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El Camino Youth Symphony Back in the Fold

We work very hard to maintain our very high level of repeat clients, and are always sad when a group that has toured with us several times decides to work with another company. But, when that same group comes back to ACFEA for its next tour, we are overjoyed!

This is what happened with the world-class El Camino Youth Symphony (ECYS) from Palo Alto, California. Having toured with ACFEA in 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2009, they decided to try another company in 2011: but in 2013 they were back with us. Thanks for your trust, ECYS!

Their 2013 tour took them to some

El Camino . continued on page 4



Boston Children's Chorus Takes Landmark Tour of Vietnam and Cambodia

by Amanda Bauman, ACFEA Tour Manager

If you ask me what is the best part of being an ACFEA Tour Manager, I'd say it's not knowing what might happen next. I never know which group is going to be on the other end of the telephone when it rings, or what kind of project they have in mind. And I never know where that telephone call might take me. If you'd like to know how one such call ultimately resulted in my coming face-to-face with a bucket of live tarantulas in the backwoods of Cambodia, well, read on...

The Boston Children's Chorus (BCC) has a history of keeping me on my toes, and each time director Anthony Trecek-King gets that 'I'm-dreaming-big look' in his eyes, I know I'm in for

something exciting, and possibly a little wild. When the telephone rang one afternoon last spring, it was ATK himself on the other end, with a big announcement: "It's Southeast Asia!". 18 months later, the group landed in Ho Chi Minh City,

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Boston Children's Chorus at Angkor Wat in Cambodia

ECYS performs in Dvořák Hall of the Rudolfinum in Prague

Photo courtesy of André Havard



Boston Children's . continued from page 1

the first port of call on a tour that would also include Hanoi, Phnom Penh and Siem Reap – ACFEA's first-ever tour of Vietnam and Cambodia.

Sending a group of American students to Vietnam, we thought it important that they learn the history of the Vietnam War (or 'American War', as it is called in Vietnam). So, in addition to formal concerts in the opera houses of Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, the group also visited the War Remnants Museum and performed at an orphanage for children afflicted by the effects of Agent Orange. These types of organizations exist all over Vietnam, and the BCC learned a great deal about the ravaging and lasting effects of war.

I joined the group for the Cambodian leg of the tour, and on the first day in Phnom Penh we visited the S-21 prison and the Killing Fields. About 2 million people were killed by the Khmer Rouge in one of history's most horrific genocides. Reading about the genocide in books, even seeing it in movies, cannot compare to the arresting impact of hearing stories from people who lived in the places where it actually happened. In the prison are thousands of photographs of Khmer Rouge soldiers and victims, most of which

depict children the same age or younger than the members of BCC. The students understood the weight and gravity of what they were seeing, and took away an important lesson: that they, as this world's next generation of leaders, are the ones who must ensure it doesn't happen again.

During the reign of the Khmer Rouge, a boy named Arn Chorn-Pond escaped Cambodia and ended up in Jefferson, New Hampshire. He had been a musician, following in the traditional footsteps of his elders. As a result of the Khmer Rouge's campaign to exterminate all artists, musicians and creative thinkers from the population, traditional Khmer arts nearly became extinct. As an adult, Chorn-Pond founded Cambodian Living Arts (CLA), an organization committed to reintroducing Khmer arts to young people. BCC contacted CLA in Phnom Penh, and during the tour the two groups convened one afternoon and taught each other their crafts. BCC taught solfege and eurhythmics to the CLA students, and the CLA students taught BCC Apsara dancing, chanting and how to play their traditional instruments. The workshop concluded with several small groups presenting to each other songs and dances that they had composed together. That evening, they performed a joint concert that served as a benefit for CLA.

No trip to Cambodia is complete without a visit to the awe-inspiring temples of Angkor Archeological Park. Enjoying the icing on the top of an incredible tour, the group spent the last two nights in the town of Siem Reap, the jumping-off point for temple visitors. The students each channeled their inner Indiana Jones and Lara Croft as they explored the ancient, jungle-covered temples.

