



Tour Notes

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

2000-2001

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Hunter College High School Choruses
(New York, NY) at Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris



Photo: Fred Camerer

Gay Men’s Chorus of Los Angeles performing in Helsinki’s Kultuuri Talo

HOW TO CHANGE LIVES

Have a vision. Keep to it. Act on it. Jon Bailey and the Gay Men’s Chorus of Los Angeles showed how powerful this principle can be in the planning and execution of their October, 1999 tour of Russia, Finland, Estonia and Germany.

The chorus made a pioneering tour of Eastern Europe in 1991, and started discussions in 1994 about another tour. It took the subsequent five years for all the essential elements to coincide, and the resulting tour was certainly worth the wait. As a fine men’s chorus venturing into a part of the world where such ensembles are especially revered, the group received musical accolades at all their concerts: in Berlin’s Philharmonie, Tallinn’s Estonia Concert Hall, Helsinki’s Kultuuri Talo, St Petersburg’s Glinka Capella and Moscow’s Tchaikovsky Hall. But being a very fine gay men’s chorus added the dimension that made this project so significant.

A group of 98 performers, accom-
– *continued on page 2, see GMCLA*

HOUSTON SYMPHONY CHORUS SELECTED FOR BBC PROMS

Two years ago, ACFEA Tour Consultants was approached with the prestigious offer of providing an accomplished American choir to perform as part of the BBC Promenade Concerts in July, 2000. The Houston Symphony Chorus, a world-renowned choir conducted by Charles Hausmann, fit the bill and accepted the incredible opportunity to perform in what has been appropriately called the world’s greatest music festival.

Eighty members of the Houston Symphony Chorus and their guests traveled to England and Wales for one week of individual concertizing and rehearsals in preparation for the big event. The chorus performed two concerts in advance of the Proms; in the stunning Symphony Hall, Birmingham, with the English Symphony Orchestra, and in the Great Malvern Priory, one of the most beautiful
– *continued on page 6, see Houston*

NORTHWEST GIRLCHOIR WOVES SOUTH AMERICA

From the cosmopolitan metropolis of Buenos Aires to the remote farm community of Treinta-y-Treis to the pulsating, joyous city of Rio —

and everywhere in between — the ladies of the Northwest Girlchoir (Seattle, WA) enthralled packed audiences whenever they raised their voices in song. Under the direction of Rebecca Rottsolk, the Northwest Girlchoir visited Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil on their 7th international ACFEA tour, experiencing the wide range of cultural and musical rewards derived from visiting countries off the beaten concert tour track. The goals of the tour were excellent performance opportunities with large audience potential, real cultural exchange, educational experiences and good fun, and all of these objectives were successfully achieved.

The choir performed nine formal concerts in the span of an 18-day tour, with each being varied in nature and setting. The concertizing began with two joint performances with the Coro Nacional de Niños de Argentina in Buenos Aires, in the stunningly beautiful Museum of Fine Arts and in the National Radio Concert Hall, the latter of which was broadcast internationally to more than 38 countries. Additionally, the girls sang with the Holy Trinity College Choir of Mar del Plata in the lovely Colón Theatre, in the Parish Church of Treinta-y-Treis with the Coro Pro Musica, and with the Camerata Vocal of Montevideo in the renowned Zitarosa Hall. Solo concerts were performed at the gilded Church of San Francisco of Assisi in the former gold-rush capital and perfectly preserved colonial town of Ouro Preto, and in the glass Crystal Palace in the city of Petrópolis, a former imperial residence. In Rio, the choir performed with orchestra to over 1200 people in the dominating 19th-century Candelaria Cathedral. The group wrapped up the tour with a moving performance in the beautiful, intimate Niteroi Theatre in the town of Niteroi, Rio's twin across the water. All of the concerts were part of established concert series and each was a complete success, with standing room only and cries of "encore" echoing for as long as 30 minutes after the last note was sung.


A major highlight for the girls was the opportunity to stay in homes with local families in Mar del Plata, Treinta-y-

Treis, Ouro Preto and Petrópolis. Through this experience the choir members were able to practice their language skills (which usually involved hand signals), to see real life in each country and, most importantly, to develop valuable lifetime friendships with their contemporaries in music. Other high points included a visit to the famous Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, lunch on an Argentinian ranch, a tango lesson in Montevideo, entrance to the Imperial Museum in Petrópolis, excursions to Sugarloaf and Corcovado and, of course, beach time in Rio.



