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As highlighted in this newsletter, ACFEA arranges customized performing arts tours throughout the world. From concert tours in the Baltics to performances in China, ACFEA can make it happen. Our goal is to provide unique opportunities for memorable and life-changing experiences.

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 the groups that toured with us this year.

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*Bryn Mawr Tour Manager Dianne Giombetti and ACFEA South Africa Manager Pieter Myburgh in Soweto*

## Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church Choir's South Africa Odyssey

*by Amanda Bauman, ACFEA Tour Manager*

When I began working with tour manager Dianne Giombetti and director Jeff Brillhart on the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church Choir's 2007 tour of South Africa, none of us had any idea how profoundly this tour would change us. It is impossible to put into words the life-changing effect that visiting this country has had on not only the tour members, but also those of us at ACFEA who were involved in the project. We all approached the venture with curiosity, excitement and eagerness, and it wasn't long before contacts and choirs from all over South Africa were extending invitations for joint concerts, service participations, shared meals and workshops.

After a long but very comfortable plane ride, it was finally time to embark on this odyssey, which began in Johannesburg. Having twice before seen the gritty, chaotic and brilliantly lively city on inspection tours, I was eager to learn the group's impressions of South

*Bryn Mawr . continued on page 4*

## University of Delaware Chorale Wins 2007 Tallinn International Choir Festival

*by Ryan Tibbetts  
University of Delaware Tour Manager*

On April 14, 2007, the University of Delaware Chorale departed for a ten-day tour of Sweden, Finland and Estonia. The Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Paul Head, had been accepted for participation in the Tallinn 2007 International Choir Festival, an



*University of Delaware's encore performance after winning the 2007 Tallinn International Choir Festival*

international competition sponsored by the Estonian Choral Association, where it would compete against choirs from the Baltics and beyond. The concert tour represented the culmination of nearly a year and a half of planning and months of rehearsals and performances to prepare the ensemble to compete.

Upon arriving in Helsinki, the group took a brief tour of the city followed by an informal concert in the Rock Church. After that, another flight and a bus ride took them to the Swedish city of Lund, where they spent a few days singing with and

*University of Delaware . continued on page 2*

# Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra Embarks on Tour of China

Couriers Jeff Sha, Tony Hou and Erin Harlan waved excitedly at the 116 individuals wearing bright red T-shirts exiting customs in the Shanghai airport – the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra (GDYO) had arrived! The GDYO, whose mission is to provide music education and performance opportunities for musically talented youth, felt that China's plethora of cultural, musical and educational offerings was a perfect fit for its first non-European tour. The excitement ran high among the students who were about to spend the next two weeks exploring amazing cities, eating exotic food, performing in



*Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra performs in the Central Conservatory in Beijing*

outstanding concert halls and visiting some of the most famous monuments in ancient Chinese history. The first stop on the tour was the modern city of Shanghai. With its mass of unending skyscrapers, Shanghai is an architectural Mecca. "It looks like George Jetson lives here," one student commented. The orchestra spent the next two days rehearsing, exploring the city – visiting such sites as the Shanghai History Museum and a silk factory – and attending an amazing performance by the Shanghai Acrobats. On the third day of its tour, the GDYO held its first concert in the famous, neoclassical Shanghai Concert Hall. With no tickets to spare, the 70-year-old theater-turned-concert-hall was packed with a warm and

welcoming audience.

The next stop on the tour was the city of Nanjing, one of the four great ancient capitals of China. Here the orchestra performed five encores, including an *erhu* (Chinese two-stringed musical instrument) solo piece, to a large and ecstatic crowd in the concert hall of the Nanjing Art Institute. The audience was so thrilled that several Chinese students came backstage after the performance to request autographs from the soloists!

After a drive through Jiangsu province, the orchestra arrived in the lovely lakeside city of Hangzhou. Here they took a boat ride on the lake famous from many Chinese folk tales. They also visited the Mei Wu Tea Village where they learned about the process of growing and making China's famous green tea. In Hangzhou, the GDYO performed for another appreciative audience in the Zhejiang Concert Hall.


A short flight brought the orchestra to Xi'an, one of the oldest and most famous ancient Chinese capitals. Here they toured the ancient city wall and visited the Terra Cotta Warrior Museum, where over 8,000 life-size terra cotta figures of warriors and horses were buried near the Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor. The GDYO performed in the Xi'an

*University of Delaware . continued from page 1*

for students and singers in Lund and the nearby city of Kristianstad. After two informal performances at an area public school, the choir returned to Lund for a joint concert with the Lund University Academic Choir. The following day the choir had an exchange with the students from a performing arts high school in Lund, and an evening concert with the Kristianstad Motet Choir. To end its pre-festival time, the Chorale returned to Helsinki for a formal concert in the city's Lutheran cathedral before departing by jetfoil for Tallinn.

