

INSIDE

2 Anima – Young Singers of Greater Chicago

3 Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra

4 University of Washington Husky Marching Band

4 University of Saskatchewan Greystone Singers

6 Homestead High School Kammerchor

7 Tours Around the World

8 Reno Tahoe Choral Ambassadors

9 The Davidson Chorale

10 ACFEA Staff News

11 North America Staff

12 Fresno Pacific University Concert Choir

“The Best Tour I Have Ever Taken”



Edie Copley, director of Northern Arizona University's Shrine of the Ages Choir and the Master Chorale of Flagstaff, wrote this appreciation of their May, 2010 tour of South Africa.

We really had a great trip!

The concerts were very good. The joint performance with the University of Pretoria's Tuks Camerata in its chapel was a wonderful way to start. After our first piece, a psalm setting in Afrikaans, the place erupted in applause. After that, the Shrine students relaxed and sang the rest of the concert surrounded by that sense of loving support.

By the end of the concert everyone was up and dancing. Our courier Johann said he did not remember a visiting choir ever singing in Afrikaans before us.



The workshop with an African conductor, Michael Dingaan,

Northern Arizona . continued on page 2

Northern Arizona University's Shrine of the Ages Choir and the Master Chorale of Flagstaff at the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa



Columbia Choirs perform at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod in Wales

Columbia Choirs Sing in Wales and England

When Steve Stevens, Founder and Artistic Director of the Columbia Choirs of Metropolitan Seattle, and Columbia's board started thinking about a 2010 tour, they had a lot to consider. As a choir that has toured annually for more than 20 years, Columbia has been all over the world having many wonderful tour experiences. After looking at options for tours to several different parts of the world, the decision was made to



tour England and then revisit a favorite festival, the Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod in northern Wales. "I never get tired of England," said Steve, "and Llangollen is unique. The standards are high and the venue is wonderful. The tent used for the competition seats over 4,000 people! It has

Columbia Choirs . continued on page 5



Touring Spain & Morocco is a Life Changer for Young Singers

by Lauren Klapatch, age 15, Anima – Young Singers of Greater Chicago

The tour to Spain and Morocco was a spectacular experience that has changed the way I think about the world. Through music, I have been immersed in two cultures that I knew next to nothing about. Music is powerful: it



brings people of different cultures together by celebrating the things that are the same in all of us. That is one of the many reasons why our concerts were my favorite part of the tour. I especially enjoyed our concert in Cyber Park in Marrakech. This concert wasn't formal by any means; it was simply an exchange of music and dance. At the end, we all ended up singing together. It really hit me at that moment that, even though we sing different songs, have different religions, and live in completely different parts of the world, we all have essentially the same hearts and spirits.

Beauty also seems to transcend cultures. The first time I set foot on the streets of Seville, I was blown away by the splendor and significance of it all. Spain is a country rich with history, and all of the architecture speaks of it. Walking through the streets, I felt as though I was in another time, not just another place. The beauty of the old cities in Spain was incredible. I couldn't take enough pictures. There are so many different influences from numerous cultures. Even the hills covered with

sunflowers or groves of olive trees took my breath away. The steep, winding road through foothills in Marrakech was a stunning route, if a little unnerving. Although, even that was a great experience.

There were so many little things about the tour that I really enjoyed, such as singing in the ornate Spanish



Anima performs in the Basilica de Nuestra Señora de las Augustias in Granada, Spain

cathedrals, getting to speak to the Spanish people in their native language and laughing with my

Northern Arizona . continued from page 1

was great. He was inspiring and enthusiastic. The students loved working with him, and we learned four new songs. We sang two of the pieces that night with his chamber choir. In the evening concert, one of his basses sang *O Isis* from Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. In the transition between the verses, many of the NAU students who performed *Magic Flute* this spring spontaneously came in with the chorus part while sitting back in the church. It surprised Michael, his choir, and the audience – and me! It was great. There were many tears in the church when we sang Craig Hella Johnson's arrangement of *Hard Times Come Again No More*. Our South African pieces and American spiritual once again had everyone up and dancing.

The University of Stellenbosch

venue in Endler Hall was stunning: a beautiful space all in wood with a tracker organ on stage. This was to be an informal exchange with the choir since it was their finals week,



NAU students greet locals after a service participation at Philadelphia Ministries near Sun City, South Africa

yet when we walked into the concert hall the entire space – 800 seats – was filled. It was by far the best acoustical venue of the tour, and both choirs sang well: you could see the genuine

mutual respect for one another. We also had a fantastic time after the concert at dinner with all the Stellenbosch students. Our Sunday service at the Philadelphia Ministries near Sun City was a great experience, too. We danced and sang with them. We performed our two spirituals and an African prayer that Michael Dinga had taught us. At the end of the service, they requested we sing them all again! The sermon was 'You are a gift.' The students will never forget it.

Our sunrise and sunset game drives in Pilanesberg Game Reserve were incredible. Everyone in our little jeep saw all of the Big Five except African buffalo – we even saw lion and leopard! Pieter (our other courier) has been coming to Pilanesberg for years and had never seen leopard there – he couldn't believe it.

