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As highlighted in this newsletter, ACFEA arranges customized performing art tours throughout the world. From St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle to delighting audiences in Rio, ACFEA can make it happen.

While we were only able to include a few of our tours in the newsletter, we wish to express our sincere thanks to all of our groups for making 2004 a very successful year.

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## Atlanta Boychoir Performs in the Footsteps of the Greek Gods

If you ask anyone on the street what first comes to mind when you say "Athens, 2004", surely the response would be "Why, that's the Atlanta Boychoir summer tour!" That would be correct, as on June 7, 2004, thirty-three members of the choir, under the direction of David White, embarked on a much anticipated concert tour of Greece. Only two months before the Olympic games returned to Athens, these young singers were face-to-face with Zeus, walking in the footsteps of Apollo and swimming in the Aegean with Poseidon.

The boys were greeted in Athens by Tassos Strikos, their ACFEA courier. Interestingly enough, Tassos is the accompanist for the Vienna Boys Choir, with whom the Atlanta Boychoir sang a joint concert on their last European tour, a match made by the Gods one might say. Cheers of "Bravo!" and "Maximus!" could be heard after the Boychoir's debut Grecian performance at the American College of Greece, where they gave an energetic and enthusiastic concert.

A few days later, the boys left Athens for Niforeika, a resort town nestled on the coast of the Ionian Sea. In an effort to satisfy their urge for some saltwater and sun, they all took a quick dip in the sea, relaxing in preparation for their concert that evening. With the same Ionian Sea as their backdrop, the boys took to the stage of the Maritime Amphitheatre, where they performed for a very enthusiastic crowd.

The boys were greeted in Sparta the next day by hundreds of posters displaying their likenesses and announcing their concert,

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*Atlanta Boychoir at the Temple of Poseidon in Cape Sounion, Greece*

## Denver Young Artists Orchestra Delights Audiences in Austria and Hungary

*written by Suzanne Ryan, President Denver Young Artists Orchestra*

I am thrilled to share a few highlights of our wonderfully successful European tour



*Traditional dancing in Krems-Stein, Austria*

to Austria and Hungary. It was an incredible experience for everyone and a true cultural exchange. Director Adam Flatt's programming and leadership was of the highest quality, bringing

out impressive performances in a unique mix of venues.

Our first concert was in the small town of Korneuburg, just outside Vienna, where the

*Denver, continued on Page 3*

# Echoes of Song

Kol Halev, the choir of Temple Beth Emeth in Ann Arbor, Michigan, set out on a grand expedition to meet and perform for Jewish audiences in European towns where the Jewish population had declined dramatically. The choir visited Romania, Bulgaria and northern Greece in its effort to connect with those who share a similar ethnic background.

The emotional impact that Kol Halev had on these communities took the group by surprise. The choir felt a surge of emotion when the audience would not only sing along with them, but sometimes took over the concert. It was evident the local communities were very touched that Jews from other parts of the world wanted to visit and share with them. Knowing that many in the audience were Holocaust survivors lent an added sense of gravitas to the already spiritual program.

The first stop was in Bucharest, where the Jewish Community of Bucharest greeted the choir. As recently as 1937, there were over 100,000 Jews and eighty

synagogues in Bucharest. Sadly, today there are approximately 4,000 Jews and two synagogues. The choir prepared for its first concert in the main synagogue, the Choral Temple. This temple, built in 1857, is noted for its magnificent Moorish turrets, choir loft and organ. Jewish people from several hours away were bussed in to attend Kol



*Kol Halev performs in front of a packed audience at the Choral Temple in Bucharest*

Halev's concert. The synagogue had not been so packed with people in many years. The audience gazed upon the choir with teary eyes and big smiles while the choir responded with heartfelt songs. After the concert, the choir knew how special this tour was not only for themselves, but also for the local community members. As choir member Amy Scott stated, "It was truly one of the most touching experiences I have ever had. People of different generations, different languages, different continents, different nationalities, and different histories, were bonded by common religious rituals and song."

Another enlightening stop was in Bulgaria. Although the Bulgarian Jews were mostly saved during the war, there is still a great deal of anti-semitism, so many Jews are not forthright about their heritage. Therefore, the visit of Kol Halev to the community of Sofia was warmly welcomed, as it celebrated Jewish culture. A special part of singing in Sofia was sharing their song with a local Jewish choir. This group was so excited to partake in their visit that they also drove to the next city to perform with the American choir in Plovdiv.