Northwest Girlchoir at the Monumento Cristo Redentor on Corcovado in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The repertoire, carefully selected by Ms Rottsolk, focused on 'world music.' The audiences in each place enjoyed works from America, Africa, Europe, Israel and Australia but, in each instance, the house was brought down by repertoire from Latin America, specifically works of Edu Lobo and two Mexican folk songs. The choir was accompanied by Dwight Beckmeyer, who delighted the audience members and the choir alike with his virtuoso playing in all styles, including jazz and boogie.

"This tour experience had the largest and most receptive audiences of any tour we've taken with ACFEA," stated Ms Rottsolk. "ACFEA did a great job matching our choir to a high-level concert tour experience." 

— *GMCLA, continued from page 1*
panied by 28 partners and friends and a video crew of 5, is going to make an impact anywhere. Because of the high profile nature of their performances, however, the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles attracted a huge amount of attention. Most impressively, they used this attention at every opportunity to further their goal of helping the local gay community: they donated part of their baggage allowance so that thousands of AIDS education posters could be flown to Moscow; they spoke of basic human rights and freedoms in dozens of radio and television interviews in Russia; concert proceeds in every city were given to local gay causes and charities; and, most importantly, they showed in their performances their pride in who they were. No gay group had ever been even remotely as much in the Russian public eye before — part of the Moscow concert was broadcast live on the national evening news. A Russian attending the Moscow concert was quoted in a front page Los Angeles *Times* article as saying: "This may be the most important event ever for the gay community here."

Many participants remember the small-scale effects as fondly as the big moments: the second of silence followed by the gasp of amazement from the St Petersburg audience when, halfway through the concert, they learned that the chorus they had been admiring so much, and which had been billed as the Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, was, in fact, a gay group; the couple in Tallinn who rose from the midst of the typically taciturn Estonian audience and raised their held hands high during *We Shall Overcome*; hearing that Anneli Saaristo, one of Finland's most popular singers and a guest artist at the Helsinki concert, was incredibly nervous before walking on stage with a group she found so powerfully committed and compelling; the instant bonding that took place at a dinner with the Los Angeles chorus and the Berlin group RosaCavaliere; and the parents who determined to reconcile with their gay son after they attended the Moscow concert.

The outcome perhaps most surprising to the participants, who hoped that their visit would change others' lives, was how it changed theirs. Jon Bailey said, "We've come to sing and we've come to listen," and listen they did. And realized how much you can learn when you open your heart and ears.

(For more information about this tour, visit www.gmcla.org or order the video *beyond the walls...* from www.unityinternational.com) 

PLU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA – CONNECTING IN DEUTSCHLAND

embarked last January on their second tour with ACEFA: a journey to the heart of Germany. Conceived both as a musical

The Pacific Lutheran University Symphony Orchestra (Tacoma, WA), under the baton of Jerry Kracht,

places and culture in which they had thrived. “To perform their works in the very homeland that produced them was an inspiration for us all. And to have the confirmation of our German audiences that our performances were appropriate and enjoyable to them was high praise, indeed,” Dr Kracht stated. They were also pleased to present the music of American composer, Richard Hervig, with the European première of his *Music for a Concert*.

In connection with Martin Luther,

experiences, that Martin Luther has never before been more real to us,” Dr Kracht stated.

Beyond the musical and the specifically Lutheran, their travels brought them some other powerful experiences as well. A side trip to the former concentration camp of Buchenwald was sobering beyond words. Profoundly uplifting was observing the reunification of the two Germanys, divided for forty years, as they strive to become one again and seek a

common level. But a positive, resilient, can-do attitude was evident during the orchestra’s visit to the Expo 2000 site under construction in Hannover. The first World’s Fair ever to be held in Germany, it demonstrates significant hope for the future of this remarkable land.

Dr Kracht: “I think the greatest connection of all that developed on this wonderful trip, was within ourselves as an orchestra and as fellow musicians. To have the opportunity at the university level to be a full-time orchestra, with intensive rehearsals and repeat performances, in

meaningful and exciting places — if only for a month — resulted in a tremendous growth, both musical and personal. We returned an extremely happy and much enriched orchestra.” 📖



PLU Symphony Orchestra performing in the Lindenkirche, Berlin, during their musical and spiritual journey through Germany

and cultural tour, their itinerary took them to some of the many places in Germany that have special meaning to them as musicians and as representatives of the Lutheran tradition. Eisenach, Sondershausen, Ilmenau, Erfurt, Weimar, Eisleben, Halle, Leipzig, Bad Schmiedeberg, Wittenberg, Berlin and Hannover provided innumerable opportunities for significant connections. There was a road to the great music of Germany and to the great Martin Luther.