The Tallinn festival consisted of six categories of competition. The Chorale participated in

three categories – Mixed Choirs, Renaissance and Baroque, and Contemporary Music, each requiring a separate program. In addition, the competition concluded with a Grand Prix round, where the top six choirs would perform 15-minute programs of music they had not sung in the earlier rounds. Beginning with the opening concert, the Chorale drew enthusiastic responses from both the audience and the judging panel. In the end, the University of Delaware Chorale took second place in all three categories in which they had performed and went on to win the Grand Prix, becoming the first American choir in over ten years to be awarded the overall championship.

While winning the competition was certainly exciting and a remarkable event for everyone involved, members of the Chorale could cite many other great experiences on the trip: an emotional impromptu performance in Lund cathedral; the chance to meet and sing with other students and musicians from all over the world; and the incredible experience of focusing and refining their skill and sound as an ensemble beyond what they might have thought possible. For everyone involved, the tour was an unforgettable experience that shaped the way the students view choral singing and their individual and collective potentials, and provided them with memories to savor for the rest of their lives. 

Music Conservatory, where they received standing ovations from an audience of conservatory students and other local classical music lovers.

Beijing was the last stop in mainland China for the group, where they visited such famous historical monuments as the Great Wall and the Forbidden City, and dined on the local delicacy, Peking duck. They also gave a fabulous concert in the Beijing Central Conservatory, which was once an imperial building and now one of the most well-known concert halls in all of China. Both the orchestra and the soloists played an hour of encores to a warm and receptive crowd.

The tour ended with a weekend in Hong Kong, where the GDYO had the very special opportunity to perform with the Hong Kong Youth Symphony Orchestra in the Tsuen Wan Town Hall. "It was wonderful to watch the kids interact with each other" said courier Erin Harlan. "The GDYO students were sharing songs on their iPods with the Hong Kong students and talking and laughing about the pieces they performed together. It was very special for them to meet and perform with individuals their age and realize that there are people on the other side of the world who love the same things they do. Music really is an international language." 📺

*Members of Prescott High School's Dixieland band in Bad Kohlgrub Kursaal, Germany*



# Prescott High School Bands Tour Italy and Germany

*Interview with Dan Bradstreet, Director*

## **Which did you feel was your most memorable concert?**

All of the concerts were great, but I think the one that I consider the most memorable was in Ponsacco, Italy. This had as much to do with the late dinner we had after the performance as the concert itself. We ate at an outdoor café and at the end of the meal the restaurant staff brought out an enormous cake with writing in both English and Italian welcoming us to their city.

## **What repertoire did you choose to play and how was it received by the Italian and German audiences?**

We had a wide range of music that we played. Upon recommendation from ACFEA, we performed Beethoven's *Turkish March*,

which was very well received. We also performed *The Lion of Lucerne*, since we had visited that area on our last tour, as well as selections from *West Side Story* and *The Sound of Music*. We played *Arizona Sunset* to help convey to the audiences the area of the United States that we came from.

The audiences really enjoyed our seven-person Dixieland band that performed a few songs and then joined the concert band for some songs at the end of the set. It was wonderful to see the audiences' positive reactions when listening to a type of music they might not normally get to hear.

## **What were some of the cultural differences the students noticed?**

Although there were cultural differences that we had to get used to, we felt very comfortable the entire tour and all of my students had little or no trouble communicating with the locals. I think the two major differences that the students reported were how the meals always seemed to come out a single course at a time and the number of really small cars and bicycles that were on the roads.

## **What were some of the activities the group enjoyed?**

The tour of Ancient Rome was fantastic. In the little city of Lucca, many members of the group rented bicycles and spent a good part of the day riding around the town. We did homestays in Wangen, Germany, which, in my opinion, is one of the most important parts of the tour because the students got an up-close look at everyday life in a foreign country.

## **Any future trips for Prescott on the horizon?**

We want to go to Australia in 2010 and I can't wait to see what ACFEA has in store for us. Our tour of Italy and Germany was so well planned that I didn't have to worry about a thing. 📺



*Prescott High School Bands perform in Parco Magnolia in Abano Terme, Italy*

*Bryn Mawr . continued from page 1*

Africa's largest city. Tour member Tim Starn noted: "As we drive in toward town, there are shanties here and there. They look foreign, juxtaposed as they are against the businesses, homes and modern highways. People are collecting scraps of wood for heat. One man was sitting next to a burning stump for warmth." This mix of primitive and modern is a startling image for many visitors to Africa. BMPC embraced the experience fully as the residents of these informal settlements became our friends, colleagues and singing partners over the course of the tour, and were warm, enthusiastic and inviting throughout.

While in Johannesburg, the group performed a joint concert with the Chamber Choir of South Africa in Kwa Thema, one of the city's many townships. When the church was at capacity, the host choir stood up in their seats among the audience and started singing a Zulu song. The entire audience of 400 people stood and joined in, singing in perfect harmony in as many parts as there were people. No one will forget the emotion and energy that spread around that church that evening. The pastor of the church welcomed BMPC and said "Africans sing when they are hurting, they sing when they feel joy, they sing to have direct contact with the heart." This theme was prevalent throughout the concert, which ended with both choirs singing Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*.