The final stop on the choir's journey was in Thessaloniki, Greece. Thessaloniki had been a thriving Jewish community before World War II, but now there is a very small presence. However, Kol Halev had an opportunity to connect with the

few remaining Jews by attending a religious service with them and then sharing their songs.

The trip can be summed up by Kol Halev member Linda Greene, who stated: "On the surface alone it was an amazing intense emotional experience, ranging from joyful, tender, touching to heartrending. We moved from one high to another. Hundreds of people received us with their ears, their eyes and finally their hearts. Celebratory meals, feasts

really, were held in a romantic nightclub, a restored farm, a garden courtyard, a seaside terrace and a colorful tavern. Intimate meals in humble Jewish community rooms satisfied the spirit if not the palate. Yet at the core of the trip, the transformation of each of the travelers came out of the sharing; the sharing of the music, the tradition, and the love of the heritage." 📌

*"From the very beginning of the process I knew it was going to be a success. My initial itinerary was met by ACFEA with a desire to make sure students had a musical experience as well as an educational one. As I am sure you will hear from my students, it was a remarkable tour."*

**Michael Najar, Director  
Palo Alto High School Choir  
Palo Alto, CA**

# Rooke Chapel Choir Travels off the Beaten Path

After having toured with ACFEA for nine years, the Rooke Chapel Choir of Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, was looking for a new challenge. They wanted to go a bit off the beaten track and experience some new cultures. They ended up traveling to Croatia, Slovenia and Italy, for an adventure that they truly enjoyed.

The trip began in Zagreb, the capital of Croatia. The choir instantly was lured into the culture by dining in a typical Croatian restaurant. They performed in a beautiful church in the center of town with a warm and welcoming audience.

The next stop was in Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia. The choir had free time to wander around the cobblestone streets and meet some of the locals, and discovered the town to be charming and the people to be warm and friendly. The choir performed in another beautiful church, the Cathedral of St Nicholas, in the center of town.

The students were very much looking forward to their next stop, as they knew they would have a chance to relax on the beaches of Croatia. This friendly resort town, named Opatija Riviera, welcomed the choir with open arms. The beachside hotel was a pleasant respite for the group and they enjoyed indulging in the local seafood specialties. The choir then traveled to Rijeka for its concert at the majestic St Vitus Cathedral.



Rooke Chapel Choir in Zagreb, Croatia

After the nice diversion at the ocean, the group headed for Italy along the rugged coastline. They stayed in the charming spa town of Abano Terme and journeyed up the road to Marostica for a joint concert where they were treated with the incredibly warm hospitality Italians are famous for. The joint concert was a great success with a full house and an enthusiastic crowd. This was a grand ending to a wonderful mix of mountains, sea, music and appreciative audiences. The choir was sad to return home, but is looking forward to its next tour. 📍

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orchestra played at a military base to an enthusiastic audience. We were greeted by the Brigadier General and his wife, as well as the U.S. representative from the Vienna Embassy.

Our next performance was in the extremely picturesque sister towns of Krems-Stein (about fifty miles from Vienna), situated along the Danube River with narrow cobblestone lanes and charming old-world housing and churches winding up the hillside. The concert was in the monastery church, which had been converted into a performing arts facility. Our concert was hosted by a woman whose organization taught folk songs and dancing in traditional dress. After our concert, they served refreshments and performed traditional dances in their native dress. Several of our kids joined the group for dancing, a most enjoyable mixer.

We departed Vienna for Graz and stopped en route at the acoustically perfect Haydn Hall at the Eszterhazy Palace in Eisenstadt. We spent two nights in Graz, a beautiful town of about 250,000 located in the foothills of the Alps. Graz is known for its stunning architecture and the mountain behind the city that contained tunnels deep inside serving as a refuge during World War II. A

group of kids rose before sunrise to walk up to the top of the mountain to get an early morning view of the city. The visit to Graz included a concert in nearby Kindberg.

The final days of the tour were spent in Hungary and included two concerts. The first was in the Eger Cathedral located in the charming city center of the same name. This was a joint concert with two Hungarian choirs. They performed in the first half and then we had a joint performance of Mozart's *Ave Verum Corpus*, finishing with our performance of Brahms' Symphony No. 2. Prior to the concert, we dined with the choir members (at the Smock-Frock Inn in Fair Maiden's Valley!), which was highlighted by the locals' spontaneous singing of folk songs and traditional rounds in between dinner courses.

