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As highlighted in this newsletter, ACFEA arranges customized performing arts tours throughout the world. From singing in Westminster Abbey to a joint concert in Sydney, ACFEA can make it happen.

While we were only able to include a few of our tours in the newsletter, we would like to thank all of our groups for making 2003 a very memorable year.

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Dallas Symphony Chorus Sold-Out in Europe

Following the trail blazed in 2002 by The Washington Chorus (conductor Robert Shafer), the Dallas Symphony Chorus visited Munich, Prague and Vienna and added Budapest. Conductor David Davidson said, "This is my sixth performance tour to Europe and I have never experienced a full house for one concert, let alone every concert."

As with The Washington Chorus tour, Dallas performed in the Stephansdom in Vienna, where very few concerts are permitted. ACFEA is honored to have been asked to present one first-class symphony chorus with orchestra every year in aid of the cathedral restoration fund. The proceeds each year have been over €20,000, a magnificent contribution to a truly magnificent building. The tradition will continue in 2004 with the Sacramento Choral Society (conductor, Donald Kendrick), while 2005 is still available.

The Dallas chorus started its tour in Munich, performing in the remarkable basilica at Ottobeuren. This huge church, dwarfing its surrounding village, seems a daunting space to fill. However, such is the tradition of Sunday afternoon concerts that the right chorus, performing the right repertoire, can draw a crowd from up to 100 miles away – as did Dallas. But what was by no means normal was that the audience, rather than standing in respectful silence at the end, broke with tradition



Dallas Symphony Chorus performs to a full house at Smetana Hall in Prague

Amherst College Embraces Japanese Culture

As the airplane wheels lifted up, the Amherst College Women's Chorus and Glee Club had a feeling they were in for a life-changing experience. Upon arriving in Tokyo and seeing the many lights and tall buildings, the choirs knew their long journey was all worth it.

Amherst College visited several different areas of Japan. They started in Tokyo, then



Amherst students enjoying Japanese cuisine at a Buddhist temple in Kyoto

as well. This enabled the group to see a wide

traveled far north to Tono and Kanegasaki and back down via the famous bullet train to Kyoto and Nara, with some members visiting Hiroshima

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Houston Choir Sings at Westminster Abbey

Well known Houston musician Robert Simpson led his choir from Christ Church Cathedral on a 14-day tour of England in July, having asked ACFEA to find opportunities to sing during regular services in fine churches. Since Christ Church Cathedral's services at home follow the Anglican cathedral format, it would be relatively easy – and potentially very rewarding – to fit into the daily routine of services in England.

Their first service was Choral Eucharist at Clare College, Cambridge. The beautiful chapel, next door to King's College Chapel and the home of Tim Brown, (and earlier of John Rutter), was a memorable place to start. This was followed by a week's residency at Norwich Cathedral, singing Evensong every day and Choral Eucharist as well on Sunday morning. Straight after Evensong on Sunday afternoon, Christ

Church traveled to London where they sang Evensong at Westminster Abbey on Monday and Tuesday.

Many church choirs express an interest in singing the services in an English cathedral while the resident choir is on vacation. With enough lead-time, ACFEA can make all the necessary arrangements for this increasingly

"This trip was a delight. There is nothing that we would have changed."

**Robert Simpson, Director
The Choir of
Christ Church Cathedral
Houston, TX**

popular practice. Choirs do need to be thoroughly familiar with the musical requirements of the Anglican liturgy, however. We were pleased with the opportunities we were able to find for Bob this time and he's already asked us to look for possibilities in 2006. 📺



Christ Church Cathedral Choir at Westminster Abbey

Shorecrest High School Marching Band Delights Crowds in Ireland and England

An Interview with Dave Johnson, Director, Shorecrest High School Marching Band, Shoreline, WA

How many tours have you been involved with in the past?

This is my third tour with ACFEA. In 1994, we went to Ireland and Scotland and four years later toured London and Ireland.

What is the biggest challenge of putting together a tour of this size?

You have to make sure the band represents the band program and the high school well. The performances need to be appealing to both the parents who come on the trip and the community in which you are performing. You also need to take lots of extra time after school to get ready for the trip.

What was the most enjoyable part of your trip?

Performing in the St Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin was the highlight. It was amazing to see the positive response of the crowd and how the students reacted to the crowd's applause. The kids were absolutely glowing after the parade!

How do you manage over 150 high school students on a trip?

We had a lot of chaperones, something like one per every fifteen students. The couriers that ACFEA provided were excellent. ACFEA planned the trip very well and always seemed

to be one step ahead, which helped minimize any difficult circumstances.

What unique cultural experiences did you have while on tour?

Since our tour coincided with the outbreak of the war in Iraq, the students got the unique experience of the international perspective on the war. But as Americans we were treated kindly at each of our tour destinations.