For the musical element of the tour, they performed six concerts of works by the German masters Bach, Mendelssohn, Wagner, Liszt and Webern. The orchestra also walked where these composers had walked, and experienced first-hand the

they visited Eisleben, site of the birth and death of the Reformation leader. The orchestra performed there under the very pulpit from which he preached in the St Andreaskirche. An excursion was made to his home in Eisenach, where he studied as a youth and learned his great love of music, and they climbed to the Wartburg, itself a mighty fortress, to stand in the very room where he translated the Bible into German. In Erfurt, they saw the magnificent window that inspired the Luther Rose and, in Wittenberg, they stood at the Thesis door of the Castle Church. “Everywhere we played his music, as set by Mendelssohn in his stirring *Reformation Symphony*; I think I can safely say, thanks to these

“The students were thrilled — it was an experience they will never forget! I do hope we can collaborate again soon.”

**Thomas Folan
Conductor**

University of Rochester Choir

MOZART IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

'Mozart Requiem 2000' marked the third annual success of combining several choirs under the direction of

Jonathan Griffith to perform a major work with orchestra in some of Europe's most exciting venues. This year, the setting was the delightful spa town of Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad) and the incomparable city of Prague, both in the Czech Republic. Here, choir members from UC Berkeley Alumni Chorus (director, Mark Sumner), Anchorage Concert Chorus (director, Grant Cochran), and Warwick Valley Chorale (director, Stanley Curtis) joined together to rehearse and perform the new Levin edition of Mozart's *Requiem* with the Karlovy Vary Symphony Orchestra, first in the elegant ballroom of the Grand Hotel Pupp, Karlovy Vary, and then in the exquisite Dvořák Hall of the Rudolfinum, Prague.

In rehearsals during the first part of the week it became evident that these singers had come prepared! After just a bit of fine-tuning with Jonathan Griffith, the ensemble gave two fabulous performances to very large and appreciative

audiences, a particularly impressive achievement considering the potential resistance to presenting a classical work such as Mozart's *Requiem* in any way that is not standard. Those familiar with the Levin edition will know that, beautiful though it is, it is hardly standard.

Of course, there was plenty of time for leisurely sightseeing and shopping. Relaxing in Karlovy Vary is not difficult; royalty, artists and aristocrats have been enjoying this tranquil spa town since the 17th century, staying in any of its numerous grand hotels or private manor homes dotted throughout the surrounding hill-sides, taking the cure and sipping on Becharovka. But who would want to relax in Prague?!

With so much to see and do in this great city it is hard to stay still, and more than one person commented that they could have easily spent more time there. The week's activities culminated in a gala dinner cruise on the River Vltava, followed by warm farewell wishes to all as individual choirs prepared to embark on the second phase of their own tours: members of the Warwick Valley Chorale journeyed home, UC Berkeley Alumni Chorus continued on to Hungary, and Anchorage Concert Chorus traveled to England.

A week is hardly enough time to do – continued on page 8, see *Mozart*

JOIN JONATHAN GRIFFITH SINGERS IN BARCELONA, 2001

Building upon the tremendous successes of the last three massed-choir events with Jonathan Griffith in France, Italy and the Czech Republic, ACFEA is very

pleased to announce plans for the fourth Jonathan Griffith Singers project in Spain, June 27 to July 6, 2001. The program is designed to offer an exciting balance of three concert performances with orchestra, sightseeing, and time at leisure in and around one of Europe's most exciting and progressive cities, Barcelona.

Jonathan Griffith is a highly sought-after conductor who has led numerous choral and orchestral performances both in the US and overseas, including more than 20 at Carnegie Hall. He has selected Verdi's *Requiem* to be the featured work in Barcelona and will welcome approximately 120 singers. Concert venues include such possibilities as the Santes Creus Monastery, the Iglesia del Pi and the Teatro Fortuny. Both balanced and partial choirs are invited to participate in this 8-night program. 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, please contact Christina Tepy at (800) 886-2055 or christina@acfea.com.