Budapest, one of the most magnificently situated cities in the world, with the Danube River flowing through the city, was an amazing experience. We were fortunate to

*"I believe as well that the tour gave all of us an enormous appreciation of other cultures, a deeper sense of our musical heritage, and the importance of exposure to a world outside of our own."*

**Suzanne Ryan, President  
Denver Young Artists Orchestra**

attend Puccini's *Turandot* in the magnificent Budapest Opera House, one of the world's most grand and ornate opera halls. Our last night in Budapest was a dream finale – a concert in the Franz Liszt Academy, one of the loveliest concert venues we'd ever seen.

A morning rehearsal was followed by a magnificent performance in the evening for an audience of about 600 people. It was a moment of great pride to see and hear our young musicians play so beautifully in this famous hall!

I am still awed that the tour ended so exquisitely. We all had such fun – getting to know each other – and feeling such a deep love and pride in the exceptionally gifted young people in this orchestra. There could be no finer group of students with which to travel. I believe as well that the tour gave all of us an enormous appreciation of other cultures, a deeper sense of our musical heritage, and the importance of exposure to a world outside of our own. 📍

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tacked to every light post and taped to every store window. The publicity was extremely effective, as over 1,200 people attended their concert in the Sainopouleion Amphitheatre. To add to the excitement, this concert was a joint performance with the Children's Choir of Sparta. Each choir took its turn, and then joined forces to perform one American folk song and one Greek folk song.

Successful promotion did not end there. The boys decided to take advantage of the excitement generated by the European Championship soccer matches. Timed perfectly, they began singing the Greek National Anthem in the city square of Syros just after the nationally televised match was finished and Greece claimed its first European Championship. Curious soccer fans gathered in the street and began singing along. Tassos chimed in at the end to announce that, conveniently enough, the boys would be giving a concert that very evening at the Apollon Theatre. Their new fans followed them down the street to the concert location. What clever fellows!

The boys spent their last few days soaking up the Grecian sun by swimming, speed-boating and outdoor dining. The final concert of the tour, and for many members their last concert with the Atlanta Boychoir, was an emotional moment for all. The concert ended with the choir's rendition of *Georgia on My Mind*, sung this time with particular enthusiasm for, very soon, they'd return to Atlanta to their friends and families.

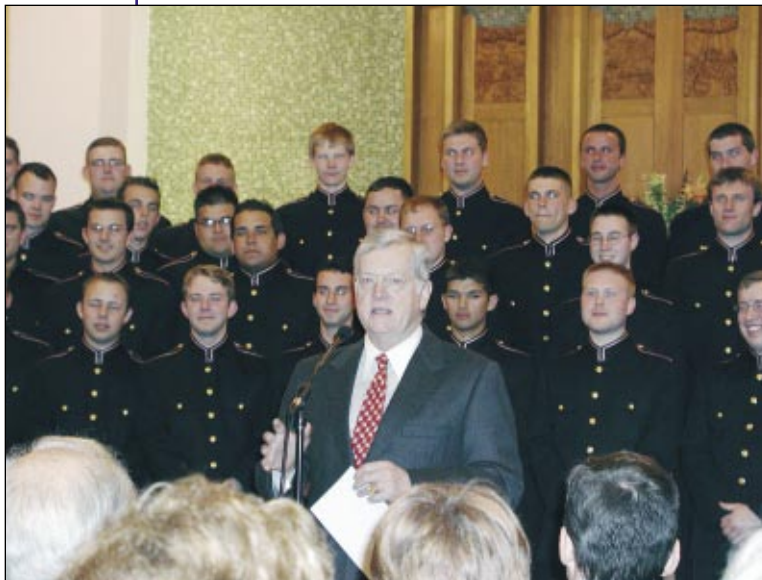
They left Greece with more than a handful of new experiences and stories to tell. Meeting such wonderful people through their music was something to remember, and without a doubt the Atlanta Boychoir left their new Greek friends with a little bit of Georgia on their minds. 📌

## Texas A&M Singing Cadets in Australia

*Interview with David Kipp, Director, and Craig Kalkomey, Member President, Texas A&M Singing Cadets*

### What made you choose Australia?

**David:** Actually, we were initially considering going to Ireland in May but James Smith (ACFEA Tour Manager) convinced us that we might not get the best weather or audiences in Ireland during that time of the



*US Ambassador to Australia Tom Schieffer addresses the audience after the Singing Cadets' performance in Canberra*

year. He suggested Australia to us and presented a proposed itinerary. In the fall of 2003, Robert Latimer (ACFEA's Australian Manager) and James came to meet with me in Texas and we went over the Australian itinerary. I realized that this would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the group and it was a decision I will never regret making!