Among other cultural highlights for the students was attending a disco night in Dublin with all the St Patrick's Day Parade participants. This enabled

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variety of cities, both small and large, and learn a little about the culture from the people they met and from the unique sites they saw.

The Amherst choirs were fortunate to meet and sing with local choirs in almost every place they visited. The choirs performed a joint concert with the Doshisha Glee Club in Tokyo. Amherst College has a strong connection with Doshisha University, whose founder is an alumnus. The choirs also gave a joint concert with the Glee Club in Kyoto. Another fantastic opportunity for the choirs was to share music with some local choirs in Amherst's sister city, Kanegasaki. Additionally, the group's most moving performance was of *Confutatis* and *Lacrymosa* from Mozart's *Requiem* with the Tamagawa University Choir. The joint choirs filled the stage with 140 voices, unifying the cultures of East and West through song.

One of the most fascinating experiences of the tour was the chance to visit the rural area of Tono in northern Japan. The town had never had such a large group of foreigners stay there before, so it rolled out the red carpet for the group's arrival. The choirs stayed in a traditional Japanese *suikouen*, which is a hot springs resort

in the mountains. The group shared its music with local students, and the students in return not only shared their music but also performed traditional Japanese dancing and taught the Amherst group origami. The Amherst choirs' concert in Tono was an overwhelming success with over nine hundred in attendance, one of the largest turnouts ever for a performance in the town!

The group was also thrilled to meet the people in Amherst's sister city of Kanegasaki. Once again, the students were treated like superstars as they attended several ceremonies welcoming them. The group really enjoyed staying two nights in the homes of local Japanese families, an educational yet fun challenge as the students had to prepare in advance to learn the many customs associated with staying in a Japanese home.

The choirs also had a chance to enjoy the surrounding scenery. One very special afternoon took place in northern Japan where the choir spent a relaxing time gliding along a river through a beautiful gorge. The boatmen steered the boats with a large stick and sang traditional Japanese folk songs, which was a truly moving experience.

No tour is complete without the

"I have no reservations about recommending the staff of ACFEA. I will certainly use ACFEA in three years when Castleton travels again. Many thanks."

**Randy Haldeman, Director
Castleton State College Chorus
Castleton, VT**

sampling of local cuisine. The students had an opportunity to have sushi, sashimi, soba noodles, tempura, okonomiyaki and shabu-shabu (do-it-yourself cooking). This variety served as a wonderful example of the wide assortment of tastes and textures Japanese cuisine has to offer. The group's final dinner was at a traditional Japanese restaurant with tatami floors and each room overlooked the finely manicured Japanese garden. It was at this final dinner that the group members related that they had had a spectacular experience learning about Japanese culture and had found it most rewarding sharing their music in such a wonderful country. 🇯🇵



Shorescrest High School Marching Band in front of the Albert Memorial in London

them to mingle with students from around the world. We also got to experience a wide range of activities while in London that included sight-seeing, a visit to Warwick Castle, an Elizabethan-style banquet and attending a theatre performance in the West End.

Any advice for other high school bands looking to travel overseas?

Transporting a large group plus equipment and instruments can be a daunting task. It really helps to have a very professional and experienced company like ACFEA make all of the arrangements. 🇯🇵

Young Performers Chamber Orchestra of the Longy School of Music Warms up in Spain

For those who live in New England, February conjures up not only images of snowy ski slopes and cozy fireplaces, but also dreams of sunny skies, palm trees and temperatures above freezing. The students of the Young Performers Chamber Orchestra at the Longy School of Music would be the envy of all their friends

as they were about to depart for the southeast coast of Spain on their first concert tour with ACEFA.

The Young Performers Chamber Orchestra (YPCO) is one of many performing ensembles at the Longy School of Music located in Cambridge, Massachusetts. George Ogata, the orchestra's director, first visited Spain on a sight inspection with ACEFA representatives in November of 2002. After seeing the venues, the hotels, and meeting the locals, Mr Ogata was convinced that this tour would be a success!

The orchestra first arrived in Barcelona where they would stay for the majority of the tour. Having toured before, the orchestra knew that this time they would concentrate on one region and get to know the town, the people and the culture. Not riding on a bus 10 hours every day was certainly an added bonus!

After a morning of sightseeing in the sun, the orchestra headed to Reus for their first rehearsal and concert in the Teatro Fortuny. A recently renovated concert hall, the Teatro Fortuny provided excellent acoustics that immediately had the players ready to work. They performed so well that the packed house requested five encores! The orchestra was delighted that this was one of the most enthusiastic audiences they had ever played for, and amazed that it was 11pm by the time the first encore was requested.

