



Tour Notes

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

1999-2000

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University of Rochester Chamber Orchestra Enjoy the Road Less Traveled

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Houston Children's Chorus in front of St Mark's Basilica, Venice

COLUMBUS DISCOVERS EUROPE

Youth Orchestra (Ohio) embarked on their first ever European concert tour. Focusing on Central Europe, the orchestra experienced cities steeped in the roots, history and tradition of Western music. Under the direction of Peter Stafford Wilson, the orchestra visited Munich, Salzburg, Vienna, Prague, Dresden and Eisenach in a tour packed

Continuing a tradition of excellence dating back to 1953, the Columbus Symphony

with musical, cultural and social opportunities.

The focus of this tour was performance, and perform they did, with a total of five

concerts and a professional recording session in a 13-day tour. The concerts – *continued on page 2, see Columbus*

CHORALIERS TRAVEL TO IFCM SYMPOSIUM

Rotterdam on their seventh ACFEA tour. Along the way, a wide variety of experiences was offered to the 49 members of the group, in keeping with Dr Archibeque's view that a tour must be fulfilling not only musically but also culturally and educationally.

The final focus of the tour was a four-night stay in Rotterdam, where they joined the IFCM's World Symposium on Choral Music. They participated in Dr Archibeque's workshops, and gave several concerts during their stay. They also took part in the somewhat unusual Fast Singing Competition ... For the rest of their time at the World Symposium, they attended other events and rubbed elbows with many of the leading lights in the choral world, including two other groups on ACFEA tours: the California – *continued on page 8, see Choraliars*

The San Jose State University Choraliars, directed by Charlene Archibeque, traveled from Rome to



Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra in Germany

HOUSTON CHURCHES EXPLORE THEIR HERITAGES

St John the Divine
One of the largest Episcopal churches in the USA, St John the Divine sent its choir across the Atlantic to explore its heritage in England and Scotland.

The choir built a musical bridge between the old and new worlds with its ability to infuse the clarity of English singing with the warmth and enthusiasm of Texas.

The focus of the tour was sharing

through music and cultural exchange, and this goal was achieved by performances in small communities and parishes in addition to major venues. Under the direction of John Gearhart, the choir performed a lunchtime recital at Stirling Castle Chapel, evening concerts in Callander Kirk (Callander), Ossett Parish Church (Wakefield), Argyle Morley Church (Bristol) and St Margaret's Church (West Hoathly), followed by a service participation there the next morning. Musical highlights of the tour included a workshop session with Andrew Carter at the Palace of the Archbishop of York, and the choir's singing of Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral in London. Furthering the mission of cultural exchange, the choir members were billeted in Wakefield by the Wakefield Festival Chorus, in Bristol by the members of the Argyle Morley United Reformed Church, and in West Hoathly by the parishioners of St Margaret's Church.

In addition to the performances, the choir enjoyed sightseeing in Stirling, York, Bath, Oxford and London as well as the opportunity to visit the Selkirk Glass Factory and Warwick Castle, and to attend Choral Evensong at Westminster Abbey. The tour was celebrated with a farewell dinner cruise on the River Thames.

In the words of John Gearhart, "I have received good reports from choristers and spouses. I felt our goals to sing in smaller parishes and in major venues were totally and successfully accomplished. The St Paul's experience was thrilling. We are eager to discuss our next tour."

First Presbyterian Church

The Chancel Choir of Houston's First Presbyterian Church had an all-Scotland itinerary for their 1999 tour. Led by music director Ara Carapetyan and pastor Asa Hunt, nearly 90 people participated in the mission trip to Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Oban and Glasgow. As the word 'mission' implies, this was much more than a concert tour. Great efforts had been made in advance to contact the local churches, and the Chancel Choir was thereby able to become a part of local life, albeit for only a day or so.



Chancel Choir of Houston's First Presbyterian Church in Lockerbie, Scotland

The names of two cities on the itinerary evoke especially poignant memories: Dunblane, scene of a terrible school shooting; and Lockerbie, where 10 years earlier a Pan Am aircraft crashed, killing many villagers as well as those on the flight. The group went to both places to offer their support and respect, with a tragic resonance added to the Dunblane visit in the aftermath of the Columbine High School incident.

They sang services in Dunblane Cathedral and St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, and had time for private worship in Iona Abbey. They gave concerts in St Andrews, Dunfermline, Edinburgh (St Giles Cathedral), Aberdeen and Lockerbie, and attended a reception in their honor given by the Grampian-Houston association. Combining all this with a comprehensive sightseeing schedule created a tour full of wonderful experiences, demonstrating how much can be achieved by concentrating on a relatively small area and minimizing travel times. 📖

– *Columbus, continued from page 1*

varied in nature and setting, and each was part of an established series. The orchestra performed a joint concert in the Unterhaching Cultural Centre in Munich with the Münchener Jugendorchester, plus solo concerts in Attergauhalle (Salzburg area) as part of the concert series, in the enclosed courtyard of the Schloss Hotel Weikersdorf (Vienna area) as part of the Rose Festival, and in the Schloss Pillnitz Gardens (Dresden) as part of the Elbhang Festival. The orchestra wrapped up their performances with a day of music workshops and a concert in Eisenach, birthplace of Johann Sebastian Bach, with the music students from the Luther Gymnasium.

Other highlights included tours of the Munich Opera House and the Mozarteum, an excursion to Zentralfriedhof to visit the graves of Beethoven, Brahms, Gluck, Schubert, Strauss and Wolf, a professional recording session in Prague, and a dinner cruise on the River Vltava. They also were given a mayoral reception in Dresden, where homestays were provided by the students of the Heinrich Schütz Conservatoire coordinated through sister city contacts.