### Once you got to Australia, what impressions did the culture make on you?

**Craig:** The Australian people were very polite and I found the environment and wildlife of Australia to be very unique.

**David:** I found the culture to be

similar to ours but with enough differences to keep it very interesting. Australians are so hospitable and we were greeted with open arms everywhere we went.

### What were some of your favorite performances from the tour?

**David:** Every concert had its memorable moments but the first and last concerts stick in my mind the most. The first concert was a joint performance with the Australian Children's Choir and co-hosted by the Australian-American Association and the American Women's Auxiliary to the Royal Children's Hospital to honor Dame Elisabeth Murdoch for

her contribution to the Arts. For this concert we learned the Australian National Anthem (*Advance Australia Fair*) and the Australian Children's Choir learned *The Star Spangled Banner* and we sang both anthems together. A great occasion. The last concert, at St Mary's Anglican Church in Sydney, was wonderful because it was a benefit concert to raise money for the local minister at St Mary's, who had been recently paralyzed. The concert was a huge success and ended up raising over \$17,000 to go towards the minister's rehabilitation.

**Craig:** My favorite performances were the ones in Bairnsdale. Performing in a small town off the beaten track was great because we got to interact with the audiences after the performances and the people were very interested in exchanging points-of-view.

### What were some of your favorite cultural experiences on the tour?

**David:** Once again, many to choose from. The food on the trip was incredible. We felt like we got to eat our way around the world while traveling through just one country.

# Gold Coast Chorus Reaps Benefits of Good Planning

There is a spirit of friendly competition and grudging respect amongst the major concert tour companies, and so we were sad to learn from the Gold Coast Concert Chorus (Ventura, California; director, Kenneth Helms) that Concert Tours International, led for many years by Loren Nebeker, was closing its doors.

The chorus had undertaken several successful tours with CTI and was planning its next for 2004 and therefore needed to find another company to help them. They reached ACFEA through our website ([www.acfea.com](http://www.acfea.com)), and from then on the process was almost ideal. First, they started planning almost two years ahead, in September, 2002. Second, they appreciated the value of meeting in person, and arranged for the tour committee to meet an ACFEA representative just four days after the initial telephone conversation. At that meeting they were not only willing to answer all our questions about their objectives and requirements, but also very open to listening



*Gold Coast Concert Chorus in the Malvern Priory, England*

to the wider range of options that were available to them through ACFEA. Ken Helms was particularly excited by the possibility of conducting his choir with a professional orchestra, something we pioneered many years ago.

By the end of the meeting, having discussed the merits of many different parts of the world, it was agreed to look in detail at two itineraries: Australia and New Zealand, and Britain and Ireland. Two weeks later, the group had decided

on the Britain and Ireland itinerary, and a week after that ACFEA made a presentation to the whole group. Exactly one month after the first conversation, we sent out the contract.

With such a promising beginning, it is not surprising that the tour was a great success. The group performed in Dublin, Belfast, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Malvern (with orchestra) and, most notably, in St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle, the first time a group has been allowed to sing there for several years. Many of the concerts raised funds for local charities, and in Belfast there was an opportunity for the Californians and their audience to mingle at a reception. As chorus member Joy Braden put it, "My husband and I had a grand, marvelous, enjoyable time" – a fine testament to what can be done with plenty of planning time, wisely used. 📌

*"Thank you! This was our second tour with ACFEA. Excellent, well thought out itinerary, outstanding venues and superb service by everyone. We look forward to our next tour."*

**Rick Boyle, Director  
Una Voce  
St Joseph's High School  
Seattle, WA**

We went to an Australian Rules Football game in Melbourne. Many of our students really got into the spirit of the game and bought replica jerseys and painted their faces to match one of the team's colors. On the last day of the trip, we surprised the group with a trip to climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

**Craig:** The Sydney Harbour Bridge climb was phenomenal. The view was spectacular and we learned a great deal about the culture and

history of Sydney as well as all sorts of trivia about the Harbour Bridge itself.

