

#### Agency Bio:

Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares is an ensemble of a rare artistic gift and enormous popular appeal. Its story is that of a success. Created fifty years ago, its goal was to enrich the heritage of the Bulgarian solo folk song with harmonies and arrangement that highlighted its beautiful timbres and irregular rhythms.

The singers transform sounds into strange vocal colors as if something other than the human voice. They jubilate, shout, ornament, form fast and perfect glissandos, let one crazy rhythm follow another and make their voices build the most darling cords. Suddenly the folk cliché no longer applies. With their bell-like voices that seem to float lightly through space, these women have become international stars, whose hypnotic chant circles the globe.

These mystic voices have managed countless times to dissolve the separation between East and West, of young and old, of pop music and classical tunes. The world became aware of their art thanks to Mr. Marcel Cellier, a Swiss producer, who started releasing albums under the name "Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares". The first album was published in 1975. Their sophomore effort won a Grammy in 1990. Rituals was released by Nonesuch and nominated for a Grammy in 1994. The group has toured with much fanfare throughout Europe, America, and Asia.

#### Artist Bio:

Le Mystere des Voix Bulgares is known world wide and has performed over 1200 concerts in the most prestigious halls around the world. The Grammy award winning choir specializes in both traditional and contemporary Bulgarian folk music and performs a cappella under the expert direction of conductor Prof Dora Hristova PhD.

One of the most distinctive groups in the world (Columbus Dispatch, 6 Dec 2006), gives concerts of unearthly beauty for the enthused and very often cheering audience. The choir's secret weapon is its harmonies that break your heart. To Western ears the intervals –the blended note choices are unusual even dissonant. Their microtonal harmonies provide a distinctive drone almost ungodly in its beauty. The fascination concerns one of the most unique sounds in music: multi-part a cappella arrangements delivered by up to 23 women dressed in traditional costumes representing the different folklore regions in Bulgaria.

The "mystery" is in just how they combine diaphonic singing and dissonant harmonies to produce a breathtaking, otherworldly sound somewhere between the Muslim call to prayer and the Beach Boys. /Guardian 7 Nov 2011/.

The magic of the ensemble stems in their success in mastering Bulgaria's diverse and age-old vocal traditions and at the same time in sounding strikingly modern and original, thanks to the unique choral music arrangements.

The choir perform a two part concert of 45 min each part and sing songs that tell about life and old traditions in Bulgaria. In the past, small groups of young men and women would meet for "work parties," an excuse to get together, flirt, and exchange the vivid, full-voiced songs that formed the backbone of courtship across rural Bulgaria. Women would sing to the first signs of spring, to the harvest, and to the festive days around Christmas and Easter. With stops and glides that resounded magically off the mountainsides and across the fields surrounding these remote communities, Bulgarian women used their voices to awaken the love of their future husbands, the bounty of nature, and the joys of the season.