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Sample Tour Program

*featuring Porvoo, Helsinki, Saint Petersburg,
Tsarskoye Selo, Moscow, and Klin*

day 1 – Overnight flight

Begin your 10-day performance tour with this evening's overnight trans-Atlantic flight.

day 2 – Helsinki

Arrive at Helsinki Airport, where your **full-time bilingual tour manager** will welcome you abroad. Explorations begin right away, as you transfer to nearby Porvoo, one of the most charming medieval towns in Finland. A **local guide** will join you to tour the oft photographed natural beauty. Admire the colorful wooden houses, and stroll the winding cobbled streets. The perfect destination for your introduction, with free time for lunch, exploration of shops, and finding memorable local souvenir handicrafts. Continue to Helsinki, check-in to your hotel, and relax after your journey. This evening, **dinner** is served at a local restaurant within walking distance of the hotel.

day 3– Helsinki

Breakfast is served at the hotel, and each morning for the remainder of your trip. A **local guide** joins you for a walking tour of the young capital city of Helsinki. Stroll through the beautiful Nordic city center, a seaside town with a coastline speckled with islands, and boulevards lined with lovely neo-classical buildings. Highlights include the Presidential Palace, **Helsinki Cathedral**, City Hall, and the Esplanadi. Board your coach and continue sightseeing with a visit of the **Sibelius Monument**, dedicated to Finland's most famous and beloved composer, it consists of hundreds of steel pipes that can sing with his works. You will also visit **Tempeliaukio Church** "Rock Church", before continuing to the brand-new **Finnish Music Hall of Fame**, offering a multisensory experience for all music lovers and utilizing the newest technologies available to cover genres from three centuries, from symphonies to Finnish rap, folk, and heavy metal, among others. **Present an area concert this evening at a local venue custom selected for your ensemble! There is the opportunity to make this an exchange and joint performance with a local ensemble. A warm-up rehearsal is provided prior to your performance.** **Dinner** is served at a local restaurant.

day 4 – Saint Petersburg

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning depart by **train** from Helsinki to Saint Petersburg, Russia. A snack-car is available on board for lunch on your own. You will arrive early afternoon in the city formerly known as Leningrad. Begin exploration right away with a **locally guided** panoramic sightseeing tour by coach of the city center, with a stop at **Peter and Paul Fortress**, including the Cathedral, the resting place of the Tsars. You will also visit the **Necropolis of Masters of Arts**, located at the Alexander Nevsky Monastery's Tikhvin Cemetery. See the final resting place of numerous luminaries of music, literature, and art, including Tchaikovsky, Dostoyevsky, and Rimsky-Korsak. Settle into your hotel, and enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant within walking distance.

**KUONI
TUMLARE**

day 5 – Saint Petersburg

Breakfast at the hotel. Today's excursion brings you to the magnificent **Catherine Palace** in Tsarskoye Selo, the summer residence of the Russian tsars that lies outside of Saint Petersburg. Built for Empress Elizabeth, the Catherine Palace is particularly renowned for the extraordinary Amber Room. You will also visit the **Lyceum** where Russian poet Alexander Pushkin studied. **Lunch** is included today at a traditional restaurant, accompanied by local musicians and Russian music. Return to Saint Petersburg to visit the ornate **Church of the Spilled Blood**, known for its mosaics as well as the spot where Alexander II was assassinated in 1881. This evening enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant, and a **folk show** at Nikolaevsky Palace. Listen to famous Russian music, and appreciate the incredible skills of Russian folk ballet dancers, while admiring the palace.

day 6 – Saint Petersburg

Breakfast at the hotel. Visit the world-renown **Hermitage Museum**, once the Tsars' Winter Palace. Enjoy a three-hour **guided tour** of the palace's opulent rooms, and masterpieces by Da Vinci, Rembrandt, and Picasso – or opt for an introductory tour of highlights. The afternoon is free for those who may want to continue exploring the museum's six buildings, where more than 2.5 million items are displayed. Alternatively, relax and shop for souvenirs with your tour manager along Nevsky Prospekt and other areas of the city. **Present an area concert this evening at a local venue custom selected for your ensemble! A warm-up rehearsal is provided prior to your performance.** This evening enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant.

day 7 – Moscow

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning take a peek at the training of future Russian ballet stars with a visit to a children's **ballet school**. Tour the facilities, meet with instructors, and enjoy a short performance from the students. Afterward, make your way to the airport for your flight to Moscow, Russia's cosmopolitan capital, and largest city. Upon arrival, check-in to your hotel and refresh from your travels. This evening enjoy **dinner** with traditional cuisine at the hotel.

day 8 – Moscow

Breakfast at the hotel. A **local guide** will join you for a full day sightseeing panoramic tour, highlighting places of interests and stops for photos, including Red Square, St. Basil's Cathedral, Lenin's Mausoleum, Sparrow Hills, Moscow State University, and Novodevichy Convent. You will also visit the main treasure of the city, the magnificent **Kremlin**, and ancient fortress considered to be the heart of Russia, and now an official residence of the President of the Russian Federation. The **Armory Chamber** is Russia's oldest museum, and has a priceless collection of imperial treasures. You might also visit the **Glinka Museum**, one of the largest collections of musical instruments from all over the world. **Dinner** is provided at a local restaurant this evening.

day 9 – Moscow

Breakfast at the hotel. Travel outside Moscow to the town of Klin, whose history is closely connected with the famous Russian composer Petr Tchaikovsky. Here he settled, and lived his last seventeen months. The **Tchaikovsky Museum** features a nice house, shadowed by green trees where the great Russian composer spent time creating his works, including the completion of his scores for "Iolanta" and the "Nutcracker". The house interior features Tchaikovsky's piano, and you will enjoy a short walk through the beautiful memorial park. Return to Moscow, where time permitting you may visit the **Bolshoi Theatre** for a **guided tour** and glance behind the curtains, a walk through its marvelous halls, and the grand culmination, entering the great rehearsal hall. **Present an area concert finale this evening at a local venue custom selected for your ensemble! A warm-up rehearsal is provided prior to your performance.** This evening enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant and celebrate your final evening in Russia!

day 10 – Departure

A final **breakfast** is served at the hotel before transferring to the airport for your return flights home. Your tour manager will assist with airport check-in, and there is time for one last *hyvasti* and *proshchay*!