**Do you have any future international trips planned at the moment?**

*"As a director, I am used to taking care of things but I didn't have to do that on this trip since ACFEA took care of all the details. I felt like I could relax because I knew we were in great hands."*

**David Kipp, Director  
Texas A&M Singing Cadets  
College Station, TX**

**David:** Yes, we are planning on taking another trip in 2007 but we haven't decided where yet. One thing is for certain, we will definitely use ACFEA again as it is the best company hands down! It was amazing how we

were totally cared for during the entire trip. 📌



*David Kipp at Healesville Wildlife Sanctuary.*

*"This has been the best international tour we have taken in our brief 15 year history. Everything was so well planned; arrangements were carried out without a hitch; venues were great; our courier was wonderful. My job as tour director has never been so easy and so rewarding."*

**Marcie Fosse, Tour Director  
Seattle Children's Chorus**



*Seattle Children's Chorus at the Chopin monument in Warsaw*

## Greater Boston Youth Orchestra on the Right Track in Russia

The Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra (GBYSO), conducted by Federico Cortese, visited Estonia, Latvia and Russia on its fifth ACFEA tour. Having been charmed by the old cities of Tallinn and Riga, and having given concerts in major halls in each city to very appreciative audiences, the group embarked on one of the essentials of a trip to that part of the world: an overnight train journey, to St Petersburg in their case. Many people are apprehensive about the prospect, as it is nowhere near as common for Americans to travel this way as it is for Russians, but almost everyone ends up considering it a highlight of the tour. To travel through the Russian countryside at a leisurely forty to fifty miles per hour, watching local life go by, or visiting your friends in the next compartment, is an enjoyable break from the often-intense pace of a performance tour. In June and July, it is light until after midnight, then twilight for a couple of hours before the sun rises again. This creates a unique lighting effect (called 'white nights' in St Petersburg), which adds something of a mystical quality to the view from your window.

St Petersburg weather was not cooperative for the group's arrival,

but even in heavy rain this most beautiful of cities elicited plenty of excitement and many optimistic photographs. In the next few days, however, there were plenty of sunny moments, allowing these young musicians to enjoy the glinting gold spires of the city, the fountains in the grounds of Peterhof, and the Kremlin grounds and beach in Novgorod, one of Russia's most ancient cities, which they visited one day as a run-out.

The concert in Novgorod's Philharmonic Hall featured GBYSO's program of Golljov (*Night of the Flying Horses*), Berlioz (excerpts from *Roméo et Juliet*) and Brahms (Symphony No. 3), which was well received by a near-capacity audience. Though this was the last performance of the tour, it could not come close to equaling in excitement and prestige the concert the previous night in St Petersburg's Shostakovich Hall. This magnificent hall, so beautiful to look at and so steeped in Russian musical history, had a jaw-dropping effect on the musicians as they entered the stage. Inspired by the setting, encouraged by the 1,000-strong audience, and aided by the perfect acoustics, many of them said that this was the concert of a lifetime. 🎵

## Seattle Children's Chorus Lights up Faces in Central Europe

*written by Deb Nondorf, Chaperone  
Seattle Children's Chorus*

Parents of young musicians know how it feels to be awestruck upon hearing their children in concert or when watching choristers relating with one another and their audiences. Imagine the honor we had of experiencing that almost non-stop for thirteen days! It is with much gratitude and a sense of humility that we report on this amazing Seattle Children's Chorus tour to Central Europe.

We saw remarkable places and got to experience different foods, sounds and even worship styles. But, what stays in our memories the most are the faces of our choristers as well as their audiences, directors and chaperones. For instance, when they sang during mass in Bergheim, Austria, the Priest reacted with such exuberance. "The [congregation] was extremely responsive and grateful,"

# The Choral Project Wins Second Place in Choral Competition at the International Eisteddfod

Inspired by their vision to heal the world through music and words, The Choral Project (artistic director Daniel Hughes) of San Jose, California, began plans for their concert tour of Great Britain with the admirable goal of sharing fine music in a variety of historic settings. With a powerful program, honed in several concert performances throughout



*The Choral Project in front of Powis Castle, Wales*

Scotland and England, The Choral Project finally presented themselves in Llangollen, Wales where they competed in the Mixed Choir Category of the 58th annual International Eisteddfod and took home a very respectable Second Place award.