The repertoire, carefully selected by Mr Wilson, focused on American composers, including Bernstein, Diamond, Barber, Gershwin and Copland. The orchestra featured renowned violinist, Mr Gregory Fulkerson, who toured with the group.

According to Mr Wilson, "The venues we used were all supportive of our artistic level and needs. The audiences were very enthusiastic... For our first such venture, I feel that this event was an amazing success, and we are most grateful to ACFEA for their guidance. We look forward to similar collaborations in the future. As I told the kids on Sunday night in Eisenach, we have written a new and most important chapter in the history of our orchestra." 📖

"You are the finest tour consultants we have ever used. Your staff was always positive and patient. Overall, this was the best overseas tour we have taken."

**Steve Roddy
Director**

Houston Children's Chorus

SHORTER COLLEGE CHORALE THRILLS AUDIENCES

On May 10, 1999, the Shorter College Chorale (Rome, GA) and director Dr John Ratledge departed Atlanta's Hartsfield International Airport. This, their second tour with ACFEA, would take them to Spain and France while pairing them with several host ensembles in a challenging program featuring Brahms' *Requiem* and *Alto Rhapsody* and Orff's *Carmina Burana*.

On their first stop in Madrid, the 80-voice chorus (plus 20 friends and family) enjoyed three days of sightseeing and leisure time as well as a spectacular concert of the Brahms pieces in the famous Basilica at El Escorial, accompanied by the Orquesta Academica de Madrid. As on his first ACFEA tour, Dr Ratledge took time to rehearse with the orchestra and chorus twice before the performance, ensuring that they were exquisitely prepared for the highly appreciative audience.

Next the choir traveled to the cathedral city of Zaragoza, where they met

Spanish composer Javier Busto. ACFEA had arranged for Señor Busto to stay with them for two days doing workshops, which culminated in a concert during which Dr Ratledge relinquished his baton to his guest. Dr Ratledge says, "My favorite city was Zaragoza, and I will have to return there. I now rank it with Prague and Salzburg as my top three cities ..."

Staying two nights in Barcelona afforded the group the chance to perform in the neighboring city of Reus, which boasts a spectacular gem of a theatre called the Teatro Fortuny. Here they joined with two pianists and percussion to present Orff's *Carmina Burana*. The theatre management was so thrilled with the performance that it has asked ACFEA to bring more of the same for next year.

The final six nights of the tour took the choir to France, starting in Lyon where they performed an *cappella* – *continued on page 6, see Shorter*



Shorter College Chorale performing at Teatro Fortuny in Reus, Spain

"I wish I had known about you guys years ago. You are a first class operation - we had the best tour I have been involved with."

**John Lamkin
Co-Director**

**Southern California
United Methodist Chorale**

FROM THE VATICAN TO THE VLTAVA, THE CHOIR OF WILLIAM AND MARY EMBARK ON A CHORAL JOURNEY

After finishing finals and moving out of the dorms, the Choir of the College of William and Mary (director, Dr James Armstrong) were ready to embark on an anxiously awaited tour of Europe. For many, this was a tour of a lifetime, encompassing four countries in three weeks. The choir began their tour in Rome, singing a mass in St Peter's Basilica and then a concert to a full house in the lovely town of Ceccano, where they later enjoyed listening to the music of the local choir.

The choir continued north with a stop in Assisi, and on to Florence where they reveled in a two-hour rehearsal in the awe-inspiring *duomo* before participating in a mass. After experiencing the Venetian way of life and performing in the Chiesa San Salvador, the choir had a day off from singing in the spa town of Merano. Here they had a chance to relax in the spa or take the gondola up into the

magnificent Italian Alps. The group then spent some time in Austria where they performed a joint concert with the Amherst College Glee Club and Women's Chorus in Bad Gastein, outside of Salzburg.

Any tour to Central Europe is enhanced by spending a few days in the Czech Republic. The group had a warm welcome from their hosts in the historic town of Hradec Kralove and were sponsored by the local orchestra to perform in the main concert hall. In Prague, the choir sang in St Nicholas's Church in the Old Town Square. The group then attended a production of *Aida* at the Prague Opera House and indulged in a dinner cruise along the Vltava River.

The many highlights of the tour included singing in some of Austria's most beautiful and historically important monasteries: for example, an informal concert in Melk Abbey and a mass participation shared with the local choir of the Abbey of Gottweig. There they were

given a special opportunity to participate in a traditional procession around the four altars of the Stiftskirche.

The choir was truly able to immerse themselves in Hungarian culture by spending their final three days with families from the Budapest community. All seventy members of the choir were assigned host families with

whom they enjoyed eating home cooked meals and learning about Hungarian home life. After a midday concert in Esztergom's famous basilica, their stay culminated with a church concert and a warm and joyous farewell celebration of shared music, food and stories of each other's homelands. It was a truly wonderful way to end a musically rewarding tour filled with sharing, giving and memories to last a lifetime. ■



Choir of William and Mary rehearsing in Florence's duomo

ALASKA CHILDREN DOWN UNDER ON THEIR THIRD ACFEA TOUR

der: Australia and New Zealand.

Arriving in Australia after 27 hours and nearly 10,000 miles in flight from Anchorage, the choir began the tour in Sydney, famous for its sparkling harbor, friendly 'g'day' atmosphere and its one-of-a-kind opera house. The singers participated in a very successful festival and workshop with Jean Ashworth-Bartle, then continued their journey southward to Canberra, the capital of Australia.

The Woden Valley Youth Choir hosted the Alaskans during their stay in the capital, where they most notably participated in a joint concert titled 'Voices of the Global Village.' Their individual program included music from Palestrina to the highly appropriate sea shanty, *Heave ho, we're bound for Australia*. The reviewer from the *Canberra Times* particularly liked the choir's presentation of *Nukapianguaq*, "an evocative arrangement of Alaskan Inuit chants, an arresting conclusion to the choir's individual program."

