

Winter 2014

The MUSICA RUSSICA  BUYING GUIDE

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EXCITING NEW ARRIVALS

D194



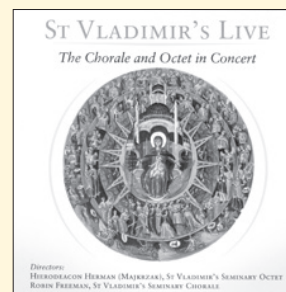
Early Russian Polyphony
Optina Pustyn Choir
Alexander Semyonov, cond.
(See page 6)

H091



Winter Celebration:
Carols and Songs
*Russian Chamber Chorus
of New York*
Nikolai Kachanov, cond.
(See page 4)

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*St. Vladimir's Seminary
Choirs*
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Hdcn. Herman, conds.
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St. John Chrysostom
Capitol Hill Chorale
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Vladimir Morosan, editor

Special Holiday Section

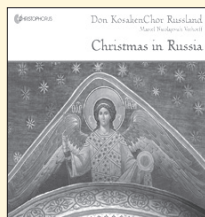
B138



Liturgy for the Nativity of Christ
Amvrosiy's Choir
\$18.98

Polished, well-blended, and tastefully sung in a liturgically appropriate style.

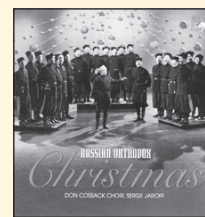
D155



Christmas in Russia
Don Cossacks Choir of Russia
\$21.98

Beautiful vocal display and drama for which Serge Jaroff's Don Cossacks were famous.

D187



Russian Orthodox Christmas
The Don Cossacks
(Serge Jaroff, cond.)
\$21.98

Remastered recordings of Christmas hymns and other tracks not previously available on CD.

H053



Ukrainian Christmas Carols
The "Boyan" Ensemble
\$21.98

This is, quite simply, THE BEST CD of Ukrainian Christmas carols released in recent years.

H062



Carol of the Bells; Shchedrik
"Pavana" Women's Choir
\$21.98

One of the leading chamber choirs in Ukraine offers some of the most exquisite singing by a women's choir found in our entire catalog.

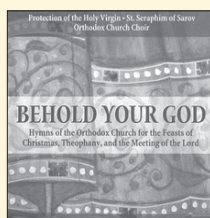
H067



And On Earth Peace
Heruwymy Ukrainian Female Quartet
\$21.98

Four wonderfully blended women's voices sing a perfect mix between "East" and "West"—popular Ukrainian carols and some of the best selections from the Western carol repertoire.

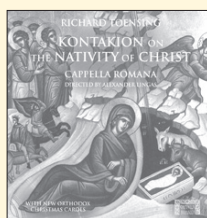
I-079



Behold Your God
Protection of the Holy Virgin Choir
\$17.98

A veritable panoply of "Orthodox sounds"—bell-ringing, Scripture readings, and a variety of chants sung by choirs of men's, women's, and mixed voices.

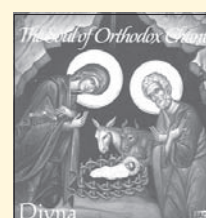
I-085



Richard Toensing (+2014):
Kontakion of the Nativity of Christ and Carols
Cappella Romana
\$16.98

The transcendent character of this music will appeal to all those interested in newly created sacred music inspired by the Orthodox tradition.

K075



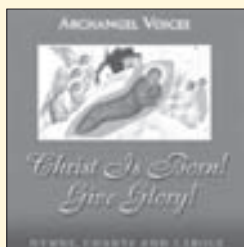
Soul of Orthodox chant (Christ is Born!)
Divna Ljubojevic & Melodi
\$15.98

A variety of Byzantine, Serbian, and Russian chants and a carols for the Nativity of Christ.

Special Holiday Section

Best seller!

I-068



Christ is Born! Give Glory!

Hymns, Chants, and Carols

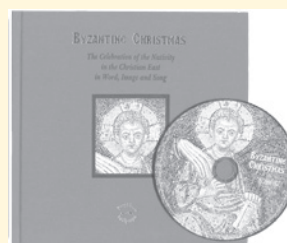
Archangel Voices

\$17.98

Sung in English, this CD offers a variety of compositions and chant arrangements by some of North America's leading composers as well as traditional hymns and carols.

Temporarily back in stock!

I-088



Byzantine Christmas

Romeiko Ensemble

\$26.98

Beautifully produced CD and accompanying book—a major addition to the recorded repertoire of Byzantine chant in English released in recent years.

K086



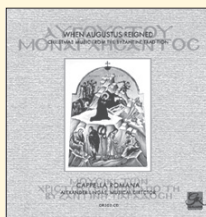
Alilo: A Georgian Christmas

Ensemble Alioni

\$14.98

A delightful selection of traditional Georgian caroling songs (Alilo) and Georgian liturgical hymns.