While at Angkor Wat, the largest and most impressive of the temples, the group found themselves an amazing backdrop for an epic group photo: one of the large ancient swimming pools. The acoustics were quite fine...I looked over at ATK, and saw 'the look'. So, on July 4, in an empty swimming pool of the temple of Angkor Wat in the Cambodian jungle, the Boston Children's Chorus gave an impromptu recital: for themselves, the ancient kings and the spirits of the Khmer people. Did I ever think I'd be listening to a chorus singing as beautifully as this, in a place as spectacular as this? Never. So, to put it simply: *this* is the best part of being an ACFEA Tour Manager.

Oh, and those tarantulas? I'm afraid I'm well over my word count, so that's a story for another day. 📺

Harmonium takes 'The Family' to Greece and Turkey



The Harmonium Choral Society, a community chorus based in Morristown, New Jersey, has returned from its third European tour with ACFEA. Having ventured to Italy on its first tour and Spain and Portugal on its second, Harmonium decided to go a bit further afield to Greece and Turkey. The tour began in Athens, followed by a visit to the idyllic island of Chios, then a ferry to Ephesus and Izmir, rounded out by a final stop in Istanbul. Adam Aguanno, a middle school chorus director and veteran touring member of the group, offered the following thoughts about his experiences on this tour, and traveling with a chorus in general:

To an outsider, the Harmonium Choral Society is just a talented group of singers, and rightly so: our director of 25 years, Dr. Anne Matlack, chooses an interesting and diverse repertoire to keep both singers and audiences engaged. What the outsider doesn't see, however, is that this group is a family. The musical and

cultural experiences that we have shared on these past three tours with ACFEA have created memories that continue to make our family stronger and our choir better. For example, our first concert in the Ionic Centre in Athens was a joint concert with Oi Melodoi Choir, a newly-founded Athenian chorus.

Where words fail, music prevails, and that's exactly what happened as our two choirs performed for one another. Language barriers and cultural differences were struck down by our mutual love of singing. Together, we performed "Samiotissa", a Greek folk song from the island of Samos, only to have the audience



Harmonium Choral Society with Oi Melodoi Choir in Athens, Greece

Costa Rica – a New Destination with Much to Offer

Sylvia Garcia Marin, ACFEA's Manager for Latin America, based in Guadalajara, Mexico, has long been extolling the attractions of Costa Rica as a concert tour destination. We were therefore delighted when the San Francisco Boys Chorus (Ian Robertson, Artistic Director) chose that country for its 2013 tour.



Among the many features that the boys' chorus enjoyed were the spectacular volcanoes, lakes and cloud forests; the range of concert venues from ornate Catholic churches to secular concert halls; a culture that is familiar with Western classical music; the opportunity to see and participate in important philanthropic work; comfortable hotels and kid-friendly food; and a relatively short flight from San Francisco, with just a one-hour time difference.

As Ian Robertson wrote after the tour, "Costa Rica is a beautiful and interesting country for a tour and we had very responsive and appreciative audiences.

clap in perfect compound meter and join two of our members in traditional dance. It's experiences like these that make touring with a music group unlike any other travel experience. Our Facebook pages have provided an outlet to stay connected and share our positive experiences with one another. It seems that the Greek choir equally enjoyed having us.

Visiting Greece isn't complete without some beach time, and there was no lack of stunning coastline on the scenic island of Chios, the primary place in the world where the Mastic-producing tree grows. So, where does one perform here? On the outdoor stage of the Citrus Museum, of course, accompanied by the sounds of nature and the cicadas. The unexpected bonus was that our concert was used as a benefit to support athletes with disabilities! Speaking of unexpected bonuses, we've never had such gracious hosts as the ones of Buca Baptist Church in Izmir, Turkey. After a traditional meal of meatballs and vegetables, we were thrilled to find out that the mayor came to enjoy our performance.

ACFEA better start on our next tour now if they want to top this one. It will be a hard act to follow! 📺



The San Francisco Boys Chorus has an informal sing-along during a sightseeing trip to Poás Volcano

The visits to volcanoes and cloud forests were of great interest to our young performers and the catered food was always first rate."