Two Australian choirs took part in the program along side the Alaskans. The Renae Singers from Tasmania and the Woden Valley Youth Choir each sang on their own, then joined together with the Alaskan children for a large scale work, *Ancient Cries*, by celebrated Australian composer Stephen Leek. According to the same review, the work "made a stirring conclusion to a feast of youthful choral singing." The concert was completely sold-out.

Australia has a wealth of natural wonders to experience. According to one chorister on the trip, the Canberra highlight "was our visit to the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, where we got the chance to view kangaroos, koalas, emus, wombats, and other Australian birds and animals in their natural, wild state." Some even took the opportunity to cuddle a koala!

En route to Melbourne, the choir stopped in Wagga Wagga for a sell-out concert at St John's Anglican Church which was reviewed by the local newspaper and culminated in an extended standing ovation.

Emphasizing their educational mission, director Janet Stotts agreed to present the choir in two Melbourne high schools.

The Alaska Children's Choir, directed by Janet Stotts, embarked this summer on their third tour with ACFEA, a journey to the Land Down Under.

The second impressed the choir with a sung welcome, performed by the entire student body of 800.

Melbourne's Iwaki Auditorium, home to symphonic and operatic concerts and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, was the venue for a marathon concert featuring three choirs and an excellent orchestra. The performance was enthusiastically received by the 300-strong audience and subsequently broadcast on the ABC.

After a visit to Cairns, where the choir both performed in the city concert series and went snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef, the group completed their tour in Auckland, New Zealand. They sang at the Westlake Girls High School and visited the famous Thermal Springs at Whakarewarewa.

On their previous tour to Europe in 1997, the Alaska Children's Choir was one of the first groups to use digital photography and internet technology to give live tour updates on the Web. This tour they did the same. Digital pictures and reports were uploaded to the choir's website so that parents and friends back home could receive 'virtual postcards' during the tour. The choir's website may be found at www.alaska.net/~acc.

The choir is planning their next international tour for 2001. 📺

MOZART IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Members of the Eugene Master Chorale (director, Diane Price), the Ponca City Singers (director, Carolyn Chaufy), Voices Northwest (director, Ruth Cowan), First Presbyterian Church Choir (director, Colette Ripley) and Napa Valley College Chamber Singers (director, Eve-Anne Wilkes), as well as several individuals from throughout the United States, joined forces to create beautiful music and lasting memories during nine days in the stunning Czech capital of Prague, the beautiful spa town of Marianske Lazne and the culturally rich centre of Vienna.

Under the direction of renowned conductor Jonathan Griffith, the massed choir performed Mozart's *Requiem* with the Virtuosi Pragenses orchestra as part of established concert series in the Kladubry



Massed choirs with conductor Jonathan Griffith present Mozart in Prague

Monastery and the spa town of Frantiskovy Lazne, with a stunning final performance in the Rudolfinum in Prague. Audiences thrilled to the exciting performances, and the choir members were overwhelmed with the warm and enthusiastic response they received at each of the three concerts.

Performances were balanced by historical sightseeing tours of the city centres, a dinner cruise in Prague, and a farewell dinner in the wine region of Gumpoldskirchen, plus lots of time for independent sightseeing, shopping and sampling of Czech beer. Summed up in the words of Collette Ripley, "The sites, audiences and publicity were outstanding. Thanks for something beyond my wildest imagination." 📺

MOZART REQUIEM 2000

Based on the success of the 1999 venture, ACFEA is offering 'Mozart Requiem 2000,' to be held June 26 - July 2 in Karlovy Vary and Prague. This week in the Czech Republic offers a full musical program for balanced or partial choirs seeking to perform Mozart's *Requiem* with orchestra. Hosted by the Karlovy Vary Symphony Orchestra, two performances are scheduled: one in Karlovy Vary's Grand Hotel Pupp, and the other in the Rudolfinum in Prague (subject to final confirmation). Rehearsals and performances will be conducted by the distinguished American conductor, Jonathan Griffith. There will also be leisure time to enjoy the delightful spa town of Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad) and the breathtaking city of Prague. For any choirs wishing to extend their stay in Europe, ACFEA would be pleased to design a customized itinerary including additional concerts arranged specifically for each ensemble. For more information on joining 'Mozart Requiem 2000,' please contact Christina Tepy at (800) 886-2055 or christina@acfea.com.

ZAMIR CHORALE OF BOSTON JOURNEY BACK TO THEIR MUSICAL ROOTS

"Dear Suzanne," the letter began, "The Zamir Chorale of Boston, founded in 1969, will be marking its 30th Anniversary and the 100th anniversary of the first Zamir Chorale, founded in 1899 in Poland, with an Eastern

European performance tour... a journey back to our musical roots." Thus began a two-year project to reunite the current singing members of this nationally recognized Jewish chorus, directed by Joshua Jacobson, with their counterparts in Poland, the Czech Republic and Austria. On June 27, participants of the 53-member group and a 6-person documentary film crew from Spy Pond Productions departed Boston on flights to Warsaw to begin their odyssey.

The itinerary included stops in the Polish cities of Warsaw, Łódź and Kraków, as well as the Czech and Austrian capitals of Prague and Vienna.

In Warsaw, ACFEA had contacted the American Embassy staff, who were only too happy to offer assistance with a concert in the Jewish State Theater, where the invited audience included foreign ministers and dignitaries of every kind. In Łódź, the original home of the first Zamir Chorale, the choir wanted to visit any remaining sites from the Zamir Chorale's beginnings. In preparation for this, the documentary film crew had contacted members of the original chorale who were living in the United States. Further information came from documents unearthed by the Łódź Council and local Jewish organizations. The visit to Łódź ultimately included an official mayoral welcome, a guided tour and an evening concert in the Łódź Culture House that met with resounding applause.