J016



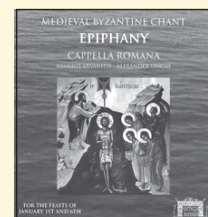
When Augustus Reigned

Cappella Romana

\$16.98

Byzantine hymns for the Christmas and Theophany season, from early chants to choral arrangements by modern-day Greek-American composers.

J021b



Hymns of Theophany

Medieval Byzantine Chant

Cappella Romana

\$16.98

Medieval Byzantine treasures from Constantinople and Palestine.

• THE RATING SYSTEM •

- ★★★★★ — Superb in every respect (reserved for those very rare “milestone” recordings)
- ★★★★ — Excellent recording
- ★★★ — Noteworthy and recommended
- ★★ — Recommended with reservations
- ★ — Of limited interest

FAQ: Why are some recordings not rated (NR)?

Customers like you have told us they appreciate and value our “star-rating” system. It is an easy way for us to share our observations and opinions in our field of expertise, which is Russian and Slavic choral music. There are many areas of music, however, in which we are not experts, such as Byzantine Chant or Georgian singing. For this reason we do not rate CDs of that music. We also do not rate CDs recently recorded in the United States by currently practicing Orthodox church musicians, many of whom are our friends and colleagues.

—Vladimir Morosan, editor

Special Holiday Section

❄️ ❄️ ❄️ New Holiday Arrivals ❄️ ❄️ ❄️

B015b

Born in a Cave and Laid in a Manger / Amvrosiy's Choir / Hieromonk Amvrosiy (Nosov), cond./ 1992 / 54:42
Price: \$17.98



★★★★★

This CD was a favored best-seller in the earliest stages of our catalog, and we are pleased to be able to offer it again (in limited quantities). This is a recording for lovers of Russian monastic music—not the austere unison of znamenny chant, but the four-part harmonized type made famous at the Kiev-Pechersk Lavra and other monasteries during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The men's choir that now bears the title “Amvrosiy's Choir” (after having had several other names at earlier stages of their existence) has a good understanding of this style. The singing is well-blended, resonant without being shouted, and is very pleasant to the ear, though not dramatic or expressive in a secular way. The program presents the major hymns from services on the Eve of the Nativity of Christ—Vespers, Great Compline, and Matins, chiefly in Kievan Chant and the melodies of the Kievan Caves Monastery. The titles on this particular issue of the CD are in Russian only and there are no notes or translations. But this does not detract from the purely musical enjoyment of this recording, which makes an excellent companion for the Orthodox Nativity celebration. —*V.M.*

Beautifully sung Nativity hymns from Vespers, Compline and Matins!

Christ is Born! Give Glory! / Kazachiy Krug Ensemble / Vladimir Skuntsev, cond. / 2001 / 48:22
Price: \$17.98

Have you ever wondered where the Don Cossacks (and Russian male choirs in general) get their manner of “no-holds-barred, take-no-prisoners” manner of singing as well as a good deal of their repertoire? This CD provides the answer in part. The “Kazachii Krug” (Cossack Circle) folklore ensemble (comprised of six men's voices with one woman's voice singing a descant) reproduces songs collected “in the field,” in Cossack villages and camps (stanitsas), preserving their originality of voicing and spirited manner of singing, untouched by conservatory-trained studio arrangers and unaffected by the refinements academic choral performance practice. The repertoire includes several liturgical hymns and an assortment of familiar Christmas carols. The singing is accompanied on a variety of traditional Russian folk instruments such as gusly, pipes, hurdy-gurdy, balalaika, fiddle, and percussion, including bells. The results are very fresh—a true look into the depth of the Russian soul—very much in the tradition of the Dmitry Pokrovsky Ensemble. This disc was produced for the Russian market and therefore contains titles only in Russian. Guaranteed to brighten your Christmas celebration.—*V.M.*



★★★★★

Spirited authentic Cossack carols and hymns in the folk manner!

H091

Carols and Songs / Russian Chamber Chorus of New York / Nikolai Kachanov, cond. / 2014 / 48:05 / RMASA NT 13716
Price: \$15.98



★★★★★

The Russian Chamber Chorus of New York offers an outstanding musical gift for the holidays on this CD. There are attractive compositions and arrangements for every taste here—from the Ukrainian carols arranged by the conductor of the ensemble, Nikolai Kachanov, to Rachmaninoff's rarely heard *Six Choral Songs*, an arrangement of his haunting *Vocalise* for cello and chorus, and excerpts from Gretchaninoff's *Liturgia domestica*, in which the composer broke with tradition by setting Orthodox liturgical texts for chorus with instrumental accompaniment. The Chorus, which celebrates the 30th anniversary of its founding in 1984, shows its maturity and depth, singing with spirit, musicality and finesse. Bass Anatoli Panchoshny delivers a forceful chanted rendition of Kastalsky's “S nami Bog” (God is with us). Domra virtuoso Tamara Volskaya and bayanist Anatoly Trofimov join the choir for an accompanied version of Leontovich's “Shchedrik”, known widely as “Carol of the Bells.” The booklet contains texts in Russian/Ukrainian and English translation. One can only wish that the CD

were longer! But the nearly 50 minutes of music that are there will be thoroughly enjoyed this holiday season and throughout the year.—*V.M.*