The tour started and ended in San José, the capital city, where the singers performed in the Eugene O'Neill Theater and the prestigious Teatro Auditorio Nacional. From there they traveled to the ecologically fascinating northwest, via the Poás Volcano, and stayed in the town of La Fortuna, where they gave a concert in the church. They then visited the world-famous Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve before returning to San José.

The group spent several hours at the very impressive charity Obras del Espíritu Santo, a home for orphaned and abandoned children, where they toured the facility, sang to a large group of delightful children and made a generous donation to this very worthy cause. They also had the rich experience of an exchange and workshop (given by their Vocal Director, Jimmy Kansau, a native Spanish speaker) with the

charming and increasingly flirtatious girls of the Llano School Children's Choir. The most revered religious site in the country is the basilica in Cartago, just a short distance from San José, and the chorus gave a very well received concert in the generous acoustics of that church.



The San Francisco Boys Chorus performs in the Basilica de Los Angeles in Cartago

Costa Rica is a country with much to offer to choirs and orchestras of any age, and can easily be combined with one of its neighbors, Panama or Nicaragua, for a more comprehensive visit to the region. We look forward to welcoming many more groups to this rewarding area of Central America, and thank Ian and the San Francisco Boys Chorus for leading the way. 📺

El Camino . continued from page 1

of the key musical cities in central Europe, and we were able to arrange concerts for them in some of the world's most hallowed halls:

- Dvořák Hall of the Rudolfinum, Prague
- Grosser Saal of the Mozarteum, Salzburg
- Slovak Radio Hall, Bratislava
- Béla Bartók National Concert Hall, Budapest

Through the hard work of our colleagues in Europe, we were able to attract very good audiences for each concert: 800 in Prague, a near sell-out in Salzburg, 400 in Bratislava and over 1,000 in Budapest. Both the Salzburg and Bratislava concerts were in aid of local charities, with over €10,000 (\$13,500) being raised in Salzburg. The US embassies in Prague and Budapest lent their support to their

China Tour Makes a Lasting Impact on Sacramento Children's Chorus

The Sacramento Children's Chorus toured China in June, visiting Beijing, Xi'an, Hangzhou and Shanghai. One of the favorite experiences of all members was a special joint concert and exchange with the Hangzhou Philharmonic Angel Children's Choir.



About the event, Director Lynn Stevens wrote:

"It was a thrill to sing for a packed house of children, young singers and their families. They mobbed the stage and 'talked' and gestured with our singers who, with arms around the young audience members, took pictures, smiled for one another, and even signed autographs! When we sang our song in Mandarin, you could feel and hear the excitement and appreciation in the audience; they even sang along! It was truly an international exchange and a heartfelt coming together of our two cultures!"



Photo courtesy of Marianne Swienink-Havard



Sacramento Children's Chorus at a tea village near Hangzhou

ECYS in the Béla Bartók National Concert Hall in Budapest, Hungary

respective concerts, and the Cultural Attaché in Budapest joined ECYS for a Fourth of July dinner cruise on the Danube.

ECYS's outstanding soloist was young violinist Yujin Ariza, who played the Sibelius Violin Concerto at all concerts. The rest of the program consisted of a Rossini overture and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 1. Through our strong contacts in Prague, we were able to offer a bonus concert: a recital by Yujin Ariza as part of the International Dvořák Society's American Spring Festival. This offer was gladly taken up by Yujin, and the rest of the group attended this delightful event.

There was, of course, plenty of time for sightseeing (including a day spent in Vienna), shopping and wandering around these glorious cities, and all 125 participants had a wonderful time showing nearly 3,000 audience members that this outstanding youth orchestra can do itself proud in any professional concert hall in the world. 🇺🇸

University of Oregon Chamber Choir Wins Fleischmann Trophy

The University of Oregon Chamber Choir, directed by Sharon Paul, is no stranger to international choral competitions. In 2011, the choir competed at the International Choral Festival in Tallinn and did very well, winning the top spot in two categories. For 2013, they wanted to see if they could repeat their success at the Cork International Choral Festival in Ireland. Founded in 1954, the festival brings together chamber choirs from all over the world for the Fleischmann International Trophy competition, in addition to hosting numerous Irish ensembles of all ages for national competitions and many more choirs in its non-competitive Gathering division. For five days, the city of Cork is filled with music as these ensembles perform throughout the city in public

spaces, restaurants, churches and Cork City Hall.