On July 1, the choir traveled to Kraków by way of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, where

they were given a guided tour and had the opportunity to sing an *a cappella* tribute to those whose lives were so needlessly wasted there. Coincidentally, a Jewish Music Festival was taking place in Kraków that weekend and the choir's concerts were publicized to all attendees.

Once in the Czech Republic, the choir was invited on a special tour of the Terezin concentration camp, including the opportunity to perform informally at the railroad tracks and in the Hidden Synagogue, which are not normally visited by the public. Their concert that evening was preceded by a talk from a

group included the location of kosher or vegetarian restaurants for every meal and special allowances for strict Sabbath observance. Chorale members and documentary crew displayed flexibility and understanding regarding the complicated driving challenges and limited food choices they encountered. ACFEA's local representatives in all three countries were excited at the opportunity to expand their audience base and reach out to new venues and contacts in these wonderful cities. And the members of the Zamir Chorale had the chance to stretch themselves in ways they had never expected.

Director

Joshua Jacobson writes: "Overall, the tour was an amazing experience, earth-shattering, life-changing. This turned out to be more than a concert tour. And more than an anniversary celebration. The audiences were unbelievably demonstrative. They wouldn't stop clapping! The venues were inspiring. Alina was wonderful. The bus was fine (except when it broke down). John and Herbert were terrific. The mayor of Łódź gave us such a warm welcome. The pacing



St Agnes Academy and Strake Jesuit Chamber Singers at the National Museum of the Renaissance in Chateau d'Ecouen (outside Paris) where they performed during their March tour of France and England

former resident of the camp.

More personal interaction took place when members of the Women's International Zionist Organization requested a meeting at the Jewish Town Hall in Prague, and their concert in the famous Spanish Synagogue was filled to overflowing. And finally, a connection with the Cantor of Vienna's oldest synagogue culminated in a festive concert and reception with members of that city's Jewish community.

Travel arrangements for the

was perfect. Many tears flowed on this trip! For the right reasons." Everyone involved is eagerly awaiting the completion of the documentary film. 📺

"There is something very special about being an American choir concertizing in Europe during the summer months. Unlike our own country, Europeans embrace us with their own brand of warmth, hospitality and appreciation. The trick is finding venues to make that indeed happen. ACFEA is the leader in that regard. I wouldn't even think of undergoing a tour without them guiding and leading us to choral heaven."

Marcia Giambrone
Director

Buffalo Choral Arts

HAWAI'I BREEZES THROUGH EUROPE

ask anyone in Italy, France, Wales or the Netherlands who had the good fortune to cross paths with two Hawai'iian choirs this summer if he knows the meaning of this word and he will surely smile and answer, "Yes, Hawai'i Youth Opera Chorus and Ka Waiola." Both directed by Nola Nahulu, the established Hawai'i Youth Opera Chorus and the newer Ka Waiola o Nā Pūkanileo (comprising Hawai'i Youth Opera Chorus alumni and other select members) combined forces to bring their marvelous song, dance and aloha spirit to enraptured audiences throughout Europe.

Their journey began at the Honolulu airport, as the choirs checked in for their first flight to San Francisco, where they had a half-day layover and time enough for a morning excursion to "The City." This was only a warm-up for the next leg of the journey: a long flight to Milan with an afternoon layover, which granted time for a guided tour of La Scala, a site of historical significance to their operatic background. Later that evening, they boarded their flight to Marseille, arriving at their final destination 36 hours after departing Honolulu.

They slept well that night – and awoke to the beauty of the South of France. Following a morning excursion to Aix-en-Provence, the young singers from Hawai'i Youth Opera Chorus met their host families from the choir of the Maitrise Gabriel Fauré in Marseille who would look after them for the next two nights and host a memorable joint concert in the Eglise Sainte Marguerite.

As at the beginning of their tour, the groups continued to cover a lot of ground in a short time. Before departing for Paris, the choirs traveled to Monaco for an afternoon of sightseeing, then returned to France and the stunningly perched village of Peillon, north of Nice. In its town square, the mayor hosted their second performance, after which they dined in Peillon's wonderful - and only - restaurant.

It was on to Paris then, with a suc-

'Aloha' does not literally translate into Italian, French, Welsh, Dutch or even English for that matter, but

cessful afternoon performance at the Luxembourg Gardens, a cultural music exchange at the Russian Embassy (including ensembles from Russia and France), and sightseeing excursions to the Musée d'Orsay, the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, the Palace of Versailles, Monet's Garden in Giverny, and a river cruise on the Seine to view this magnificent 'City of Light' illuminated at night. In keeping with the operatic theme, these busy travelers also



Bellevue First Congregational Church Chancel Choir in the Cappella Real, Aranjuez, Spain. The choir from Washington State performed in Portugal and Spain on a 17-day springtime tour.

found time to see a performance of *Don Carlo* at the newly renovated Opera Bastille.

Another flight brought the choirs to Great Britain, where the next chapter of their journey unfolded in Llangollen, Wales, at the 53rd Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod. For five nights,

"ACFEA has once again proved itself to be an astute and enviable tour/concert producer. We were overwhelmingly pleased and excited as we performed in some of what must be the most impressive and loveliest venues in France."

**Dennis Keller
Director**

Ohlone Chamber Singers

Hawai'i Youth Opera Chorus and Ka Waiola enjoyed the delightful hospitality of their homestay hosts, whilst participating in several folk song, dance and solo competitions, performing in nearby towns, and making excursions to Chester, Stratford-upon-Avon and Warwick Castle. Though no prizes were won, they left Llangollen with very fond memories and many new friends.