The trip to the Cape of Good Hope was breathtaking. Lots of animals to see along the way. Great views of the ocean and a boat ride out to see the seals and later in the day in Simon's Town to see the penguins.

Every day was sunshine. It never rained once. No matter where we went, it was gorgeous weather.

friends about the strangest things. I have a better understanding of Muslim people now from getting to meet some of the children personally. My friendships have been strengthened and my vision to be fluent in Spanish has been renewed. I would not change anything that I experienced on the tour, even the challenging bits, because it has made me a stronger and better person. Most of all, music made this tour so special for me. Without music, I would not have made many of my good friends or have had one of the best trips I will ever take. 📺

"In the course of two weeks' time we sang our hearts out; reveled in new sights, sounds, and tastes; learned a great deal; made many new friends, and celebrated our common humanity with people a world away."

Emily Ellsworth, Director, Anima – Young Singers of Greater Chicago

The upgraded hotel in Cape Town was fantastic. All the rooms were suites and they overlooked the ocean! The NAU students ran around like five-year-olds at Disneyland as soon as they saw their rooms.

The food was plentiful and excellent. Carnivore, on the first night of the tour, set the tone of the whole trip and everyone ate until they could eat no more. A very festive place. My favorite meat was crocodile. We also loved the Africa Café the last night of the tour and the complimentary champagne provided by ACFEA at the top of Signal Hill overlooking Cape Town. The bus driver told me that he could not remember a Fall night that was that warm with no wind. We were all in short sleeves watching the half moon shine on the ocean with not a cloud in the sky and no wind. It was amazing. Some of the seniors gave their 'senior speeches' and we sang together one last time.

Thanks to Hugh Davies and everyone at ACFEA. Our tour to South Africa was a life-changing experience that the students will never forget – and was the best tour I have ever taken in my life.

Where should we go next? 📺

PACO Triumphs in Turkey

The Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra (Benjamin Simon, conductor) has now been added to the growing list of groups that have discovered the wonder, charm and rewards of Turkey. A land of many contrasts, being both in Asia and Europe, being constitutionally secular but with a large Muslim majority, and having every modern convenience as well as a superbly well preserved past, Turkey is truly several worlds in one country.



To quote Ben: *Turkey might have seemed like a random destination, but it was based on lots of research and many conversations I had with ACFEA people and other music directors who had brought their*

PACO's most unusual and impressive concert program consisted of William Grant Still's *Danzas de Panama*, Gabriella Smith's *Lights, Fog, Winds, Grasses* (a world première commissioned by PACO as part of their Youth-for-Youth project), two selections from Astor Piazzolla's *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires* and, most exciting of all for the enthralled Turkish audiences, Ney Rosauero's sizzling Marimba Concerto, played magnificently by Chris Froh. A book should be written about the challenges faced in providing a marimba for Chris to play, but the therapists of ACFEA's London and Ankara staff say that the saga is best forgotten...



PACO in front of Hagia Irene in Istanbul, Turkey

orchestras/ensembles there. I was pretty confident it would be an outstanding trip, but I also have to say that ACFEA really outdid themselves in the planning and follow-through for this tour. I would say it was close to a miracle how smoothly everything went, considering the occasional glimpses we all got into the Turkish bureaucracy and the language barriers.

The group started in the capital, Ankara, where its first performance was in one of the many excellent concert halls found in Turkey. From there the group traveled southwest to Denizli, best known as the base from which to visit Pamukkale, whose amazing geological formations are made from travertine, a sedimentary rock deposited by water from the hot springs. After a day spent at this impressive site, PACO gave its second concert in the Pamukkale University Concert Hall.

Next was İzmir, a beautiful city on the Aegean Sea. A performance in another magnificent concert hall was preceded by one of the highlights of any visit to Turkey, a tour of Ephesus. This Ancient Roman city, the second largest in the world in the 1st century BC with a population of 250,000, has many notable structures; however, PACO was 1,609 years too late to see the Temple of Artemis, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, destroyed

by St. John Chrysostom in 401 after almost 1,000 years.

Istanbul is on many people's lists of favorite cities, and it is surely now on those of many PACO participants. With its spectacular setting, straddling the Bosphorus (and, thereby, Asia and Europe), magnificent monuments, pulsating atmosphere and friendly people, Istanbul ranks comfortably with other world-class cities such as London, Paris, St. Petersburg, Sydney and Cape Town. PACO made the most of every second it had there, with lots of sightseeing, a dinner cruise on the Bosphorus and a concert in Hagia Irene, a converted 4th-century church that forms part of the Topkapı Palace. This concert opened the Istanbul International Youth Orchestra Festival, and was a suitably prestigious event to end PACO's first bicontinental tour. 📺

Husky Marching Band Tour Includes Multiple Military Tattoos

An interview with Brad McDavid, Director of Athletic Bands, University of Washington

What made you choose France, Switzerland and Italy as the destinations you toured to?

