

HYMNS FOR THE ORTHODOX LITURGY

CHRIST IS RISEN

(TROPARION OF PASCHA)

After separating from the State Church of Russia in the 1660's, the Russian Old Believers (*staroobriadtsy*) continued to adhere to the ancient musical heritage of monophonic *znamenny* chant; in the meantime, the rest of the Russian Church gradually embraced part-singing in the Western European manner. Small groups of Old Believers settled in the United States and Canada, where they have preserved a unique lifestyle not unlike that of the seventeenth century.

The chant of the Troparion *Christ is Risen*, used as the basis for the three present harmonizations, was recorded on tape in one of these communities during a Paschal service. The melody was transcribed from the tape by Vladimir Morosan and Alexander Ruggieri and adapted to English, preserving the angular rhythms and occasional misaccentuation of the words found in the original Slavonic version. Each of the three variations places the chant in a different voice: in the first it appears in the soprano; in the second, it is doubled in the alto and bass; and in the third, it lies in the bass only.

ALEXANDER F. RUGGIERI
Adaptation and Harmonization of an
Old Believers' Chant
(1981)

1 With a marked rhythm. (♩ = 100)

mf

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

CHRIST - IS RIS - EN FROM THE (THE) DEAD,

TRAM - PLING DOWN DEATH BY DEATH, AND UP - ON THOSE IN THE

2

f

TOMBS BE-(BE) - STOW - ING LIFE. CHRIST - IS RIS - EN FROM

4/4

THE (THE) DEAD, TRAM - PLING DOWN DEATH BY DEATH, AND UP -

2/4

- ON THOSE IN THE TOMBS BE (BE) - STOW - ING LIFE.

3

5/8 *piu f* 3/4

CHRIST (CHRIST) IS RIS - EN FROM THE (THE) DEAD,

piu f

4/4

TRAM PLING DOWN DEATH BY DEATH, AND UP -

2/4

- ON THOSE IN THE TOMBS BE - STOW - ING LIFE.