underground salt mines. 🇵🇱



Singing Throughout North America and the Caribbean

Los Angeles Children's Chorus, Princeton Girlchoir, Children's Chorus of Washington and S.T.A.R.S Ensemble Travel from Canada to Trinidad and Tobago

One of the finest children's choruses in the United States, the **Los Angeles Children's Chorus** and Artistic Director **Anne Tomlinson** had a very active tour, even beyond their performances in **Canada**. The group hiked, kayaked and traveled across a rope bridge, just to name a few activities. LACC also took the time to learn about First Nation history and heritage in Canada. The choir sang beautifully at a festival in the small, sea-faring town of Duncan, in the beautiful, stately city of Victoria and, of course, bustling Vancouver. This truly is a beautiful part of the world.



Led by **Lynnel Joy Jenkins**, the 30-voice **Princeton Girlchoir** headed out to the "Land of Enchantment" and the "Beehive State" for a jam-packed week in the

West, visiting **Santa Fe Opera**, listening to the **Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra**, reconnecting with founding director **Jan Westrick** and just marveling at nature never seen back in New Jersey. Musical highlights included an exchange with **Coro de Cámara of Los Alamos**, workshops at **Brigham Young University**, sold-out and back-to-back collaborations at the brand-new **Eccles Theater**.

Under the direction of **Margaret Nomura Clark**, 40 members of the **Children's Chorus of Washington** based north on Interstate 95 for an extra-long, late-June weekend in the city that never sleeps. Performing everywhere from **Trinity Wall Street** to the **National September 11 Memorial & Museum**, CCW also enjoyed side-by-side concerts in Times Square, as well as a unique masterclass on showtunes from the cast of the Broadway musical *School of Rock*.



The all-professional **S.T.A.R.S. Ensemble** (Singers Taking Action Reaching Souls), which has traveled the world using their Motown sound to explore extraordinary musical cultures, traveled to



Trinidad and Tobago with CM to perform at the **Tobago Heritage Festival** and collaborate with local ensembles, including the **Bishop Anstey High School Choir** at the historic **Little Carib Theatre** in Trinidad. The authentically Caribbean, vibrant island of Trinidad and the scenic vistas of Tobago made for a unique visit. Forests, flowers and beaches provided a stunning backdrop for the Friday markets, the famous music of the limbo, steel pans and dancing. Churches and Hindu temples dot the cities, and the food is a great mix of African, Indian and Caribbean influences. 🍷



Press

Classical Movements Practices 24-hour Music Diplomacy

Shirley Ruhe, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* | September 7, 2017

CSO makes major debuts in United Kingdom to rave reviews

Janelle Gelfand, *Cincinnati Enquirer* | August 31, 2017

“While Americans are celebrating Labor Day on Monday, several CSO musicians will be playing a free concert for refugees in Utrecht, The Netherlands...The event is being presented by **Classical Movements**, the U.S. tour company that made the orchestra’s travel arrangements. Said the company’s president Neeta Helms, ‘Together with the CSO, we are honored to be able to offer these refugees the sound of hope during a time of discord.’”

Prague Summer Nights Festival Introduces Students to the Rigors of a Professional Musician’s Life

Heather K. Scott, *Strings Magazine* | August 2, 2017



Music is a universal language. It doesn’t sound the way you think.

Anne Midgett, *Washington Post* | July 4, 2017

Prague Summer Nights 2017 Review – Die Zauberflöte: An Energetic Evening Filled With Promising New Voices

Francisco Salazar, *Operawire* | July 2, 2017

‘Everybody has a voice’: Festival finds the universal in choirs

Agence France-Presse | June 29, 2017



Serenade festival celebrates JFK centennial by bringing together choral groups from around the world

Tim Smith, *Baltimore Sun* | June 23, 2017

Inside the NSO’s grand return to Russia

Anne Midgett, *Washington Post* | April 7, 2017

“This was the 30th NSO tour led by the Alexandria-based company **Classical Movements**, which specializes in tours for orchestras and choruses. The two full-time staffers it sent to Russia were fully occupied with travel logistics. What do you do when most of the orchestra’s luggage fails to make a tight plane connection and the authorities insist all the musicians have to come out to the airport, with their passports, to claim their bags?”

Meet the woman who is driving a new era of choral music in India

Adila Matra, *India Today* | March 22, 2017

Stranded Syrian Composer Lands Washington Job

Norman Lebrecht, *Slipped Disc* | March 1, 2017

Back from Spain, SLSO looks back on a successful tour

Sarah Bryan Miller, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* | February 25, 2017

“Notable among those vendors was **Classical Movements**, a company that plans and runs tours for orchestras and choirs. It’s an impressive outfit, in charge of the Minnesota Orchestra’s historic tour of Cuba last year; it also runs music festivals in places ranging from Washington, D.C., to South Africa, giving to local communities as well as helping musical ensembles.”





- 1: Charles Dance meets Joshua Bell backstage at Edinburgh Fest
- 2: Neeta Helms – CM Founder, President...Co-Pilot?
- 3: Serenade! Choral Fest audience breaks out the conga line at Patterson Park
- 4: Los Angeles Children's Chorus singers kayaking in Canada
- 5: Cutest concert promoters you've ever seen in Ecuador
- 6: Louis Langrée takes in the view atop the Great Wall of China
- 7: A scenic Canadian gondola lift
- 8: Brothers-in-law Gil Shaham and David Robertson in St. Louis
- 9: Trinity Church on the Green before Evensong in England
- 10: Escolania de Montserrat at the Met's Cloisters Museum in NYC





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“A thriving, for-profit concert tour company—yet imbued with the heart and soul of a non-profit—since their founding in 1992, **Classical Movements** has been incorporating elements of cultural diplomacy into most of the 200 concerts on 60 tours they produce each season. Organizing clients like the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's participation in cultural diplomacy, **Classical Movements** remains responsible corporate citizens through their own kind of donations, exchanges, education and service.” – *Yahoo! Finance* 🐼