We started these international performance tours back in '98 and have since taken our Varsity-Alumni Band to the South Pacific, China, Japan and Scandinavia, so Europe just seemed like the logical choice for our next excursion. But it was ACFEA and their Michael Steinman's selling



will undoubtedly be the highlight for all of us who participated in the tour.

What are the challenges and rewards of arranging a tour for a large group and how did ACFEA assist you?

Arranging a trip for a large marching band is definitely both rewarding as well as challenging, but ACFEA helped lower the challenges and those potential last minute surprises that we as directors always dread thanks to their highly professional and seasoned staff. From the initial site inspection, to their assistance in building the itinerary to the quality of the tour guides, ACFEA helped make this trip everything I wanted it to be for our students and alumni.

What advice would you give to other band directors looking for a similar tour experience?

First off, performing in military tattoos may not be for all bands. It's a taxing rehearsal and performance schedule. But for those who want a completely unique and rewarding experience for their bands, I cannot emphasize it enough!

What are the future touring plans for the Husky Marching Band?

This concept of tattoos has opened up a whole different realm of potential tour opportunities for us. I love that fact that all the work that our band puts into preparing for

such an undertaking will be genuinely appreciated by the literally thousands of people who attend the tattoos. Our members left the tour having been treated like rock stars and that, along with the opportunity to share performances with incredible musicians from around the world, will undoubtedly have me looking seriously at other similar events for our next tour. 📍



The Husky Marching Band performs at the Ducal Palace as part of the Modena Tattoo in Italy



Performing in Piazza Roma in Modena

pitch on our potential participation in a military tattoo that absolutely sold me on the idea.

What were the highlights of this tour for you?

Of course performing alongside national military bands as part of well established military band festivals or tattoos was an enormously huge honor for us, but the chance to perform for large, enthusiastic audiences who were truly 'band fans'

Greystone Singers Take a Remarkable Tour of China

by Gerald Langner, Director

The University of Saskatchewan Greystone Singers concert tour of China was an amazing experience and a significant life event for us all. China is a remarkable, ancient country and there is an immediate and palpable sense of six thousand years of civilization, culture and tradition. This was going to be quite an experience for the vast majority of our choir – some of whom had never been outside Canada.



We started our tour in Shanghai where we had a very successful first concert in the Shanghai Little Companion Theater. The reaction of the local audience is somewhat different than what we are accustomed to at home: rather than listening quietly, there tends to be a general buzz of conversation during the performance, where people are politely commenting on the performance and interacting with their neighbors. Their applause, however, was familiar and most enthusiastic after our renditions of three Chinese folk songs sung in Mandarin.

The next leg of our tour took us on a flight to Xi'an, the city of Western Peace. It was the capital city and seat of power for imperial China for over a thousand years. After an afternoon spent riding bicycles on the top of the city wall, we had our first exchange with one of the University of Saskatchewan's sister institutions, Xi'an Jiaotong Technical University. We sang a spiritual for them, which they loved, and then they had one of their sopranos sing

a traditional Chinese folk song using some really amazing embellishments. She just beamed. Even though we couldn't understand the language, we certainly understood the medium. The exchange was followed by a wonderful concert that included a group of XJTU students performing on traditional Chinese folk instruments.

It was quickly apparent that even though we were from cultures half a world apart, we formed a bond with each other through music; and



Greystone Singers with XJTU choir and orchestra in the XJTU auditorium in Xi'an, China



we saw firsthand how basic human emotion is conveyed through choral singing. They are students just like us and they respond to music and expression the same way we do.

To begin the final leg of our tour, we took an overnight train from Xi'an to Beijing.

After a late breakfast at the hotel, we visited Tiananmen Square, the Imperial Palace and the Forbidden City, and then got ready for our second exchange, this time with the Beijing Institute of Technology Choir. Their choir was a well balanced, auditioned group, and they sang with wonderful energy and emotion. Here, our choirs sang two pieces combined. Their concert set came with a few surprises: we had never heard Brahms sung in Chinese!

Our final concert, and a fitting conclusion to our performances in China, was in the Concert Hall of the Central Conservatory of Music, a historic building with a large stage and nine-foot Steinway. This audience was appreciative, knowledgeable,

and much quieter and more subdued – more 'Western' – during our singing; however, they provided hearty applause after it.

What made our tour so memorable was sharing a choral experience with a group of such talented musicians with whom we were musically united but yet enfolding a wide variety of academic backgrounds and pursuits. Being able to see this unity and variety in action through choral singing and to be able to transcend culture to connect with our student counterparts in our exchanges with our sister schools was so extremely rewarding. Combining these musical experiences with the camaraderie, education and wonder of travel was life-changing.

As for what our Greystones have brought from China, my hope is that we all experience a unification through music – and choral music in particular – to transcend race, culture, and distance in a new age of concord and harmony. This has been a tremendous musical event for us – a life experience that will be part of us forever. 🇨🇳

Columbia Choirs . continued from page 1

been so much fun watching the transformation of this event over the last 30 years."

Even though this was not Columbia's first tour of England, there was plenty that was new to this particular group of singers. They had fun visiting historic sites like Windsor Castle, hunting for Harry Potter sights in Oxford and seeing all of London from atop the London Eye. The concerts, however, were the highlights of the tour. After a joint concert with the boys of the Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School in London, the choir went off to Oxford where it performed a solo concert in the Parish Church of St. Michael at the North Gate.

