



Highlights

Trinity Church Traces its Roots

Duquesne Wins at Marktoberdorf

Alaska Children in Europe

Rutgers Women Explore Ireland

California Youth Orchestra in Britain and Ireland

Spreading Goodwill in the Baltic Republics

Missa Gaia on the Riviera

Honor Band at WASBE

Portland Girlchoir in Australia Festival

Opportunities in the Pacific Northwest

Alabama Choir Does Europe!

Amherst in Spain and Portugal

Locations:

London
New York
San Francisco
Seattle
Canberra
Berlin
Paris
Venice
Prague
Moscow
St Petersburg



Sir Simon Rattle conducts *The Damnation of Faust* in Birmingham

'VOICES IN THE CITY' A HUGE SUCCESS

For nine days in July, the City of Birmingham (England) rang to the sounds of superlative choral singing. More than 2,000 singers from Great Britain, the USA and Canada took part in over 20 choral concerts, workshops and master classes, thrilling the large audiences which filled Symphony Hall and other venues.

It was the first major choral festival in Birmingham since the great triennial festivals of the 19th century, which saw the first performances of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*, among others. ACFEA Tour Consultants, in a unique collaboration with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Sir Simon Rattle and 'Voices in the City' Artistic Director Simon Halsey, had been given the task of providing choruses for three major projects.

The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, directed by Gareth Morrell, was the first to arrive. They had already given two critically acclaimed performances of Brahms' Requiem, one with the BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of Wales conducted by Richard Hickox in St David's Hall, Cardiff, and the other with the Academy of Oxford conducted by Gareth

Morrell in the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford. To celebrate the 100th birthday of the recording company EMI, the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus then joined forces with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Chorus to give a stunning performance of Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast*, conducted by Sir Simon Rattle in Symphony Hall, Birmingham. They then recorded the work for release by EMI later this year.

The final concert of 'Voices in the City' proved to be another blockbuster, with over 300 singers sharing the platform with a much enlarged CBSO to perform Berlioz's dramatic oratorio, *The Damnation of Faust*. Two choruses from North America, the William Hall Master Chorale and the Vancouver Bach Choir, directed by William Hall and Bruce Pullan, were invited to join forces with the City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus and Youth Chorus and the City of Birmingham Choir for a thrilling performance, again conducted by Sir Simon Rattle.

Sandwiched between these two events in Symphony Hall, ACFEA organized a third combined choral concert in Lichfield Cathedral as the final concert of the Lichfield Festival. Singers from the

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DUQUESNE SINGERS WIN AT MARKTOBERDORF

The Duquesne University Chamber Singers, directed by Brady Allred, undertook their third and most extensive concert tour from May 12 to June 12, 1997. This tour was destined to be different from the moment they invited a local percussion group, Tempus Fugit, to join them. Four players and a wide array of instruments augmented the Chamber Singers' repertoire, an attractive proposition to concert presenters abroad.

The choir began and ended their tour with invitations received during previous tours in Germany and Russia. The first stop was in Bad Tölz, where the students stayed with local choir members and performed their opening concert.

In the next phase of the tour, the ensemble participated in the Marktoberdorf Chamber Choir Competition. Again, the students were assigned homestays in the town and surrounding villages. This was the choir's second chance to compete here, and their perseverance was rewarded by winning first prize overall. In addition, Dr Allred was awarded the conducting prize. The tour was going well!

Next was the Czech Republic, where they performed in the Jindrichuv Hradec and Telc castles and took a sight-seeing excursion to Prague. From there it was off to Jaromerice where they attended the opening of the Festival of Baroque Opera and participated in a mass at the Basilica of St Margaret. Later, in that same Basilica, they performed as part of the Mica Summer Festival, traveling next to Olomouc to sing to an audience of 1,200 in the Church of Our Lady of Snows for the Olomouc Spring Festival.

One of the focal points around which the itinerary had been planned was the 46th International Eucharistic Congress in Wrocław. The choir had sung here in 1993 and was invited back to perform a concert with the Wrocław Philharmonic Orchestra as part of the congress. With Dr Allred conducting, the

choir treated audience members to Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms* and a selection from their own *cappella* program. The next day several chorus members attended an open-air mass with His Holiness the Pope.