After some down time on safari in Pilanesberg, we flew to the Garden Route where the group was scheduled to participate in the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown. The concert on July 4 was a sell-out, with the Premier of the Eastern Cape Province and the American Consul General in attendance. The concert was followed up by a two-night stay in the

beautiful seaside village of Knysna, where the group sang during the opening night of the town's Oyster Festival.



*Kids in the Gugulethu township near Cape Town*



*Pam Mfaxes and Dianne Giombetti in Soweto*

The group completed its tour with a four-night stay in Cape Town, one of the world's most stunning cities. While the city center is very well developed, the poverty in the surrounding areas is overwhelming, and again it was in the townships where the group decided to perform. Through the BMPC's mission and outreach connections in the township of Gugulethu, we organized a Sunday service participation and an afternoon concert at JL Zwane Church, a parish well known for its extensive HIV/AIDS outreach programs. The atmosphere was heavy with emotion, as Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church is one of JL Zwane's main sponsors. After the concert, members of the choir had the unique opportunity to visit some of JL Zwane's parishioners in their homes, all of which were one or two room

*"The concert venues were all wonderful. It was such a pleasure to have really interesting and varied acoustical spaces for the orchestra to experience. It helps build our listening and performance skills as a group so much. The details in general seemed exceptionally well done."*

**David Harman, Conductor,  
Rochester Philharmonic  
Youth Orchestra, Rochester, NY**

shacks and headed by either orphans or HIV/AIDS patients. This was a very eye-opening experience indeed.

On the final night of the tour, the group traveled again to Gugulethu where our friends, Bongani Magatyana and Xolani May from JL Zwane, had arranged a joint concert. BMPC was introduced by four choirs totaling more than 300 singers, and was applauded by hundreds more. The final piece, *Soweto: June, 1976*, by Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory, was commissioned for the tour and sung with the Siyaya Choir of Gugulethu. It combines two songs of hope: the Zulu hymn *Senzenina*, from the Apartheid uprisings, and the American hymn *We Shall Overcome*, from the civil rights movement. The spirit of these two cultures singing this beautifully arranged piece about hope and peace was very poignant and there were more than a few teary eyes in the audience.

It was with a heavy heart that the group departed for home the next morning. The entire trip was far more than a concert tour – it was a spiritual journey. Anyone on this tour would say what makes South Africa great is not its beautiful vistas, incredible food and wine or magnificent beasts, but its people: the open arms, the smiles, the respect, the belief in a better future and the undeniable sense of community and love. Jeff Brillhart perfectly sums up the tour by saying: "I believe I speak for everyone when I say that this trip has been an exhilarating, uplifting, and enormously moving experience." Here, here! 📷

# Ragazzi Boys Chorus Member Relates Memories of Australia and New Zealand

This summer, Daniel Clancy, a young chorister from the San Francisco Bay area, embarked on his first concert tour with the Ragazzi Boys Chorus (Julia Simon, Associate Director) and, upon returning home, reports that the memory of his 14 days in Australia and New Zealand will last him a lifetime. "I think some of the things we loved the most were the simple things such as the accents and, of course, the Vegemite." Actually, Daniel goes on to explain that they didn't really enjoy the taste of Vegemite, but rather the fun challenge of getting one another to eat it! Playing ultimate Frisbee at Surfers Paradise, swimming at Mooloolaba Beach, petting kangaroos and koalas, viewing the Opera House by night as the group arrived in Sydney by ferry, watching sheep being sheared and seeing (but not smelling!) the geysers at Te Puia were just a few of Daniel's favorite memories of the tour and are sure to stick in his mind for years to come.

So, too, are the numerous performances Daniel experienced as the group traveled through Australia and New Zealand, meeting and performing with singers of all ages. The tour began in Brisbane with a workshop with Australian composer Stephen Leek, a challenging but rewarding experience for the singers who had been working on some of his music during the season. With that session under its belt, Ragazzi was ready to meet many others from Brisbane's choral scene: the lively Birralees Blokes, the Verdi Chorale Society, and the boy choir from St. Stephen's Cathedral.

Heading down the coast, Ragazzi stopped in Port Macquarie to perform to a packed house with the young singers of the Bel Canto Choir, and to sing during a service at the Port Macquarie Uniting Church whose congregation not only received them warmly but also demonstrated a genuine appreciation for choral music. In Sydney, the group participated in the successful lunchtime recital series at St. Andrew's Cathedral Chapter House and enjoyed an exchange with a local high school choir.