Columbia's last stop before the Eisteddfod was in Bath where the singers had the pleasure of joining up with the Circuit 16 Youth Choir. On July 4th, to help Columbia celebrate Independence Day, Circuit 16 hosted a wonderful party in a club in Bristol

built in a series of old railway tunnels. The singers all had fun dancing and getting to know each other before their concert the next night in St. Mary the Virgin Church.

Llangollen, was, of course, the ultimate destination of the tour. Along with all the festival events like the parade and the opening ceremony, the competition has a very fun-loving atmosphere with performers asked to wear folk or national costume throughout the duration of the competition, both onstage and off. Columbia had the opportunity to hear numerous choirs from around the world. This year's Eisteddfod included groups from more than 30 countries, including Algeria, Argentina, Barbados, Ghana, India, Singapore and Ukraine in addition to choirs from the US and the United Kingdom. In the end, Columbia performed very well and finished in fourth place out of 23 groups in the children's choir category.

When asked what advice he had for other choir directors contemplating a tour, Steve provided the following: "First, look at all the musical opportunities and educational benefits of a particular tour. Consider what it is your group is looking for and what a destination has to offer. Second, weigh the cost with the benefits. The rest of the tour experience, ACFEA will take care of." 🇨🇳

"I believe that ACFEA sets the gold standard for performing arts tours. Greenwich Academy has had the good fortune to do seven tours with ACFEA, beginning in 1995, and this year's tour to Italy and Austria was another resounding success."

Beth Raaen, Director and Performing Arts Chair, Greenwich Academy

Excerpts from Homestead High School Tour Blog

Blogs aren't just for celebrity gossip and funny videos of puppies anymore! Every year, more and more of our traveling groups turn to the flexibility, ease and versatility of blogging software to communicate with their families back home.

One such group is Kammerchor, a choir from Homestead High School in Mequon, Wisconsin. The choir, directed by Rebecca Winnie, toured Germany and Austria in July, 2010, and set up a blog to chronicle the experience.



Rebecca actually started the blog well before the tour began, allowing her to use it for an information hub for announcements. As the tour went along, she and members of the group posted their thoughts and experiences, or even just a quick news update ("We've arrived safely!"). The fun didn't stop when the group arrived home: the blog is now a virtual scrapbook, full of photos and memories.

Here are some written selections and photos from Kammerchor's tour blog. 📖

They were just another group of young tourists among many others that morning at the Abbey in Melk – the place itself called an offering – Stift Melk. The cathedral was at the end of an abbey tour that had gleamed with ancient treasures including a splinter from the cross where Jesus was crucified, and a library lined floor to breathtakingly-muralled



Kammerchor performs at the Thomaskirche in Leipzig. The choir is standing in front of the tombstone of J.S. Bach.



ceiling with too many ancient volumes to read in a lifetime. They entered the cathedral respectfully and took their place among the other tourists, snapping pictures and murmuring quietly about the incredible beauty around them. Then suddenly they merged and formed a choir, stepping quietly forward as one voice rang out in song. As the others blended their voices in, there was a gradual yet increasingly powerful aura that enveloped everyone in the cathedral. The music grew full and lush and filled the cathedral, drawing out the echoes of voices raised in praise for more than a thousand years. The crescendos of the music dived deeply into the core of every soul in the church, and many, many wept. And then just as suddenly it was over, and the singers silently dispersed, becoming invisible once more among the stunned tourists in the cathedral. The voice of divinity – the music – had touched every soul in a way that changed them forever. Kammerchor joined the history of the place, and of music itself, in an indelible way. The music that they made there echoed its way out behind us as we moved on – and yet a part of us will linger in that moment, in that holy place, forever.



Kammerchor performed a benefit concert for the Nikolaikirche in the tiny city of Wettin. The church was a ruin, and is undergoing restoration.



The choir performed in the Stephansdom (St. Stephen's Cathedral) in central Vienna. They drew their biggest crowd there, as people heard the music and wandered into the church. It was a gorgeous setting on a beautiful summer evening.



Kammerchor emerges from the Salt Mine near Salzburg, equipped with mini salt shakers and slide stories.



Posters were up around town promoting the concert.

Touring Around the World

ITALY

Fullerton University Singers performs in the Chiesa Santa Maria Trastevere in Rome



Photo courtesy of Bob Minor

ENGLAND

St. Martin's Episcopal Church Choir in Canterbury Cathedral



RUSSIA

Puyallup High School Choir in front of St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow



Reno Tahoe Choral Ambassadors Tour China

Three groups from Reno, Nevada combined as the Reno Tahoe Choral Ambassadors to tour China, participate in the World Choir Games in Shaoxing and promote the American International Choral Festival to be held in Reno May 4 to 8, 2011. The three groups were the McQueen High School Jazz Choir, Bella Voce and the Sierra Nevada Children's Choir. Here are reports on the tour by each of the directors.