However, the flavor of international music and exchange on this tour did not end just yet. One more flight returned the choirs to the Continent - Rotterdam to be exact, host city for the 5th IFCM World Symposium on Choral Music. Over 50 countries were represented by visiting choirs and for two days the groups enjoyed a full schedule of IFCM concerts and workshops. The last day of the tour was spent in Amsterdam and nearby Vlaardingem, where they presented their final performance.

Enriched and contented, Hawai'i Youth Opera Chorus

and Ka Waiola returned home to the island of Oahu after a long but rewarding journey – valuable as much as for what they saw and heard abroad, as for the lesson of 'aloha' they so charmingly taught. 📌

– *Shorter, continued from page 3*

program in the crypt of Lyon's cathedral to a very warm reception, and ending in Paris, the 'City of Light.' Here, despite a strike of the French museum workers that prevented their visit to the Louvre, the choir took advantage of their copious leisure time to explore monuments and churches, as well as to visit the Palace of Versailles. The final concert, in the famous Madeleine church, featured the local Academie de l'Île St Louis orchestra which joined them for the Brahms. The reserved French audience responded uncharacteristically with thundering applause and repeated requests for encores.

Dr Ratledge writes: "Our trip was wonderful, and I so enjoyed all of the cities we visited ... You know that I enjoy working with you and will do so again ..." 📌

THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST GREET'S SAN DIEGO CHILDREN

The Pacific Northwest – beautiful, mountainous, verdant, sparkling, cosmopolitan and yes, wet – even during summer months, when one is likely to plan a concert tour. This did not deter the San Diego Children's Choir (director, Polly Campbell), who traveled in June through Seattle, Victoria, Coquitlam, Vancouver and Issaquah, and enjoyed "one of our best tours ever."

The choir left San Diego early on a Saturday and arrived in Seattle with plenty of time for a rehearsal, lunch and an Underground tour, which revealed the more dubious beginnings of the city of Seattle before Microsoft, Starbucks, REI, Boeing and Benaroya Hall took over to lend poise and prestige to this striking city on Elliott Bay.

All ready for Sunday, the San Diego Children's Choir was warmly welcomed at St Mark's Cathedral, where they participated in morning services and experienced the renowned beauty and acoustics of this building, which still continues to be improved through renovation. Later that afternoon, the San Diego Children's Choir was one of three ensembles featured in 'A Children's Choir

Buffalo State Chamber Choir during their tour of Spain



"I have never been on such a well run and well organized tour."

**Don Brinegar
Director**

**Pasadena
City College
Chamber Choir**

Spectacular,' a concert hosted by the Seattle Children's Chorus, and including the Alaska Youth Choir, also on tour at this time. Before departing for Victoria, the San Diego group enjoyed a full day of sightseeing, which included a visit to the locks, Space Needle, Pike Place Market, and an excursion to Blake Island to partake in a traditional native salmon-bake.

As the choir arrived in Victoria, they were greeted by host families from the Youth Choir 61, a district honor choir who would be looking after them for the next three nights. At one of the local schools' invitation, San Diego Children's Choir performed during an assembly the following morning to a large and appreciative group of youngsters, then headed off to Butchart Gardens for a tour, followed by tea. Upon returning to Victoria that afternoon, they enjoyed a short guided tour of the town, then joined their host families in the evening for a wonderful night swim at the Com-

monwealth Pool.

The following day was busy with singing: first at Centennial Square, where the choir was delighted to perform the kick-off concert for Victoria's 'Summer in the Square' concert series, which lasts throughout the summer; and later that evening, when SDCC joined the Youth Choir 61 in concert at St John the Divine Church.

It was then off to Coquitlam, a town just south of Vancouver, where the choir of the Coastal Sound Music Academy would host them for the next three nights. In conjunction with the White Rock Children's Choir, who were hosting the Alaska Youth Choir, the Coastal Sound Music Academy presented an evening concert featuring five children's choirs! It was a great night of music, camaraderie and coordination.

While visiting Vancouver the following day, the California group joined the congregation at Christ Church Cathedral in celebration of morning services, then went on to see the Capilano Suspension Bridge (the longest in the world), Grouse Mountain, and Stanley Park (by bicycle!).

The tour ended in Issaquah, a charming town east of Seattle, popular with outdoor enthusiasts. The choir had an opportunity to relax and enjoy some of the recreational activities for which the Pacific Northwest is justly renowned. Fortune was with them throughout the tour – and weather did not threaten the planned excursion to Snoqualmie Falls, the hike on Tiger Mountain, or the outdoor evening concert in front of the Issaquah Community Center, which brought local friends and families out to barbecue dinner and enjoy the show of the San Diego Children's Choir. Now, that's a Pacific Northwest summer night! 🎵

"This last trip was the best ever. The experiences in Vienna, Salzburg, and Venice were fantastic. We had the luxury of two great nights in Lake Garda and Lake Como. Audiences were wonderful. The group felt inspired from this experience. We're ready to talk about the next tour!"

**Henley Denmead
Director**

Hartford Chorale

MONTEVERDI IN ITALY AND CROATIA

It had long been a dream of Paul Vorwerk, director of the Santa Cruz Chorale (California), to take his ensemble to sing the music of Monteverdi in the composer's homeland. This wish began to be fulfilled when, on July 10, a group of 47 singers, instrumentalists and supporters boarded Alitalia's new non-



Santa Cruz Chorale performing in Zadar, Croatia

stop service from San Francisco to Milan. The first stop was the Castello di Casiglio, a hotel created from a castle in glorious countryside between Lecco and Como. This was the perfect setting for rehearsals and recovery from jet-lag, pro-

ducing a group well rested and well prepared by the time of their first concert, in Lecco's *duomo*.