NEW LISTINGS

A. MAJOR WORKS AND COMPOSERS

A135



★★★

Rachmaninoff: Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom / “Rozhdestvo” Choir / Olga Stupneva, cond. / 2002 / 53:20 / IML IMLCD036 / Regular Price: \$16.98 **Sale Price: \$10.50**

The “Rozhdestvo” Choir of Soloists, numbering twelve fine singers, offers a distinctly “chamber” rendition of Rachmaninoff’s Liturgy of St John Chrysostom. In some passages this means the choir sings one voice on a part. As a result, the textures and individual lines of Rachmaninoff’s choral score emerge with an extra clarity (despite a somewhat muffled recording technique) that is sometimes lacking in recordings by larger choirs. The ensemble achieves an impressive range of dynamic shadings, but unfortunately, their intonation proves to be fragile at times. The booklet (in Russian and English) contains very interesting period reviews and critical perspectives of Rachmaninoff’s first attempt to write a major sacred work—these alone are worth the price of the CD! There are no text translations given, however. This disc is available in limited quantities and will likely not be available in the future. Don’t miss this opportunity to own another recording and gain another perspective of Rachmaninoff’s early masterpiece.—*V.M.*

B. LITURGICAL CYCLES and SERVICES

B141



★★★★

Akathist: St. Xenia of Petersburg / Men’s Choir; Church of the Elevation of the Cross / Alexander Bordak, cond. / 2011 / 33:13/ **Price: \$15.98**

Akathists are among the services most beloved by pious Russian Orthodox faithful; after Sunday Divine Liturgy, crowds of people will stay in the church and sing, often by memory, these lengthy hymns of poetic praise in honor of Jesus Christ, the Mother of God, various icons, and popular saints. All are modeled on the original Akathistos Hymn to the Mother of God, composed in the 6th century and celebrated in Orthodox churches during the period of Great Lent. Though originating in Greece, Akathists are particularly popular in the Russian tradition. Through singing and hearing these hymns of praise, the people learn of the lives and spiritual exploits of various saints, who are numbered among the true heroes of the Russian land. To date, some 1650 Akathists are known to have been composed.

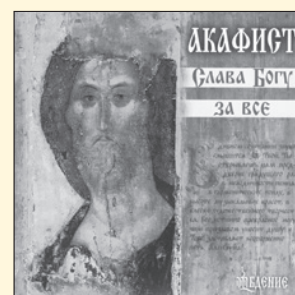
Blessed Xenia of Petersburg (c. 1719/1730–c. 1803) was recognized as a saint in 1988 by the Russian Orthodox Church. She has had at least four Akathists composed in her honor. The translation of one of them, which roughly matches the one recorded on this CD, can be found at:

<http://www.saintgregoryoutreach.org/2010/01/prayers-for-employment-family-and.html>

B142

Akathist: Glory to God for All Things / Men’s Choir; Church of the Elevation of the Cross / Alexander Bordak, cond. / 2011 / 26:45 / **Price: \$15.98**

The Akathist of Thanksgiving “Glory to God for All Things” is a highly poetic and inspiring text, composed by Metropolitan Tryphon (Prince Boris Petrovich Turkestanov) (d. 1934) (but sometimes attributed to Father Gregory Petrov, among whose belongings a copy was found upon his death in Soviet prison camp). It sings praises to the many aspects of God’s creation, particularly nature, but also people, art and music—all those things that comforted Russian believers amidst the hardships and repressions they endured during the years of Communist repression, and that can bring solace in today’s world. An English translation of the text can be found at: <http://www.orthodox.net/akathists/akathist-thanksgiving.html>



★★★★

B143



★★★★

Akathist: Sweetest Lord Jesus / Men’s Choir; Church of the Elevation of the Cross / Alexander Bordak, cond. / 2011 / 31:41 / **Price: \$15.98**

The Akathist to the Sweetest Lord Jesus is a genuine love song of a repentant soul, calling upon the many names of Jesus Christ and asking for mercy. While its author is unknown, the earliest known manuscripts of it date back to the 13th century, to the monastic hesychast movement on Mt. Athos. An English translation of the text can be found at: http://www.orthodoxchristian.info/pages/J_akathist.htm

The Akathists are sung to the traditional Russian akathist melody by a tightly knit men’s quartet. The reading and singing is very clearly enunciated and will be appreciated by all speakers of Russian and those familiar with Church Slavonic; merely listening to the tunefully sung strophic chants brings on a spiritual calm and focus that are characteristic of Orthodox liturgical worship. Although there is no accompanying booklet and no English text translation, translations for these Akathists can be found online, as indicated.—*V.M.*

