



30 August, Wednesday, 8.15 pm
The Franciscan Basilica, ul. Franciszkańska

Optina Pustyń

Vladimir Miller *basso profondo*

Dmitry Shishkin *bass*

Dmitry Pisarev *baritone*

Andrey Ivanushkin *II tenor*

Jewgienij Michiejew *I tenor*

Aleksander Gorbatenko *countertenor*

Alexander Semyonov *mus. dir., baritone*

ASPERGES ME

gregorian chant of Pasque Messe (10th c.)

IŹE CHERUWIMY TAJNO OBRAZUJUSZE

old bulgarian chant

IN PARADISUM

gregorian hymn from the Requiem, (13th c.)

AΞION ΕΣΤΙΝ (Godne Jest)

greek chant

MISERERE

two charakans from the service of Great Lent, Mesrop Maschtoz (5th c.)

TIEBIE ODIEJUSZAGOSIA SWIETOM

bulgarian chant

O TIEBIE RADUJETSIA

chant of Suprasalsky Monastery. In accordance with the manuscript of 1601

KRIESTU TWOJEMU POKŁANIAJEMSIA WŁADYKO

georgias chant (Kartli-Kakhetia)

Orlando di Lasso

(1532–1594)

AETERNAM

from Introit *Missa pro defunctis*

SŁAWOSŁOWIJE WIELIKOJE

the hymn from the Vespers – Serbian chant

DOSTOJNO JEST'

early russian polyphonic interpretation of the Znamenny Chant, in accordance with the manuscript of 17th c.

ŚPIEW NA WEJŚCIE BISKUPA

partes interpretation of the Kievan Chant. In accordance with the manuscript of 1672

WOŁSWI PIERSIDSTIJI CARIJE

the hymn of the Christ's Nativity, partes interpretation of the Znamenny chant, tone 5. In accordance with the 17th c. scripture from the Kirillo – Belozersky Monastery

DOSTOJNO JEST'

partes interpretation of the Kievan chant. In accordance with the XVIIth century scripture from the Kirillo – Belozersky Monastery

ZAZDRAWNAJA CZASZA

for the Tsar Alexey Mikhailovich, in accordance with the manuscript of 1672

Georgy Sviridov

(1915–1998)

LIUBOW SWIATAJA

Sergey Sadovsky

STEP' DA STEP' KRUGOM

Piotr Bulakhov

(1822–1885)

GORI, GORI, MOJA ZWIEZDA

The male choir **“OPTINA PUSTYN”** was founded in 1996 in the Cathedral of metochion of Optina Pustyn in St Petersburg. From the first days of establishment, the choir continues to add to its liturgical repertoire of ancient and modern ecclesiastical chants. The result of the activities of the choir was a performance of many singers' manuscripts from the collections of academic libraries that have found their new sound in the worship compound. In addition to ancient Russian styles of singing such as: znamenny, putevoy & demestvenny chant's, znamenny polyphony and partes, the choir sings chants of the Orthodox singing traditions in Greek, Serbian, Bulgarian and Georgian, as well as modern arrangements of ancient chants and religious hymns by Russian composers.

The founder of the choir, artistic director and choir director, Alexander Semenov, graduated from the conducting and choral faculty of the St. Petersburg Conservatory under V. Borisov, the elective of symphony-conducting in the class E. Serov, and furthermore, studied ancient Russian notation. The ensemble is composed of professional soloists – graduates of the St. Petersburg Conservatory. It consists of an honor artist of Russia, soloist of the State Choir Chapel & the Mariinsky Theatre Vladimir Miller (bass-profundo), and laureates of international competitions: Alexander Gorbatenko (counter-tenor), Dmitry Shishkin (bass), Dmitry Pisarev (baritone), Boris Petrov (baritone), Evgeny Mikheev (tenor), Andrey Ivanushkin (tenor), Victor Khaprov (bass), Sergey Grigoriev (regent and bass).

After two decades of creative work, the choir “Optina Pustyn” has performed in more than 30 cities in Russia, touring in Belgium, Hungary, Germany, Holland, Spain, Italy, China, Colombia, Norway, Serbia, Montenegro, Finland, France, Sweden, Estonia and Ukraine. Concerts have taken place in the Assumption Cathedral of the Moscow Kremlin, St. Sophia Cathedral of Novgorod and Kiev, in many cathedrals of Western Europe, in the Great and Small Concert Halls of the St Petersburg Philharmonic, hall of the Academic Capella, Laeiszhalle (Hamburg), Rikskonsert (Stockholm). In 2006, Warner Music released a CD, recorded together with the orchestra „I Solisti Veneti” under Claudio Scimone. Also, the choir has published 11 solo CD's and 3 SACD albums. Over the years, the ensemble has continued to delve into the field of historical performance. In 2008, the historical Museum Regensburg (Germany) was presented the program „Singing of the Ancient Church”, which included Gregorian, Ambrosian, Byzantine, Armenian and Georgian chants of the V–XVI centuries in the original languages. In 2011, together

with the founder of the "Hueglas Ensemble", Paul Van Nevel, the program "Ars Antiqua & Ars Nova" took place. In 2013, in the Small Hall of the Philharmonic, the choir performed the program "Melodies of the Sovereign Singers". The audience loves to listen to large concert programs associated with the days of the Great Lent, feasts of Easter and Christmas, as well as programs dedicated to ancient Russian singing styles and works of Russian composers.



THE FRANCISCAN CHURCH was founded in the middle of the 13th century by Prince Bolesław the Bashful, who was later laid to rest in its crypt. In 1850 the church was almost entirely destroyed by fire and was restored with a neo-Gothic interior, including the altar and the stalls. The polychromy in the presbytery and the transept as well as the monumental stained-glass windows (the expressive *God the Father* above the choir being the most notable) are the work of the turn-of-the-century painter, poet and dramatist Stanisław Wyspiański. The blessed Salomea, the sister of Bolesław the Bashful, found her final resting place in the Baroque chapel in the transept, while the gothic chapel adjacent to the nave houses a medieval representation of Madonna the Sorrowful, called by the Cracovian people the "Helpless Benefactress".