A lunch and museum stop in the violin city of Cremona broke the journey to Mantua, one of two places on the itinerary strongly linked with Monteverdi. Paul Vorwerk had constructed a setting of the Vespers as might have been sung on the Feast of St John the Baptist, complete with versicles and antiphons. It was

performed without a break, with the audience asked to hold its applause until the end, so as to replicate as much as possible the atmosphere of a service. In the beautiful church of Santa Maria del Gradaro, with the resident nuns making their entrance from the

cloisters as the first notes were sung, it was not hard for audience and performers alike to be swept away by the occasion.

The spirit of Monteverdi seemed to have been especially pervasive here: a

group of the singers offered madrigals by him and Gesualdo in the courtyard of the hotel, finding as ever that sparkling wine worked miracles on their sight-reading prowess. Funny how Gesualdo never goes quite where you expect...

In Venice, the concert was given in the Basilica dei Frari, an intimidating place for any group because of its reverberant acoustics, but especially so for a group singing the music of a man buried 50 feet from where they were performing. However, an appreciative audience, perhaps conveying Monteverdi's tacit approval of the performance, tamed the acoustics by their very presence and made the evening a highlight of the tour.

The group then left Italy for Croatia. This leg of the tour had been in some jeopardy during the military action in Serbia but the group, working closely with ACFEA, wisely elected to postpone any decision until the last minute, by which time it was apparent to everyone's satisfaction that there were no unusual risks associated with travel there. What they found was a stunning country, with very friendly people, low prices, beautiful cities, fine churches and a spectacular coastline. They gave concerts in Zadar and Split, and spent two nights in Dubrovnik, enjoying what is certainly one of Europe's most attractive cities.

A final night in Rome, complete with a glowing sunset behind St Peter's Basilica and an equally glowing farewell dinner, ended the chorale's first venture to Europe. The sequel is already being planned. 📖

– Choraliers, continued from page 1

State University Long Beach Chamber Choir (director, Lynn Bielefelt) and the Hawai'i Youth Opera Chorus (director, Nola Nahulu).

Before arriving in Rotterdam, the group had given performances in Perugia, Pisa, Vevey, Strasbourg, Rothenburg and Aachen. The Perugia concert was part of the International Choir Festival, the one in Pisa was under the auspices of UNESCO, and the Aachen concert, part of the Summer Festival, was to benefit the cathedral. Two of the performances had strong personal connections: in Vevey, some of the Choraliers were invited to stay in the homes of Dr Archibeque's friends, who worked with ACFEA to ensure an enjoyable, Swiss experience, more personal than is always possible without a prior connection; and in Rothenburg, the parish priest (a friend of ACFEA's for many years) was retiring, and the Choraliers were invited to participate in

his retirement party as a symbol of the many fine groups he had hosted over the years.

In addition to this music-making, the group had time to visit Rome, Assisi, Milan, Heidelberg and Cologne, experiencing the sights, sounds and food of five European countries. With the experienced eye of Dr Archibeque looking over the itinerary throughout the planning stage, all this was accomplished in 19 days in a leisurely but experience-packed style. As she said, "This was our best trip ever! Had a wonderful time." 📖



San Jose State University Choraliers under the influence of the Leaning Tower of Pisa

THE ST LOUIS WOMEN'S CHORALE MAKE THEIR MARK AT LLANGOLLEN

The St Louis Women's Chorale, directed by Susan McMane, recently completed their first European tour. They chose the British Isles, touring

England and Wales, and an abundance of musical highlights made the tour an unparalleled success. The 40-voice women's choir appeared on a noon-time concert series in London (St Katherine Cree Church), performed two joint concerts with male voice choirs (The Fairwater Male Choir and the award-winning Caernarfon Male Voice Choir), and performed a concert at Radford Road Church in Leamington Spa, near Warwick.

The highlight of the tour and the centerpiece of the trip was competing in the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod in Wales. One of only nine choirs in the world chosen to compete in the Female Choir division, the St Louis Women's Chorale placed third – quite an achievement. The Eisteddfod was a wonderful opportunity to obtain valuable critical feedback from an international panel of esteemed judges. They were particularly proud of being complimented on their French language by a French judge! It was also a delightful chance to hear, see and socialize with the finest choirs and dancers from all over the world. The son of one of the choir mem-

"After returning from my second tour organized by ACFEA, I just want to thank you for a most enjoyable trip! Accommodations, food, courier, venues and audiences were all outstanding. Thanks for caring about the details that make for a great tour!"

**Susan McMane
Director**

St Louis Women's Chorale



St Louis Women's Chorale at the Albert Memorial, London

bers even found an unexpected opportunity to play his Irish drum with an Irish band. A number of Irish musicians and dancers threw an impromptu dancing party in the hospitality tent, and after gaining a few crucial pointers from a group elder, he was invited to 'gig' with them.

The women of this choir, however, would never go all the way to the British Isles without taking advantage of the wealth of English and Welsh sights to see. Utilizing any and all bits of time in a musically active itinerary, the group experienced much of what London and Wales have to offer. They took two days in London as soon as they arrived to take in the sights and mingle with the locals. After a coach tour of the major sights, they set off in small groups to see what interested them most. Scott Schoonover, the group's accompanist, managed convincingly to impersonate a waxwork at Madame Tussaud's. A group of Japanese tourists was admiring his life-like skin

tone, when he lurched suddenly in their direction, causing pandemonium. Fortunately, they had a good sense of humor about it.

A particular treat was a drive through fabulously scenic Snowdonia National Park in Wales, an enormous preserve of beautiful rolling green mountains, dotted by grazing sheep and blooming heather. Like the gorgeous scenery, the people of Wales were beautiful in spirit and displayed their famous Welsh hospitality at every turn.