Their first late night behind them, the group began their day with a concert given by the Orquestra Simfonica de Barcelona, a true highlight and inspiration for these budding young musicians. This also gave the students even more motivation for their next concert

at the University of Barcelona where they would again have several encores requested.

One of the most memorable experiences for the players this week was visiting El Vendrell, the home of Pau Casals who is probably the greatest cellist of the twentieth century. The chance to visit the area to which Casals was so attached and which provided him with so much creative energy was a once-in-a-lifetime event. For many of these young performers this stopover en route to Valencia was a true act of homage.

YPCO then arrived in Valencia and spent the first day sightseeing. They then had the opportunity to play with a group of extremely talented young musicians from the Conservatorio Superior de Musica in Valencia. As well as performing the *Die Meistersinger* overture together, the best part for YPCO was being able to hear their Spanish counterparts play Manuel de Falla's *Three-Cornered Hat*. The orchestras also got to share a meal, which gave these American students a chance to connect socially with their Spanish colleagues.

YPCO's time in Spain had surpassed expectations with exceptional concerts, astounding sights and new friends. Though their tans would fade soon enough, the students' memories of Spain would last a lifetime. 📍



George Ogata with Longy YPCO at the Iglesia de San Miguel de los Reyes in Valencia

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and applauded enthusiastically.

Next stop was Prague, with an en route stop in Pilzn, (the home of Pilsner), to make a scientific comparison between the real thing and, say, Coors Light. After having enjoyed a free day in Prague, the concert was given in Smetana Hall, one of the city's two premier venues. It was the chorus' first chance to perform Mendelssohn's *Lobgesang*, the choral last movement of his second symphony, which rounded out the program of Rachmaninoff: *Ave Maria*, Mozart's *Ave Verum Corpus*, and Mozart's *Requiem*. Less formal, but equally poignant, musical memories were created singing in Melk Monastery, the delightful village of Pögstall and on stage in the Musikverein during a private tour (this was surely the first performance of *Witness* to add its tones to the esteemed resonances of Strauss, Mahler and Brahms).

After the triumph in the Stephansdom, a hydrofoil ride down the Danube took the group to Budapest. An all-too-short stay in this spectacular city culminated in a performance in the Liszt Academy, the most prestigious hall in the country. A capacity crowd heard the chorus at its best and continued applauding until the visitors felt obliged to break with custom and give the audience the encore they were demanding: Lauridsen's *O Magnum Mysterium*.

A boisterous farewell dinner was followed all too soon by the departure of the first set of buses for the airport. Many of the artistic principals of the chorus felt that the ambience of a local beer cellar was more appropriate than a mundane hotel room during their last night in Europe, a decision they were still not regretting as they went through the security check at Budapest airport. 📍

"I feel privileged to have traveled to and sung in these beautiful countries. I'm sure the girls have memories they will never forget!"

**Susan McMane, Director
San Francisco Girls Chorus**

San Francisco Boys Chorus Sings at Major Venues in Italy and France

Interview with Ian Robertson, Director, San Francisco Boys Chorus

Since you have taken groups on numerous tours before, how was this tour different from previous trips?

We sang at major venues such as St Peter's Basilica in Rome, the Cathedrale Notre-Dame in Paris and La Madeleine. It was a great experience for the boys to perform in some of the most esteemed venues in all of Europe.

What did the chorus enjoy the most about the tour?

They really enjoyed the sightseeing in each city, especially Rome where they seemed very engaged with the differences between Ancient and Christian Rome. Our tour guides in Rome were



fabulous. They were blown away by the Louvre. I was also very pleased that we got to travel by train, as this is something that is not very common here in the States but a way of life in Europe.

How did the boys like European food?

The restaurants worked out well. The food was well varied. ACFEA made sure that the group had at least one meal in each destination where the food was particular to that area.

What was the most memorable performance?

La Madeleine. We sang Italian Renaissance and Baroque music to an audience several hundred strong. We performed for seventy-five minutes

and received a standing ovation at the end. The venue had wonderful acoustics that made it a magnificent place to perform.

What advice would you give to other directors of children's choirs who are interested in taking their groups to Europe?

Plan an itinerary that won't exhaust the kids too much and pick a repertoire that can be performed well when the kids are a little travel weary. Spend more time in each city and take the opportunity to get to know the city a little. Also, travel as light as possible.

Where do you plan to go next?

We are planning to go to Japan in either 2005 or 2006. 🇯🇵

Nevada Union High School Choir Returns Home Triumphant with First Prize

THE UNION NU's world champions head home

BY BRADY HILGREN

The Nevada Union High School Choir returns to Nevada County today after a victorious two-week tour in Europe, where selected singers placed first at the International Youth and Music Festival in Vienna.

Local supporters are to have a very warm welcome — possibly 90-degree temperatures not withstanding.