McQueen High School Jazz Choir

by Maribeth Bert,
Director

Representing our school, our city and our nation on a concert tour of China was like nothing I could have ever imagined!

Our ACEA tour guides were so great as they led us through every detail of the trip. We never worried about logistics at all, and were able to relax and enjoy the tour. Every day held new adventures and sights to discover as we explored this wonderfully different world.

We began our tour in Beijing with a fabulous concert at the beautiful Central Conservatory. The crowd was so responsive as they sang along to Kerry Marsh's a cappella arrangements of Scarborough Fair and King

Of Pop, a Michael Jackson medley commissioned for the tour. Sightseeing in Beijing started with Tiananmen Square and the Imperial Palace in the Forbidden City, continued with a visit to a jade factory and ended with climbing the Great Wall. Certainly, more than enough for any tour, but that was just the first city!

We then made our way by overnight train to Xi'an where we visited the Terra Cotta Warriors Museum. The next day took us on a jolly bike ride around

the city wall where we were able to stop and take pictures on our cute tandem bikes. We laughed and sang the entire time! At the end of the ride our guides had set up an impromptu awards ceremony with prizes for the first kids to complete the ride. We did the ceremony like the Olympics with 'medals' (name lanyards and ice cream) after which we sang *The Star Spangled Banner*, a cappella, in 10-part harmony.

Next we were off by China Eastern Airlines to the famous lake city of Hangzhou where we sang in the gorgeous Zhejiang Concert Hall. After another successful concert we explored the very spiritual bamboo forest during a tropical rainstorm. The forest came alive in the rain as exotic birds and monkeys frolicked and sang above our heads. It was truly amazing. Other outings included a relaxing boat ride on the famous West Lake and a tour of a tea village where we learned the healing qualities of green tea.

The next leg of our adventure took us to the Interkultur World Choir Games in Shaoxing. There we served as a festival choir and were able to have an adjudication concert with a panel of international judges. We also were invited to perform in one of the festival gala concerts, to a very exuberant

audience who treated us like celebrities. At the festival we met singers from all over the world: Russia, Iran, Kazakhstan, South Africa, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia, Italy, Sweden, Germany, Mongolia, China, and even California. It was so incredible to sing next to people from countries where there has been conflict, and communicate on a totally musical and spiritual level.

Our final destination on this incredible journey was the mystical city of Shanghai. The unique and beautiful skyline is a combination of edgy

modern art and traditional European architecture. It was definitely the most picturesque city on the tour, and the host of our most memorable concert. We were proud to have finished such a successful tour, and yet so sad to see it end. The memories and life-changing insights that we all experienced are almost more than words can describe.

Hugh Davies and his staff took such great care of us all through every step of this process. Accommodations were first-rate, the food was delicious, transportation was comfortable and reliable, and the willingness to help was unparalleled. From the very first phone conversation talking about the possibilities of this venture to the teary farewell in the Shanghai airport, Hugh and his team made it all happen in grand style. Thank you to our wonderful team: Tony, Michael, Cecelia, May and of course Hugh. I can't wait to plan our next trip with you!

Sierra Nevada Children's Choir

by Sue Goodenow, Director

It's difficult to know where to begin in writing about a trip filled with superlatives! The Sierra Nevada Children's Choir 2010 Tour of China and the World Choir Games far exceeded our expectations and provided us with



Sierra Nevada Children's Choir at the World Choir Games in Shaoxing, China

wonderful memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. SNCC was founded in 2006, and we planned to take our first trip in 2011. When Reno suddenly became host for the American International Choral Festival, to be held in May, 2011, our plans changed and we bravely (naïvely?) began planning for a two-week concert tour of China to promote the Reno festival.



McQueen High School Jazz Choir in Shanghai, China

Our tour included concerts in Beijing, Hangzhou, Shaoxing and Shanghai. In each of these cities the audiences were warm and receptive, and the interaction with the children after each concert was heart-warming. We often felt like celebrities as we arrived in our tour bus, took pictures with Chinese people who were fascinated with us, sang in beautiful concert halls, then more pictures and flowers. No matter what our preconceived ideas about China may have been, we all went home feeling that the people in this vast country were the friendliest that we had ever encountered!

Bella Voce

by Jennifer Tibben, Director

Bella Voce's trip to China was a thrill, better than any of us ever could have dreamed! The highlight of the trip was ...well, there wasn't just one. The most memorable concert was certainly in



Bella Voce at the Shanghai Conservatory Concert Hall in China

Hangzhou, where the acoustics of the hall were phenomenal. That was also the concert where ALL of our singers from all three groups could be with us, and it was a joy to have everyone together.

Xi'an was also one of the highlights – in two ways. First, the train ride from Beijing to Xi'an was terrific. Very romantic, and a wonderful way to travel. Second, the Terra Cotta Warriors were mind-boggling, to say the least. The whole trip was full of moments like that – the enormity of the Chinese society, the friendliness and care of the people (our guide, Tony, will never be forgotten!), and the amazing food! Traveling as a group of singers provided me (and Bella Voce) with all I could hope for – a closer community, a richer community. Thanks! 🇺🇸

The Davidson Chorale Tours Germany and the Czech Republic

As any choir director, staff member, volunteer, or ACFEA Tour Manager can tell you, planning a concert tour takes an immense amount of work. And yet, no matter how carefully you do it, or how far in advance you begin, some of the most special moments are ones that miraculously fall into place, the ones you couldn't plan if you tried.

