



## Days of Russian Spiritual Culture held in Paris



### **DECR Communication Service, 15/05/2024**

On 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024, a ceremony marking the opening of the Days of the Russian Spiritual Culture in France took place in Paris. The event was organized with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, Russia's Embassy in France and the Diocese of Korsun of the Russian Orthodox Church, **website of the Korsun Diocese** reports.

Taking part in the ceremony were Mr Alexei Meshkov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the French Republic; Metropolitan Nestor of Korsun and Western Europe, Patriarchal Exarch of Western Europe; Ms Anna Kotlova, director of the Russian Orthodox Spiritual and Cultural Centre in Paris; clerics of the Holy Trinity Cathedral; staff members of the Russian diplomatic mission; and representatives of the French public and mass media.

Among those who spoke at the ceremony was Mr Alexei Meshkov. In his speech he said, in particular:

“These events give an opportunity to learn more about the rich spiritual and cultural heritage of our country, revealing a lofty moral dimension of the worldview of the peoples of Russia.” Metropolitan Nestor noted that “spirituality is an inherent part of the Russian culture in general, manifesting itself in its various forms, such as music, literature, art, poetry and architecture.” “Today we have an opportunity to familiarize ourselves with it,” he added.

Ms Anna Kotlova read out a message of greetings from the Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation, Ms Olga Lubimova.

A gala concert of classical music followed. Laureates of various music competitions – pianist Stanislav Korchagin, cellist Ivan Sendetsky, opera singer Zinaida Tsarenko and violinist Gaik Kazazian – performed compositions by Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Maurice Ravel and César Franck.

The concert tour of the Russian performers in Paris will finish on 16<sup>th</sup> May.

The Days of the Russian Spiritual Culture in France is a cultural and educational project organized on an annual basis by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation in close cooperation with the Russian Orthodox Church.

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