NEW LISTINGS

D. CHORAL MUSIC FOR MALE CHORUS (Sacred & Secular)

D194



★★★★★

Early Russian Polyphony / Optina Pustyn Male Choir / Alexander Semynov, cond. / 2009 / 50:00 / OPMC010

Price: \$20.98

The fascinating soundscapes of early Russian polyphony from the late 16th-early 18th centuries are explored in depth on this CD, which features “classic” transcriptions by the “elder statesmen” of latter-day Russian historical musicology, Victor Belyaev, Maxim Brazhnikov, and Nikolai Uspensky, as well as transcriptions by a younger generation of scholars, Irina Efimova and Ekaterina Smirnova. The chamber-sized men’s choir, affiliated with the Optina Monastery Representation (Podvorye) Church in St. Petersburg, is composed of professional singers, who sing with authority, excellent balance and ensemble, and musicality. In their rendering, the consonant, if not always functional, triads of early znamenny polyphony sound rich and radiant, while the unusual dissonances of demestvenny polyphony sound “just right.” Particularly fascinating are the early 18th-century “partesny” harmonizations of znamenny and demestvenny chants (Tracks 10 and 12), heard here for the first time, which are sung with an almost madrigal-like flair, but seem totally in keeping with the Westernizing spirit of Peter the Great’s epoch. The nicely produced booklet contains a helpful essay

about the music and texts in Cyrillic (Church Slavonic) and in English translation. Whether this is your first introduction to this fascinating repertoire or a continuing exploration of this musical “lost continent,” this CD is not to be missed!—*V. M.*

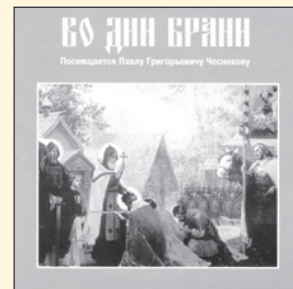
Beautifully sung early Russian polyphony!

In Days of Battle / Blagozvonnitsa Men’s Choir / Hieromonk Pyotr (Afanasyev), cond. / 56:04 / Siberskaya Blagozvonnitsa

Price: \$17.98

This attractive CD is dedicated to the memory of Pavel Chesnokov (1877-1944), the most prolific modern-day composer of Russian Orthodox sacred choral music. Presented here are some of his best-known works as well as some rarely-heard ones; of the fourteen pieces in the program, only three were written by the composer for male chorus—the rest are arrangements from the mixed-chorus originals. The “Blagozvonnitsa” Choir of the Patriarchal Representation Church at the Zaikonospassky Monastery in Moscow—a 30-voice choir of professional singers—does a good job of rendering the varied colors, rich textures, and Romantic expressiveness of Chesnokov’s scores. The CD is accompanied by a small booklet, which gives the titles and a short biography of Chesnokov in Russian and English; no text translations are given, however. This CD will be enjoyed by all lovers of Chesnokov’s choral music and fine men’s chorus singing. —*V. M.*

D195



★★★★★

All Chesnokov! Richly sung!

D196



★★★★★

Songs of the Russia That Was / “Valaam” Men’s Choir / Igor Ushakov, cond. / 2008 / 56:40 / IML / IMLCD1732.9

Price: \$17.98

The indefatigable “Valaam” Men’s Choir, under the direction Igor Ushakov, in addition to their numerous recordings of sacred music, has produced 18 recordings of Russian historical and patriotic songs dating from lost and, in some cases, long-forgotten eras of Russian history. On this CD they offer Cossack and soldiers’ songs from the 19th and early 20th centuries, many of which survived among Russian emigres and their descendants that have lived most or all of their lives outside Russia. If you were ever a Russian scout or attended a Russian Orthodox church camp, there are songs here that you likely learned to sing around the campfire. The singing of the professional voices in the choir is top-notch, and will be enjoyed by all who love spirited men’s choir singing. The slim booklet, produced for the Russian market, is in Russian only.—*V. M.*

Songs heard around the Russian Scout campfire!

NEW LISTINGS

E. CHORAL MUSIC FOR TREBLE VOICES

E032

Living Joyfully With the Lord / St. John of Damascus Youth Choir / Irina Boldysheva, cond. / 2011 / 30:33 / Di-EI **Price: \$18.98**



★★★★

This CD is a delightful and edifying gift for Russian-speaking children: 20 original songs of a religious nature—about God, beauty, angels, saints, virtues, and holidays—sung by the youthful voices of the St John of Damascus Choir of St Petersburg. The package contains an added bonus, a colorfully illustrated 64-page booklet that contains the lyrics of all the songs. The songs are simple and catchy in form and melody, a refreshing antidote to some of the media offerings of today secular world. Musically, the choir represents the fruits of Director (and in this case, composer as well) Irina Boldysheva's more than 20 years of labor: many of her young charges have grown up and now constitute the bass section of the Youth Choir. —*V.M.*

Two lovely CDs for children!