Following an overnight train ride, the ensemble arrived in Tallinn, Estonia, ready to sing again. Their concert in the Black Head Hall had the best acoustics yet and they recorded it for their next CD. From Tallinn they continued to St Petersburg, where they stayed again with local families and performed a joint concert with a local choir in the famous Glinka Cappella.

The final leg of the tour again involved an invitation to perform with a local orchestra and chorus, this time in Moscow, where they were met by local organizers and whisked away for rehearsals and sightseeing. The group's final

concerts in the Moscow Conservatory and the Palace of Culture were tour highlights, as was the chance to get together for one final group photograph in Red Square.

Upon his return home, Dr Allred said "Our best tour yet! Thanks for a superb job."



Duquesne choir in the Moscow conservatory

"I think you have begun a good trend with North American choirs in South Africa. For my own part, it was my best tour, from all vantage points."

Bruce More, Conductor
University of Victoria
Chamber Singers

"This was the BEST tour we have had with ACFEA thus far! Thank you for arranging such prestigious venues for us."

Nancy Gage, Chorus Manager
Cleveland Orchestra Chorus

TWICE IN TWO YEARS?!

Paul Elliott Cobbs, a prominent orchestral conductor from the Pacific Northwest, completed a tour of Austria and Italy in April with his chamber orchestra from the Northwest School, Seattle.

On arrival in Europe, the students were met with snow in Salzburg, which provided an atmospheric backdrop to their concert — and a shivering but spirited audience! Their tour quickly warmed up as the group went into Italy, where they gave concerts to thrilled audiences in Venice, Vicenza, Florence and Capodimonte, some in venues where famous composers had once flourished.

"The students were able to visualize concretely the music they had been studying," says Dr Cobbs. "The Roman ruins, the palaces, the churches (even one where Vivaldi performed), Mozart's birthplace, the whole atmosphere," he says, "these all made the music real for them, something tangible, beyond the black-and-white page". He is convinced that as a result of this tour, "they developed a whole new perspective".

This was Dr Cobbs' second trip in two years with ACFEA. The first was with the Everett Symphony, a professional orchestra which completed a very successful tour of Vienna and its environs in 1996. This orchestra is already planning its 1999 tour to Italy with ACFEA, including performances in Venice, Florence and Rome.

continued from 'VOICES IN THE CITY'

Hartford Chorale, the San Francisco Choral Society and the University of California, Berkeley, Alumni Chorus joined with the BBC National Chorus of Wales for a performance of Brahms' Requiem, with the English Symphony Orchestra conducted by Simon Halsey. The Hartford Chorale, directed by Henley Denmead, also gave a recital in Birmingham Cathedral, and the University of California Alumni Chorus, directed by William Ganz, took part in a master class with The King's Singers, who themselves gave a concert in Symphony Hall.

Following its great success this year, 'Voices in the City' will happen again in 1998, and plans are already under way for two performances of Verdi's Requiem to be conducted by Richard Hickox in Symphony Hall and at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod.

CHILDREN WEAVE A MUSICAL WEB IN EUROPE

The Alaska Children's Choir from Anchorage decided to send back a digital postcard from their tour of Central Europe. One of the tour leaders took photographs with a digital camera, enabling the images to be downloaded to their web site in Alaska.

The tour had much to record. In Vienna, the choir sang by a subterranean lake, in acoustics more live than in many churches. A stop at the Prater amusement park followed, where the children delighted in being "flung upside-down in the roller coasters".

The choir then drove west to the Salzburg region, where they toured *The Sound of Music* film locations and gave a short impromptu concert on the steps where the *Do-re-mi* scene was filmed. After a formal concert in a nearby village, the choir departed for Pertisau, a rural village where some members of the choir spent an entire day walking in the mountains and others swam in the Achensee: "It was freezing cold (until you went numb)," said one chorister, "but still warmer than Alaska!"