As a laudable warm-up to this culminating achievement, The Choral Project cut their musical teeth in Britain by wowing audiences at St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, and in nearby Haddington, at St Mary's Church. Leaving Scotland, they traveled the scenic route to York, stopping in Ravenscar en route to enjoy the rugged Yorkshire coastline. In York, the audience at St Denys Church received the chorus with wild enthusiasm and this response, combined with the moving beauty and acoustics of their next venue, Doncaster Minster, surely

inspired The Choral Project to present their finest performance yet. Concerts at All Saints Church, Leamington Spa, Lincoln Cathedral and Baslow Parish Church were also arranged, with the Baslow performance in particular representing one of the tour highlights, drawing a large audience and raising over £500 to benefit the Village AiD Program.

Arriving at last in Llangollen, The Choral Project was superbly primed for their competition in the Mixed Choir Category of this renowned Eisteddfod. Just to be there, one of nine choirs selected from over 650 who auditioned, is a great accomplishment. Scoring 274 out of 300 points, placing second, and trailing the first place choir by only one point, is a praiseworthy result indeed – and we congratulate The Choral Project on this remarkable achievement.

The tour ended with a lovely finale concert at St Faith's Church in Havant, a little bit of free time to visit Oxford and London and a rousing farewell dinner. Perhaps not all the world was healed by their music and words, but surely The Choral Project touched many through the beauty of their song. 📺

said chorister Sarah Barton. "I felt during that time that music truly broke all barriers between the [congregation] and the Chorus."

We all enjoyed it when SCC performed an impromptu concert on the top deck of the boat during our dinner cruise in Prague. Our audience was an appreciative group of tourists from Sweden on the next boat, as well as the many people strolling on the street above. Their faces were literally glowing as they received the gift of song. Chorister Justine Falk said she "loved that we could go anywhere and be able to sing our music. ... I loved all the informal things."

Perhaps the most humbling experience was the choristers singing at the Memorial at Auschwitz II-Birkenau. The grace with which they sang helped us honor the sacredness of the place. This was not easy, and

their music was an elegant offering.

Our final concert, held in the Frederick Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw was also very special. Seattle Children's Chorus was privileged to perform a joint concert with Camerata Varsovia, a local Polish choir, and it was a fitting end to a fantastic tour. Chorister Russ Doubleday felt it was "more personal than the others. It was the last concert of the tour so it reflected our entire trip."

We had amazing people with us from ACFEA: Agnieszka Drzaszcz, our courier, and James Smith, our tour coordinator, who was able to join us part way through the trip. They not only insured we had the best itinerary possible, but they continued to enhance it throughout our trip with extras like the jewelry factory tour and seeing Oskar Schindler's factory in Krakow. Having them with us added

so much to our experience.

Parents, no doubt, got to see pictures that captured the fun, adventure, and beauty of our trip. But, the essence of this tour was most evident during a workshop in Prague with Mr Soucek from the Radost Children's Choir. He spoke little English, none of us spoke Czech, and yet incredible music flowed. Annie Doubleday said it was a highlight of her tour. Chorister Justine Falk added, "It really convinced me that music is a language that can be communicated no matter where you are." Mr Soucek's reaction, unseen by many of the choristers, was pure joy made evident with his smile. When the workshop was complete our choristers sang John Rutter's *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* and he started to clap. But then he stopped and commented, "It is so beautiful, it is not even appropriate to clap." And so it was. 📺

# First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue Spreads its Musical Message throughout Eastern Europe

Presenting a standing-room-only concert in the small Czech town of Kromeriz is not the usual way to launch an overseas music tour. But then, the Music Ministry Abroad of First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue, Washington, is not the usual touring ensemble. "Take us off the beaten path," requested music director Scott Dean. "We're not interested in sightseeing. We're more than a choir, we're a ministry. We want to reach people where they live."

So began two weeks of travel in which seventy-two choral singers and handbell ringers of the large western Washington church presented sacred music throughout the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland. From the Baroque magnificence of St Wenceslas Church in the UNESCO city of Lednice to the stark severity of Auschwitz, each experience touched musicians and audiences alike.

In response to Dean's challenge, ACFEA found small church communities in the Czech Republic for which the choir presented sacred Latin motets, twentieth century American choral and handbell pieces, and lively spirituals. In addition to revenues raised from ticket sales, one hundred percent of the proceeds

from CD sales following each concert went directly to the host church. Through their music, whether for Franciscan monks of St Jacob's in Trnava or members of the inner city Evangelical Church of Wroclaw;



*First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue performs songs of remembrance at Auschwitz*

whether for standing-room-only in Jaromerice or more intimate audiences in Prague, Music Ministry Abroad's message of the gospel in action was met with smiles, cheers and even tears.