The UO Chamber Choir began its tour in Dublin with two performances, including one in Christ Church Cathedral. The group was joined by some of its most energetic supporters – a group of alumni and benefactors led by Brad Foley, Dean of the UO School of Music and Dance. Decked out in the school colors of green and yellow, they supported the choir at many of its concerts and also did some sightseeing of their own.

In County Galway, an area with a great reputation for helping to preserve traditional Irish music, dance and language, the choir gave a benefit concert



The tour experience made a lasting impression on the participants, singers and non-singers alike, and we received much positive feedback from tour members. Here is a brief sampling:

"When friends or family asked me how my trip was, the only word I could come up with was 'Amazing.' I loved how we sang everywhere. I loved hearing Anthony [ACFEA courier for the tour] sing for us. I loved watching the Hangzhou choristers chatter amongst themselves. In short, there was nothing I didn't love. It was an experience full of memories that will last a lifetime." – Sophie Osborn, SCC singer

"This tour was a monumental experience in the lives of the tour students of SCC, but it was also a great opportunity for these children to be true ambassadors of the USA, bringing a little bit of America to China, and they truly made us all look good! I am so proud." – Tracie Davis, a mother on tour

"To me, this trip was one of the best things that has ever happened to me. If I could, I would do it all over again. This was a trip that I will truly never forget, and the best part was being able to do it with some of the people I hold most dear." – Maggie Huber, SCC singer. 📺

Photo courtesy of André Havard



UO Chamber Choir performs a lunchtime concert in Dublin's Christ Church Cathedral

in a former church, now library, in aid of Music Matters, a charity that helps provide music opportunities for local students. After this quick visit to Ireland's west coast, it was off to Cork. With six performances at the festival, the singers were kept very busy and started right away with two performances the day they arrived in Cork, including one nearby at Blarney Castle. While the other groups competing had very impressive performances, the University of Oregon Chamber Choir's performance ultimately won them the top score and the Fleischmann Trophy. 📺

Brunswick's European Tour Brings on New Meaning



It was mid-May, and everything for the Brunswick Blue Notes's tour of Germany and Austria was ready to go. They were looking forward to a concert-packed tour with all types of performances: a benefit concert for a local charity in the Pauluskirche in Berlin, a concert for local schoolchildren in a theater in Pegau, a concert in a large outdoor restaurant in Munich famous for its nightly performances, and an outdoor concert in a local square in Wangen. On top of that, the group arranged two concerts through contacts of its own, including playing at a USO (United Service Organizations) show.

There was just one problem; it was raining hard in Central Europe and wasn't showing any sign

of stopping. May, 2013 had already been one of the wettest in the last 156 years in Austria, with Germany showing rainfall levels twice the norm. But when the rains didn't let up, the rivers finally let go.

Most of the Blue Notes's tour arrangements were okay, with

one exception: the little town of Pegau, a half hour south of Leipzig. The theater in which they were to perform was fine, but as it was the only building in the town that wasn't flooded, it was serving as a refuge for those who needed shelter. It looked as if the whole thing would be canceled, but the concert organizers sprang into action, and soon a concert *with* the citizens of Pegau turned into a concert *for* the citizens of Pegau.

The Höfe am Brühl, a brand-new mall in Leipzig, had built an atrium specifically

for concerts. With good acoustics and the possibility of exposure from foot traffic, it made an ideal spot for the concert. Paul Raean, the director of the Blue Notes, called the



Brunswick Blue Notes performs in the Pauluskirche in Berlin, Germany

concert a "moving performance."