Members of the UC Berkeley Alumni Chorus

Accolades for 'Mozart Requiem 2000' in the Rudolfinum, Prague



"Thanks for such a wonderfully planned tour. You folks are the best!!!"

Randall Wolfe
Director

Cincinnati Boychoir

ROOKE CHAPEL CHOIR: BOUND FOR SUNSHINE

After surviving the snow and ice on tour in Montreal in 1999, the Rooke Chapel Choir of Bucknell University knew they had two objectives for their

next trip - beach and sunshine. These goals were admirably achieved through a wonderful tour of Costa Rica that included beautiful concert venues, tropical rain forests and colonial villages. The group arrived in San Jose just after the new year. They immediately traveled to the Pacific Coast and found tranquility at Jaco Beach where they feasted on the local cuisine and danced through the night. Many were looking forward to the next day when they could test their skill at whitewater rafting.

Next morning, the group left for the high mountain village of Monteverde, set in a lush tropical rainforest and home to squirrel monkeys, iguanas and other exotic animals. After enjoying the natural wonders of the area, the group rehearsed for their performance as part of the Monteverde Music Festival. Their evening ended with spectacular nighttime viewing of the continuously erupting Arenal Volcano. The next day, the choir glided through the treetops on the world's first rainforest aerial tram. It was a thrilling way to end their stay in the mountains of Costa Rica.

After a few days in nature, the choir looked forward to the contrast of spending time in the country's capital city of San Jose. Just outside San Jose, the group performed for a welcoming audience in a local church, then ended their day with a fun night of listening to Costa Rican *mariachi* bands. The choir finished their tour by participating in a Mass in Cartago Church, one of the largest churches in Costa Rica. After many adventures and warm receptions, the Rooke Chapel Choir sadly bade farewell to this exciting, picturesque country and headed back to the chilly Pennsylvania winter. 📍

"It was a wonderful tour. Well thought out and exceeded our expectations. Thank you!"

**Gary Wolfman
Director**

**Fox Valley Youth
Orchestra and Band**



Seen here in the Archbishop's Palace at Kromeriz while touring the Czech Republic, Coronado High School Orchestra from El Paso also visited Germany and Austria under the direction of Ida Steadman.

COLUMBIA, THE GEM OF THE MOLDAU

Hailing from metropolitan Seattle, Columbia Choirs toured central Europe with members from three ensembles and ages

ranging from pre-teen through adult. Art galleries, cathedrals and churches provided choristers with awe-inspiring acoustics and fabulous memories, but it was the many opportunities for spontaneous singing that stand out in the tour participants' minds. "Our choirs of children, teenagers and adults found ample venues to sing. While taking a cruise on the Moldau (Vltava) River through Prague, we serenaded crowds on the impressive Charles Bridge. It was completely spontaneous and absolutely appropriate for the moment," said Columbia Choirs founder and director Steve Stevens.

The tour began in Salzburg and St Florian, Austria. Homestays, guided tours and concerts filled the schedule, including a performance in an ornate and acoustically rich rococo church in Linz. The Czech Republic introduced the choir to a country recovering from 40 years of communist rule. The Bohemian town of Jihlava provided the backdrop for an international choral festival, and Columbia's 'Vocal Ensemble' performed at an invitation-only concert for an audience of choral conductors and local elected officials. The concert was recorded by the Czech Republic National Radio for future broadcast.

From performances by members of the State Opera to a marionette show, Prague lived up to its name as the Golden

City. Untouched by World War II bombs, the city is a virtual architectural museum. The choirs finished their tour of the Czech Republic with a standing-room only performance in the beautiful spa town of Teplice.

Cities important to Bach's life were next on the tour: Leipzig and Eisenach, Germany. The choirs had an opportunity to sing in the same church Bach sang in as a choir boy and toured the Leipzig church where he wrote much of his choral music. "Local tour guides effectively wove important information about Bach, Mendelssohn and especially

Martin Luther into their presentations, lively facts that were relevant to our purpose," Stevens remarked.

The Battle of Nations Monument afforded another opportunity for spontaneous performance. The monument looms outside Leipzig and serves as a reminder of the allies' defeat of Napoleon in the 19th century. Enjoying the acoustic delay of up to 14 seconds, the choir honored those lost in the conflict with an offering of sacred selections.