*Ragazzi Boys Chorus in Sydney*

So, while this may have been Daniel's first concert tour, we'll wager it won't be his last one! Certainly, if he continues to sing with the Ragazzi Boys Chorus, a chorus that has a history of touring that dates back to 1992 when Artistic Director Joyce Keil first decided to take the boys to Russia, he's in good hands. Fifteen years and many tours later, ACFEA continues to enjoy taking Ragazzi on tour all over the world. 📍

## Baltimore Choral Arts Society Charms France (and Vice Versa)

After a two-decade hiatus, the Baltimore Choral Arts Society (Tom Hall, Music Director) resumed touring in 2007. With Tom's Francophile inclinations, France seemed like the obvious destination, and an eight-night itinerary, with stays in Paris and Aix-en-Provence, was devised.



*Baltimore Choral Arts Society in l'Eglise Saint Louis en l'Île, Paris*

To ease the rehearsal requirements both before and during the tour, Tom chose a program consisting of Mozart's Requiem and a trumpet concerto by Haydn. He

took the trumpet soloist and the vocal quartet with him, and ACFEA provided the professional orchestras. All the concerts were part of festivals: the Festival de Musique en l'Île in Paris, the Festival Correspondances in Angers, and the Festival Voix et Guitares in Montélimar. The Académie Saint Louis en l'Île was the orchestra in Paris and Angers, and Les Violons de France was the orchestra in Montélimar.

The entire venture was a huge success. Tom wrote afterwards, saying, "It was a pleasure to perform for audiences who demonstrated such great respect and reverence for our music. They jammed the aisles, and opened their hearts to us. We couldn't have asked for more gracious and generous listeners, or more lovely and tradition-soaked venues in which to sing. At each concert, there was a palpable sense of gratitude for our being there. Thanks for all your terrific work. It was a pleasure, and I look forward to another collaboration with ACFEA in the future." 📍

## South Africa



*Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus spends time with students at the Ukhanyo Primary School near Cape Town, South Africa*

Photo courtesy of Marianne Soienink-Havard

*Amherst College Choir Director Mallorie Chernin meets Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves during the choir's tour of Iceland and Estonia*

## Estonia



## France



Photo courtesy of Aude Havard

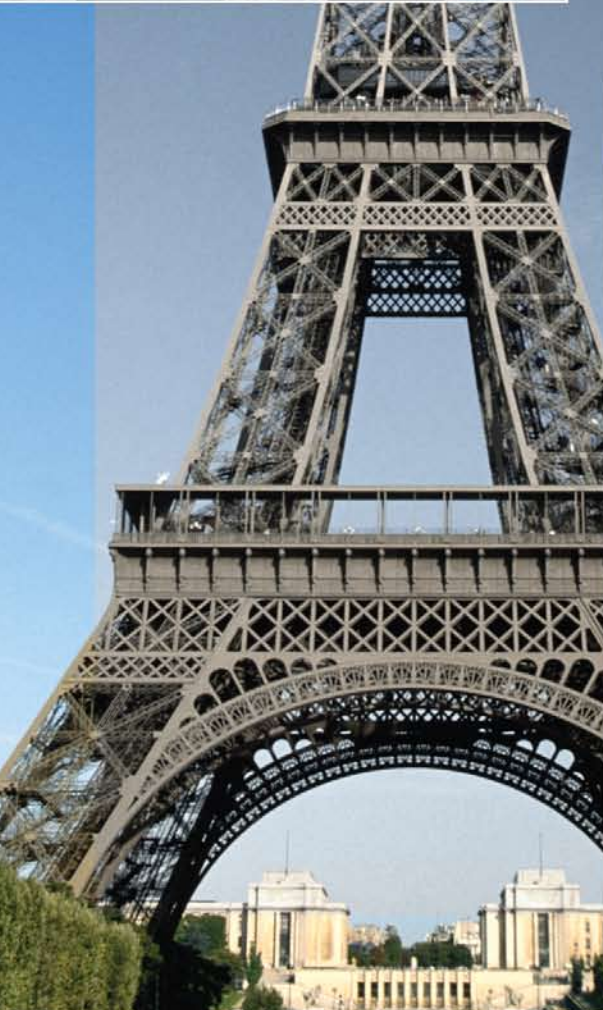
## England



*Grace Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys in Westminster Abbey in London, England*

*Houston Symphony Chorus performs in the Church of St. Simon and St. Jude as part of the Prague Spring Festival, Czech Republic*

## Czech Republic





*Highland Park  
United Methodist  
Church Chancel  
Choir in La  
Madeleine,  
Paris, France*



*Michigan Tech  
Concert Choir  
in Nanjing  
Art Institute  
Concert Hall in  
Nanjing, China*

**China**



**Russia**

*El Camino Youth  
Symphony in the  
Glinka Capella,  
St. Petersburg,  
Russia*

*Oak Park and River Forest  
Children's Chorus in St. Andrew's  
Church in Tangier, Morocco*