H. MIXED CATEGORIES (LULLABIES)

Russian Folk Lullabies / Valentina Riabkova, singer / 2010 / 27:40

Price: \$18.98

For children of all ages and nationalities this is a lovely collection of Russian folk lullabies, subtitled “A gift to Orthodox kids.” The CD gives no information about the origins of the songs or the texts, but the sound of the songs speaks for itself. The voice of singer Valentina Riabkova, a young folk-ensemble soloist in her 20s, is at once beautiful and highly skilled (excellent diction, the subtle manner in which she executes folk-style ornaments). Most attractive is the purity and simplicity of her manner of singing, which is sure to charm every listener, no matter what their age. (The CD carries a warning: Not to be listened to while driving!) An excellent gift for children, parents, and grandparents alike.—*V.M.*



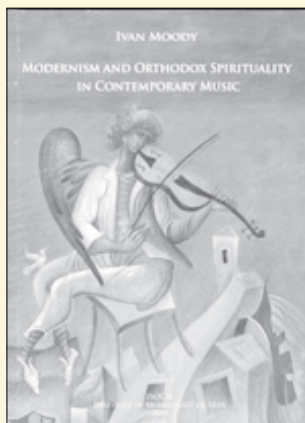
★★★★★

A NEW BOOK: Hot off the press!

MO-MOSCM

Fr. Ivan Moody ~ Modernism and Orthodox Spirituality in Contemporary Music

International Society Orthodox Church Music; Institute Musicology, Serbian Academy Arts Sciences; 2014 / ISBN: 978-952-99883-4-1 / 232pp. **Price: \$30.00**



This ground-breaking book presents unprecedented perspectives of a fascinating subject—the relationship between the Orthodox Faith and Art, in particular “modern” music of the 20th and 21st centuries—offered by Fr. Ivan Moody, who is a noted composer, conductor, music historian, and an Orthodox priest, and as such, has the special experience required to bridge these two seemingly distant areas. As Adrian Thomas points out in the Foreword, “This book is addressed to both Orthodox communities and musical ones, and each will learn much not only about the other but also about the area of their own discipline.” After an introductory chapter, there are chapters each devoted to musical developments in modern-day Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia, Russia, and Finland. The final two chapters offer fresh insight into the work of two composers whose figures loom large on both the Orthodox and the contemporary musical landscape—Arvo Paert and John Tavener. In the words of the author himself, “This book discusses what happens when two phenomena, those of musical modernism and the spirituality of the Orthodox Church, meet each other.... Both... have been widely discussed. What has been very little discussed is the possible intersection between the

two.” As the book shows, composers from both traditional Orthodox countries and from Western societies have found themselves inspired and challenged, finding “fruitful artistic meeting points between the two poles... of Modernism and the spirituality of the Orthodox Church.” An important book for scholars, musicians, theologians, and students of culture—traditional and modern—throughout the world!—*V.M.*

NEW LISTINGS

H. MIXED CATEGORIES (BELLS)

H049b



★★★★

A series of CDs featuring the most famous belfries of Russia and highlighting the creations of bell-ringer Alexey Utkin. All these CDs take the listener on a fascinating journey into the world of Russian Orthodox bell ringing. From the notes it is not clear, however, whether these are actual live recordings or (what is more likely) tracks created in a studio using sampled sounds of actual bells. In any case, the resultant “soundscapes” make for mesmerizing listening.

Bells of Russia / Alexei Utkin / 2002 / 71:25/

Price: \$17.98

This CD is a collection of 12 special peals artistically created for this recording, featuring bells from some of Russia’s most famous belfries in Novgorod, Pskovo-Pechory Monastery, Rostov, St. Petersburg and Moscow. This is a fascinating disc, containing not merely traditional bell ringing, but a unique kind of music evoked from bells using non-traditional rhythms, what sounds like pitch-bends, and in one instance, the mesmerizing track entitled “Kursk,” combining bells with synthesized sound.

Bells of Novgorod the Great / Alexei Utkin / 2006 / 68:59 /

Price: \$17.98

This CD features twelve peals recorded using the belfry of the venerable Novgorod Kremlin. In the Russian notes ringer Alexey Utkin writes: “It is next to the belfry that one senses both the passage of time and its constancy. The ringing of bells is indeed a constant prayer. On the one hand, the peal reveals the flow of time, on the other hand, it represents a constantly repeated prayer, prayer in the form of sound. Their ostinato-like quality, i.e. the sameness of the rhythmic patterns, characteristic of Orthodox bell ringing in Russia, brings about a state where thoughts vanish, an inner silence.... (These complex ideas do not fully come across in the English translation, which is why we have translated them here.)”

H088



★★★★

Bells of Pskov / Alexei Utkin / 2003 / 77:57 /

Price: \$17.98

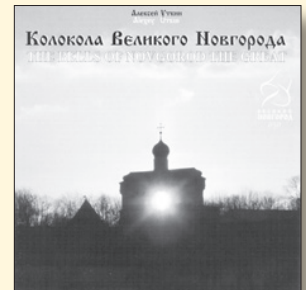
This CD features ten peals created by Alexey Utkin for the 1100th anniversary of the year 903, when the ancient city of Pskov is first mentioned in Russian chronicles. They are executed using the bells of the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Pskov.