He added, "All of us had experienced the devastation of Hurricane Sandy last fall and were happy to help out others in need by raising whatever money or awareness we could. We had a chance to meet the mayor of Pegau and see how much he appreciated our effort.

It was also fun to work with the radio personality [Peter Zimmer] who was the MC for the show. The night before we had met some German students on the train, invited them to come, and they did! "

The concert to benefit Pegau wasn't the only performance of the tour that focused on giving back.

"We also had the opportunity to raise money at two other concerts," Raean said. "The first was in Berlin for a benefit for the unemployed and the second was for flood victims in Wangen. Both audiences were extremely supportive of our performances. Our final concert was at the USO Pavilion in Wiesbaden for our American troops. It was a pleasure for the Blue Notes to reach out to communities and people in need with our music and made our tour of Germany and Austria a much more meaningful experience that none of us will forget." 📺



Photos courtesy of Marianne Swientnik-Havard

Conspirare

performs in Saint-Louis-en-l'Île in Paris, France



Geneseo Chambers Singers

on the beach near Torre de Belem (Belem Tower) in Lisbon, Portugal



Pacific Lutheran University Wind and Jazz Ensemble

tour members in front of Sydney Harbour in Australia

“I am always impressed with the accessibility of the ACFEA staff, from planning to implementation. I feel as though ours is the only tour happening – and I know that’s not true!”

*Deborah DeSantis,
Artistic Director,
Colorado
Children’s Chorale*

All Around the World



Lethbridge photo courtesy of Marianne Swiernik-Havard



University of Lethbridge Singers

performs in Cork City Hall as part of the Cork International Choral Festival in Ireland

Hendricks Chapel Choir

performs in University Church in Wroclaw, Poland

In Concert

Georgia State University Singers at Florilège Vocal de Tours

In May of 2013, the Georgia State University Singers embarked on its first international tour under the direction of Deanna Joseph. The tour included visits to Paris and Toulouse that bookended their participation in the Florilège Vocal de Tours, a highly competitive festival in the city of Tours, France. By the second night of the competition, Georgia State had advanced to the final round. The GSU Singers took the stage and performed three works, finishing with Moses Hogan's "This Little Light of Mine", a contemplative spiritual, featuring two of the group's young soloists. It was a perfect sample of American music, something only this group could bring to the table and perform that well; it

was breathtaking. By the second verse, all judges had retired their pencils and were sitting with radiant smiles on their faces. GSU finished its set to a standing ovation, a very rare occurrence at the Florilège. At the awards ceremony, Deanna received the prestigious Most Outstanding Conductor award and the group finished in second place – well deserved accomplishments for both conductor and choir. 📺



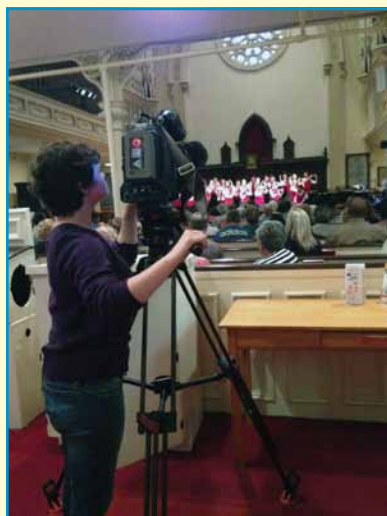
Georgia State University Singers performs at the Florilège Vocal de Tours in France



Photos courtesy of Marianne Swiernik-Havard

Georgia State director Deanna Joseph receives the Most Outstanding Conductor award

Los Angeles Children's Chorus Tours the Maritimes



The Los Angeles Children's Chorus's tour of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland featured concert highlight after concert highlight, beginning with being filmed for Canadian television at its first concert in Halifax, Nova Scotia in St. Matthew's United Church.

NEWFOUNDLAND

NOVA SCOTIA



Another highlight was the opportunity to perform in the beautiful and historic Basilica Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in St. John's, Newfoundland.