A culinary and cultural adventure was a medieval banquet in the great hall at Ruthin Castle. Dining with the 'court' included drinking mead, sipping Welsh cawl from a

wooden bowl, and eating lamb chops using only knife and hands (napkins included), while being entertained by singers and dancers in medieval costume. Another highlight was touring the castles of Cardiff and Caernarfon. Cardiff Castle dates back to Roman times, and has been re-built in several periods. Caernarfon is primarily a Norman structure and is the



Fort Wayne Children's Choir posing in front of Castle Shrewsbury with fellow participants of the 21st Shrewsbury International Music Festival

place where the Princes of Wales are crowned, even to this day.

The St Louis Women's Chorale had a marvelous experience for their first foray into international touring. Memories of the Eisteddfod and lovely Welsh people will live long in their hearts and minds. **■**

ACFEA OVERSEAS STAFF

THOMAS AINGER is an Operations Manager in London. A graduate of Leeds University, he has worked as Choral Courses Organiser for the Royal School of Church Music, for Gamma International as Tour Manager for ballet companies and orchestras, and as Orchestral Manager for The Hanover Band.

KATRINA ALLEN is an Operations Manager in London. Her studies of French and Spanish at Manchester University have led her to work and travel in France, Spain and Mexico. Katrina is a pianist and has sung with various choral groups in the UK, France and Spain.

ELISABETH CAWOOD is an Operations Manager in London. She studied Italian and music at London University before working in the travel business in Switzerland. She has worked as a press officer and on the administration of the Consort of Musicke and its associated recording company. She speaks German and Italian and, as a singer and violinist, has performed with choirs and orchestras in Italy and Britain.

TRICIA GEORGE is Head of Operations in London. Before joining ACFEA in 1979, Tricia worked for the British Government Bureau dealing with international exchanges. Educated at Aberdeen University, she has traveled extensively in Europe and North America.

MATTHEW GROGUTT is an Operations Manager in London. A graduate of Leeds University, he has worked in the music touring industry since 1992. He maintains an active musical interest as a freelance trumpet player.

TONY HASTINGS is European Projects Director. He is a graduate of Sussex University and has worked in the music publishing industry with Oxford University Press. Tony has also run his own music store and booking agency. He currently sings with the Bath Camerata.

ESTHER JONES is the ACFEA Representative in Spain. Born in England, her foreign language studies and subsequent occu-

pations resulted in extensive travel throughout Europe and the US. She has performed on clarinet with several orchestras and now lives in Barcelona, publishing a monthly English guide to the city.

ELFRIEDE LEIMER-RIZZOTTI is the Regional Representative in Italy. Although born in Austria, Friede has been ACFEA's consultant in Italy since 1983. Before joining ACFEA, she worked for the Austrian diplomatic service.

SYLVIA MARIN, ACFEA's Representative in France, is based in Paris. She graduated from Georgia State University with a



ACFEA staff at the Bach Museum in Eisenach, Germany

degree in business administration before moving to France. Since then, she has been involved in organizing music tours and accompanying groups throughout the Mediterranean area using her linguistic skills.

SUE PETER, ACFEA's Representative for Germany, has a varied background in travel administration and has worked for the British Tourist Authority and the Welsh Tourist Board. Now living in Berlin, she sings with the Wilmersdorf Ensemble 'Kissi Choir'.

SVETLANA PETROVSKAYA, ACFEA's Moscow Representative, graduated in geography from the Moscow Pedagogical Institute. She studied piano as a child, and is a keen music fan. Her interests include international relations, travel and meeting people.


JENNY RUSSELL, ACFEA's Assistant Manager in Canberra, plays flute and sings. She has performed with various choirs in Canberra and London, including Canberra's Rhythm Syndicate and the Woden Valley Youth Choir with whom she toured the USA and Japan. A graduate of the University of Canberra, Jenny is a legal secretary. She worked in ACFEA's

London office prior to joining the Australian office on her return in 1992.

RICHARD SAVAGE, Managing Director of ACFEA Europe, has been with the organization since 1970. He graduated from Oxford University, where he sang in Christ Church Cathedral Choir. He still maintains his professional singing career, being a permanent member of the Monteverdi Choir since 1971 and of the Gabrieli and Taverner Consorts amongst many others.

JOHN TREGELLAS is ACFEA's Regional Representative in Central Europe. Based in Prague since 1990, he works regularly with major concert promoters in the Czech Republic. A modern languages graduate from the University of Oxford, he speaks fluent Czech, German, French and Hebrew. His concert credits as a baritone with the Kühn Mixed Choir include performances with Vladimir Ashkenazy, Sir George Solti and Sir Charles Mackerras.

DON WHITBREAD, ACFEA's General Manager for Australia and New Zealand, conducts diverse choirs, musical theater and church music. He founded and for 28 years directed the Woden Valley Youth Choir, who toured Australia, North America, UK, Europe, New Zealand and Japan. A teacher, then senior public servant with the Prime Minister's Department, Don received the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to music in 1980 and was Canberra's Citizen of the Year in 1997. He has been associated with ACFEA since 1981.

OLGA YEMELYANOVA, ACFEA's Representative in Russia, is based in St Petersburg. She attended a specialist music school, has a diploma in English and German education and is presently pursuing post-graduate studies in linguistics. Before joining ACFEA, she taught English at a high school and at Herzen University. She is actively involved in music-making, and is a keen American square- and contradancer. 

"A wonderful experience for all of us. I will continue to use ACFEA whenever possible."

Jess Wade
Director

Century Singers
Texas A&M University

**ACFEA
NORTH
AMERICAN
STAFF**

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.