Bells of SS. Peter and Paul Fortress / Alexei Utkin / 2003 / 73:19

Price: \$17.98

This CD features twelve bell-ringing compositions created for the 300th anniversary of the founding of St. Petersburg. In the notes, Alexey Utkin likens the sound of the bells with the visual effect of the *aurora borealis*, which can sometimes be seen in St. Petersburg. The beauty of both phenomena lies in their “naturalness”; genuine beauty is the absence of artificial “prettiness.”

H087



★★★★

H089



★★★★

K. CHURCH MUSIC OF VARIOUS NATIONALITIES (GEORGIAN)

K088



★★★★

Georgian Sacred Chants from the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom / Capitol Hill Chorale /

Frederick Binkholder, cond. / 2014 / 50:26 /

Price: \$19.98

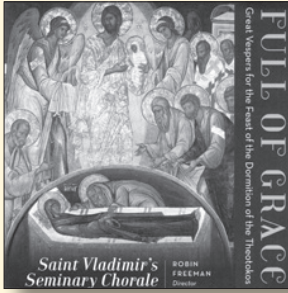
In a remarkable sequence of events, the score of the Liturgy of St John Chrysostom by a Roman Catholic composer from the country of Georgia, Zakaria Paliashvili (1871-1933), based on chant melodies close to a thousand years old, supplied by a Russian-American researcher to an American choir, is heard for the first time sung in Georgian on this premiere recording!*) The Capitol Hill Chorale, a non-professional chorus of 100 voices, does a fine job of negotiating the complexities of the Georgian language and the unusual modalities of Paliashvili’s chant arrangements. The recording makes no attempt to recreate any of the liturgical dialogues (litanies and other responses) that characterize Orthodox services, which would have undoubtedly complicated the project; consequently, they sing a string of “Lord, have mercy” responses simply one after another, as they appear in the score. Nevertheless, the majesty of the Georgian chant and the beauty of Paliashvili’s score emerge fully for the entire world to hear for the first time, and for that the Capitol Hill Chorale is to be thanked! The attractive booklet contains an introductory essay by Chorale founder Parker Jayne, and texts in Georgian script, phonetics, and English translation. This is unique disc, not to be missed! Recommended

for all lovers of Orthodox liturgical singing.—*V.M.* *)An earlier recording of this work, by the Cantus Ensemble (cat. No. K07) was sung in Church Slavonic.

NEW LISTINGS

I. ORTHODOX MUSIC IN ENGLISH

I-117



Full of Grace; Great Vespers Feast of Dormition / St. Vladimir's Seminary Chorale / Robin Freeman, cond. / 2014 / 69:01 / SVS Press CD-FUGRFR **Price: \$17.98**

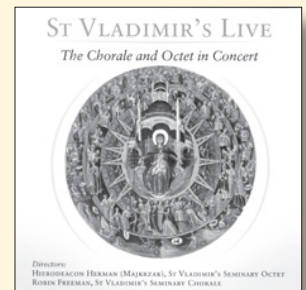
This is one of two new CDs (I-117 and I-118) that represent the fruits of “new musical forces” at St. Vladimir's Seminary: two conductors who share directing duties—Robin Freeman with the mixed-voice St. Vladimir's Seminary Chorale, and Hierodeacon Herman (Majkrzak)—with St. Vladimir's Seminary Octet, a men's ensemble. Also brought to light for the first time are the compositions and chant arrangements of Seminary Music Professor Nicholas Reeves and of Hierodeacon Herman, the Seminary Chapel Music Director. Works by other contemporary composers—Mark Bailey, Fr. Lawrence Margitich, Fr. Ivan Moody, Benedict Sheehan, Robert Sirico, and Richard Toensing (1940–2014)—are featured prominently in the repertoire. The program demonstrates the Seminary's evident commitment to encouraging creativity, while at the same time cultivating tradition through the use of canonical chants—harmonized and unison, pattern melodies (*podobens* or *prosomoia*) and venerable Orthodox performance techniques such as antiphonal singing, solo canonarching, and chant with underlying *ison* (or drone). The voices of the Chorale are young and at times

lack the sustained legato and gravitas that chant requires, but on the positive side, they sing clearly and for the most part in tune; the women's contingent seems to be stronger than the men's, resulting in a somewhat top-heavy sound. One can express the hope that the St. Vladimir's Chorale, a relatively new ensemble, will continue to mature and grow in stature as it takes on the serious responsibility of serving as a model for mixed parish choirs around the country.