On Easter Sunday, 2010, The Davidson Chorale from the Davidson Fine Arts School in Augusta, Georgia, directed by Dr. Timothy Powell, sang as part of an evening worship service at the Thomaskirche in Leipzig, Germany. This was clearly a great honor, and one well deserved. As part of their

promotional materials, Dr. Powell sent a link to a video posted on the local media's website. In it, they were singing a Bach motet. When the clergy at the Thomaskirche saw the video and heard the teenagers from Georgia performing the mature literature so well, they immediately extended the invitation for them to sing in their church. Singing in the Thomaskirche is an incredible, life-changing experience for any group. It's where Bach worked as Cantor from 1723 until his death and where his remains lie, so it is revered as a hallowed space by all musicians.

But singing in Bach's church wasn't the only significant part of their performance. An ocean away their friends at Grace United Methodist Church in North Augusta, Georgia, were singing the same music. And thanks to Leipzig being several time zones ahead of Georgia, they were

even singing at the exact same hour.

"When we found out that one of our local churches would be singing the William Billings' Easter Anthem at the exact same moment on Easter Sunday that we were standing on Bach's grave singing in the Thomaskirche, it was spine-tingling," Dr. Powell said of the performance.



The Davidson Chorale went on to have many more shining moments on tour. Dr. Powell continued to say, "Our tour started with a desire to share the best and most significant music from American composers with the world. To us, the opportunity to sing Randall Thompson, Eric Whitacre, Morten Lauridsen, and Moses Hogan

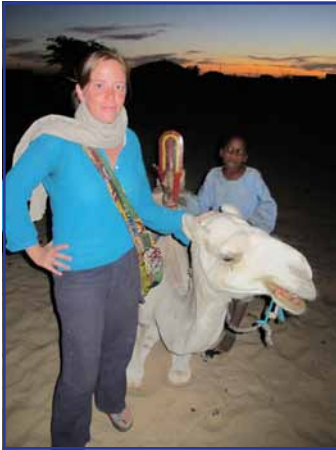


The Davidson Chorale in St. Nicholas Church, Old Town Square in Prague, Czech Republic

in European venues was a wonderful experience in itself."

They brought their music to Dresden's Loschwitzkirche to a standing-room-only house, and the singers were treated to a reception both before and after the concert. Another packed house was waiting for them in Prague, at the Church of St. Nicholas in the Old Town Square. But the extraordinary coincidence of the Easter Sunday services was a once-in-a-lifetime experience at which we can only marvel. 🇺🇸

ACFEA Staff News



Amanda with new friends in Timbuktu, Mali

Amanda Bauman in Africa

In my nearly ten years with ACFEA, I've had the incredible opportunity to see the world. I've worked with dozens of groups on dozens of tours, and each one has taught me something new. One such experience happened in 2007, when the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church choir toured South Africa. The warmth, culture, welcome and spirit of the place became part of me instantly, and for the next three years I would dream of returning to Africa. It is why in 2010, with the tremendous support of my colleagues, I embarked upon my greatest adventure yet, a five-month sabbatical, traveling alone in Africa with little more than a sleeping bag and some malaria pills.

I spent most of my time in West Africa, visiting Senegal, Guinea, Mali, Togo and Ghana. West Africa is a real place of mystery, from the fabled desert dunes of Timbuktu to the jungle growth of forested Guinea, all filled with the most resourceful, interesting, generous people. While all of these places would be considered third-world, the music, the flavors and the scenery made me forget all about the lack of running water, internet and power. For all that I missed on my trip, I gained so much more. There is no doubt that Africa gives way more than it takes.

Here is a posting from my blog: *Now, having returned, my head is filled with memories and swimming with ideas. Africa has opened my eyes to a whole other world of possibilities. I learned so much about the world, and it gave me the unique opportunity to see life through a whole lot of different perspectives. More importantly, I've learned my limits, and am pleased to report they're a lot more reaching than I had thought. I've learned about patience and tolerance, about love, about being grateful for what I have and the benefits of having an open mind. I can now appreciate the importance of being bilingual, the ability to cope with poverty, disease and corruption, the significance of a positive attitude. It's left me with so much to hope for and to look forward to, and this, friends, is certainly not the last that Africa will see of me!*

If you'd like to read more of my blog go to www.havejobwilltravel.wordpress.com

A Warm ACFEA Welcome to Christa Tumlinson

ACFEA is pleased to welcome our newest Tour Manager, Christa Tumlinson. Christa joins longtime Tour Manager and Managing Director, Hugh Davies, in our San Francisco office. With an extensive musical background and a love of travel and adventure, Christa has immediately contributed to planning and providing quality performance tours for numerous ACFEA groups.