A homecoming reception is planned for 6 p.m. today in the parking lot at the Don Baggett Theatre at Nevada Union High School. The 16-member choir and menagerie of 24 others return back at the school by bus about 6:30 p.m., reception organizers Joe Cooper said.

While a school bus ride into Reno, San Francisco International Airport might not seem like a world of travel, Cooper has planned a profit escort from the county line to the high school.

The NU choir has one other major group from around the world. A team from Japan placed second, and one from Australia received third, former Choir Director Don Baggett said.

Baggett will be on hand to welcome his son and successor, Choir Director Rod Baggett.

Along with a large group reception, Cooper also is organizing a donation drive for the choir. All money raised will be given to the program as a gift from the community, he said.

The Nevada County Board of Realtors contributed \$180 to kick off the drive. There also will be T-shirts for sale to commemorate the world championship.

A similar reception was held in 1981, when the NU Choir placed second at the International competition. At that time, Don Baggett was choir director and Rod Baggett was a teenage participant. About 5,000 people came to fill the lot to welcome the group. Cooper, who organized the previous event, said he wants more community members to attend tonight's homecoming.

The Nevada Union High School Choir of Grass Valley, CA returned home triumphant after a two-week tour of Germany, Hungary and Austria that culminated in the choir winning First Prize at the International Youth and Music Festival in Vienna. Pride mixed with nostalgia for director Rod Baggett who was a member of the Nevada Union High School Choir in 1981 when the choir first participated in this festival and took home Second Prize. As in 1981, the choir was welcomed home by a police escort and thousands of cheering community members.

The choir began their journey in Munich with a tour of this beautiful city and an excursion to nearby Neuschwanstein Castle. Their first performance took place in the small parish church of Bergheim just outside of Salzburg where they were warmly welcomed by the congregation. After two days enjoying the sites of Salzburg, the choir continued on to another Austrian city, Graz, where they presented their second performance at the Stadtpfarrkirche. The choir then had the opportunity to explore the lovely city of Budapest as well as visit some of the delightful towns on the Danube River. Highlights included a Mass participation and concert in the

magnificent Matthias Church on the hilltop overlooking this remarkable city, and a performance in the town of Visegrad where the students were also able to participate in the International Palace Games, a local festival celebrating medieval pageantry.

The final week of the tour was spent in Vienna where there was ample time to partake in the delights of this musical city. The International Youth and Music Festival arranged sightseeing excursions to St Stephen's Square and Schönbrunn and Eszterhazy Palaces as well as organizing all social events. The festival facilitated opportunities for the choir to present performances in several communities neighboring Vienna, but it was winning First Prize in the choral competition that will certainly stand out in the memories of all the singers who embarked on this musical adventure. 🇺🇸

Kantorei, The Singing Boys of Rockford, Illinois, Travel and Perform in New Zealand

A letter from Joel Ross, Music Director, Kantorei

On behalf of the boys, staff, chaperones, and board of directors of Kantorei, I would like to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation for the myriad efforts in making the choir's concert tour of New Zealand a success. Our organization can be justifiably proud of the accomplishments of the boys and young men who represented our community abroad.

ACFEA's professionalism in handling the concert, travel, housing, meal and special activity arrangements was quite evident during our travels. Representing TravelLine New Zealand, Leone Gruebner and her daughter, Stephanie Belz, were our efficient, friendly, and enthusiastic couriers throughout the tour. The directors and chaperones, too, were flexible and understanding with regards to the unique needs of a touring group of adolescent boys (and their music director whose "inner child" occasionally came to the fore).

Through ACFEA's contacts, the boys

had many interchanges with a variety of musical ensembles. It was such a treat to witness young people being brought together in the special bond of making music together and for each other. We enjoyed meeting with the members and staff of the different groups and the many individuals who were so helpful in making the performances such a success.

We soon realized while on tour that New Zealand is a beautiful country, and the Kiwis are warm, gracious, and generous people.

Undoubtedly, each Kantorei family made sacrifices so that their son could participate in this experience. Yet, the entire group will carry memories with them for a lifetime – whether awed by the grandeur

of the Milford Sound, witnessing firsthand the culture of the Maoris, or singing an impromptu concert in an airport terminal. Kantorei is fortunate to have had the opportunity to perform in New Zealand and we will treasure the friendships we formed during our time spent together. 🇳🇿

"Thanks for facilitating the tour so well. I'm sure the boys, staff, chaperones and friends will remember their experiences for many years to come."

Joel Ross
Music Director, Kantorei
Singing Boys of Rockford, IL



Kantorei in front of Bob's Peak in Queenstown

"This was a wonderful tour for all involved. The cities were easy to get around, provided fascinating contrasts to one another and were rich in music and in history. The pacing of the concert schedule was perfect and the venues were all fantastic."