"The faces in the audience were the best part of this trip for me," said chorister Karen Schmitt. "People would ask us why we came to these small towns and local churches, and when we told them how important it was to us to share our music and message with them, they'd beam. It was hard keeping dry-eyed when we'd sing to these people who wept for happiness because of our music."

At Auschwitz, the choir sang a *cappella* songs of remembrance as

they stood on rail tracks that once brought prisoners to the camp. The guides at the war memorial itself remarked on how touching it was to hear sweet music in such a tragic place. Many of the choir members later admitted the experience had also moved them deeply.

For recreation, choir members visited a local folk ceramics factory, the historic Wawel Hill of Krakow, and took guided walking tours of Lednice, Wroclaw and Prague. On the night before departure, the group

enjoyed a magnificent dinner while cruising down the Vltava River, watching the spires of Prague becoming silhouetted against a golden sunset.

As the Music Ministry Abroad left for home, all of them agreed: it

had definitely been a mission worth taking, and the trip of a lifetime! 📺

*"We appreciate very much the understanding that has developed over the years between the RPYO and ACFEA that facilitates frank discussion, interesting ideas and mutual confidence. ACFEA is ever responsive to our interests, requests and suggestions."*

**Susan Basu, Manager  
Rochester Philharmonic  
Youth Orchestra  
Rochester, NY**



# Los Angeles Children's Chorus Performs at Packed Venues in Brazil

The extraordinarily prepared Los Angeles Children's Chorus (Anne Tomlinson, artistic director) arrived in Brazil ready for the delights of this warm and beautiful culture and found its embrace overwhelming. With the spectacular setting of Rio de Janeiro serving as the hub of this itinerary, LACC first set out for Paraty, a picturesque coastal town situated about four hours south of Rio. Upon settling into a charming Portuguese *pousada* (guesthouse), the chorus was able to explore this small, delightful, cobble-stoned colonial town, and enjoy the first of many tasty meals.

The following morning a schooner boat trip offered the perfect way to get a better glimpse of this magnificent coastal area with its many small islands, lush greenery and sparkling waters. The first scheduled concert took place later that night in Igreja de Santa Rita, the central church that hosted the Festival of Santa Rita. People poured into the church, huddling closer and closer to one another, children (and a dog) found places on the floor to sit, perimeter walls supported those not able to find seats, and all the doors were opened to accommodate those spilling out. It was the first of several packed houses LACC enjoyed on tour.

Returning to Rio the next day, the chorus had time to visit some of the must-see sights of the city – Copacabana, Sugarloaf, Corcovado – and to meet Antonio, who was to introduce them to the intricacies of samba dancing. Many are sure to remember his gleaming white smile, vibrant energy and swinging hips!

No doubt, many in the city of Juiz de Fora will always remember the fabulous performance LACC presented in their Teatro Central, and appreciate the efforts of several choristers who addressed the audience in Portuguese, commenting not only on the repertoire, but on who they were and what they appreciated about Brazil. These personal, gracious and genuine expressions were as much a contribution to this wonderful evening as was the musical program itself and a testimony to the remarkable feelings of joy and goodwill musicians bring to audiences through cultural exchanges such as this. The following evening LACC delighted another audience with their performance, this time in the jewel box like Teatro Municipal in Niterói, located just outside of Rio.



*Los Angeles Children's Chorus at the statue of Christ the Redeemer at Corcovado in Rio de Janeiro*

The final concert took place in the exquisite Palácio de Cristal in Petrópolis. A lovely mountain retreat located about two hours from Rio, Petrópolis retains its imperial heritage with a decidedly European flavor. The city is the home of the heir to the throne, Princess Isabel's grandson, Dom Pedro de Orleans e Braganca, and features many historic royal buildings, including the crystal palace which was originally imported from France in 1884 and is now frequently used for performances. LACC choristers were hosted for two nights by local families in Petrópolis and presented their final concert in the Palácio de Cristal as part of the town's annual choral festival. It was here that *Sambalelé* was performed for the last time on tour, undeniably imbued with all the beauty, rhythm, and

passion Brazil had imparted to its singing visitors during their brief but unforgettable visit. 🇧🇷

*"Traveling with ACFEA to Brazil was a remarkable experience. This was a most positive experience musically and educationally. The children's well being was central to the representatives and couriers. I am grateful to Christina Martin and all who made this such a valued experience."*

**Anne Tomlinson, Director  
Los Angeles Children's Choir**

# 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 repertoire 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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **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 clarinettist and singer.