I-118

St. Vladimir's Live / SVS Chorale and Octet / Hierodcn. Herman (Majkrzak), Robin Freeman, conds. / 2014 / 56:10 / SVS Press CD-STVLLI **Price: \$17.98**

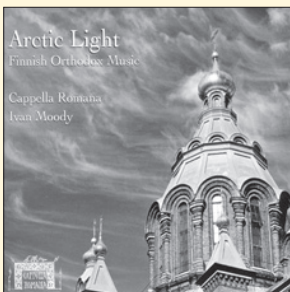
Particularly effective is the set of festal hymns to the Virgin Mary offered by the St. Vladimir's Octet in the “Magnificat” portion of the Live CD, recorded on November 25, 2103. The men's voices are well-blended and well-balanced, and sing with good diction and legato articulation. It is remarkable to note how the same group of singers switches from singing Russian-style harmonized chant to very authentic-sounding Byzantine Chant on two of the selections, led by Rassem El Massih, the new Byzantine Chant instructor at the Seminary. In this same program, Hierodeacon Herman is shown to be a skilled and imaginative arranger and composer in the harmonized chant idiom.



Two new CDs from St. Vladimir's Seminary!

K. CHURCH MUSIC OF VARIOUS NATIONALITIES (FINNISH)

K087



Arctic Light; Finnish Orthodox Music / Cappella Romana / Ivan Moody, cond. / 2014 / 58:04 / CR412-CD **Price: \$17.25**

This CD offers an excellent introduction and survey of Orthodox music in Finland of the 20th and early 21st centuries. As enlightening as the music itself is the introductory essay (in English and Finnish) by Fr. Ivan Moody, who is also the guest conductor of Cappella Romana on this program. As appropriate to an album entitled “Arctic Light,” the sound of Cappella Romana is cool and crystal clear, bringing into clear relief the complex harmonies and melodic counterpoint of the selections. As Fr. Moody points out in the introduction, the Finnish Orthodox repertoire is grounded in the Russian choral tradition, but it has also developed in the course of the 20th century in directions akin to the music of other Scandinavian countries, with a considerable tolerance for dissonance, complex, jazz-like chordal structures, and tonal ambiguity. One suspects that a good percentage of these works fall more into the category of “art music” based on Orthodox liturgical texts rather than choral settings intended for liturgical use by parish choirs. This CD will be enjoyed most by lovers of contemporary choral music and those who are open to have their auditory horizons

stretched beyond the conventional frameworks customarily associated with Orthodox liturgical music. The booklet includes all the sung texts in Finnish and in English translation.—V.M.

★★★★

Orthodox choral music from Finland!

All Downloads – \$9.99 (unless otherwise noted)



A052b
Pavel Chesnokov: Panikhida 2
 “Domestik” Municipal Choir of Ekaterinburg
 ★★★★★



A094
Sacred Works by Pavel Chesnokov
 “Domestik” Municipal Choir of Ekaterinburg
 ★★★★★1/2



A097
Chants of the Russian Emigres; v.3; Ledkovsky: The Vigil
 SS. Peter & Paul Choir of Minsk, Belarus
 ★★★★★



A103
Chants of the Russian Emigres; v.4; Great Lent and Pascha; Boris Ledkovsky
 Resurrection Church Choir of Moscow
 ★★★★★



A105
Sviridov: Hymns and Prayers
 “Credo” Chamber Choir, Kyiv
 ★★★★★



A107
Alexander Kastalsky: The Marriage Service / Sacred Works
 “Domestik” Municipal Choir of Ekaterinburg
 ★★★★★



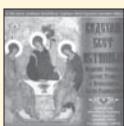
A128
Rachmaninoff: All Night Vigil (Vespers)
 USSR Academic Russian Choir (Sveshnikov, cond.)
 ★★★★★



B069_CD1-CD4 (Price for contents each CD: \$4.99)
Today He Is Hung Upon the Cross - Matins Holy Friday
 Male Choir of the Representation Church of the Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Monastery (V. Gorbik, cond.)
 ★★★★★



B097
Having Seen the Resurrection of Christ
 Choir Most Gracious Savior Monastery, Ekaterinburg
 ★★★★★



B114
We Have Seen the True Light
 Male Choir of the Representation Church of the Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Monastery (V. Gorbik, cond.)
 ★★★★★



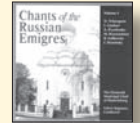
B117 (Price for contents of 2 CDs: \$15.99)
Let My Prayer Be Set Forth: Presanctified Liturgy
 Male Choir of the Representation Church of the Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Monastery (V. Gorbik, cond.)
 ★★★★★



C074
Chants of the Russian Emigres; v.1
 Sts. Peter & Paul Choir of Minsk, Belarus
 ★★★★★



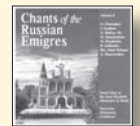
C075
Chants of the Russian Emigres; v.2
 Choir of Joy of All Who Sorrow Church, Minsk, Belarus
 ★★★★★



C085
Chants of the Russian Emigres; v.5
 “Domestik” Municipal Choir of Ekaterinburg
 ★★★★★1/2