Brad Wells, Director
Williams College Concert Choir, Williamstown, MA

Citrus College Singers Tour South America

Having toured Europe for 35 years, director Ben Bollinger decided that it was time for a fresh taste. Thus, it was decided that the Citrus Singers of Citrus College in Glendora, California would travel to South America on their 2003 concert tour. What a great decision it was! The students got to enjoy such activities as rappelling, horseback riding, snorkeling, dancing, yachting and swimming, and sing seven full concerts in some of the most memorable venues that South America has to offer.



Citrus Singers take a break in the

In late June, the students packed up their clothes and headed for Argentina, where their adventure began in the capital city of Buenos Aires. Their first introduction to South American flair came in the form of a tango show where heels kicked, hair flew, torsos twisted and accordions pumped as the performers successfully displayed this national dance of Argentina.



At the Teatro Municipal

After spending three wonderful nights in Argentina, Citrus shipped out (literally!) to neighboring Uruguay. Truly a highlight of the tour was the group's concert at the Universidad Catholica in Montevideo. As if beautiful acoustics and a full house weren't enough, these young people had the unique opportunity to perform alongside of the choir of the university and a local youth choir, the

Coral Juventus. Bollinger was invited to conduct Durufle's *Ubi Caritas* for this combined choir, a wonderful experience for singers and audience alike. The group's stay in Uruguay was rounded out by a relaxing day at the Rancho del Castello, an active ranch in the Uruguayan hills where the group enjoyed horseback riding, rappelling, wagon rides and visits to the castle.

The next morning brought the group to São Paulo, the largest city in South America. After being treated to music and dancing by local music students, Citrus took to the stage and wowed the Brazilian audience with their fine tuned repertoire. The following afternoon Citrus visited the cathedral, where, after a spontaneous sing in the main hall, they were invited in to the netherworlds of the crypt, a place not often seen by tourist eyes.

Finally, the day they'd all been waiting for had come. RIO OR BUST! After a short hour on-board the plane, Rio de Janeiro came into view, with its stunning mountains, green forests, white sands, and blue, endless oceans. Without pause, everyone scattered to the beaches, the shops and the restaurants. Suntanned and happy, they managed to come inside long enough to sing more concerts, including a concert at Christ Church Anglican Cathedral on the Fourth of July (also the birthday of Señor Bollinger!).

Two more successful concerts under their belt, Citrus headed out to their last port of call, a small town called Paraty, nestled between hills and ocean south of Rio. With its quiet cobblestone streets, blue ocean, and clear

sky, Paraty is paradise. The group performed one last concert to a standing-room-only crowd at the Igreja Martiz, as part of the Winter Festival. The mayor and the minister of culture turned up for this event, making this truly a concert to remember.

To top it all off, one of the most memorable experiences from the tour occurred on the last full day in South America. Just after breakfast, the group boarded a fifty-foot schooner, and took to the waters around Paraty. Calm water, ocean breezes, palms and even monkeys greeted this young group of travelers in a way that said, "You don't really want to leave tomorrow, do you?" Every last bit of energy this group had was spent doing cannonballs and double flips off the bow of the boat, snorkeling with striped fish and exploring



waters near Paraty, Brazil



in São Paulo, Brazil

Xavier University Choir's Mission to Honduras

An interview with Tom Merrill, Director, Xavier University Choirs

In May of 2003, the Xavier University Choir, along with several selected Cincinnati area high school students, made history by being the first ACFEA group to travel to the Central American country of Honduras and perform mission work at Mission Honduras. With the help of the Comayagua



Tom Merrill (r) at Mission Honduras

Museum, the Escuela Nacional de la Musica de Tegucigalpa, and our contacts at the US Embassy in Honduras, ACFEA was able to provide the group with this unique blend.

What was the original catalyst that made you decide to investigate doing a combination mission trip and choir tour?

At a previous school where I was

employed, there was a service requirement. The idea came when I was looking for a service opportunity for that high school choir. When I took the job at Xavier University, I decided that the mission choir idea fit in very well with the service ideals there. Both colleagues and administration at Xavier were very supportive of the idea. I even received a grant to fund the travel for eight of my Xavier students.

Why did you choose Mission Honduras?

A teacher I worked with before coming to Xavier had been to the mission several times. He had very positive things to say about the mission, its work, the staff, and especially the children with whom we would be working.

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vacant beaches. These sufficiently well heeled travelers regretfully boarded the buses the next morning and departed for home, taking with them a whole new experience, millions of memories and, we suspect, a bit of sand in their shoes. 📌

"I have used other companies in my thirty-five years at Citrus College, but I find ACFEA to be the brightest and the best. Congratulations on a very fine organization and I look forward to working with you in the future."