In all, Columbia Choirs sang 10 times in 14 days, and found appreciative crowds for their music, particularly spirituals. With professional recordings and mountains of 'Kodak moments', participants will relive the tour for years to come. "This was our seventh tour with ACFEA, and their organization, quality of couriers, city tour guides and concert venue selection never cease to amaze me," Stevens said. "Our goal is to make the tours as educationally enriching as possible for the children and young adults; ACFEA exceeded our every expectation," he added. 📍

"ACFEA once again made our tour a success. We enjoyed the concert sites very much, along with our enthusiastic audiences."

**Lori Loftus
Director**

**Southern California
Children's Choir**

CHURCH CHOIR DISCOVERS THE WARMTH OF FRANCE AND SPAIN

The University Congregational Church Choir in Seattle has a long history of concert tours abroad. After their successful tour with ACFEA to Great Britain in 1997, director Robert Scandrett asked ACFEA to suggest a somewhat warmer place to visit, but still one with a rich sacred musical heritage. Immediately, southern France and northeastern Spain came to mind.

Not only did the warm climate appeal, but also the prospect of incorporating into their concerts the famous 19th-century romantic organs found in the region, especially those by the esteemed builder Aristide Cavallé-Coll. It was decided to design an itinerary which utilized as many of these famous instruments as possible, beginning in Bordeaux and ending in Barcelona.

To complement this itinerary, Scandrett prepared the choir to sing movements of requiems by three 19th- and 20th-century French masters of sacred choral music, Duruflé, Desenclos, and Fauré. Likewise they brought on tour the *Litanies à la Vierge Noire de Notre-Dame de Roc-Amadour* by Poulenc; the choir actually visited Rocamadour and its famous caves on the way to Lectoure. Their French pieces were balanced by arrangements of American folk tunes and spirituals which were received with great enthusiasm, particularly in Bordeaux at the professional concert series at Saint Emilion, and in Le Bugue.

"Saint Emilion was really great," said Scandrett. "We had a large audience, and you wouldn't believe the wine they served us from the Bordeaux region!" The choir also sang at the Cathedral of St-Front in Le Bugue, the Toulouse Basilica, and the Cathedral of Lectoure.

Upon leaving France the group performed twice in the Catalonian region of Spain, once in Girona and again in Barcelona at Santa María del Pí, in between sampling the local *paella* and *tapas*.



The Washington Chorus (music director, Robert Shafer) during their concert tour of Italy, which extended from Como to Rome. "Another great trip," commented Executive Director Dianne Peterson regarding the group's third ACFEA tour.

Traveling at the end of June and early July, the weather was perfect throughout the tour. Not only was the climate warm, but so also were the local people they met. "We were particularly overwhelmed by the warmth of the French people," confirmed Scandrett, helping to dispel the well-known stereo-

type that the French really do not care for Americans. Their experience suggests that this is far from the truth.

"The whole choir is sure that this was the best tour ever," declared Scandrett. The choir is hoping to visit Italy on their next European tour. 📌

ACFEA is a superlative organization — one that works hard to help realize the high aspirations we all have for the performing arts as we travel worldwide."

**James Armstrong, Jr
Director**

**The Choir of the
College of William and
Mary**

– Houston, continued from page 1
parish churches in England. Repertoire for the performances was carefully selected by Dr Hausmann, and included *Carmina Burana*, a signature work for the Houston Symphony Chorus. The program was rounded out with Randall Thompson's *Alleluia* and *Choruses from 'The Lark'* by Leonard Bernstein.

The tour culminated in the ultimate musical highlight of a lifetime when the choir sang the first Proms performance of Mendelssohn's *St Paul* with the BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of Wales and the London Symphony Chorus, in the Royal Albert Hall. The musical feast was led by Richard Hickox. 📌

**GLEN ELLYN
CHILDREN'S
CHORUS IN
AUSTRALIA
& NEW
ZEALAND**

In 1996, Emily Ellsworth, Music Director of the Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus, was a guest clinician at the Utah Centennial Children's Choral Celebration. It

was here that she first met up with the touring Woden Valley Youth Choir from Canberra, directed at the time by Don Whitbread, ACFEA's General Manager for Australia and New Zealand. A further chance encounter at the 1997 Chorus America convention between Joan Welles, Executive Director of the Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus, and Hugh Davies of ACFEA led to the two years of planning that went into this prestigious tour by one of North America's foremost children's choirs.