Three ACFEA Tour Managers to Perform at ACDA

ACFEA is thrilled to have three staff members performing at the 2011 ACDA National Convention in Chicago. Seattle-based Tour Manager Erin Harlan has been a long-time singer and board member of The Esoterics, an a cappella choir in Seattle. Amanda Bauman and Emily Frye, Tour Managers in ACFEA's New York office, are members of the Young New Yorkers' Chorus, a community choir made up of New Yorkers in their 20s and 30s. The Esoterics and the Young New Yorkers' Chorus are two of only five community choirs selected to perform at the convention, and we're extremely proud of both choirs. Visit ACFEA's booth in the convention's exhibit hall for performance times and locations. Congratulations Erin, Amanda and Emily!

Office Locations

New York

San Francisco

Seattle

Ankara, Turkey

Bairnsdale, Australia

Berlin

Bucharest

George, South Africa

Guadalajara, Mexico

Hong Kong

London

Moscow

Rättvik, Sweden

St. Petersburg

Vicenza, Italy

Overseas Staff & Representatives

Nick Abbott

Sales Manager

Dan Bucur

Regional Representative

Romania

Andrew Cheung

Artistic Consultant

Hong Kong

Helen David

Operations Manager

London

Ilker Ersil

Regional Representative

Turkey

Eleanor Etherington

Operations Manager

London

Sylvia Garcia Marin

Manager

Latin America

Tony Hastings

Projects Manager

Robert Latimer

Manager

Australia and New Zealand

Clare Lawrence

Regional Representative

France and Spain

Elfriede

Leimer-Rizzotti

Regional Representative

Italy

Anders Lindstrom

Regional Representative

Scandinavia

Neil McGowan

Representative

Moscow

Pieter Myburgh

Manager

South Africa

Alina Peretti

Regional Representative

Poland

Sue Peter

Regional Representative

Germany

Richard Savage

Managing Director of

ACFEA Europe

Becky Shaftoe

General Manager of Operations

London

Tassos Strikos

Regional Representative

Greece

Olga Yemelyanova

Regional Representative

Russia

For short bios, please visit www.acfea.com/staff.php

North America Staff



AMANDA BAUMAN

is a Tour Manager in the New York office. An Ohio native, she performed with the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus before receiving her degree in Music Education from Duquesne University, in Pittsburgh. There she was a member of symphonic and jazz bands, as well as the Chamber Singers, with whom she toured Europe on an ACFEA concert tour. Amanda currently sings with and serves on the board of the Young New Yorkers' Chorus. Her travels have included excursions to Europe, Australia, Africa and Central and South America.



RACHEL FLAMM

is a Tour Manager in the Seattle office. Originally from the Chicago area, Rachel sang with the Palatine Children's Chorus for 14 years, including on tours to Britain, Austria, Italy, Canada, New York and Hawaii. She graduated with a degree in Music from Carleton College in Minnesota. At Carleton, Rachel played clarinet and conducted and managed the Carleton Choirs on tours to Los Angeles and New Orleans. Rachel has also traveled throughout Europe, Mexico, China, Israel and Jordan. She currently sings with the Northwest Chamber Chorus.



ERIN HARLAN

is a Tour Manager in the Seattle office. She received a degree in Communications with a minor in Vocal Music Performance from Pacific Lutheran University. At PLU, Erin sang with the Choir of the West, with whom she toured Norway and Sweden on an ACFEA concert tour. Her travels include a study abroad program in Australia, and trips throughout Europe, North America, Mexico, Iceland, South America, China and India. Erin currently sings with and serves on the Board of Directors of The Esoterics, an *cappella* choir in Seattle.



HUGH DAVIES

is Managing Director of ACFEA North America, based in the San Francisco office. Born in England, he has a master's degree from Cambridge, where he sang at King's College under Sir David Willcocks. Hugh sang professionally in Europe, including with the Monteverdi Choir, before teaching music in Australia. He now performs as a soloist and with several professional ensembles in the Bay Area, and serves on the boards of the American Bach Soloists and Chorus America.



EMILY FRYE

is a Tour Manager in the New York office. She grew up in Missouri, where she sang with the St. Louis Children's Choir for nine years, including on tours to Russia and Scotland. Emily received degrees in Music and Magazine Journalism from Drake University, during which time she traveled to Paris for a study abroad program and toured Europe with the university's choir. She is currently singing with the Pasadena Master Chorale.



CHRISTA TUMLINSON

is a Tour Manager in the San Francisco office. She has a degree in Music from California State University, Fullerton where she studied voice in classical and jazz styles. She grew up in Kansas, where she was involved with children's choirs. In Southern California, Christa taught voice, piano, choir and musical theater. She has also sung professionally with choirs, jazz bands and orchestras in the Los Angeles area. Christa's travels include tours with choirs to Germany and Eastern Europe. She is currently singing with Volti, the award-winning professional chamber ensemble dedicated to the performance of new vocal music.

Our goal is to provide unique opportunities for memorable and life-changing experiences.

As highlighted in this newsletter, ACFEA arranges customized performing arts tours throughout the world. From stunning venues and scenery in South Africa, to performing across continents in Spain and Morocco, ACFEA can make it happen.