**Ben Bollinger, Director
Citrus College Singers
Glendora, CA**

How was the reception from the Honduran people, especially to your musical performances?

We were extremely well received at all of our concert venues! We sang for a group of kids at the mission. The performances in Comayagua and Tegucigalpa earned us invitations to sing again when we return to Honduras. We were even invited to sing for the completion of the renovation of the Cathedral in Comayagua. Sadly, it was 2 months away and none of us could stay that long!

"To be able to help was reward enough. To add our singing to the experience was icing on the cake."

**Tom Merrill, Director
Xavier University Choirs
Cincinnati, OH**

Do you have any suggestions for directors at other schools who have a service requirement or would like to do mission work?

Absolutely! Plan well in advance. Check with your local churches or civic organizations to see who has traveled and performed mission work abroad. Plan a benefit concert before you leave to collect cash, clothes, toys, or whatever the needs the particular mission may have. If any of the students who are traveling have a pediatrician, dentist, or other medical professional as a parent, often times a mission can use this support as well.

Would you go back to Honduras?

In a heartbeat. The relationships my students were able to make with the children there were profound. It is one thing to hear about someone being destitute, but another to experience that reality in person. To be able to help was reward enough. To add our singing to the experience was icing on the cake. The people were so friendly! The dollar went a long way, too. We will definitely go back in 2005. Most assuredly a trip worth repeating. 📌

Santa Rosa High School Concert Choir's Journey Through Ireland and Britain

written by Jessie LaGoy, Tour Participant, Santa Rosa, CA



The trip started with some corny Irish jokes told to us by our cheerful airport bus driver, but

excitement and anticipation about the trip that lay ahead were the only things on our mind. We were imagining the green rolling hills of Ireland and the quaint little towns and streets of Europe. Some people had been overseas before while others had never left the country. When the plane left the runway, it didn't matter. We were all going to Ireland and Britain together, led by our director, Dan Earl.

After a plane transfer in London and a bus drive in Scotland, we arrived in the charming city of Edinburgh. Our hotel was comfortable and beautiful. That night, we ate our first meal in Scotland at the Royal Overseas Club, located on the upper floor of a very enchanting old building. During dinner, a lot of meat and potatoes, we saw some Scottish dancers out the window and across the street. We sang in Edinburgh Castle two days later which was wonderful. The bus tour was interesting, the restaurants were good (we ate things besides Scottish food!), and our singing went well.

We took a ferry from Scotland to Northern Ireland where we would spend two nights in Belfast and one in a little town called Armagh. The problems in Northern Ireland were evident in Belfast. Nonetheless, we sang at St Peter's Church and seemed

to be very appreciated. We were told that they don't often get to hear foreign choirs anymore, so it was nice to sing for them. In Armagh, we were able to walk around the streets and spend some time in a small, Irish town. This was my favorite day of the trip. We saw live cricket being played in a park, went into shops and had fun getting lost.

We were all looking forward to our next stop, Dublin. We sang in two churches, ate in three good restaurants, and had a combination bus and walking tour. We went to the Wicklow Mountains on our last day in Dublin, and they were gorgeous, but Dublin went by like a snap.



Santa Rosa High School at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod

Before we knew it, we were on a ferry to Wales, which, of all the places on the trip, is where I would most like to go back. We sang in the Llangollen International Eisteddfod along with other choirs from around the world.

Then it was off to London for our final night. We went on a nice walking tour and had a good dinner in the original Hard Rock Café. It was a fun evening but unfortunately we had to leave for the airport in the early morning and say goodbye to Europe. We were off, flying back to our homes, the countries we had just visited quickly becoming fond memories. 📌

Ohio and California Children's Choirs Perform in Sydney with Australian and Norwegian Groups

By the time the Kettering Children's Choir (Natalie DeHorn, director) had returned from their tour of Britain in 2000, plans were already being made for a visit to Australia in 2003. A year or so later, the Contra Costa Children's Chorus (Iris Lamanna, director) started talking to ACFEA about a tour of Australia and New Zealand. Purely coincidentally, the two groups were scheduled to be in Sydney at exactly the same time: Kettering approaching from the south and Contra Costa from the north. ACFEA thought that this would be a fine opportunity to revive an idea of several years back

when we arranged a meeting of several Australian children's choirs and the Glen Elly Children's Chorus.

This time, a magnificent concert was arranged in Verbrugghen Hall at the Sydney Conservatorium on Music, a beautiful hall much better suited in size, facilities and acoustics to choral music than the more famous Opera House. The two American choirs were joined by the Sydney Children's Choir and, at the last minute, by the Sandefjord Girl Choir from Norway. Of this concert, Lamanna said, "I was crying, they were crying, they were smiling. You realize a magical experience occurred, a magical ensemble".