The long lead time enabled ACFEA to arrange two rare opportunities: a guest appearance with the National Boys' Choir in the Concert Hall of the Victoria Arts Centre in Melbourne (probably Australia's finest concert hall); and a festival in Sydney, allowing an opportu-

nity for the visitors to meet many of Australia's best young singers (including the Sydney Children's Choir), work with some fine Australian directors and composers (for example, Stephen Leek and Michael Atherton, from whom a work was commissioned), and perform in Sydney's long-needed new concert hall, the City Recital Hall, Angel Place.

In addition to these highlights, the group visited Canberra, where they gave a performance with the Woden Valley Youth Choir; Wagga Wagga, where their performance resulted in an open invitation for ACFEA to send groups as often as possible; and Auckland, New Zealand. Here they had a workshop with David Hamilton (one of New Zealand's leading choral composers) and gave a joint concert in St Matthew's Anglican Church with the Auckland Youth Choir. New Zealand makes an excellent adjunct to Australia, and is well worth including in a South Pacific tour. Easy to add to an itinerary, it is further from Australia both culturally and geographically (it is a three-hour flight from Sydney to Auckland) than many people realize. The beautiful scenery, old-fashioned charm, strong musical tradition and the well preserved

Maori culture combine to make New Zealand a great destination in its own right.

After a 13-hour flight from Auckland to Los Angeles, the group fell victim to the sort of flight disruption that is merely tiresome when traveling domestically but can be decidedly aggravating at the end of a long tour: their connecting flight on United Airlines to Chicago was canceled. ACFEA was impressed by the group's professionalism as they dealt with one of the realities of travel today, and was pleased that they were soon rebooked on American Airlines, arriving home somewhat late and exhausted, but surely exhilarated by their comprehensive introduction to antipodean cities, culture, customs and people. 📺

"Thanks for coming through in record time!"

**Charlene Archibeque
Director**

**San Jose State University
Choraliers**



Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus before the Sydney Opera House

AN EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCE: UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND FORGES INTO NEW TERRITORY

Schola Cantorum, University of Richmond's premier chamber choir, embarked

on a musically and culturally rewarding adventure to Italy, Slovenia and Croatia. The group of 28 began their tour in the charming Italian town of Mantova, where they were welcomed with delicious meals and warm smiles. Already the group knew this was going to be a unique tour; they were staying in a place where they felt not like tourists, but like international friends.

After a memorable first concert in the Teatro Bibieno, the choir headed

"We certainly made the right choice when we chose ACFEA to handle our trip. We received wonderful personal attention from beginning to end. We relied heavily on the experience and guidance of your outstanding staff in planning our travel arrangements and in making decisions. We were especially pleased with the special attention from everyone on your staff to insure that the trip fit our needs and expectations. No matter how many times we called or how many questions we asked, they were always friendly and willing to help. We appreciated the fact your staff was very knowledgeable not only in travel but also in musical performance. It was wonderful traveling with a company that understood the unique needs of choirs and choral performances.

We look forward for our next trip with ACFEA!"

**Ann Beaucauge
Director**

**Palmyra-Macedon
Select Choir**



northeast on a breathtaking journey through the Julian Alps of Slovenia. The sites were not only awesome above ground, but also below, as the choir trekked through the Postonja Caves by foot,

boat and train. Their day's journey ended in the charming city of Ljubljana. The choir was greeted by their host choir from the University of Ljubljana, one of Europe's top university choirs. Much fun was had by all at the packed concert in the city's main Franciskanska Church followed by a joint dinner which included informal singing battles between the choirs.

Just when the choir could not imagine having any more moving experiences, they entered Croatia. Suddenly, more eyes became glued to the bus windows as the group passed through animal pastures and observed the rural lifestyle. Their first stop in Croatia was the ancient city of Varazdin, dating back to the 11th century. The city had once been

stayed on Venice Island and performed as part of a Mass in the famous Basilica di San Marco, finishing their day with a superb Italian feast!



Members of Schola Cantorum enjoying Venice by gondola

the capital of Croatia and Herzer Palace was inhabited by knights until 1945. This town, being a center of traditional music, was overjoyed to have an American choir perform in its Croatian National Theatre. After a standing ovation, the city's Head of Culture held a press conference and expressed how much the people enjoyed not only the baroque music (which they usually hear), but also the exposure to more contemporary pieces.