*Photo courtesy of Marianne Suiemink-Haward*

**Morocco**



**Chile**



*The Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles  
receives a standing ovation after its concert  
in Teatro Oriente in Santiago, Chile*

**Czech Republic**



*Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra performs in  
Smetana Hall, Prague, Czech Republic*

*Photo courtesy of Marianne Suiemink-Haward*



# Denver Young Artists Orchestra's Tour of Argentina

by Suzanne Ryan, DYAO Board Member

DYAO's (Adam Flatt, Music Director) South American adventure was definitely one of our greatest tours. One of the most memorable and satisfying experiences of the trip was the extraordinary response the orchestra received from the Argentine audiences, who cheered and brought Adam back for eight to ten curtain calls. As one of the musicians commented, "We felt like a soccer team that had just won a big match!"

Rosario (the birthplace of Che Guevara) was a delight. Located on the Paraná River, it has a lively fishing industry and large parks bordering the river as well as a good fine arts museum. We had two delightful evenings before our first concert, filling them with a late afternoon riverboat excursion and a surprise opportunity to attend a local production of the opera, *La Bohème*. The venue was in the elegant old opera house, Teatro El Círculo, which, coincidentally, was where our concert was the following evening, much to everyone's surprise and delight. It was thrilling to hear the opera knowing that we would also be performing in this beautiful theatre. ACFEA was able to book us on the Círculo's winter concert series, so we were pleased to draw a good-sized audience of nearly 750 enthusiastic people. One of the unexpected and enjoyable aspects for the audience throughout our trip was our encore, which was a very popular Argentine tango arranged especially for the DYAO by Colorado Symphony bassist, Ken Harper.

The rest of our tour was spent in and around Buenos Aires, truly the 'Paris of South America'. Our hotel was ideally located in the center of the old city within walking distance of the famous Recoleta Park and popular shopping areas. It was also only two blocks from an elegant old tango palace, where we experienced our first taste of tango dancing by taking a two-hour lesson. In addition to being great fun, it significantly enhanced our appreciation of the performance given by professional dancers at the tango show we attended the following evening.

We spent our first morning in Buenos Aires at La Boca, one of the city's most famous seaport neighborhoods with its brightly painted buildings and colorful history. That evening, we traveled to the university town of La Plata, approximately 40 miles southeast of Buenos Aires. Our venue was again an elegant old opera house, Teatro Municipal Coliseo Podestá, in the heart of the city. The audience was extremely enthusiastic and the music students in the audience were particularly enamored of our lovely soloist, 18-year-old alumna Hannah Robbins, who performed Elgar's cello concerto so beautifully on the tour.

The next morning was spent touring the city and visiting the Museo Nacional des Bellas Artes, which has a fine collection of European impressionist and contemporary art as well as a substantial collection by Argentine artists. Across from the museum is the famous Recoleta Cemetery, unique with its myriad ornate and decorative tombs.

We spent the next day in the Pampas (Argentina's vast grasslands) on a traditional *estancia*, Rancho Susana, where we rode horses, took carriage rides, enjoyed an authentic Argentine barbecue, witnessed a small rodeo and watched a folk dancing/tango show by the local *gauchos*.

Our final concert was at the Salon de la Facultad de Derecho at the University of Buenos Aires. Again, we were very well received with a large, appreciative audience. Adam had to lead our concertmaster Jessica Oddie off the stage to end the applause and cheering, which happened after all the performances. We were assured this was not the response most orchestras get here. Rather, it was a genuine appreciation of superb music-making and the talent displayed by our wonderful musicians!

The tour was extremely successful and we are so grateful to ACFEA, the DYAO staff, our wonderful patrons who help make such trips possible, and to the parents who give so much time and money so their kids can have such unique experiences. I think I speak for all of us on this tour that we were so proud to be able to represent the United States in such a positive and upbeat way. 🇺🇸



DYAO performing at Teatro El Círculo in Rosario

## Edmonton Youth Choir Tours Russia, Estonia and Finland

In July, the Edmonton Youth Choir, directed by John Wiebe, toured Russia, Estonia and Finland, which gave the group a taste of three distinctively different cultures. The tour started in St. Petersburg where the youth choir performed with a local Russian youth choir, Cantilena. This performance, which was originally scheduled as a workshop and exchange only, turned into a full concert for a standing-room-only audience that was thrilled to hear the two choirs' wonderfully varied programs, from Cantilena's Russian folk songs to Edmonton's innovative set of contemporary music. During its stay in St. Petersburg, the choir had the chance to visit the Hermitage and Peterhof as well as many other culturally and musically historic sites that this lovely city has to offer.

From St. Petersburg, the group traveled to the beautiful and quaint town of Tallinn, Estonia, which proved to be the highlight of the tour for many members of the group. The center of Tallinn is small and easy to walk around, filled with wonderful-



to-get-lost-in winding streets. The choir gave a stunning performance in the Hall of the Guild of the Blackheads in the center of Tallinn.