Kettering started their tour in Melbourne, where they had an opportunity to explore this sophisticated city and visit the Healesville Sanctuary to enjoy close encounters with Australian wildlife. They gave a joint concert with the Australian Children's Choir before heading east along the coast to Bairnsdale, where they enjoyed two nights of homestays.

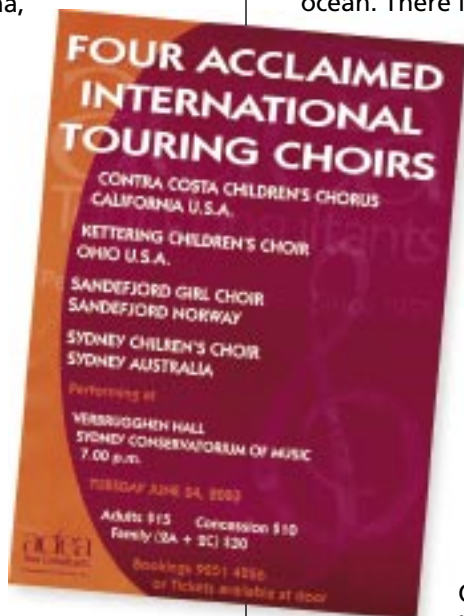
Bairnsdale is a small country town, offering a glimpse of an Australia that most visitors do not get to see. The town is situated in beautiful countryside with a network of lakes and rivers dividing it from the ocean. There is plenty of music in the area, as the Kettering group found out in their joint concert with Nagle College (their homestay hosts) and Lavalla Catholic College Choir.

From there they drove to Canberra, Australia's capital. Two more nights of homestays, this time with families from Radford College, gave these young Ohio singers greater insight into Australian home life. They

joined with the college choir in their Canberra concert at the Australian National University. Next stop was Sydney, where they met California's Contra Costa Chorale.


Contra Costa started their tour in Brisbane, 500 miles north of Sydney and pleasantly warm in the middle of the Southern Hemisphere winter. They encountered Australian wildlife at the Lone Pine Sanctuary, had a dinner cruise and spent a day at Surfers Paradise. Their musical activities included a workshop with noted Australian composer and choir director Graeme Morton and a concert in St John's Cathedral with the Imogen Children's Chorale. On their way down the coast to Sydney, they stopped in the town of Port Macquarie where they gave a concert with the Hastings Youth Choir.

After the joint concert in Sydney, Kettering returned home to Ohio to dream of their 2006 tour to Austria and Italy, and Contra Costa continued to New Zealand. They spent three



"I was crying, they were crying, they were smiling. You realize a magical experience occurred, a magical ensemble."

**Iris Lamanna, Director
Contra Costa Children's Chorus
Pleasant Hill, CA**

nights in Auckland, having a workshop with David Hamilton and giving a joint concert with the Auckland Girls' Choir and the Auckland Boys' Choir. Next, it was on to Rotorua. This town, a few hours south of Auckland, is the center of both Maori culture and thermal activity, offering plenty to do and learn. Then it was time for the 75 members of the choir group and the accompanying 28 parents and friends to return to Auckland and wrap up their amazing trip with a flight back to San Francisco. 

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Overseas Staff

NICHOLAS ABBOTT

is an Operations Manager in London. He was an organ scholar at Girton College, Cambridge, and has recently completed a post-graduate degree in Musicology at Bristol University. He combined his post-graduate studies with repetiteur work for a local children's opera group and the Phoenix Choir in Bristol and until joining ACFEA was Director of Music at a parish church in Gloucestershire. As an organist, harpsichordist and baritone, he has toured throughout much of Europe.

LEONE GRUEBNER

is ACFEA's Manager in New Zealand. She has been in the travel industry for 22 years, having owned a travel agency as well as managing coach companies and she now operates her own inbound tour company. Her singing has spanned a lifetime including 20 years in the Auckland Dorian Choir and five years with her current group, the Orlando Singers. She has been associated with ACFEA for several years, arranging the New Zealand portion of their Australasian Tours.

ROBERT LATIMER

is ACFEA's Manager for Australia. Robert has been an educator and businessman, having taught at both primary and secondary levels, and involved in the photography and cinema industries. As an amateur musician, he has sung in choral groups in addition to performing in musical and dramatic productions. He is well traveled with extensive experience in organizing and conducting study tours of North America and Europe. Robert, who lives in rural Victoria, has been associated with ACFEA for over 15 years.

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.

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.

OLGA YEMELANOVA,

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.

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.

ANNABEL MOORHOUSE

is an Operations Manager in London. She has an honors degree in English and French studies from the University of Lancaster and has taught English at the University of Perpignan. She has recently worked as a courier for ACFEA and is an active musician, both as clarinetist and singer.