The second stop in Croatia was the coastal town of Rijeka where the choir performed in the Church of St Vid. As in Varazdin, the concert was broadcast by national television and radio. By this time, after much soup and potatoes, the choir was looking forward to the familiar taste of Italian cuisine. The tour ended on a grand note in Venice where the group

Malvern, a picturesque town situated near the Welsh border. There the choir led a sing-along of Mozart's *Requiem* with singers from local choirs at Malvern Priory, a beautiful Gothic church that was saved from Cranmer's destruction during the reign of Henry VIII. To complete the tour, the chorus participated in a sensational event at Warwick Castle in which a massed ensemble presented famous works including Handel's *Zadok the Priest* and *Hallelujah* from *Messiah*, plus Parry's *I was Glad*. A large crowd at the concert was joined by a national television audience.

Both UC Berkeley Alumni Chorus and Anchorage Concert Chorus are planning their next tours with ACFEA for 2002.

- Mozart, continued from page 4

any country justice, but in addition to three concert performances in Gyor Synagogue, Tihany Abbey and Fot Cathedral, UC Berkeley Alumni Chorus managed to make excursions to Lake Fertod, Festetics Castle and Eszterhazy Palace, as well as taking midnight swims in Lake Balaton, sampling such Hungarian snacks as *palasintas* and *langos*, and joining a local folk troupe in dancing to the music of a cimbalon player.

Anchorage Concert Chorus continued their tour far from the Czech Republic, taking the Mozart part of their Czech experience to England. Upon arrival in London the group had ample time to see the principal sights before departing for

CONCERTS AND KOALAS FOR THE BAY AREA WIND SYMPHONY

The Bay Area Wind Symphony (conductor, Karen Michalka) embarked on their 10th concert tour this summer — destination: Australia! This was not their first trip ‘down under’ but it was their best, according to Michalka. She founded BAWs in 1977 and has been the driving force behind the ensemble’s impressive history of international touring, including such countries as Japan, Sweden, Norway and Switzerland.

Continuing a fruitful series of exchanges on both sides of the Pacific, the Bay Area Wind Symphony began their 2½-week homestay tour in Melbourne, renewing their acquaintance with the very fine Eltham High School Band whom they stayed with once before and subsequently hosted in California. The top-notch quality of the Australian band boosted the Wind Symphony players right out of their jetlag and readied them for the remainder of the tour. Their second destination was the small town of Bairnsdale where they were hosted by Nagle College, a private high school with a strong music program. Canberra, capital of Australia, was the next stop on the itinerary. Here, BAWs joined in concert with several local ensembles, including the Canberra Youth Music Concert Band, St Edmund’s College Band and St Clare’s College Choir. Then, it was on to Castle Hill and a joint concert with the Castle Hill RSL Youth Band. A final concert just outside Sydney was hosted by Knox Grammar School, whom Bay Area had hosted just one month before in San Francisco.

Apart from enjoying Australia’s renown hospitality and fine musicians,

members of the Bay Area Wind Symphony also had the opportunity to take in some of its beautiful sights and scenes: wombats, kangaroos, and cuddly koalas at Healesville Wildlife Sanctuary, Victoria Market in Melbourne, the Blue Mountains, the Northern Beaches, and all the fabulous places in Sydney: Bondi Beach, Harbour Bridge, Sydney Opera House and the Rocks. For the finale, the group hopped on a plane to the resort town of Cairns for a little ‘R and R.’ On an excursion to nearby Green Island on the Barrier Reef, many went snorkeling and a few were even certified to dive in these spectacular waters.

“Incredible. We’ve been to Australia before, but we’ve never seen so much,” remarked Michalka upon her return. And that’s just the East Coast of Australia! 🇺🇸



The Sacramento Children’s Chorus (conductor, Lynn Stevens) toured Britain and France, taking part in the Bournemouth Musicmakers Festival.

“From the planning process to the execution, ACFEA performed like a fine orchestra: with precision, with seamless operation, with depth of understanding and with heart. As a result, we came home one very happy, enriched orchestra!”

**Jerry Kracht
Conductor**

Pacific Lutheran University Symphony Orchestra



Johnstown (NY) High School Madrigal Choir (director, Bill Crankshaw) putting on a show during their visit to Britain and Ireland with the GVM Handbell Choir (director, John DeValve)

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 GROCUIT 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, and a modern languages graduate from London University, her subsequent occupations resulted in extensive travel throughout Europe and the US. She has performed on the clarinet with several orchestras and now lives in Barcelona, publishing a monthly magazine for English-speaking residents.