The great highlight of the trip was in Germany's Erfurt and Eisenach, two important towns in the history of JS Bach. This July, Erfurt hosted an international festival for the 500th anniversary of its town bell, 'The Gloriosa', the largest free-swinging bell in the world. The Alaska Children's Choir performed as an hon-



'The hills are alive...'

ored guest choir in the International Glockentage, singing for an audience of nearly 10,000 people in the Domplatz. An impressive sound and light show,

complete with laser effects, lit the Domplatz while the choir sang Alaskan native chant and other American folk music. The whole event received major coverage from the media, including radio and television.

On the tour's last day, the choir visited Eisenach, birthplace of JS Bach and home to the Bachmuseum, where the choir enjoyed a private tour. The museum curator demonstrated Bach's music on keyboard instruments used by Bach himself.

Overlooking Wartburg Castle, where Luther translated the Latin Bible into German, the choir held its final banquet. Despite the many tears, realizing the tour was nearly over, the choir's accompanist kept the choir in good spirits by playing the trash bins (in the absence of conga drums) while the choir sang its *Kenya Melodies* set: a joyful end to a memorable tour.

Photographs, along with a journal of entries from the tour, may be found on the Alaska Children's Choir web site at <www.alaska.net/~acc>.

IRISH HOSPITALITY IS NO BLARNEY

Ireland. Under the direction of Frances Fowler Slade, this award-winning

Enthusiastic audiences and warm receptions greeted the Voorhees Choir of Rutgers University on its concert tour of



women's choir delighted audiences in Dublin, Cork, Killarney and Limerick with stunning performances in a wide array of concert venues including two churches, the manor home of Collis Sandes and the Cahir Castle Banquet Hall. In each case, the Voorhees women were welcomed by local host choirs, and enjoyed the unique opportunity of performing joint concerts and mingling with their Irish counterparts. In the words of Mrs Slade, "This

was the best of the many tours that I have done. The organization was excellent. Most importantly, we had enthusiastic and very hospitable audiences. Thanks, ACFEA!"

FRESNO ORCHESTRA EXPLORES BRITAIN & IRELAND

As the Fresno (CA) Youth Symphony Orchestra (Eric Gratz, Musical Director) embarked on their concert tour of Great Britain and Ireland this summer, they looked forward to an exciting array of musical, cultural and educational experiences which had formed the basis of their tour plans from the outset. Joint concerts with good audiences and warm receptions, beautiful venues, homestays, a range of sightseeing, a concert by the London Symphony Orchestra, and a farewell medieval banquet did not disappoint.

With London as the starting point, FYSO kicked off the tour with a joint performance with the Hackney Youth Orchestra, then headed for Carmarthen, a small Welsh town where they stayed with families from the Carmarthen Youth Orchestra, enjoyed a day of sightseeing

along the Pembrokeshire coast, and performed a well-attended concert at the local school.

FYSO then traveled by ferry to Ireland, where they were greeted by the West Dublin Youth, Junior and Senior Orchestras, who hosted a joint dinner and a concert at Celbridge Abbey. Another ferry took the orchestra to Scotland, where they spent several days in and around Glasgow and Edinburgh. While staying with host families in Dalgety Bay, the orchestra rose to the occasion of a big performance day, starting with an afternoon concert in the splendid Chapel Royal at Stirling Castle and finishing in the evening with a joint concert with the Woodmill High School Wind Band and Brass Ensemble to a sell-out crowd at St Ninian's Church. The tour culminated in a concert in Harrogate and sightseeing excursions to York, Stratford-upon-Avon and Oxford.



ACFEA OVERSEAS STAFF

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.

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

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

ELISABETH CAWOOD is an Operations Manager in London. She studied Italian and music at London University before working in the travel business in Switzerland.

More recently, she has worked in public relations and on the administration of the Consort of Musick and its associated recording company. She is fluent in German and Italian and, as a singer and violinist, has performed with choirs and orchestras in Italy and Britain.

MATTHEW GROCUTT is an Operations Manager in London. A graduate of Leeds University, he has worked in the music touring industry for the past four years. He maintains an active musical interest as a freelance trumpet player.

GENEVIEVE WEST is an Operations Manager in London. She graduated from Oxford University with a degree in modern languages and joined ACFEA after teaching English in Spain and working at the Barcelona Olympics.

