Upcoming Serenade! Choral Festival Performances

Serenade! Choral Festival at the Kennedy Center
July 6 - 8 • Free • 6 pm • Kennedy Center Millennium Stage

D.C., Maryland and Virginia Performances

July 6 • 5:30 pm
Alexandria, VA | Alfred St. Baptist Church
Featuring: Calmus (Germany)

July 6 • 7:30 pm
Baltimore, MD | Second Presbyterian Church
Featuring: Sedaa (Mongolia, Iran), Túumben Paax (Mexico), Toronto Beaches Children’s and Youth Chorus (Canada), Choir Cedemusica (Ecuador)

July 7 • 6:00 pm
Castleton, VA | Castleton Festival
Featuring: Túumben Paax (Mexico), Crystal Children’s Choir (USA)

July 7 • 7:30 pm
Washington, D.C. | Church of the Epiphany
Featuring: Calmus (Germany), Barbara Furtuna (France), Sedaa (Mongolia, Iran)

Tonight’s performance is part of the Smithsonian Year of Music 2019

The Smithsonian Year of Music is an Institution-wide initiative to increase public engagement, advance understanding, and connect communities in Washington, D.C., across the nation, and around the globe. The Smithsonian Year of Music highlights and shares our vast musical holdings, bringing together our resources in history, art, culture, science, and education.
Designated “Ambassador 2014” of the International Federation for Choral Music, winner of Gold Medals in competitions in Japan, Italy the Túumben Paax Female Vocal Sextet (“New Music,” in the Mayan language) is a pioneer ensemble in Mexico established in 2006 by Lucía Olmos, and formed by young singers from the top conservatories in Mexico. It has been conducted by Arturo Valenzuela, Samuel Pascoe, Jorge Córdoba, Jorge Cózatl and now Rodrigo Cadet. The choir bring repertoire to Serenade! that includes pre-Hispanic music, modern arrangements of traditional folk song and contemporary pieces that reflect Mexico’s past and present, such as Cadet’s Xon ahuiyacan (Be Joyful).

Opening for Tuumeb Paax is Cedemusica, a non-profit institution based in the city of Ambato, Ecuador, dedicated to the promotion, organization and execution of music education. Choir Cedemusica has participated in sacred, popular and academic festivals in Ecuador, Peru and Colombia. In addition, the choir sang with the Philadelphia Boys Choir & Chorale at the Lalama Theater in 2017 under the direction of Jeffrey R. Smith and Jasmine Simons; as well as with the Pacific Boychoir Academy of Oakland, CA led by Andrew Brown in 2018 in Ambato. Their performances are distinguished by their indigenous costumes and Afro-Ecuadorian rhythms.

Established in 2011 and hailed this summer by the Washington Post’s Anne Midgette as “the most genuinely international ensemble I’ve ever heard, apart from the Olympic Games,” Classical Movements’ Serenade! Choral Festival is an exuberant celebration of choral music from around the world, offering unforgettable, life-changing experiences for both singers and audiences alike. Presented free to the public—with freewill donations collected for local non-profit charities—Serenade! has showcased more than 87 choirs from some 34 countries to enthusiastic audiences at prestigious venues throughout the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

The premier concert tour company for the world’s great orchestras and choirs, Classical Movements creates meaningful cultural experiences through music in 145 countries. An industry leader for over a quarter-century, Classical Movements organizes more than 60 tours every year, producing some 200 concerts every season. Producer of two international choral festivals—Ihlombe! in South Africa and Serenade! in Washington, D.C.—and the Prague Summer Nights: Young Artists Music Festival, in addition, Classical Movements’ Eric Daniel Helms New Music Program has commissioned over 75 works from Grammy, Oscar and Pulitzer Prize-winning composers from 23 countries. Winner of Americans for the Arts BCA10: Best Businesses Partnering with the Arts Award, since its founding in 1992, as a truly global company, Classical Movements remains committed to facilitating cultural diplomacy across the world—promoting peace through the medium of music.