PRESS RELEASE

125 Voices of the Yale Alumni Chorus

The “Ambassadors of Song” make 1st Tour to Estonia

Collaboration with the Estonian National Youth Symphony Orchestra

Alexandria, VA, USA, 11 July 2013:

Classical Movements Inc. is proud to announce Yale Alumni Chorus’ 15th Anniversary musical tour to the Baltic States: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. The tour will mark the first time this renowned chorus has ever made a trip to the region. The Chorus chose to visit the Baltic States because of its fantastic music tradition rooted in the famous Estonian Singing Revolution, through which Estonia received independence from the Soviet Union.

The Yale Alumni Chorus was born out of Yale University’s excellent 153-year-old choral program that maintains a reputation for excellence. Once students and singers in this world-class program, the members of the Yale Alumni Chorus are carrying on their joy of singing through this alumni program and spreading their music throughout the world. In fact, the Yale Alumni Chorus members are nicknamed “Ambassadors of Song” because of the chorus’ exceptional touring history, which includes a tour almost every year with outstanding concerts and participation in exchange and outreach programs with friends around the world.

An Exceptional Music Event

Coming directly from the US, the Yale Alumni Chorus will perform the tour’s first concert at the magnificent Kaarli Church on Tuesday, July 23rd at 6:00pm.

This choral and orchestral event will be a night to remember. The group will unite with the E STuudio Chamber Choir and the Estonian National Youth Symphony Orchestra to perform the major work of the evening, Lux Aeterna by American composer Morten Lauridsen. This vocal cycle is described by
Morten Lauridsen as “an intimate work of quiet serenity centered around a universal symbol of hope, reassurance, goodness, and illumination at all levels.”

The **Yale Alumni Chorus** will share with the audience a number of traditional American spirituals and folk songs such as *Didn’t My Lord Deliver Daniel* and *Shenandoah*.

Additionally, the **Yale Alumni Chorus** will perform with **E STudio Chamber Choir** *Ta lendab mesipuu poole*. This piece, composed by Peep Sarapik was originally a poem by the famous Estonian poet **Juhan Liiv**.

**Special Guests**

The concert will also feature performances by the **E STudio Chamber Choir**, led by their conductor Küllike Joosing. Founded in 2004, the group mostly sings Estonian repertoire to promote their rich culture. They have travelled to Canada and Italy as well as Norway, where they won first place for Sacred and Folk Music at the Grieg International Choir Festival 2012.

The **Estonian National Youth Symphony Orchestra** also will be featured in the concert for Charles Ives’ *Symphony No. 3*. This orchestra was founded by leading Estonian orchestral conductor Juri-Ruut Kangur in 1995, and gives twenty concerts every year. During the summer these talented young musicians tour and act as the festival orchestra of the Jārvi Summer Festival.

**The event is presented by the Estonian Choral Association and Kaarli Church Music Hour Series.**

**About the Yale Alumni Chorus**

The **Yale Alumni Chorus** was founded in 1997 and is made up of men and women who continue to enrich the artistic lives of the communities in which they live and perform. The Yale Alumni Chorus has toured around the world since 1998 when it visited China. There they attended the **China International Chorus Festival** and won first place. Since then the Chorus has visited and performed in Russia, England, South Africa, Mexico, and Guatemala, attending numerous festivals.

In 2001 The Yale Alumni Chorus attended the **Stars of the White Nights International Arts Festival** in Russia, performing with **Valery Gergiev** at the **Mariinsky Theatre**. On the same tour they performed with the **Moscow Chamber Orchestra** led by **Constantine Orbelian**, and later that year they performed with the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra** in London. In 2003 the Chorus performed at **Carnegie Hall** for the **100th Anniversary Salute to Aram Khachaturian**. That same year they were the first American chorus ever invited to perform at the
State Kremlin Palace along with the Philharmonia of Russia and international opera star Dmitri Hvorostovsky. In 2004 the Chorus toured South America, performing with the Brazil Symphony Orchestra, the Buenos Aires Philharmonic, and the Clásica Orquesta of Chile. In 2006 the Chorus traveled to England where they performed at the Ely Cathedral, conducted by Stephen Cleobury and Sir David Willcocks of the King’s College Choir. In 2006, the Chorus sang at the Gergiev Festival with the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, and in The Hague for dignitaries and ambassadors. In 2007 the Yale Alumni Chorus performed at the Grahamstown Festival in South Africa with the Johannesburg Festival Orchestra. In 2009 the Chorus attended the San Miguel Chamber Music Festival in Mexico. In June 2010 the Yale Alumni Chorus made a historic trip to Cuba after being invited by the Cuban government and granted permission by the United States Government. In June 2011, the Chorus toured Turkey, Georgia, and Armenia, where they performed with Georgian a capella groups, the Tbilisi Symphony Orchestra, the Armenian State Philharmonic Orchestra, and musicians Constantine Orbelian and Konstantin Orberlian. In June 2012, the Yale Alumni Chorus, along with the Yale Glee Club and the Yale School of Music, launched the 2012 Yale International Choral Festival in collaboration with the New Haven, Connecticut Festival of Arts and Ideas.