## **SUE PETER,**

ACFEA's Representative for Germany, has a varied background in travel administration and has worked for the British Tourist Authority and the

## **NINA TATTERSALL**

is an Operations Manager in London. Nina studied Combined Languages (Spanish, Italian, French and Portuguese) at Hull University and also spent time in Spain teaching English. She has always had a love of traveling, having traveled and worked in several continents over the years while her love of music stems from being brought up playing both the clarinet and piano.

## **CLARE UPSON**

is an Operations Manager in London. Clare studied translation and interpreting in French and Spanish at the University of Kent. Following periods of study and work in Belgium, France and Spain, she settled in London and started her career in the tourist industry. She is a keen amateur violinist and currently plays in a quartet and with the West London Sinfonia orchestra.

## **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.



## **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.

## **LEONE GRUEBNER**

is ACFEA's Manager in New Zealand. She has been in the travel industry for 23 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 six 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.

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.

## **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.

Welsh Tourist Board. Now living in Berlin, she sings with the Wilmersdorf ensemble 'Kissi Choir'.

## **ISABELLA PETITH**

ACFEA's Representative in Spain, is based in Barcelona, where she teaches English at the University. Isabella graduated from University College London with a degree in Italian Literature and then worked as a fundraiser for charities, organizing events in London. It is Isabella's love of dance that connects her with the world of music and she is an enthusiastic Tango dancer.

## **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.

## 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

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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 Australia and 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 has traveled extensively throughout Europe and Australia. Currently, Jane sings with the Choral Art Society in Portland and performs as a soloist throughout New England.



## 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.



## DARIN JENSEN

is a Tour Manager in the San Francisco office. As a youth in Alberta, Canada he actively participated in church choirs, school choirs and the Raymond Playhouse Society. He has a degree in Geography from Brigham Young University where he sang with the Men's Chorus under director Mack Wilberg. Darin has lived in Australia, China, Japan, Madagascar, Reunion Island and Russia, and has visited many other countries.



## 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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# National Cathedral School's Eye-Opening Visit to New York

written by Amanda Bauman, Tour Manager  
New York City

In October of 2003, I began volunteering at one of the homeless shelters operated by Peter's Place, a drop-in center for elderly homeless men and women here in Manhattan. Peter's Place, which is one of the centers run by The Partnership for the Homeless, is a safe, warm and clean place where hundreds of the city's homeless spend their days speaking to social workers, arranging

for medical appointments and participating in recreational activities. As a volunteer, I quickly grew attached to the residents and developed profound respect for what they have been through and the challenges they face today.

*"Yet that day was to teach all of us a valuable lesson - that our contributions stretch way beyond offering people music. What was offered that day was hope, and never, ever have I been prouder of my singers."*

**Christine Shuart, Director  
National Cathedral School Guild  
Washington, DC**

When I was contacted by Christine Shuart at the National Cathedral School Guild in Washington D.C. about a concert tour to New York City, I suggested the idea of a performance at Peter's Place. I was so pleased when Ms Shuart expressed enthusiasm at the idea, and proceeded to organize the performance. The following is what Ms Shuart and the Lower School Chorus had to say about their experience at Peter's Place:

Peter's Place. Whoever would have thought that voices raised in song would make such a difference to so many people. I remember the slightly apprehensive look on my students' faces (and some adult faces) as we waited on the bus before heading inside the shelter. My girls asked: "What will the people be like? Would they be mean? Would they be friendly? Would they listen? Would they care?" I confess that many of those same questions were running through my mind. Yet that day was to teach all of us a valuable lesson - that our contributions stretch way beyond offering people music. What was offered that day was hope, and never, ever have I been prouder of my singers.



*National Cathedral School gives a heartwarming performance at Peter's Place in New York City*

Music, voices and smiles touched a room full of strangers. I am convinced that our visit will be remembered for a long time: the way residents stood up and told us about their lives after we had performed and the way singers hugged each other as everyone's eyes (including mine) welled up with tears listening to the residents' stories. Not only did my students give of themselves that day, but they received wonderful heartfelt messages as well. As we left, I was touched to see my girls eagerly hugging residents, most of whom live in a reality far different from their own. Gone were their worries and nervousness. All that remained were new friendships, resilience and faith. I hope that as they mature and grow my girls will remember the contributions made and lessons learned at Peter's Place and the lasting impact their singing made on others. 📺

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**Dr Stephen Barton, Director  
St Paul's Singers, Brooklandville, MD**