



SONG ABOUT SUMMER

TOUR COMPANIES 2021

Thinking of returning to the touring scene? These companies are poised to help, and two of them share how they have handled and come through the Covid pandemic

ACFEA Tour Consultants

Types of tours Performing tours.

Sister companies Specialised Travel

Website acfea.co.uk

Contact Richard Savage or Nigel Morley +44 20 8799 8360, info@acfea.co.uk (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

Contact +353 1 888 7830, reservations@choircontactireland.ie

Clients Choirs and ensembles of all sizes.

Regions covered Europe.

Classical Movements

Types of tours Performing tours.

Website classicalmovements.com

Contact +1 703 683 6040

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 ▶

HALSBURY MUSIC



▲ Ackworth School performing at the Mercantia Festival in Tuscany

Halsbury Music

Contact 0115 9404 303, enquiries@halsbury.com
halsbury.com/music

The Covid pandemic grounded music tours, leaving many ensembles bitterly disappointed that they weren't able to enjoy the tours they had spent months looking forward to and rehearsing for.

At Halsbury Music, we were extremely busy postponing tours and trying our best to secure refunds for our groups from airlines and other suppliers – all while having no idea how long the situation would last.

Overall, we've had a wonderful response from our customers who, despite being incredibly disappointed by the situation, have appreciated our personalised service in this time of crisis. Woburn Sands Band, for example, told us, 'You have been open, honest and helpful beyond expectation throughout this terrible situation, and my Committee thanks you all for your outstanding service, care and consideration.'

The great news is that travel is beginning to open up once more and we've been inundated with group leaders keen to rearrange their tours from 2020 and 2021. In fact, with so many rescheduled trips, availability for 2022 is already extremely limited.

Add to this the number of enquiries we're receiving for new tours for 2022 and we're really confident that music tours will bounce back. Summer 2022 in particular will see a huge number of our groups able to perform all across Europe – and we can't wait!

Halsbury Music has been working throughout the pandemic to stay on top of updates from the government, to ensure that we have a robust, workable plan to get our groups touring safely again. This has included introducing our Covid Guarantee which, among other things, ensures that groups will receive a full refund if travel restrictions stop their tour within 30 days of departure. And we can also offer travel insurance that will cover individuals dropping out of tours due to testing positive or being told to self-isolate.

Covid-19 may have stopped the music momentarily but we're doing everything we can to ensure that our groups are able to start touring again safely whenever they're ready.

◀ 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

Contact Lucy Szymonski

+44 20 8772 2861,

Lucy.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 ranging 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

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

Contact Jon Linker +1 617 958

9575, jlinker@acis.com;

office: +1 877 460 3801,

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.net

Contact Christine Pelham

(mob) +1 914 318 4076,

(land) +1 978 792 5460,

goingpl@bestweb.net

Clients Amateur groups, church choirs, community choruses and handbell choirs of 20-200 people, 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

Contact +44 1159 404303,

email via website.

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

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

Halsbury Travel Group - Halsbury Music

Types of tours Performing tours and cultural tours.

Website halsbury.com

Contact Alison Fox, +44 1159

404303, 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

Contact Mark Stuart Burrows

+44 2920 212531,

mark@melodymusic-company.com

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

Contact Susan Schneider +49 228 28986012, 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 Custom concert and performance tours, cultural exchange with foreign choirs, international festivals, domestic travel, and more.

Website music-contact.com

Contact +1 800 624 0166, +1 802 862 2200, travel@music-contact.com

Clients Student and adult choirs, bands, orchestras, and ensembles. All ages and abilities.

Scale 60-100 tours annually.

Regions covered Worldwide.

Music & Travel Tour Consultants

Types of tours Performing tours; cultural and special interest tours,

Website musicandtravel.com

Contact (UK) Matthew Grocutt +44 1491 614406, tours@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

Contact Olga Yemelyanova, +7 (812) 985 8180/8108, 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

Contact +44 20 8568 5486, tourenquiries@onestage.co.uk

Clients Amateur ensembles of all ages (bands, choirs, orchestras).

Regions covered UK, Europe and worldwide.

Rayburn Tours

Types of tours Performing tours.

Website rayburntours.com

Contact +44 1332 347828, 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 Specialists in cathedral residencies as well as performing tours.

Website richardsonandgray.com

Contact (office) +44 1584 879348, (mob) +44 7811 946708, randgtours@gmail.com.

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

Sound Escapes UK

Types of tours Performing tours.

Website soundescapesuk.com

Contact Jo Porter +44 115 874 6396, jo.porter@soundescapesuk.com

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

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

Contact +44 1273 244 572, email via website

Clients School or university choirs and orchestras.

Rayburn Tours

Contact +44 1332 347828

rayburntours.com

In February 2020, our touring groups and staff were returning from a multitude of trips across Europe and beyond. Little did we know then what was about to hit our industry. The pandemic that had just started to knock tentatively on the world's doors soon became a tidal wave. We never could have imagined that those February trips would be the last for more than 12 months.

It's hard to put into words the journeys that our business and staff have been on during the past 18 months. The challenges were monumental. We issued refunds amounting to £5.2m and our teams successfully postponed over 250 tours. An astounding 35,000 customers' tour plans were affected.

Writing this some 18 months later, with a documented roadmap out of the pandemic in place facilitated by a groundbreaking vaccine programme, we can finally see the world's doors beginning to open and life being breathed back into group travel.

With concert groups being deprived of performance opportunities for such a long period of time, we are now seeing early signs of unprecedented demand for concert tours in 2022/23. Regular touring groups are returning with a desire to recreate their previous tours, knowing only too well the benefits of touring and how these experiences are needed more than ever before.

We are also seeing new groups deciding to take the leap into touring internationally for the first time. It's great that we're able to discuss with them how we kept customers' best interests at the heart of everything we did over the last year or so.

There is no doubt the performance community will bounce back to being stronger and more adventurous than ever before - and we can't wait to play our part in that journey.

▼ Take Note Community Choir on their tour of Edinburgh in 2019



RAYBURN TOURS