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 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.

LAUREN PROCTOR is the administration assistant in London. She studied Music at Lancaster University before going on to teach English as a Foreign Language in the UK and abroad. Over the last 4 years she has traveled and worked in North America, Europe and Asia.

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 a 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 and has a diploma in English and German education. Olga received a PhD in linguistics from Herzen Pedagogical University of St Petersburg, where she teaches English. She is actively involved in music-making, and is a keen American square- and contradancer.

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 to 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.

JANE MARANHAS is a Tour Manager in the New York office. A native of Maine, she recently graduated with a degree in music performance from the University of Maine. Jane lived in Salzburg for a year as a student at the Mozarteum and traveled extensively throughout Austria and Europe. Her first touring experience was with ACFEA as an undergraduate, and this spring she was the tour manager for the University Singers' European trip with ACFEA.

KENNETH NOREEN is Artistic Advisor to 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.

DIANE PRICE is a Tour Manager based in the Seattle office. A life-long Oregonian

FAREWELL, NOELLE

ACFEA was very sad to say goodbye to Noelle Tsigounis at the end of this past season. Noelle had been with us for over 8 years, working in our Seattle, New York and San Francisco offices. She contributed enormously to the development of ACFEA and earned the greatest respect of her colleagues and clients. We sincerely thank her, and wish her a very happy and fulfilling future.



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until moving to Seattle, Diane has sung with the Eugene Concert Choir as well as Eugene's opera and symphony choruses. In addition to being an accomplished pianist, she has organized and performed in concert tours throughout Europe and has sung under the direction of Jonathan Griffith and Helmuth Rilling.

ERIN SPACKMAN is a Tour Manager in the San Francisco office. Currently finishing a master's degree in French literature, Erin has lived in France and traveled through Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Mexico. Her musical background includes numerous solo and ensemble performances as a violinist, as well as some choral work.

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

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ACFEA staff on retreat at the Tetons, WY

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.

International
Church Music
Festival

A choir singing a concert in a church. There is nothing extraordinary about this scenario — unless the church happens to be Coventry Cathedral, the choir is over 500 voices strong and the concert is directed by the illustrious Sir David Willcocks and the charismatic Paul Leddington Wright. Such was the culminating event at the 17th annual International Church Music Festival.

Choirs from around the world converged on the English city of Coventry to enjoy the blend of shared music, local excursions and Christian camaraderie which characterizes this established festival. The International Church Music Festival (ICMF) has been presented annually by FestCorps, Inc. since 1984 with the goal of bringing together musicians to rehearse and perform in beautiful settings with renowned conductors.

Sir David Willcocks has been involved with the festival since its inception. He and Paul Leddington Wright, Musical Advisor for Coventry Cathedral and Artistic Director for the ICMF, prepared the massed choir for a Grand Finale concert featuring works by Mozart, Vaughan Williams, Rutter and Thompson, plus other favorites, all selected by directors of the attending choirs. Accompanied by the English Symphony Orchestra, the concert was filmed by BBC Television for broadcast in England and Australia as

part of the series *Songs of Praise*.

Other special events included a concert featuring the international talent of groups from Bulgaria, Poland, Slovakia, Ghana and more plus an evening of music presented entirely by past participants of the ICMF.

The city of Coventry welcomed nearly 1,000 festival members this past summer. In addition to the marvelous cathedral built adjacent to the ruins of its



Sir David Willcocks conducting the Festival Choir

14th-century predecessor, which was devastated in World War II bombing, Coventry is famed for Lady Godiva's ride and credited with the invention of the bicycle.

Alternating with Coventry as host city for the ICMF is Bern, Switzerland. This picturesque capital on the banks of the Aare River will delight participants of the 2001 festival with its medieval charm. Details are in place for next year and plans are already under way for the 2002 return to Coventry, June 19 to 22. As an official partner for the International Church Music Festival, ACFEA now has the privilege of offering choirs the opportunity to attend this musically and spiritually rewarding festival. [J](#)

"A flawless tour. I can't say enough how impressed I have been with ACFEA throughout the year's preparation and the tour itself. I wouldn't think of scheduling another tour without using ACFEA!"

**Jim Little
Director**

Calvary Church Chorale

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