REBECCA WHITE is Travel Manager in the London office. She has a diploma in Business and Finance with Travel and Tourism. Before joining ACFEA she worked on a schools travel program, coordinating and accompanying tours in Europe.

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

SYLVIA MARIN, ACFEA's Representative in France, is based in Paris. She graduated from Georgia State University with a degree in business administration before moving to France. Since then, she has been involved in organizing music tours and accompanying groups throughout the Mediterranean area using her linguistic skills.

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



Palo Alto (CA) High School Madrigal Singers in Albi, France

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

JOHN TREGELLAS is ACFEA's Regional Representative in Central Europe. Based in Prague since 1990, he works regularly with major concert promoters in the Czech Republic. A modern languages graduate from Oxford, he speaks fluent Czech, German, French and Hebrew. John currently sings with the Kühn Mixed Choir and the Prague Philharmonic Choir.

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

sic-making, and is a keen American square- and contradancer.

DON WHITBREAD, ACFEA's Regional Representative in Australia and New Zealand, is based in Canberra. A former teacher and senior public servant with the Prime Minister's department, Don founded and directed the Woden Valley Youth Choir for 28 years, touring widely in Australia and overseas. He received the medal of the Order of Australia for service to music in 1980, and was Canberra's Citizen of the Year in 1997. He has been associated with ACFEA since 1981.

JENNY RUSSELL is Assistant Manager in Canberra. She plays flute and has sung in various choirs in Canberra and London; she toured the USA and Japan as a member of the Woden Valley Youth Choir. She worked in ACFEA's London office prior to joining Don on her return to Australia in 1992.

"ACFEA knows what choirs need and what makes a successful tour. You attend to artistic, educational and personal concerns. Really this tour was everything the students hoped it would be."

Catharine Melhorn, Director
Mount Holyoke College Glee
Club

ACFEA NORTH AMERICAN STAFF

CHARLES HAWK is Managing Director of ACFEA North America. Charles has been a travel consultant since graduating

from California State University in 1972 and has been specializing in music tours since 1980. He is a Certified Travel Counselor and has traveled to all areas of the world both with groups and as an individual.

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

HUGH DAVIES is General Manager of ACFEA North America, based in the San Francisco office. Born in England, he has a master's degree from Cambridge,

where he sang at King's College under Sir David Willcocks. Hugh sang professionally in Europe, including with the Monteverdi Choir, before teaching music in Australia. He now performs as a soloist and with several professional ensembles in the Bay Area.

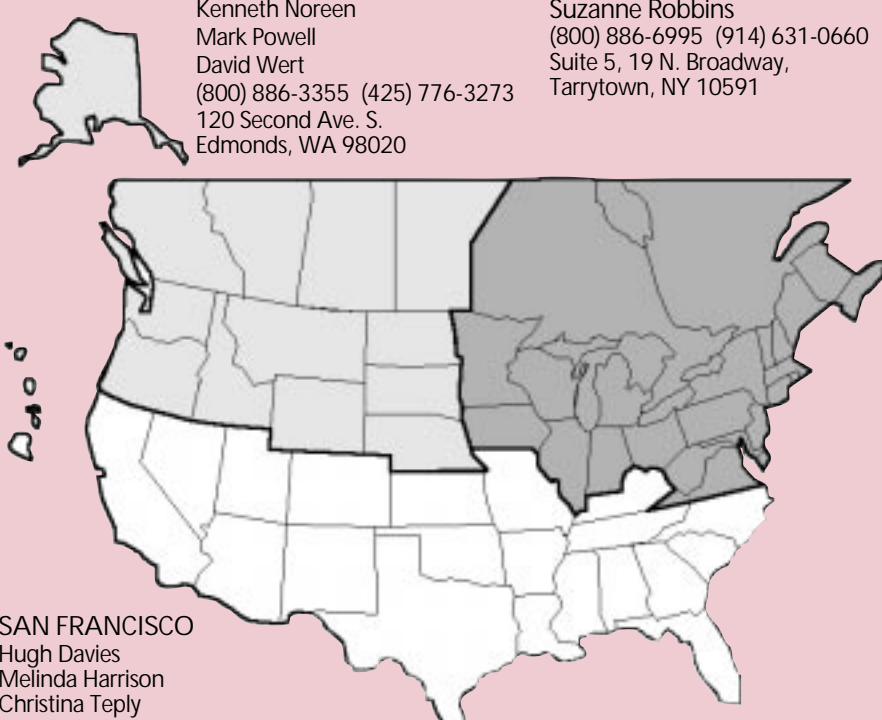
ROBYN GOLDSTEIN is a Tour Manager in the New York office. After graduating with a degree in psychology from Boston University, she lived in London and traveled extensively in Europe and Asia. A woodwind and keyboard player, her first touring experience was as solo clarinetist with her high school orchestra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

