



## **Recital of Archbishop Hilarion (Alfeyev) performed in the Grand Hall of the Moscow Conservatoire**

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A charity concert for the Foundation of Reconstruction of the Grand Hall of the Moscow Conservatoire was performed there on 19 January 2010. The programme of the concert, which was Archbishop Hilarion's recital, included "A Song of Ascents" symphony for choir and orchestra and "Christmas Oratorio" for boy's choir, mixed choir and symphony orchestra.

Musical compositions were performed by the State Academic Large Symphony Orchestra (artistic director – Vladimir Fedoseyev), the Moscow Synodal Choir (artistic director – Alexei Puzakov), and the Choir of the Academic Musical College (artistic director – Leonid Pavlov) conducted by Vladimir Fedoseyev. Solos were performed by Yekaterina Scherbachenko, Dmitry Beloselsky, and protodeacon Alexander Ageikin.

Performed in the first part of the concert was "A Song of Ascents" in five parts, including "Out of the Depths I Cry to You," "A Song of Ascents," "By the Waters of Babylon," and "Praise ye the Name of the Lord."

The "Christmas Oratorio" performed in the second part of the concert is based on the Gospel narration about the nativity and the first days of earthy life of Jesus Christ. The way from darkness to light, from the agonizing suspense for the coming of the Messiah to the exultant joy over the salvation of humanity by the incarnate God permeate the drama of the composition. Angels join people in praising the Infant God born in Bethlehem; the singing of the boys' choir and the mixed choir symbolizes this doxology.

The audience welcomed the composer, conductor, and performers with tempestuous applause.