



Moving the Music, Changing the World

145 Countries | Orchestras | Choirs | Festivals | New Music | Cultural Diplomacy

CLASSICAL MOVEMENTS PRESENTS TWO MAJOR AMERICAN ENSEMBLES ON TWO SOUTH AFRICA TOURS

**Minnesota Orchestra Brass Quintet | August 2022 &
Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra Quintet | September 2022**

**6 Concerts each in: Pretoria – Johannesburg – Potchefstroom – Cape Town –
Stellenbosch – Bonteheuwel**

**Both Tours include several exchanges, masterclasses, workshops and
collaborations**

Alexandria, VA; July 25th 2022

Classical Movements has been **working in South Africa since 1994**, and in that time has taken **over 75 ensembles from all over the world** on concert tours to the Rainbow Nation. Since 1999 we have been presenting the annual *Ihlombe! South African Choral Festival* across the country, and we are the same company that brought the Minnesota Orchestra, as the first professional US Orchestra to tour to Africa, on their groundbreaking tour to South Africa in 2018. We are proud to announce two ensembles from renowned American institutions that we are bringing to South Africa this August and September. The musicians of the Minnesota Orchestra Brass Quintet will be returning after their **tremendously successful tour with the full orchestra in 2018**, and the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra Quintet will be performing in South Africa for the first time!

Our goal for these tours is – as always – to **bring the best American music and musicians to countries around the world**, and have **meaningful collaborations** and **rich engagement with local cultures**. It is also of course a reflection of our deep and long commitment to South Africa.

Classical Movements takes on a multi-faceted role in this, and is **acting as the impresario** for both of these tours – paying all expenses from airfare, accommodation and meals over local transportation and rentals to venue fees and marketing costs – thereby underlining the **dedication to the project and the value of this opportunity** to local audiences and students as well as the American groups.

Beyond the concerts that they will play in different cities, another focal point of these projects will be **masterclasses and workshops with local students** and organizing **free community concerts** in addition to the bigger concert venues we will be presenting the groups at. The musicians will be working with the University of South Africa (Pretoria), North-West University (Potchefstroom), the University of Stellenbosch, the University of Pretoria, University of Cape Town, Cape Town Concert Brass, St. Stithians Boys' College, multiple wind bands in the Western Cape, and a brass ensemble in Soweto, with many other exciting collaborations in the works. Furthermore, we will be offering **highly discounted student tickets** for many of the performances to make it as accessible as possible to see these American musicians perform live.

Special thanks go to our partners: Richard Cock Enterprises, the Johannesburg Musical Society, the University of South Africa, the North-West University, Herman van Niekerk, and Louise Howlett.



Concert Dates:

Minnesota Orchestra Brass Quintet:

- Thursday, August 11, 7:00PM | ZK Matthews Hall | Pretoria | in collaboration with the University of South Africa (UNISA)
- Friday, August 12, 7:00PM | North-West University (NWU) | Potchefstroom | in collaboration with the North-West University
- Sunday, August 14, 3:00PM | Linder Auditorium | Johannesburg | co-presented by the Johannesburg Musical Society (JMS)
- Thursday, August 18, 7:00PM | Groote Kerk | Cape Town | concert opens with Cape Town Concert Brass
- Friday, August 19, 6:00PM | Church of the Resurrection | Bonteheuwel | concert featuring two local choirs | free
- Saturday, August 20, 7:00PM | Moederkerk | Stellenbosch

Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra Quintet:

- Thursday, September 15, 7:00PM | Miederpark Gemeente | Potchefstroom
- Saturday, September 17, 7:00PM | ZK Matthews Hall | Pretoria | in collaboration with the University of South Africa (UNISA)
- Sunday, September 18, 3:00PM | Linder Auditorium | Johannesburg
- Tuesday, September 20, 7:00PM | Groote Kerk | Cape Town
- Thursday, September 22, 6:00PM | Church of the Resurrection | Bonteheuwel | featuring two local choirs | free
- Saturday, September 24, 7:00PM | Moederkerk | Stellenbosch

More information and tickets are available here:

<https://www.classicalmovements.com/chamber-ensembles-south-africa-tour/>

Tickets are sold via Quicket (except for the concerts at the Linder Auditorium which are sold via Computicket).

Repertoire:

The Minnesota Orchestra Brass Quintet will present an eclectic, entertaining, and virtuosic program featuring songs of joy from around the world inspired by dance rhythms of many cultures. The program will include the music of **Leonard Bernstein, George Gershwin, Duke Ellington, Astor Piazzolla, and Paquito D' Rivera** as well as **African American spirituals**, and **brand new works by award winning composer Jack Stamp**.

The Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra Quintet's touring program showcases compositions from America as well as beloved international pieces with a special focus on ballets and operas. Their repertoire includes selections from **William Grant Still, Claude Debussy, Astor Piazzolla, Maurice Ravel, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** as well as **George Gershwin**.

Comments about the upcoming tours:

“Following in the footsteps of the Minnesota Orchestra which was a project we planned for two and a half years, despite tremendous uncertainty in the world, we found it was really important to continue our efforts to bring the highest level of American instrumentalists to South Africa.” – Neeta Helms, president of Classical Movements

“I know South African audiences are going to be delighted with these world-class quintets. As a South African living in the United States it is my great joy to share such special music with my fellow citizens.” – Johan van Zyl, senior vice president of Classical Movements

Please read the musicians’ statements in the respective sections below.