About the Director, Jeffrey Douma

Jeffrey Douma became Director of the Yale Glee Club in 2003, and also serves as Associate Professor at the Yale School of Music, where he teaches conducting and choral literature. Douma has appeared as guest conductor with ensembles on six continents, including the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic Orchestra, Buenos Aires Philharmonic Orchestra, Bahian Symphony Orchestra, Daejeon Philharmonic Choir, Moscow Chamber Orchestra, Windsor Symphony Orchestra, and the Johannesburg Festival Orchestra and Symphony Choir of Johannesburg. Active with musicians of all ages, Douma served for four years on the conducting faculty at the Interlochen Center for the Arts, America’s premier training ground for high school age musicians, conducting the Concert Choir, Women’s Choir, and Festival Choir, and frequently serves as clinician for festivals and honor choirs. An advocate of new music, Douma recently established the Yale Glee Club Emerging Composers Competition and Fenno Heath Award, and has premiered new works with the Glee Club.
Complete List of Tour Concerts

ESTONIA

· Tallinn – Tuesday, July 23, 2013 - 6:00 PM
Yale Alumni Chorus concert at Kaarli Church joined by the E Stuudio Chamber Choir accompanied by the Estonian National Youth Symphony Orchestra.

   Kaarli Church
   Toompuiestee 4, 10142 Tallinn
   Tel. +372 611 9100
   Fax. +372 631 1363

Free concert. Open to the public. No reservations required.

LATVIA

· Riga - Friday July 26, 2013 - 7:00 PM
Yale Alumni Chorus and organist Diana Jaunzeme at the Riga Dome Cathedral as part of the 26th International Organ Music Festival Rīgas Doms.

   Riga Cathedral
   Doma Laukums 1, Riga
   Tel. +371 672 27573

To reserve tickets, please call the box office at +371 67213213 or email concerts@doms.lv
Ticket prices: 5, 7 and 10 Lati

LITHUANIA

· Kaunas – Sunday July 28, 2013 - 5:00 PM
Yale Alumni Chorus with the Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra at the Kaunas Philharmonic Hall as part of the Pažaislis Music Festival.

   Kaunas State Philharmonic Society Hall
   L.Sapiegos str. 5, 44252 Kaunas
   Tel. +370 37 22 25 58

To reserve tickets, please call the box office at +370 37200478. The Box office is located at L. Sapiegos str. 5, Kaunas. Open from 2:00pm to 8:00pm all days except Monday.
Ticket price: 8 Litas

· Vilnius – Monday July 29, 2013 - 6:00 PM
Yale Alumni Chorus Outreach Concert to support the European Humanities University.

   Courtyard of the Vilnius Picture Gallery
   Didžioji 4, 01126 Vilnius
   Tel. + 370 5 212 08 41

Free concert. Open to the public.

· Vilnius - Tuesday July 30, 2013 - 7:00 PM
Yale Alumni Chorus with organist Renata Marcinkuté Lesieur at St. Casimir Church as part of the St. Christopher Summer Music Festival - Sacred Music Hours.

   St. Casimir Church
   Didžioji gatvė 34, 01128 Vilnius
   Tel. +370 5 212 1715

Free concert. Open to the public. No reservations required.
About Classical Movements, Inc.

Classical Movements specializes in custom travel arrangements for some of the world’s finest orchestras including the Philadelphia Orchestra, London Philharmonic, National Symphony Orchestra, several European Orchestras and numerous American Orchestras. They are also a leader in making concert and travel arrangements for some of the best choruses around the world. These include: the Choral Arts Society of Washington, Pacific Boychoir, VocalEssence, and much more! To date, Classical Movements has facilitated travel and concert tour arrangements for musical groups to, and from 135 countries on six continents. The company also produces four other annual international music festivals, including Ihlombe! South African Choral Festival; Rhapsody! Children’s Music Festival, Vienna, Salzburg, & Prague; Serenade! Washington DC Choral Festival; and Melodia! South American Music Festival. Classical Movements strives to fulfill its mission to facilitate the spread of global understanding and unity through cultural exchanges, made possible by means of the universal language of music.

If you would like more information about the Yale Alumni Chorus’s trip, or to schedule an interview with their conductor, please call Alessandra D'Ovidio at +1 703-683-6040 or email at Alessandra@classicalmovements.com.