The next day, the choir crossed the Gulf of Finland by jetfoil to Helsinki. After a little free time and lunch in Helsinki, the group headed northeast to the town of Kangasniemi where the choir was the first ever non-European group to be invited to the annual Kangasniemi Music Festival. The festival, which is primarily for Finnish choirs and soloists (with an occasional Swedish or Estonian choir participating), is in its 25th year and boasts the distinguished conductor Mikko Franck as its Artistic Director. The Edmonton Youth Choir was chosen by the festival board after they heard the choir's outstanding CD. The festival prides itself on exhibiting new and original works and they were thrilled to invite the choir based on its wonderfully diverse repertoire. The choir was also invited to perform on the second night of the



*Edmonton Youth Choir on the steps of Helsinki Cathedral in Finland*

festival at the Kangasniemi church for a fantastic and appreciative audience. Central Finland offered many other rare opportunities for the choir, including staying at a rustic manor house in the countryside and soaking in the beautiful and tranquil atmosphere of the lakes district.

The tour ended with a wonderful performance at the Rock Church in Helsinki to a great audience that included the Canadian ambassador. The Rock Church proved to be an amazing ending to this off-the-beaten-track European tour and the Edmonton Youth Choir eagerly awaits its next international trip. 📍

## Seattle Children's Chorus' Outstanding Tour of Brazil

*by Marcie Fosse, Chorus Manager*

"Our best international tour yet!", was the pronouncement by so many from our group as we flew home after a fabulous 12-day tour of Brazil. The ACEFA architects who built this wonderful tour for us, along with our couriers, Sylvia Marin and Rosie Mussayov, had all outdone themselves! We had everything in this tour we had asked for and more.

We began our adventure in Botucatu, a small city outside the huge metropolis of São Paulo. Our request had been to get away from the city and find a place where we could really connect with the people, and connect we did! Our homestay hosts at Santa Marcelina de Botucatu were warm, gracious and full of energy. After a great afternoon workshop with our host choir, our joint concert was a wonderful musical event as both choirs sang before a packed audience in the school chapel. It was hard to say goodbye to these new friends – perhaps we will meet again.

Our very comfortable coaches headed down to the coast to Paraty, a charming town with colonial Portuguese architecture. In this little town, we walked from our lovely *posada* to dinners and our concert down cobblestone streets lined with cute and colorful homes and shops. A highlight mentioned by many of our choristers was the schooner tour to our own private island getaway with swimming and a homemade lunch on board. Another highlight was the wonderful concert in the Santa Rita Church, where our choristers performed to another full and very appreciative audience.

As participants at the National

Congress for Children's Choirs in Petrópolis, we once again were surrounded by fun-loving, exuberant, musically talented young Brazilians. The rehearsals (all in Portuguese) were quite amazing where gorgeous, meaningful and educational music-making took place. What a grand experience it was to sing Schubert's Mass on Sunday morning amidst 500 children and youth, accompanied by a wonderful professional orchestra

at the cathedral of Petrópolis. We found it hard to part with another batch of brand new Brazilian friends, all eager for one last conversation in English.

Our final days of this wonderful tour were spent in the beautiful city of Rio de Janeiro. The plans made by ACEFA were perfect, as they included the sights one must see on any trip to Rio. While the cable car ride up to Sugarloaf was a little foggy,

the day we spent at Corcovado was astoundingly beautiful and the famous Christ the Redeemer statue was awe-inspiring. Another item on our wish list for the perfect tour was an incredible workshop with a respected clinician, and we were not disappointed. Our time with Professor Eduardo Lakschevitz from the University of Rio de Janeiro was energizing and filled with fun moments. A demonstration of samba music further energized our choristers as we spent the rest of that afternoon learning how to move like the Brazilians.

Seattle Children's Chorus will not soon forget the beauty of Brazil, the warmth of our couriers and hosts, the wonderful accommodations, the fabulous concert venues and, of course, the fantastic food!

*Obrigados!* 📍



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

# Our Worldwide Staff

## NICK ABBOTT

is an Operations Manager in Bath. Nick received his degree in Music at the University of Cambridge and was organ scholar of Girton College. Prior to joining ACFEA, he combined post-graduate studies in Musicology at the University of Bristol with work as a conductor, organist, accompanist and baritone. He has toured throughout much of Europe, North America and Asia.

## DAN BUCUR

is ACFEA's Representative in Romania, based in Bucharest. Dan graduated from the Economics Studies Academy of Bucharest with a degree in Tourist Marketing and International Relations. Fond of tourism and music, Dan joined ACFEA in 2003 and has already organized many successful ACFEA concerts in venues throughout Romania and has enjoyed introducing the delights of his country to those performing ensembles.