MELINDA HARRISON is a Tour Manager based in the San Francisco office. Born in Michigan, she graduated with a BA from the University of Michigan and from Western Michigan University with a master's degree in education. Melinda spent 20 years abroad, living in Hong Kong, Germany, the Netherlands and, for 10 years, in London. She completed both Christie's and Sotheby's Fine Arts courses, and arranged adult study tours and classes. Before joining ACFEA, Melinda worked with another major concert tour agency, where she arranged tours for church and community choirs, study groups and other special interest tours.

MARK POWELL, Tour Manager, is based in Seattle. Shortly after earning his degree in vocal music from Seattle Pacific University, Mark moved to England to manage the National Youth Choir of Great Britain. He then lived in Belgium, where he worked for the International Federation for Choral Music and sang in the professional Choeur de Chambre de Namur. Mark is now a freelance singer in several semi-professional choirs: The Tudor Choir and The Complaine Choir in Seattle, and Cappella Romana in Portland.

SUZANNE ROBBINS is a Tour Manager in the New York office. She has a degree in music from Wellesley College and spent her youth traveling extensively in Europe and South America. Before joining ACFEA, Suzanne managed the booking division of Performing Arts Consultants in Boston. Suzanne has sung with such ensembles as the Dessoff Choirs and the New York Choral Society, and she is currently a member of the Westchester Concert Singers and the Uptown Sound.

CHRISTINA TEPLY is a Tour Manager based in the California office. Born in San Francisco, she graduated from the University of California, San Diego, with a degree in French, and has worked with ACFEA since 1992. Her travels include



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SAN FRANCISCO
 Hugh Davies
 Melinda Harrison
 Christina Teply
 Noelle Tsigounis
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study abroad programs in France and Central America, competitive tours throughout Europe with a track team, and trips to Russia, China, Australia and New Zealand. Currently, Christina sings with, and is Chorus Manager of, the Marin Master Chorale.

NOELLE TSIGOUNIS is a Tour Manager in the San Francisco office. A native of New York, Noelle earned her degree in vocal performance from the State University of New York at Geneseo. She has lived in London, traveled extensively throughout Europe and the Middle East, and accompanied the Geneseo Chamber Singers on an ACFEA tour of Italy as the assistant conductor. Noelle currently sings with the San Francisco Concert Chorale and is Assistant Conductor of the Marin Youth Chorus.

DAVID WERT, Tour Manager, is based in the Seattle office. A native of Pennsylvania, he is the former assistant director of the Armed Forces School of Music in Norfolk, VA. As a director of US Navy Bands, he performed in and conducted musical ensembles in over 30 countries, including many in South America, Africa, Asia and the Far East. David had choral training from an early age and is an accomplished performer on piano, contemporary keyboard and

trumpet. He currently teaches trumpet at Music Center of the Northwest and performs freelance in the Seattle area.

AMY YOUNG is a Tour Manager, based in San Francisco. From upstate New York, she graduated with a degree in psychology and a minor in music history and theory from the State University of New York at Geneseo. She has toured throughout Europe with various performing ensembles, including with the Geneseo Chamber Singers on two ACFEA tours of Italy. Amy worked for Chautauqua Institution as a tour coordinator and was a member of the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus. She currently sings with the San Francisco Symphony Chorus and the San Francisco Concert Chorale.

"The trip was another ACFEA triumph. I don't know how you do it - but the whole experience was perfectly suited to our needs. We had the feeling, from beginning to end, that we had special attention. Thank you so much. See you in '99."
 Sonja Dahlgren Pryor, Director
 Chorus North Shore

AMHERST CHOIR TOURS IBERIA

On her third ACFEA concert tour with choirs from Amherst College, Director

Mallorie Chernin took a closely knit group of 23 singers to Spain and Portugal in May and June. Armed with a diverse *cappella* repertoire including American, Spanish and Portuguese folk songs, the choir arrived with great expectations.



They discovered large, enthusiastic audiences, spectacular venues with vibrant acoustics, and wonderful food.

The tour began in the Granada area. ACFEA had identified churches in some smaller towns that were eager to host these young Americans, so each concert involved a short ride through the countryside between Granada and Cordoba.

Upon arrival at the Iglesia Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe in Baena, each tour member was presented with several bottles of local olive oil and white wine. The concert was taped for broadcast on local television and Ms Chernin was interviewed by the local press. At the Iglesia San Francisco in Lucena a similar welcome and a pre-

concert feast greeted the choir on arrival.

The beautiful Convento San Buenaventura in Seville was the site of the choir's last concert in Spain. Ms Chernin exclaimed, "The best acoustics we had on tour and a great audience. How did you do that in Sevilla?"

The last five days of the tour were spent in Portugal, beginning in the ancient, walled city of Evora. Here the choir performed in the lovely Igreja do Espirito

Santo to an appreciative audience. Then on to the capital city of Lisbon, where they were invited to sing informally at the American Embassy and scheduled to sing two area concerts. The group concluded the tour with a farewell gath-

ering in a local restaurant, complete with traditional Fado singers and Portuguese specialties.

Upon returning to Amherst, Ms Chernin said, "... We had a great tour — wonderful concerts, venues, audiences, places to stay and meals. Thank you very much!"

"Another winning experience for us all. Thanks to all of you."
Robert Keener, Director
Asheville Choral Society

A HEART FULL OF SONG, A TRAILER FULL OF GOODWILL

The Valley Christian Center Sanctuary Choir (Director, John Sutton),

from Dublin, CA, embarked on a special tour this summer to Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, bringing not only their fine voices but also bountiful goodwill and aid to several appreciative host organizations in the Baltic republics. The effect of their combined musical and material ministry proved a moving and rewarding experience for all involved.

The choir began the trip in Helsinki with a trailer of goods in tow and a briefcase of documentation intended to facilitate the clearing of customs at the many border crossings to come. Their load lightened as they distributed clothing, medical and computer supplies while singing their way through Estonia, performing in Tallinn at the Dom Church, during services at Kaarli Church, and at a beneficiary concert at the Ravila Rehabilitation Home, before moving on to Tartu for a concert at St Peter's Church. In Latvia, the choir performed a benefit concert at Matthew's Baptist Church in Riga and visited the Zalits Internat Paligskola, a children's school for the mentally disabled, where a short recital was held and more goods donated.

En route to Vilnius, the choir stopped to visit the Hill of Crosses outside of Siauliai, a sacred site since the early 19th century where, despite recent Communist efforts, people have been erecting (or re-erecting) thousands of memorial crosses of all shapes and sizes in random order. This powerful sight surely stands out as a tour highlight, as does the joint performance with the Cathedral Choir of Vilnius Cathedral, which took place July 6, State Day, honoring King Mindaugas. The concert was a huge success, attended by the Minister of Culture, broadcast live by radio, and followed by a gala celebration.

A long train ride brought the choir from Lithuania to Poland for visits to Krakow and Warsaw, where the choir took in the sights of these two beautiful cities, participated in services at the Carmelite and Santa Anna churches, and traveled to the concentration camp at Auschwitz.

"...we were so pleased with this recent trip. To answer your question as to when to begin planning our next trip: the day after you receive this letter!"

Henley Denmead, Director
Hartford Chorale

MUSIC ON THE RIVIERA

Members of the Eugene Master Chorale (OR) under Diane Price, the

Irvine Valley College Chorale (CA) under Jan Wyma, and the Ponca City Singers (OK), joined forces on the Italian Riviera for ten days of great music, fabulous food, exotic sites, fun in the sun, and rest and relaxation.

Under the direction of noted conductor Jonathan Griffith, the choir sang Paul Winter's famous earth mass, *Missa Gaia*, accompanied by Jim Scott, co-writer of the mass, on guitar, and the local

jazz band Running Birds. The program was completed with favorite standards of American repertoire, including *Shadrack*, *Shenandoah*, and *Bill Bailey*. Audiences in the Italian towns of Seborga and San Remo, and the French town of Peillon, thrilled to the exciting performances, and the choir members were introduced to the warmth, enthusiasm, and exuberance of the people of the Riviera. Summed up in the words of Jan Wyma, "Everyone came home feeling well rewarded musically and personally and having had a great time together. We are very appreciative of the hard work ACFEA did."

PORTLAND GIRLCHOIR CONNECTS DOWN UNDER

This young and talented group went the extra mile on their tour...or rather 8,757 miles,

flying from Portland, Oregon, to their first destination, Melbourne, Australia.

Upon arrival, the choir members were hosted by families from two Melbourne-based choirs, the Victorian Boys' Choir and the Australian Girls' Choir. Having met many of these hosts on a previous tour, the Portland girls enjoyed an especially



warm welcome that continued as these groups hosted the choir's first concert before an enthusiastic public.

The real highlight of the tour came in Canberra, the capital of Australia. The Pacific Connection Four Choirs Festival, hosted by the Woden Valley Youth Choir, included several workshops with Stephen Leek, a young and influential Australian composer whose choral works had recently been featured at the 1996 World Symposium on Choral Music in Sydney.

Combining with three other choirs, the Portland Symphonic Girlchoir performed a variety of Australian works, including Leek's recent work for treble voices and chamber orchestra, *Star Tribes*.

The choir also visited Sydney, touring the Opera House and the Old Town, and gave concerts in the area. The final days of the tour were spent in the tropical north, on the Great Barrier Reef in Cairns, where the choir saw first-hand the unique flora and fauna while snorkeling at this natural wonder.

The tour was a great success. "We appreciate the opportunity to work with such a professional company that is so in tune to the needs of a performing group," say Melinda Kinsman and Rebecca Robb-Hicks, co-coordinators of the tour. "We came home with wonderful memories, new friends and an appreciation of the people and land of Australia....Without a doubt, this was the best international tour the choir has experienced. We can't wait to tour again!"

The choir's director, Roberta Jackson, echoes these sentiments: "I was delighted with the tour, and I look forward to working with ACFEA for the 1999 10th Anniversary Tour."

"The bottom line is that we had an incredible time and the memories will be cherished for a lifetime"

Cathleen Suey
Tour Coordinator, Davis High School Madrigal Choir

HONOR BAND DEBUTS IN EUROPE

In association with Bands of America Inc, ACFEA made the arrangements for

the Honor Band of America's inaugural concert tour of western Europe. In July, 70 of America's finest young wind and brass students, under the conductorship of Ray Cramer, began a busy week's tour of France, Germany, the Netherlands and Austria. The band had been invited to take part in two prestigious events: the World Music Contest in Kerkrade, Holland, and the convention of the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles in Schladming, Austria.

The repertoire for the tour was varied, from the traditional (*Stars and Stripes Forever* and Percy Grainger's *Lincolnshire Posy*) to more modern works. Mark Camphouse's *Whatsoever Things...*, written especially for the 1997 Honor Band, was given its European premiere on this tour.

The tour began in Paris with a concert in front of a 400-strong audience in the splendid Eglise Saint-Germain-des-Prés in the heart of the city. The following day it was on to Aachen and the WMC festivities where the band was given a police escort to its performance. The final two performances, at WASBE and in Graz, provided the most emotional concert experiences for the students, some of whom gave their last concerts with the Honor Band before returning to the USA to continue their musical studies at university.

FROM MOUNTAINTOP TO SEASCAPE: THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

This year the Bucknell University Concert Chorale (Lewisburg, PA) and the South Bay Youth Orchestra

(Saratoga, CA), under the direction of William Payn and Peter Susskind respectively, enjoyed week-long visits to Washington State and British Columbia, each group reveling in the opportunity to explore this unique combination of foreign culture, history, sightseeing and the great outdoors.