ROBYN GOLDSTEIN is a Tour Manager in the New York office. After graduating with a degree in psychology from Boston University, she lived in London and traveled extensively in Europe and Asia. A woodwind and keyboard player, her first touring experience was as solo clarinetist with her high school orchestra in Spain; more recently, she has played in several musicals in Boston and at Chicago's Theater on the Lake.

CHARLES HAWK is Business Advisor of ACFEA North America. Charles has been a travel consultant since graduating from California State University in 1972 and has been specializing in music tours since 1980. He is a Certified Travel Counselor and has traveled to all areas of the world both with groups and as an individual.

KENNETH NOREEN is Artistic Advisor of ACFEA North America. He recently retired after 30 years with the Shoreline School District in Seattle, serving most of which as Band Director at Shorecrest High School. Ken is a Past President of the Washington Music Educators Association and traveled with his band to Europe ten times since 1966. He holds a master's degree in music education and is currently Director of Bands at Shoreline Community College.

MARK POWELL has been a Tour Manager in the Seattle office since 1993. After earning his degree in vocal music from Seattle Pacific University, Mark moved to England where he managed the National Youth Choir of Great Britain. He then lived in francophone Belgium, touring and performing throughout Europe while working for the International Federation for Choral Music. Mark is currently finishing a master's degree in musicology and is active in church music as a chanter, conductor and arranger. He currently performs in two professional choirs: the Tudor Choir in Seattle and Cappella Romana in Portland.

SUZANNE ROBBINS is a Tour Manager in the New York office. She has a degree in



SEATTLE

Charles Hawk
Kenneth Noreen
Mark Powell
David Wert
(800) 886-3355 (425) 776-3273
120 Second Ave. S.
Edmonds, WA 98020

NEW YORK

Robyn Goldstein
Suzanne Robbins
(800) 886-6995 (914) 631-0660
Suite 5, 19 N. Broadway
Tarrytown, NY 10591



SAN FRANCISCO

Hugh Davies
Christina Teply
Noelle Tsigounis
(800) 886-2055 (415) 453-6619
1567 Fourth St.
San Rafael, CA 94901

music from Wellesley College and spent her youth traveling extensively in Europe and South America. Before joining ACFEA, Suzanne managed the booking division of Performing Arts Consultants in Boston. Suzanne has sung with such ensembles as the Dessoif Choirs, the New York Choral Society and the Uptown Sound. She is currently a member of the Blue Hill Troupe.

CHRISTINA TEPLY is a Tour Manager based in the California office. Born in San Francisco, she graduated from the University of California, San Diego, with a degree in French, and has worked with ACFEA since 1992. Her travels include study abroad programs in France and Central America, competitive tours throughout Europe with a track team, and trips to Russia, China, Australia and New Zealand. Currently, Christina sings with the Marin Master Chorale.

NOELLE TSGOUNIS is Special Projects Manager and has been with ACFEA since 1992. Having worked in the Seattle and New York offices, Noelle now calls the San Francisco office home. A native of New York, Noelle earned her degree in vocal performance from the State University of New York at Geneseo. She has

lived in London and traveled extensively throughout Europe, the Middle East, Australia, China, Guatemala, South Africa and the USA. An active musician in the Bay Area, Noelle has sung with the San Francisco Concert Chorale, conducted the Marin Youth Chorus Les Etoiles, and is currently performing with the California Bach Society.

DAVID WERT, Tour Manager, is based in the Seattle office. A native of Pennsylvania, he is the former Executive Officer of the Armed Forces School of Music in Norfolk, VA.

As a director of US Navy Bands, he has performed in and conducted musical ensembles in over 30 countries, including many in South America, Africa, Asia and the Far East. David had choral training from an early age and is an accomplished performer on piano, contemporary keyboard and trumpet. He currently performs freelance in the Seattle area. 🎵

"Wonderful tour."

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UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER CHAMBER ORCHESTRA ENJOY THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

Taking advantage of fewer tourists and excellent concert opportunities, the University of Rochester Chamber Orchestra (director, David Harman) spent the better part of two weeks touring the road less traveled in Northern Italy this past May. Staying in some of the smaller, less known towns (while sightseeing in the major cities) afforded the orchestra excellent concert opportunities as part of a local series in each place.

The tour kicked off in the stunning town of Arezzo, where the orchestra was

hosted by the local university, which shares a program with the University of Rochester. There, the orchestra participated in a seminar at the musical lyceum and performed a concert in the local parish church of San Domenico.

The orchestra continued its journey with a stay in Lucca, a former ancient Roman colony, and a charming arts centre. In addition to excursions to Florence and Pisa for sightseeing, the orchestra traveled to Barga, where they performed a concert as part of an orchestral series at the beautiful 19th century Teatro dei Differenti.

The next stop was the bustling city of Bologna, a major cultural center and university town. Here, the orchestra enjoyed local sightseeing as well as an excursion to the city of Ravenna, renowned for its superb mosaics from the Byzantine period. From Bologna, the orchestra traveled to Cento, where it performed as part of an educational concert series for local high school students. The performance took place in the stunning 19th century Teatro Borgatti, which is often called a miniature La Scala, and was followed by a pizza party for the orchestra members.

The last destination was Dueville, a small town located near Vicenza, in the heart of Andrea Palladio's famous Palladian Villas. From Dueville, the orchestra traveled to Venice for a day of sightseeing, and then performed a concert in the Teatro Busnelli in Dueville, sponsored by the local council.

In the words of director David Harman, "(Concert) sites were excellent. I am very pleased with the service of ACFEA. There is no reason to even consider another tour company for our future tours. Bravissimi!" 🎵



Members of Cappella Cantorum enjoying Positano, Italy

"The tour was perfect from beginning to end."

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