## HELEN DAVID

is an Operations Manager in London. After receiving her degree in Music from Sussex University, Helen worked for 15 years as Tours Manager for the Philharmonia Orchestra in London. In this role, she traveled throughout Europe, the Far East and the USA. Helen studied the violin at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and has sung with the BBC Symphony Chorus on various occasions.

## ELEANOR ETHERINGTON

is an Operations Manager in London. She attended the University of York, where she received her Masters degree in Music, specializing in vocal studies and community music. After leaving university, Eleanor traveled extensively in Europe, living and working in Germany and Holland. She enjoys singing in choirs and is currently a member of the Scandinavian *a cappella* choir Enkelit based in the North of England.

## 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 twenty-eight 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 twenty years in the Auckland Dorian Choir and ten 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.

## 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. 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.

## CLARE LAWRENCE

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 tourism industry. She is a keen amateur violinist and currently plays in a quartet and with the West London Sinfonia orchestra.

## 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.

## LUIS LUCENA

is ACFEA's Representative in Portugal, based in Lisbon. Luis has received a degree in Engineering, obtained his MBA and set up his own business in Lisbon. He also teaches marketing at a private university in the city. Luis has been singing in choirs in Portugal for over 15 years and in 2000 became a semi-professional tenor in the Symphonic Gulbenkian Foundation Choir in Lisbon.

## SYLVIA MARIN

is ACFEA's Representative in Latin America. 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 Latin America and the Mediterranean area using her linguistic skills.

## NEIL MCGOWAN

is ACFEA's Representative in Moscow. Neil ran the English National Opera Schools and Community Touring unit for four years. He has acted as a tour leader for American groups around Russia, produces concerts of his own (using Russian professional performers) in Moscow, and is Artistic Consultant of the Vremena Goda Music Festival in St. Petersburg.

## PIETER MYBURGH

is ACFEA's Manager in South Africa. Born in Uppington near the Kalahari Desert, Pieter now resides in George with his wife and three children. He holds honors degrees in Human Resources and Psychology, and has owned his own travel business for over ten years. Pieter is an avid traveler and currently sings with the George Male Choir.

## ALINA PERETTI

is ACFEA's Representative in Poland and has worked for ACFEA since 1987. Educated in Wroclaw, she has a degree in Architecture and Art. Alina worked first as an architect and then as a qualified tourist guide in four different languages: Polish, Russian, French and English. She has lived in Poland, France, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, and is a keen piano player.

## SUE PETER

is ACFEA's Representative for Germany. She 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'.

## RICHARD SAVAGE

is Managing Director of ACFEA Europe, and has been with the company since 1970. He graduated from Oxford University where he sang in Christ Church Cathedral Choir. In addition to his responsibilities at ACFEA, he still maintains a professional singing career, having taken part in over 150 CD recordings and appearing regularly with the Gabrieli Consort, King's Consort, Polyphony, Tenebrae, Les Concerts d' Astree and other European ensembles.

## BECKY SHAFTOE

is an Operations Manager in London. After receiving a degree in Music at Newcastle University, she trained in arts administration at the London Sinfonietta before spending five years organizing concerts and education projects for the London Symphony Orchestra. In her role as LSO Tours Manager she traveled widely with the Orchestra across Europe and the USA. Becky plays the oboe and, prior to joining ACFEA, taught English in Spain.

## OLGA YEMELANOVA

is ACFEA's Representative in Russia, 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.

# 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, in Pittsburgh. 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 currently sings with and serves on the board of the Young New Yorkers' Chorus. Her travels have included excursions to Europe, Australia, Africa and Central and South America.



## EMILY FRYE

is a Tour Manager in the New York office. She grew up in Missouri, where she sang with the St. Louis Children's Choir for nine years, including on tours to Russia and Scotland. Emily received degrees in Music and Magazine Journalism from Drake University, during which time she traveled to Paris for a study abroad program and toured Europe with the university's choir. She is currently singing in the choir at St. Peter's Lutheran Church as well as the Young New Yorker's Chorus.



## ERIN HARLAN

is a Tour Manager in the Seattle office. She received a degree in Communications with a minor in Vocal Music Performance from Pacific Lutheran University. At PLU, Erin sang with the Choir of the West, with whom she toured Norway and Sweden on an ACFEA concert tour. Her travels include a study abroad program in Australia, and trips throughout Europe, North America, Mexico, Iceland, Ecuador and China. Erin currently sings with and serves on the Board of Directors of The Esoterics, an *a cappella* group in Seattle.



## 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, Australia, Asia, South America and North America, and plays the guitar and mandolin. Since relocating to the USA, James has worked solely in arranging performing arts tours.



## 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, and serves on the boards of the American Bach Soloists and Chorus 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 and is a clarinetist in the Williamsburg Community Orchestra in New York.



## CHRISTINA MARTIN

is a Tour Manager based in the California office. Born in San Francisco, she graduated from the University of California, San Diego, and has worked with ACFEA since 1992. Her travels include study abroad programs in France and Guatemala, competitive tours throughout Europe with a track team, and trips to South America, Russia, China, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. She is currently singing with the UC Alumni Chorus in Berkeley.