Aside from beautiful venues and gracious audiences, Los Angeles Children's Chorus had a wonderful time enjoying the great scenery of the Maritimes. They are pictured here by Conception Bay near the beautiful town of Brigus, Newfoundland.



The group was pleasantly surprised when Allister MacGillivray, famously the composer of the Canadian song "Song for the Mira", made an unexpected appearance at their concert in St. Mary's Church, East Bay, near Sydney, Nova Scotia. 📺

Susan McMane Triumphs with New Chorus

After 11 spectacularly successful years as Artistic Director of the San Francisco Girls Chorus, Susan McMane founded her own girls' chorus in 2012: the Young Women's Chorus of San Francisco. Within a few months, it was clear that the artistic excellence that audiences around the world have come to expect from Susan was going to be equaled or exceeded with this new ensemble.



Having arranged tours for Susan during her time in St. Louis and with the San Francisco Girls Chorus, ACEFA was surprised and delighted to be asked by her to arrange a tour of Italy at the end of their very first season. At the time the contract was signed, there was no chorus, and therefore no recordings that we could send to potential venues, so a good deal of faith and trust was required on all sides – trust that turned out to be as well founded as we knew it would be.

The musical focus of the tour was the so-called Ospedale repertoire that Vivaldi and some of his contemporaries wrote for girls living in orphanages in Venice. The chorus gave two performances of this music with a chamber orchestra that ACEFA had

arranged: one in the beautiful Duomo San Lorenzo in Abano Terme, and the other in the Chiesa Santa Maria della Pietà in Venice, known as Vivaldi's church as it stands on the site of the orphanage where he worked.

Other concerts were in Mantua, where they were joined by a fun local men's chorus; Pisa, where they gave a concert benefitting UNESCO; and Lecco, where they ended the tour with a concert to a full cathedral in this charming lakeside town.



Susan McMane conducts the Young Women's Chorus of San Francisco during rehearsal in the Teatro Bibiena in Mantua

Following a growing trend amongst children's choruses, a parallel, self-contained tour was offered to family,

Richard Eaton Singers' Wunderbar Tour

by Rachel Flamm, ACFEA Tour Manager

Back in February 2011, I received an email from the Richard Eaton Singers of Edmonton, Alberta. A few years back, I had worked with their director Leonard Ratzlaff on a tour of Ireland for the University of Alberta Madrigal Singers, and now his large symphonic chorus



Richard Eaton Singers performs in the Gedächtniskirche in Berlin

include the best musical opportunities we could find. In the end, we came up with a tour starting in Munich, continuing north to Berlin and finishing in one of the most musically historic cities anywhere in Europe: Leipzig.

The group started out with three performances in the south of Germany, including one in Ulm Minster (the tallest church in the world) and one as part of the Ehingen Musiksommer festival in the Liebfrauenkirche. "The church was excellent as a concert venue with

was looking to tour Europe. We quickly narrowed in on a tour of Germany because of its great musical history. Over the next year we worked on the itinerary to come up with something the group members would enjoy, be affordable for the greatest number of people and

wonderful acoustics – it made the music almost sing itself," noted one tour participant.



The tour continued nicely, with concerts in Jena and Berlin, including a performance in the Berlin Dom, but all the tour participants I've spoken with have commented on the final two performances in Leipzig as being particularly special experiences. For a service at the Thomaskirche, the choir performed Bach's *Ärgre dich, o Seele, nicht*, originally performed on the same date in the church calendar 290 years ago. One tour participant noted that singing Bach in his home church was a highlight of a lifetime. The choir's second Leipzig performance was outside at the Bach-Denkmal (Bach Memorial) near the Thomaskirche, part of the regular summer concert series there. The next morning, as the group was checking in at the airport, I got the following message from Len Ratzlaff, "We had a tremendous concert experience last night in front of an estimated 1,500 at the Bach-Denkmal in Leipzig, a perfect ending to what has been a great tour, but just wanted to say thanks for an outstanding experience for our singers." 📧



The Young Women's Chorus of San Francisco performs in the Teatro Bibiena in Mantua

and congratulates Susan on a truly remarkable achievement. 📧

friends and supporters, so that the delights of the concerts could be shared by all without either the supporters or the chorus having to compromise their agenda. Properly planned, such a parallel tour can also be a fundraiser for the chorus.

