

HYMNS FOR THE ORTHODOX LITURGY

I PONDER UPON THE FEARFUL DAY

Gavriil Yakimovich Lomakin (1812-1885) was a prominent Russian choral conductor who for much of his life was associated with the Chapel of Count Dmitry Sheremetiev. In addition, he was employed as a teacher of singing at the Imperial Court Chapel (1848-1861) and, with Mily Balakirev, was the co-founder of the Free Musical School in St. Petersburg (1862-1868). His familiarity with Western European choral literature, including that of the Renaissance masters, left an imprint on the style of his liturgical compositions for the Orthodox Church.

I Ponder on the Fearful Day is a free composition on the text of the sessional hymn (*sedalen*) from the Matins of Meat-Fare Sunday. Lomakin, who as a conductor was notorious for his expressive interpretation of sacred music, highlights the emotional nature of this text by means of strong dynamic contrasts, and the multifold repetition of the phrase "I ponder upon the fearful day."

The present English edition is based on the original Slavonic version published shortly after Lomakin's death. Dynamics, tempo markings and signs of articulation have been preserved from the original.

Set in English by
VLADIMIR MOROSAN

GAVRIIL LOMAKIN
(1812-1885)

Largo sostenuto.

p

Soprano
Alto

I PON - DER UP - ON THE FEAR - FUL

Tenor
Bass

p

DAY AND LA - MENT MY

EV - IL ACTS. I PON - DER UP -

p

- ON THE FEAR - FUL DAY. WHAT

f

AN - SWER SHALL I GIVE TO THE IM -

- MOR - TAL KING? I PON - DER UP -

f

- ON THE FEAR - FUL DAY. AND WITH WHAT BOLD

p *f*

- NESS SHALL I, THE PROD - I - GAL, GAZE

p UP - ON THE JUDGE? I PON - DER UP - ON THE

FEAR - FUL DAY. O COM - PAS - SION - ATE

FA - THER, ON - LY BE - GOT - TEN SON, AND

HO - LY SPIR - IT, HAVE MER - CY ON

pp ME. HAVE MER - CY, HAVE MER - CY ON ME. *[poco rit.]*