## Unseen but Indispensable...

The Tour Managers are ACFEA's front line, but there are many others in our organization who make our tours happen. We gratefully acknowledge the mighty efforts of:

- Bill Barber**  
Group Travel Manager
- Christine McLaughlin**  
Finance Manager
- Greg Newell**  
Marketing Manager
- Ken Olson**  
Operations Manager
- David Wert**

## Office Locations

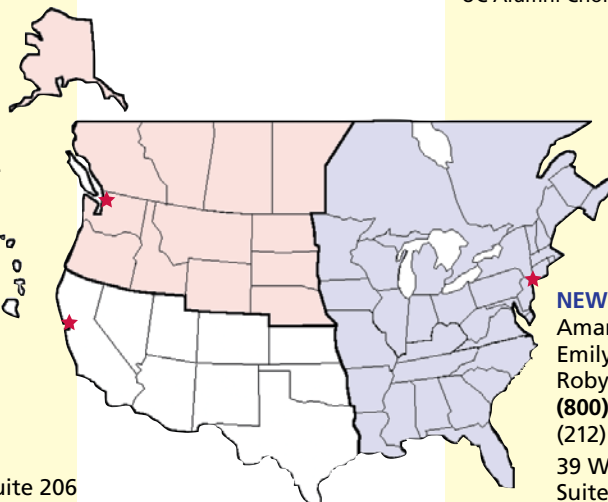
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# A Tour for the Ages

In May, the Northern Arizona University Shrine of the Ages Choir and the Master Chorale of Flagstaff, directed by Edith Copley, enjoyed a ten-day tour of Australia and New Zealand, including concerts in Auckland, Napier, Sydney and Melbourne.

## Here is what Dr. Copley had to say about the tour:

"I have worked with several concert touring companies, but I am particularly impressed with ACFEA's attention to detail and personal communication. The tour to New Zealand and Australia was informative, with excellent concert venues, appreciative audiences, nice hotels and well-informed guides. I would, without question, tour with them again."

## Here are the thoughts of some of the tour participants:

"I was surprised at how receptive the audience was to our music. I don't think I've ever performed in a concert where everyone was so enthusiastic and so eager to hear us sing."

– **Fernando Valenzuela**

"I felt really privileged that we got to sing with the Tower New Zealand Choir. That was an amazing experience. They were such a talented group and they were all such nice people! I'm glad that it worked out that we got to sing with them."

– **Erin Walker**

"I believe tours are not only a fantastic means to expose a choir to other places, but also a great means to solidify a choir, to allow time for everyone to bond outside of the classroom. I feel I learned a lot from this experience, and it has given me a refreshed enjoyment of choral singing." – **Holly Pyle**

"I was very impressed with the thought and attention to detail on this tour. I've never gone on an international tour, but I would imagine this is how it **should** be. We were served food that was incredible, saw lots of sights, and had time to do things like bungee jump, walk the Sydney Harbour Bridge, and spend time with our concert hosts after each performance. As a senior that just graduated with a Bachelor of Music Education in Choral Music, I know that ACFEA will stay in my contacts when I need to plan my own tours for my own future choirs. Everything ran so smoothly, and we still made time to do a few unplanned activities. I would highly recommend ACFEA to anyone looking to have a great tour!" – **Andrea Morgan** 🇺🇸

*"Even with considerable limitations of time and budget, ACFEA accomplished an amazing feat in planning and implementing our tour. This was my fifth international tour, and it easily superceded all the rest. I will never travel with another carrier."*

**Randy Haldeman, Director**  
University of North Carolina Charlotte Chorale



Northern Arizona University Shrine of the Ages Choir and the Master Chorale of Flagstaff at Ohinemutu Marae, Rotorua, New Zealand

## Contributing to Worthy Causes

Many of our groups have an explicitly philanthropic goal for their tour: they request that their concerts be fund-raisers for a local charity or cause, or they raise money before the tour to donate to organizations that they will meet while traveling. ACFEA is fundamentally committed to helping our groups define and achieve such important social goals, and is pleased to have worked with several groups in the last 12 months that have shared this commitment. Examples include:

- **Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church Choir** raised over \$70,000 through an eBay auction and donated the proceeds to various charities and organizations during its tour of South Africa
- **Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus** (the children, individually) raised over \$7,300, which they donated to the Ukhanyo Primary School in Masiphumelele (a township outside Cape Town), mostly in the form of sports and art equipment
- San Francisco area's **Tapestry** raised over \$14,000 before and during its tour of England for Isubilo, a UK-registered charity in Zambia that serves those affected by HIV/AIDS including the sick, orphans and widows

Through the generous efforts and contributions of these groups and many more, the world can, indeed, be changed, one step at a time. 🇺🇸

**acfea**  
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