ACFEA was honored to be part of this exciting new chorus's first year,

In Concert

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chamber Singers in Ely Cathedral

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chamber Singers had the honor of being the only choir from the US to participate in the 2013 Association of British Choral Directors convention, held in Oxford. Before the big event, they performed three concerts, including this one in the Lady Chapel of Ely Cathedral. The program included works by Victoria, Gjeilo, Gabrieli, Rachmaninoff, Brahms and Billings.

The Chamber Singers also performed at St. James's Church, Piccadilly, and St. Clement Danes, both in London. After returning home, director Therees Tkach Hibbard said, "The students are changed forever, they were transformed at every concert and with every experience. They took advantage of every minute and saw and did an enormous amount in the week – it was such an easy and fabulous tour. Thank you, thank you, thank you!" 📧



Photo courtesy of Marianne Swientink-Havard

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chamber Singers performs in the Lady Chapel of Ely Cathedral in England

Shallaway's Tour of Portugal has Cultural Significance

Every group has a different answer to the question "Why do you want to tour?" As any tour manager will tell you, there's no one correct answer. Some want to perform in the great, resume-building venues of Europe and Asia. Some tour to promote their own mission abroad, while others want to strengthen their group's morale. For Shallaway, a youth chorus based in St. John's, Newfoundland, the impetus behind touring is multifold and complex. The group tours each year, alternating between March and July. The July tours are mostly festival-based, with the goal being to increase the group's profile and provide a competitive aspect for the singers to invest in. In March, the group tours to destinations relevant to Newfoundland's history and cultural connections in the world.

Literally a giant rock in the sea off the far east coast of North America, Newfoundland is a place unlike any other. Geographically, it is completely isolated, and certainly in the wintertime there is a feeling of solitude that over the years has led to a certain solidarity and pride in heritage. Many locals speak with a Celtic lilt that makes you feel as if you've landed on old Éire herself, but the province is very proudly Canadian at the same time. Newfoundlanders possess an identity of their own, and elders of the island go to great lengths to preserve and promote cultural longevity among their youth. One aspect of Newfoundland life that most certainly does not go unnoticed, by locals

or visitors alike, is the region's strong ties to the shipping and fishing industry. This history is one that has shaped the community, and one that Shallaway wanted to explore as the theme for its most recent tour.

Shallaway's Executive Director, Kathryn Atkin, explains:

"St. John's has had a long historical and cultural connection to Portugal for well over a hundred years. This is mostly attributed to the fertile fishing grounds like the Grand Banks. Historically, fleets of fishing vessels from Portugal would call Newfoundland their second home.

Kellie [Walsh, Artistic Director] remembers her father telling tales of watching Portuguese sailors playing soccer in bare feet with fishermen, and I have a very fond memory of being taken to the local dry goods store and being asked to pick out all the toys I liked for a sailor who wanted to buy gifts for his children back home. To this day, I have the doll that he gave me in thanks. The choristers, prior to leaving, held workshops with historians, and learned how the two nations bonded over 'the cod'."



Shallaway in Porto

"This was another great tour partnership. Thank you to Amanda and her team for working with us to provide a wonderful tour experience for our choristers."

Kathryn Atkin, Executive Director, Shallaway

On tour, the group visited its sister city of Porto, as well as Lisbon and Coimbra. Shallaway's final concert was a joint performance with the Coro Infantil Universidade de Lisboa, an overwhelmingly successful venture, and a true fulfillment of exactly what the group wanted to accomplish on this tour. 📺



Office Locations

Philadelphia
San Francisco
Seattle

Bairnsdale, Australia
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London
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Shanghai
St. Petersburg
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AMANDA BAUMAN

is a Senior Tour Manager in the Philadelphia office. Amanda has been performing in bands and choirs her entire life, including several ensembles at her alma mater, Duquesne University, and the Young New Yorkers' Chorus, for whom she also served as board member for several years. She has travelled extensively in Europe, South America and Asia, but her true passion is Africa, where she met her husband, Maurice, four years ago.