While we were only able to include a few of our tours in this newsletter, we wish to express our sincere thanks to all of the groups that toured with us this year.

Unseen but Indispensable...

The Tour Managers are ACFEA's front line, but there are many others in our organization who make our tours happen. We gratefully acknowledge the mighty efforts of:

Bill Barber
Group Travel Manager

Christine McLaughlin
Business Manager

Greg Newell
Marketing Manager

Ken Olson
Operations Manager

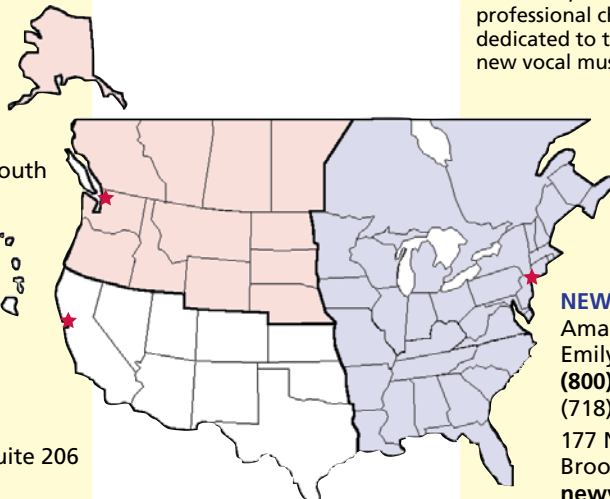
David Wert
Finance and Operations Administrator

SEATTLE

Rachel Flamm
Erin Harlan
(800) 627-2141
(425) 776-3273
123 Second Avenue South
Suite 105
Edmonds, WA 98020
seattle@acfea.com

SAN FRANCISCO

Hugh Davies
Christa Tumlinson
(800) 886-2055
(415) 453-6619
777 Grand Avenue, Suite 206
San Rafael, CA 94901
sanfrancisco@acfea.com



NEW YORK

Amanda Bauman
Emily Frye
(800) 886-6995
(718) 302-5600
177 N. 10th St., Suite H
Brooklyn, NY 11211
newyork@acfea.com

An Antipodean Farewell to Roy Klassen as Fresno Pacific University Tours Down Under

Roy Klassen has been working with ACFEA's Hugh Davies since 1987 and has become almost a member of the Davies family: he and his wife Paula have stayed on several occasions with Hugh's aunt in St. Albans, England, the city where Hugh grew up and sang as a boy chorister in the cathedral.

Roy has just retired from Fresno Pacific University in California's Central Valley, and chose to mark this moment with a final tour: his fourth with ACFEA. It is always sad when an old friend like Roy retires,

and Paula our very best wishes for a long and peaceful life of leisure.

All Roy's previous ACFEA tours had been to Europe, but this one took him and 30 other participants to New Zealand and Australia. Between Auckland and Sydney they visited



Rotorua, Napier and Wellington, gaining en route a good feel for the delightful North Island of New Zealand and for Australia's most vibrant city. For the concerts in Auckland and Wellington the Fresno choir was joined by a local choir, creating wonderful opportunities for all the participants to get to know each other both musically and personally.

In Rotorua, home to New Zealand's indigenous Maori culture, the group participated in a traditional *hangi* feast and listened to Maori music.

At a *hangi* meal all meats and vegetables are cooked in the traditional fashion, beneath the ground on hot rocks, which produces wonderfully flavorful and tender results.

Although the group had a relatively leisurely four nights in Sydney, they certainly had plenty to do. In addition to the normal sightseeing, they crossed the harbor by ferry, visited a wildlife sanctuary to see kangaroos, koalas and wombats, gave a concert in St. Andrew's Cathedral...and 11 of them climbed to the very top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge!

After saying farewell to the group at Sydney airport, Roy and Paula flew to Melbourne to see some more of Australia. They explored some of Victoria's historic old cities then took a ferry across to Tasmania, Australia's charming island state and home of the unique Tasmanian Devil:



After a controlled encounter with one of these scary-looking creatures, Roy and Paula returned to their Fresno home, perhaps to a rocking chair, slippers, and a chance to write their memoirs – or perhaps not... 🐾



Fresno Pacific University Concert Choir rehearses in Sacred Heart Cathedral in Wellington, New Zealand for its joint concert with the Seraphim Choir of Chilton Saint James School

because we wonder to what extent we will keep in touch, but we look on it as a great honor when a conductor decides to give his or her final cut-off on one of our tours. We all send Roy

"I want you to know how much I enjoyed the trip, how proud I was to be associated with the choir, and now with your tour company. I had heard great things for years, and now have experienced what everyone has talked about! Yours is a first-class organization capable of delivering what you promise, and then some."

Kevin Riehle, Director, St. Martin's Episcopal Church Choir



55% recycled with
30% post consumer waste

acfea
Tour Consultants

Performing Arts Tours Since 1955

123 Second Avenue South, Suite 105
PO Box 849
Edmonds, WA 98020 USA

CST 2063085-40 • WST 601 273 533