About the Minnesota Orchestra Brass Quintet:



(from left to right and top to bottom: Douglas C. Carlsen, R. Douglas Wright, Michael Gast, Steven Campbell, Charles Lazarus)

Established in 1903, the Minnesota Orchestra is a Grammy Award-winning orchestra known for acclaimed performances in its home state and around the world, a storied history of recordings and radio broadcasts, and innovative educational engagement programs. The orchestra performs a wide variety of music including nearly 175 concerts in a typical year, primarily at Orchestra Hall in downtown Minneapolis, its home since 1974. They also tour regularly throughout Minnesota, nationally and abroad. The quintet has played together for 15 years and has performed together and individually in every US state and throughout Europe, Asia, Australia, South America, and Africa. They have performed in major concert venues worldwide and with all of the leading US



orchestras including the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Boston Symphony, LA Philharmonic, and Chicago Symphony.

"We are so excited about our upcoming tour to South Africa presenting concerts of great brass music, doing workshops with students, and working with local musicians. South African audiences are the best because of the incredible enthusiasm and the fact that music is such an engrained part of the cultural fabric of South Africa.

When we present concerts in South Africa we always feel like it's a collaborative experience and the audience is really with us. We are thrilled to be playing an eclectic mix of music that includes the works of Bach, Bernstein, Ellington, Gershwin, and Mexican songwriter Consuelo Velasquez. We also have some brand new works written for us by composer Jack Stamp just for this tour and our exciting new brass versions of *Grazing in the Grass* and *Pata Pata* as a tribute iconic south African musicians Hugh Masekela and Miriam Makeba. We're looking forward to it and hope to see you there!" – Minnesota Orchestra Brass Quintet

About the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra Quintet:



(from left to right: Kayla Moffett, Erika Gray, Amy Frost Baumgarten, Adria Sternstein Foster, Susan Robinson)

Established in 1978, The Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra is the resident orchestra of the beautiful Opera House of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. It is the only orchestra in the country dedicated solely to the performance of three musical genres: opera, ballet and musical theater.

"We're looking forward to sharing our favorite repertoire for this unique combination of instruments with South African audiences. Educational and cultural exchange is so important, as music is a universal language. We can't wait to meet and work with the young musicians of South Africa!



What's great about our ensemble is that audiences will hear the full quintet play larger works like Debussy's *Afternoon of a Faun* that shows off our range of orchestral colors, as well as hear each individual instrument shine in more intimate solo works. As colleagues in the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra we are looking forward to sharing some of our favorite operatic highlights on each program. We are excited to share works by America's most celebrated African American composer, William Grant Still as well as works by American female composers Rebecca Clark and Caroline Shaw.

None of us has ever been to the African continent. We're so excited to experience South African culture and are sure we are going to be amazed by the incredible natural beauty and landscape." – Adria Foster (flutist with the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra Quintet)

~

"A few years back I was playing Kurt Weill's "Lost in the Stars" at the Kennedy Center, an adaption of the novel "Cry, the Beloved Country." In preparation for opera, I read the wrenching and complicated novel by Paton, but I confess that I was disappointed that the score didn't seem to capture anything authentically South African. By coincidence, in the middle of the run, I was texted a video from a friend who was living in Johannesburg at the time—her husband was in the diplomatic corps. It was her daughter's sixth birthday, and the video showed Embassy staff bearing a birthday cake, and joyfully singing in those iconic harmonies popularized by Ladysmith Black Mambazo. It was so beautiful, so real, that it immediately brought tears to my eyes. It was exactly what I had been missing.

Visiting South Africa has long been a dream of mine, and I still can't quite believe that this dream will be realized! I'm so grateful for the opportunity to visit this astonishing country, to drink in its beautiful scenery and culture, all while sharing music that is so dear to me, with dear friends." – Susan Robinson (harpist with the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra Quintet)

ABOUT CLASSICAL MOVEMENTS:

Moving the Music, Changing the World

The premier concert tour company for the world's great [orchestras](#) and [choirs](#), Classical Movements creates meaningful cultural experiences through music in [145 countries](#). An industry leader for over a [quarter-century](#), Classical Movements organizes more than 60 tours every year, producing some 200 concerts every season. Producer of two international choral festivals—[Ihlombe!](#) in South Africa and [Serenade!](#) in Washington, D.C.—and the [Prague Summer Nights: Young Artists Music Festival](#), in addition, Classical Movements' [Eric Daniel Helms New Music Program](#) has commissioned over 97 works from Grammy, Oscar and Pulitzer Prize-winning composers. Winner of Americans for the Arts' BCA10: Best Businesses Partnering with the Arts Award, since its founding in 1992, as a truly global company, Classical Movements remains committed to facilitating [cultural diplomacy](#) across the world—promoting peace through the medium of music.

PRESS CONTACT:

Jayci Thomas

Director of Marketing

+1 (703) 683-6040, ext. 217

Jayci@ClassicalMovements.com