TONY HASTINGS

is European Projects Consultant. He is a graduate of Sussex University and worked previously in music publishing and artist management. He sings professionally with the choir of Bath Abbey, and is also a member of the Bath Camerata.

ESTHER JONES

is the ACFEA Representative in Spain. Born in England, her foreign language studies and subsequent occupations 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.

EMILY BRADSHAW

is an Operations Manager in London. Originally from St Andrews, Scotland, she attended Oxford University, studying Politics, Philosophy and Economics as an undergraduate, and Historical Musicology for her Masters. Emily is a dedicated pianist, cellist and singer, and after graduating became Chamber Concerts Manager for the Royal College of Music in London. Emily's interest in travel has been fueled by studying for a year in France and a year in Germany as well as working in Japan.

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. She sings with the Islington Choral Society in London.



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North America Staff



AMANDA BAUMAN

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



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 New York and is a member of the Columbia University Wind Ensemble.



JANE KRUSE

is a Tour Manager in the Portland, Maine office. A native of Maine, she 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.



DIANE PRICE

is a Tour Manager based in Seaview, WA. A life-long Oregonian until moving to Washington, 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.



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.



CHRISTINA MARTIN

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 South America, Russia, China, Australia and New Zealand. She enjoys singing with community choirs and has studied piano for many years.



JAMES SMITH

is a Tour Manager in San Francisco. Born in Britain, James earned his degree in Maritime Shipping from John Moores University in Liverpool. He has traveled extensively through Europe, Asia and North America. James is an avid guitarist, having played for more than twenty years, and is now learning to play the mandolin as well. Since relocating to the USA, James has worked solely in arranging performing arts tours.

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.

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.

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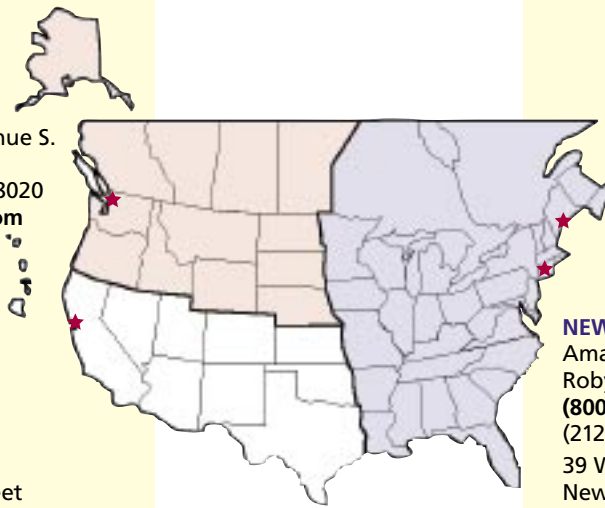
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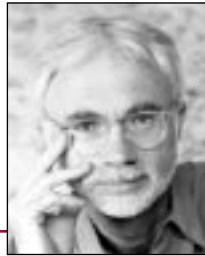


Unseen but Indispensable...

The Tour Managers are ACFEA's front line, but there are many others in our organization without whom our tours would never happen. We gratefully acknowledge the mighty efforts of:

- Heather Garvie**
Group Air Manager
- Christine McLaughlin**
Finance Manager
- Greg Newell**
Marketing Manager
- Ken Olson**
Operations Manager
- Roberta Wheeler**
Leisure Sales Manager

West Coast Premiere of John Adams' *On the Transmigration of Souls*




John Adams

ACFEA is very pleased to be a major sponsor of the West Coast premiere of *On the Transmigration of Souls*, the work written by Berkeley composer John Adams as a response to September 11, 2001. Its first performance was given by the New York Philharmonic on September 19, 2002, and a few months later Adams was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in Music for the work.



John Alexander

It is a very significant accomplishment by Orange County chorus Pacific Chorale (John Alexander, conductor) to be awarded this performance, rather than the more obvious choices of the San Francisco Symphony and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Pacific Chorale, which has toured with ACFEA several times, is joined by the San Francisco Girls Chorus (just back from an ACFEA tour of Finland, Estonia and Latvia) and the Pacific Symphony Orchestra in this performance at the Orange County Performing Arts Center on Sunday, October 19.

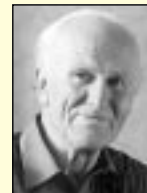
John Adams describes his work thus: "'Transmigration' means 'the movement from one place to another' or 'the transition from one state of being to another.' But in this case I mean it to imply the movement of the soul from one state to another. And I don't just mean the transition from living to dead, but also the change that takes place within the souls of those that stay behind, of those who suffer pain and loss and then themselves come away from that experience transformed." 

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Catherine Weiskel
Executive Director
Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra