

# TOUR COMPANIES 2020

Thinking about taking your choir or organ club on tour?  
These companies will take the strain



JENKOTAMAN

## ACFEA Tour Consultants

**Types of tours** Performing tours

**Sister companies** Specialised Travel; Travel for the Arts

**Website** [acfea.eu](http://acfea.eu)

**Contact** Richard Savage or Dan Porterfield, +44 20 8799

8360, [info@acfea.eu](mailto:info@acfea.eu) (specific tour planning and management contacts available on website).

**Clients** Amateur ensembles of all abilities (min. 15 people).

**Scale** Around 100 tours organised annually.

**Regions covered** Europe, North America, Australasia, South Africa,

India, Sri Lanka, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and Japan.

Offices in Europe, the US, South America, South Africa, China, Hong Kong and Australia.

## Choir Contact Ireland

**Types of tours** Performing tours to festivals and competitions

**Website** [choircontactireland.ie](http://choircontactireland.ie)

**Contact** +353 1 888 7830, [reservations@choircontactireland.ie](mailto:reservations@choircontactireland.ie)

**Clients** Choirs and ensembles of all sizes.

**Regions covered** Europe. >

## ON TOUR 1 Masterworks Chorale

**Tour location** Stirling, Scotland

**Participants** 40

**Performances** Paisley Abbey; St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow; Stirling Castle Chapel, Stirling Church of the Holy Rude

**Tour company** Sound Escapes UK

Masterworks Chorale is a Leeds-based mixed adult choir who perform sacred music from around the world spanning the last 500 years. To celebrate their founder-director Tim Knight's 60th birthday, the choir embarked on a tour around Stirling, Scotland, where they performed works by Ēriks Ešenvalds, Morten Lauridsen, Jacques Arcadelt and Healey Willan, among others.

Speaking about the value of this tour, Knight said, 'We have been touring constantly for about 20 years, so it's the fellowship and bonding that tours give that make for a better choir. Also, the variety of venues (and trips to Loch Lomond) keep the members both on their toes musically and excited about the choir.'

Deciding to tour 'at home' this year (because of Brexit), the choir members put their musical efforts towards raising money for charity, securing a total of £12,000 in the duration of their tour. A highlight was their performance at Paisley Abbey (right), where they raised £800 for a local hospice.

How would Knight describe the overall experience? 'As in all tours, the heightened activity of four concerts in three days gives choir members the chance to really get to know the music. It enables them to sing to larger audiences without the worry of the choir management having to promote the concerts - that relies on a good tour operator - and when they return, they come back with a renewed commitment to their choir.'



JO PORTER



ANN ROWSON

**ON TOUR 2** Talgarth Male Choir

**Tour location** Tuscany, Italy

**Participants** 74

**Performances** Sant'Agostino Church (San Gimignano), Basilica di Santa Maria Assunta (Montecatini)

**Tour company** Club Europe Music Tours

In September this year, Talgarth Male Choir toured with Club Europe to Tuscany, Italy, after the company was recommended to them by other choirs. Their performance venues included the 13th-century Sant'Agostino Church in San Gimignano and the Basilica di Santa Maria Assunta in Montecatini. The performance of sacred music at the latter earned a full house and a standing ovation, making it a tour highlight for the choir.

The trip was part of the choir's 50th anniversary celebrations and concert secretary Peter Rowson spoke to C&O about the success of the tour and the positive feedback received all round. In a report on the tour, their manager at Club Europe was described as 'incredibly helpful and resourceful throughout', while the trip was described as 'a fitting way to round off our year of celebration.'

◀ **Classical Movements**

**Types of tours** Performing tours

**Website** [classicalmovements.com](http://classicalmovements.com)

**Contact** +1 703 683 6040

[info@classicalmovements.com](mailto:info@classicalmovements.com)

**Clients** Adult, university and youth choirs and orchestras of all sizes.

**Scale** 200 concerts and 60 tours arranged annually.

**Regions covered** 145 countries across Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and the Caribbean, South and Central America.

**Club Europe Music Tours**

**Types of tours** Performing and cultural tours and retreats

**Website** [club-europe.co.uk](http://club-europe.co.uk)

**Contact** Lucy Szymonski +44 20 8772 2861, [Lusy.s@club-europe.co.uk](mailto:Lusy.s@club-europe.co.uk), (main) +44 80 0496 4996

**Clients** Adult, youth and school orchestras, choirs, bands and performing arts groups of all sizes (usually range from 20-40 people but there is no maximum).

**Scale** 90 tours arranged annually.

**Regions covered** 30 countries worldwide, including Europe and Australasia. Representative present in each country.

**Ellison Travel & Tours**

**Types of tours** Performing and festival tours

**Website** [ellisontravel.com](http://ellisontravel.com)

**Contact** +1 800 265 7022, email via website.

Based in Canada.

**Clients** Student music groups.

**Regions covered** Canadian-based and international tours and festivals.

**Encore Tours**

**Types of tours** Performing tours and 'shadow' tours for friends and family

**Website** [encoretours.com](http://encoretours.com)

**Contact** Jon Linker +1 617-958-9575, [jlinker@acis.com](mailto:jlinker@acis.com); office: +1 877-460-3801, [encoretours@acis.com](mailto:encoretours@acis.com)

**Clients** Musical groups of all ages; organists. Groups of 10-250 people.

**Scale** 60 tours arranged annually. Based in the US.

**Regions covered** Tours to Europe, US, Canada, Mexico, Costa Rica, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Uruguay, Japan, Vietnam and China. Local representatives in countries visited.

**Going Places**

**Types of tours** Performing tours

**Website** [goingplacetours.com](http://goingplacetours.com)

**Contact** Christine Pelham (mob) +1 914 318 4076, (land) +1 978 792 5460, [goingpl@bestweb.net](mailto:goingpl@bestweb.net)

**Clients** Amateur groups, church choirs, community choruses and

handbell choirs of 20-200 people, all mostly from the US.

**Regions covered** UK, Europe, Canada, New Zealand and Australia; groups wishing to perform in the US also welcome.

**Gower Music Tours**

**Types of tours** Performing tours

**Website** [gowertours.com](http://gowertours.com)

**Contact** + 44 1527 851410, email via website.

**Clients** School bands, choirs and orchestras; adult choirs and orchestras of all sizes.

**Regions covered** Europe. Option to be accompanied by multi-lingual team member.

**Halsbury Travel Group - Halsbury Music**

**Types of tours** Performing tours and cultural tours

**Website** [halsbury.com](http://halsbury.com)

**Contact** Alison Fox, +44 1159 404303, [alisonfox@halsbury.com](mailto:alisonfox@halsbury.com)

**Clients** School bands, choirs and orchestras; adult ensembles (min. 20 people).

**Scale** 65 music tours organised annually.

**Regions covered** Europe, Canada, US and Far East. Local representatives in most countries.

**Melody Music**

**Types of tours** Performing tours

**Website** [melodymusic-company.com](http://melodymusic-company.com)

**Contact** Mark Stuart Burrows (M.D.) +44 2920 212531, [mark@melodymusic-company.com](mailto:mark@melodymusic-company.com)

**Clients** School and adult choirs of any size (previously arranged tours for 16-530 singers).

**Scale** Arranges 30 tours annually.

**Regions covered** Europe, Russia, South America, US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Links with Krakow International Festival and Warsaw International Choir Festival.

Each tour accompanied by local representative and Melody Music representative.

**MusiCultur Travel GmbH**

**Types of tours** Performing tours and competitions

**Website** [musicultur.com](http://musicultur.com)

**Contact** Susan Schneider +49 228 28986012, [info@musicultur.com](mailto:info@musicultur.com)

**Clients** Choirs and orchestras of all ages and sizes.

**Scale** 60-70 tours arranged annually.

**Regions covered** Germany, Italy, France, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Spain, Poland.



**Music Contact International**

**Types of tours** Performing tours

**Website** [home.music-contact.com](http://home.music-contact.com)

**Contact** +1 800 624 0166,

+1 802 862 2200,

[travel@music-contact.com](mailto:travel@music-contact.com)

**Clients** Choirs, bands and orchestras.

**Regions covered** Trips to festivals and worldwide tours.

**Music & Travel Tour Consultants**

**Types of tours** Performing tours;

cultural and special interest tours

**Website** [musicandtravel.com](http://musicandtravel.com)

**Contact** (UK) Matthew Grocutt

+44 1491 614406, [matthew@musicandtravel.com](mailto:matthew@musicandtravel.com);

(Italy) +39 340 506 3685, [italy@musicandtravel.com](mailto:italy@musicandtravel.com);

(US) +1-610-329-3447, [usa@musicandtravel.com](mailto:usa@musicandtravel.com);

(South America) [argentina@musicandtravel.com](mailto:argentina@musicandtravel.com)

**Clients** Choirs, orchestras and bands of all ages and sizes (has previously worked with groups of 8-200 people).

**Scale** Arranges 30-35 tours annually

**Regions covered** Europe, US,

Canada, Australasia and Far East.

Local representatives in each country.

**Olton Travel**

**Types of tours** Performing and cultural tours

**Website** [oltontravelrussia.com](http://oltontravelrussia.com)

**Contact** Olga Yemelyanova,

+7 (812) 985 8180/8108

[info@oltontravelrussia.com](mailto:info@oltontravelrussia.com)

**Clients** Student and adult choirs and orchestras of any size.

**Scale** Around 30 tours annually

**Regions covered** Russia.

**OneStage Specialist Concert Tours**

**Types of tours** Performing tours

**Website** [onestage.co.uk](http://onestage.co.uk)

**Contact** +44 121 244 5892

(Julian), +44 20 8568 4586 (Sonia),

[tourenquiries@onestage.co.uk](mailto:tourenquiries@onestage.co.uk)

**Clients** Amateur ensembles (min. 12 people).

**Regions covered** Europe, Asia, US and Canada.

**ON TOUR 3** Tiffin Boys' Choir

**Tour location** Porto, Coimbra and Lisbon (Portugal)

**Participants** 38 students, 6 staff

**Performances** Igreja da Nossa Senhora da Lapa, Livraria Lello (Porto), Igreja de Santa Cruz (Coimbra), Sé, Lisboa (Lisbon)

**Tour company** ACFEA Tour Consultants

Tiffin Boys' Choir from Kingston, London recently toured with ACFEA to Portugal, taking in Porto, Coimbra and Lisbon. During their tour they performed in Livraria Lello, the world-renowned bookshop in Porto for which tickets must be purchased in advance, as well as in the cathedral in Sé, Lisbon. On the practicalities of a tour, music director James Day said, 'Organising a tour is such a big task. As a

choir we really want to focus on performing great music to a high quality and enjoy the culture that our destination offers. Using a tour company allows us to focus on these.'

For a school choir especially, tours are a major part of the musical and academic calendar: 'One of the challenges that school choirs face is the exam pressure students face in the final term. Having an exciting tour in the diary really helps motivate senior choristers to attend rehearsals and have a reward at the end of exams.'

Speaking of the benefits of the tour, Day explained, 'Tours are invaluable for the development and growth of the choir. Singing several concerts in close succession allows us to really work on the sound of the choir. Being away from home brings everyone closer together and allows for a lot of focus.'



PALOMA ALVAR ACFEA

◀ **Rayburn Tours**

**Types of tours** Performing tours

**Website** [rayburntours.com](http://rayburntours.com)

**Contact** +44 1332 985076, or via website

**Clients** Youth and adult choirs, bands and orchestras of any size.

**Regions covered** Europe and the US. Option to be accompanied by Tour Manager.

**Richardson & Gray**

**Types of tours** Performing tours and cathedral residencies

**Website** [richardsonandgray.com](http://richardsonandgray.com)

**Contact** (office) +44 1584 879348, (mob) +44 7811 946708, email via website

**Clients** Provides tours for groups coming to Europe, particularly from North America.

**Sing & Travel**

**Types of tours** Performing tours, cultural tours and music events

**Website** [singandtravel.com](http://singandtravel.com)

**Contact** Marina Kaudasch +34 622 114 785

[marina@singandtravel.com](mailto:marina@singandtravel.com)

**Clients** Choirs of all ages and sizes; individual singers.

**Scale** Arranges 15-18 tours annually.

**Regions covered** Europe and the US. Accompanied by a Tour Manager.

**Sound Escapes UK**

**Types of tours** Performing tours

**Website** [soundescapesuk.com](http://soundescapesuk.com)

**Contact** Jo Porter +44 115 874 6396, [jo.porter@soundescapesuk.com](mailto:jo.porter@soundescapesuk.com)

**Clients** Adult choirs and music ensembles (min. 10 people).

**Scale** Arranges 10 tours annually.

**Regions covered** England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, including islands eg. Isle of Wight, Isle of Man, Channel Islands. Accompanied by a Tour Manager.

**Travelbound**

**Types of tours** Performing tours

**Website** [travelbound.co.uk](http://travelbound.co.uk)

**Contact** +44 1273 244 572, email via website

**Clients** School or university choirs and orchestras.

**ON TOUR 4** Classical Chorus

**Tour location:** Lake Garda, Italy

**Participants:** 150

**Performances:** Saint Mark's Basilica (Venice), Verona Cathedral, Lake Garda (Lazise), Piazza dei Signori (Verona)

**Tour company** Halsbury Travel Group

For their first overseas tour, the singers of Classical Chorus UK visited Italy with their musical director Abigail Harris. The choir, which is an amateur mixed-voice adult choir, performed a selection of sacred, operatic and secular music including *Panis Angelicus*, *Adiemus* and a medley from *The Greatest Showman* in locations around Venice, Lake Garda and Verona.

Speaking of the location and the logistics of the tour, Harris said, 'The three cities complemented each other brilliantly and the singers

felt they had superb value for money. Across the five days and four nights, we had a well-planned itinerary which meant we could enjoy both relaxed leisure time in the swimming pool of the hotel, as well as plenty of time experiencing the local culture and tourist attractions.'

The music, of course, took centre stage: 'We particularly enjoyed the standing ovation for *Va, Pensiero* – local Italians even congratulated us at the end. Halsbury also organised for us to see *Nabucco* at the Verona Opera, which tied in perfectly.'

Overall, Harris felt that the experience was holistically beneficial to the choir: 'Both socially and musically, the choir has reached new heights and the tour has given us a real sense of achievement.' Classical Chorus will be touring with Halsbury again next summer, this time to Barcelona.



JERRY CHICHESTER/MILES