



THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Department for External Church Relations

Concert for the Day of National Unity to be performed during "Orthodox Russia" Exhibition

On 4 November 2010, a concert will be performed at the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall on the commemoration day of the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God – the Day of National Unity. The "Orthodox Russia" exhibition will open on this day.

In the first part of the concert, the Moscow Synodal Choir conducted by the Honoured Artist of Russia, Alexei Puzakov, will sing religious pieces of Nikolai Golovanov, the renowned artist of the Soviet time, who was precentor of the Synodal Choir before the Revolution.

When the Church was persecuted, Golovanov was chief conductor of the Bolshoi Theatre, but secretly composed religious music, the manuscripts of which were found in the archives of the Glinka Museum of Musical Culture. The notes have been published recently, and his almost unknown music will be performed on the eve of his 120th birthday. A part of his pieces was composed for Holy Week, Pascha, and for the Mother of God. During performance, the audience will see Greek and Russian icons from Golovanov's private collection, which are kept at the State Tretyakov Gallery.

In the second part of the concert, the John of Damascus Children's and Youth Choir from St. Petersburg will sing hymns of the Byzantine tradition and religious and moral songs by modern composers. The choir was set up at the Cathedral of the Vladimir Icon of the Mother of God by Irina Boldysheva in 1990.

In the conclusion of the concert, the joint choir will perform three religious pieces by Metropolitan Hilarion (Alfeyev) and "Prayer" for choir by Nikolai Lebedev on verses of Georgy Polyachenko.

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