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. Hugh was on the board of Chorus America for nine years, and is currently president of American Bach Soloists.

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 touring with them throughout North America and Europe. 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, Japan, South Africa, Israel and Jordan. She currently sings with the Northwest Chamber Chorus.

EMILY FRYE

is a Tour Manager in the Philadelphia 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.

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 Germany, Eastern Europe, China and South Africa. 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.

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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:

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Christine McLaughlin
Business Manager

Greg Newell
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Ken Olson
Operations Manager

Andrew Oom
Operations Consultant

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Tour of the United Kingdom Inspires Myers Park United Methodist Church Choir



When thinking about taking his choir from Myers Park United Methodist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, abroad, Director of Music Jimmy Jones really had his eye on one thing: the prestigious cathedrals of England.

"When Emily [Frye, ACFEA Tour Manager] and I 'dreamed' about the tour, I named my top places to sing, and we were able to secure concerts at all three!" Jones said. Concert venues included Oxford's Christ Church Cathedral, Bath Abbey, Bristol Cathedral and Wesley's Chapel in London.

Before the group left, Jimmy wrote the following message to the congregation:

The Chancel Choir and most of the music staff are leaving for England on Thursday, May 23rd and will return Friday, May 31st. The Choir has worked SO hard over the past year preparing for this trip. To stand and sing God's praises in the holy places where choirs have sung daily for centuries is both humbling and awesome. For the choir to sing a full chord down the nave of Bath Abbey, where it will famously reverberate for the next eight seconds, is nothing short of transcendent.

To the naked eye, these tours may seem glamorous. I prefer to see them as the ultimate challenge, thoroughly testing the choir's musical skills, endurance, patience, commitment, humor, and willingness to live in community. All in all, we will sing five concerts/services on this seven day tour. The amount and scope of the repertoire is staggering: more than a dozen anthems by American composers (some memorized!), a setting of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by Robert Powell, Preces and Responses by Craig Phillips, and even the 20 verses of Psalm 9 sung to Anglican chant!

Was all the planning and hard work worth it?

In the words of choir member Virginia Harrod:

"I owe my Lord a morning song. How can I help but sing, when God is all in all, and I am one with everything?" I found this verse from a song by John Bell in the song book the morning we sang in Wesley's Chapel. I think it sums up our trip to England. We became one with the history of the churches we sang in, and I thank God for the

opportunity that was given to me to be in fellowship with friends, old and new. When we were singing, I felt closer to God than ever before. I truly felt that in that moment, God was all in all and I was one with everything. We became the embodiment of John Bell's hymn."

And from choir member Jennie Buckner:

"At the Bristol Cathedral concert, and especially during 'Sing Me to Heaven,' I couldn't help but think about my brother Steve. It was the one-year anniversary of his death, and I realized that I would not have been at Bristol if it hadn't been for him. Before he died, he had encouraged me to join the Chancel Choir. We both were inspired by the Easter Sunday service; and when I talked about how I loved the music and wished I could be part of this choir, he urged me to join. I made all kinds of excuses about

why I couldn't possibly. But he wasn't buying them. 'If you think there's something that would bring you joy in this life, do it,' he urged me. I couldn't get his words out of my mind. And, a few weeks after he died, I knew I should act on them. I joined the Chancel Choir.

And now here I was, singing with them in this glorious cathedral. I was so grateful to be here; and certain that my brother was smiling down on this concert. The power of music to connect us with God and each other had never been clearer to me. What a blessing."

Singing at Bristol was particularly memorable for Jimmy Jones, too. "It had rained all day, and we were frozen. But when the service began, the Holy Spirit began to move. We all felt it. The music no longer felt like a performance, but something much greater than the sum of the whole.

People are already asking, 'Where are we going next?' I've started dreaming..." 📖



Myers Park United Methodist Church Chancel Choir sings at Evensong in Bristol Cathedral



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