As culture is a very prominent part of life in this region, concert opportunities are many and varied, and audiences enthusiastically welcome visiting groups. Each group enjoyed performing in a wide array of venues, including the acoustically beautiful Ryerson United Church in Vancouver and the First Presbyterian Church of Seattle, as well as some eclectic locations including high atop Vancouver's

Grouse Mountain and the Cameron Bandshell of Victoria's picturesque Beacon Hill Park. Other unique opportunities for future groups could include performances in the Seattle Modern Art Museum, on the

and the orchestra experienced everything from the quaint British tearooms and horse-drawn carriages of Victoria to the trendy downtown metropolises of Seattle and Vancouver. At every turn, they were surrounded by the majestic beauty of the mountains and the bustling waterfronts. Even getting from city to city was varied: by air, land and sea. Ferries are a predominant mode of transportation, so these groups had the chance to navigate the waterways while enjoying the stunning scenery.

As the Bucknell University Concert Chorale and the South Bay Youth Orchestra discovered, the Pacific Northwest is an idyllic destination for any group wishing to experience culture and beauty, visit a foreign country

without crossing an ocean, and perform its music in a cutting edge arts environment.



Bucknell choir in Victoria, BC

steps of the lovely Empress Hotel on Victoria's waterfront, or marching in the Victoria Day Parade.

In a 100-mile radius, the chorale

TRINITY CHURCH: FROM BOSTON (MA) TO BOSTON (UK)

Boston, sent its choir with greetings across 'the pond' to its counterparts in

One of the bastions of the Anglican tradition, Trinity Church in the City of



Outside Salisbury Cathedral

England. On its first-ever concert tour, the Trinity Choir built a musical bridge between the old and new worlds with its renowned ability to infuse the clarity of English singing with the warmth of America.

The focus of the tour was one of sharing through music, and this goal was certainly accomplished as audiences throughout England were touched by the splendid singing of pieces by Billings, Christiansen, Piccolo, Sowerby and Thompson. Under the direction of Brian Jones, the choir sang a recital and service

at Westminster Abbey and Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral, gave a recital at Salisbury Cathedral, performed a concert at St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham, and participated in Sunday services at St Botolph's in eponymous Boston, where they were billeted by the congregation. Perhaps the greatest performances were two outstanding concerts with the Academy of Oxford Brass Ensemble: one in Cirencester Parish Church as part of the Cirencester Festival, and one in New College Chapel, Oxford.

In addition to the performances, the choir members enjoyed sightseeing in London, Stratford-upon-Avon, the Cotswolds and Oxford, as well as many opportunities for cultural exchange.

The members of the choir found the tour to be a great success. Tour manager Tim Russell wrote on his post-tour report,

"The responses I've gotten from my questionnaire to choir members showed ratings of 9 or above (out of 10). As one choir member said when responding to the question about the single most memorable part of the tour, 'I have never felt closer to God'."

"A huge success. Great couriers, excellent concerts, good food."
Rod Baggett, Director
Nevada Union High
School Choir

HUNTSVILLE CHOIR DOES EUROPE!

From the passion-filled streets of Italy, to the majestic mountains of Austria, to the chic ambiance of France, and to the quaint English countryside, the University of Alabama, Huntsville, Concert Choir covered the gamut of life in Europe on its first international concert tour. Under the direction of Bonnie Borshay Sneed the choir started in Rome and made an ambitious sweep of the continent, including Milan, Innsbruck, Salzburg, Vienna and Paris, before taking the 'chunnel' to England, where they visited Tenterden and London. Performing an eclectic sacred repertoire, with pieces by Palestrina, Aguiar, Messiaen and Clausen, the choir sang in masses at St Peter's Basilica (Vatican City), the Duomo (Milan), Schönbrunn Palace Chapel (Vienna) and Sacré-Coeur (Paris). But these only represent the scheduled performances! In addition, the choir took full advantage of the wealth of opportunities for impromptu singing in a variety of fabulous venues. Says Dr Sneed, "We sang everywhere...I hope someone will print up what we actually did!"

"Travel and performance have caused us to grow both as musicians and as people, and the question everyone is asking is "How soon can we do this again?"

Leslie Guelker-Cone, Director
Western Washington University
Concert Choir

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