C089
Chants of the Russian Emigres; v.6
 The Minsk Theological College Choir
 ★★★★★1/2



C118
Chants of the Russian Emigres; v.8
 Festal Choir of St. Elizabeth Monastery, Minsk, Belarus
 ★★★★★



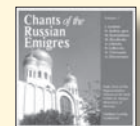
D113
Thou Who Art Filled With Light
 Choir of Most Gracious Savior Monastery, Ekaterinburgs
 ★★★★★1/2



D126
Dogmatiki and Irmoi
 Choir of Most Gracious Savior Monastery, Ekaterinburgs
 ★★★★★



D132
Let Us Pray to the Most Holy Mother of God
 Male Choir of the Representation Church of the Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Monastery (V. Gorbik, cond.)
 ★★★★★



D134
Chants of the Russian Emigres; v.7
 Male Choir of the Representation Church of the Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Monastery (V. Gorbik, cond.)
 ★★★★★



D139
Preserve, O God
 Male Choir of the Representation Church of the Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Monastery (V. Gorbik, cond.)
 ★★★★★



(Price for contents of 2 CDs: \$15.99) **D157**
O, Land of Russia (2 CDs)
 Male Choir of the Representation Church of the Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Monastery (V. Gorbik, cond.)
 ★★★★★

All Downloads – \$9.99 (unless otherwise noted)



D162
Let God Arise
 Male Choir of the Representation Church of the Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Monastery (V. Gorbik, cond.)
 ★★★★★



D178
Chants of the Russian Emigres; v.9
 Novospassky Monastery Choir, Moscow
 ★★★★★



D184
Today All Nations Beheld Glorious Things; Selected Hymns from Vigil, Liturgy, and Feast
 Male Choir of the Representation Church of the Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Monastery (V. Gorbik, cond.)
 ★★★★★1/2



E002
Without Time or Season: Russian Choruses for Children
 The Bolshoi Theatre Children's Choir
 ★★★★★



E003
Kastalsky (1856-1926): Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
 The Bolshoi Theatre Children's Choir
 ★★★★★



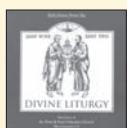
E016 (Price only \$1.00)
Let Us Sing to the Lord: Hymns of Great Lent and Pascha
 Sisters of the Novo-Tikhvin Monastery; Ekaterinburg
 ★★★★★



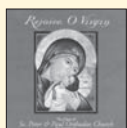
E017 (Price only \$1.00)
The Great Multansk Polyeleos; from the Supras' Heirmologion 1596-1601
 Sisters of the Novo-Tikhvin Monastery; Ekaterinburg
 ★★★★★



E019
The Day of Resurrection: Paschal Hymns
 Women's Choir of the Choir Directors School at the Moscow Theological Academy
 ★★★★★



I-005
Selections from the Divine Liturgy
 Choir of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church
 N/R



I-006
Rejoice, O Virgin
 Choir of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church
 N/R



I-042
The Lord is My Shepherd
 Seraphim Six Orthodox Children's Chorale
 N/R



I-062
Glory To God For All Things - The Akathist
 St. Lawrence Orthodox Church Singers
 N/R



I-082
Life-Giving Wood (Feast of the Elevation of the Cross)
 St. Lawrence Orthodox Chorales
 N/R



I-104
Roman Hurko: Liturgy No. 3
 Schola Cantorum of St. Peter
 N/R



K050
Vespers
 Vydubychi Church Chorus
 ★★★★★



K054
Requiem for the victims of Chornobyl
 Frescoes of Kyiv Chamber Choir
 ★★★★★



K088
Georgian Sacred Chants on the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
 Capitol Hill Chorale
 ★★★★★

Six Best-Sellers from Archangel Voices



I-060
With the Voice of the Archangel:
 Orthodox Liturgical Solos, Duets, and Trios



I-068
Christ is Born!
 Give Glory!



I-070
Resurrection!
 Chants and Hymns of Holy Pascha



I-075
Orthodox Divine Liturgy;
 Master, Bless!



I-090
Lamentations;
 Orthodox Chants of Holy Week



I-112
Panagia;
 Orthodox Hymns to the Mother of God

NEW LISTINGS – Just In!

H. MIXED CATERORIES (UKRAINIAN COSSACK SONGS)

H093

Cossack Glory / National Bandurist Chorus of Ukraine / Yuri Kurach, cond. / 2014 / 56:40 / Dotcom / 58:22 **Price: \$21.98**



The National Bandurist Chorus of Ukraine, a professional ensemble of fine men's voices and virtuoso bandura players, performs some of the most popular Ukrainian folk songs of Cossack origin, along with Romantic ballads, in arrangements by various composers. The bandura, Ukraine's national folk instrument, which bears similarities to both the zither and the lute, has a characteristic ringing tone that distinguishes this recording from other recordings of Cossack repertoire. The songs, alternately spirited and lyric, will certainly pluck the heart strings of all persons of Slavic nationality as well as other lovers of soulful music.

Rating: ★★★★★

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