



## Russian Church representative attends concert commemorating the 80th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Russia and Syria



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On July 13, a concert dedicated to the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Russia and Syria was given at the Russian House in Damascus by the instrumental ensemble of the school at the Saydnaya convent. The event was organized in conjunction with the Syrian branch of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society and its head Michel At-Telli.

Among those present were Bishop Roman of Seleucia, the chief secretary of the Holy Synod of the Antiochian Orthodox Church; Bishop Moses of Larissa; archimandrite Filipp (Vasiltsev), representative of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus' to the Patriarch of Antioch and All the East; archimandrite John (Talli), abbot of St. George the Victorious monastery in Saydnaya; archimandrite Meletius (Shattahi),

H.E. Alexander Yefimov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Syrian Arab Republic; H.E. Muhammad Ali, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Abkhazia to the Syrian Arab Republic; representatives of the diplomatic corps of other countries; abbesses of convents of the Antiochian Orthodox Church; nun Theodora (Elias), director of the school at the Saydnaya convent; and Mr. Nikolai V. Sukhov, director of the Russian House in Damascus.

The anthems of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Russian Federation were performed before the concert. Bishop Moses of Larisa addressed the guests with a welcoming speech. He conveyed the blessing of His Beatitude Patriarch John X of Antioch and All the East to the participants and guests, introduced the musical group of the school at the Saydnaya convent and congratulated the guests on the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Russia and Syria, website of the Representation of the Russian Orthodox Church in Damascus reports.

Performed at the concert were pieces by Western and Soviet composers as well as music by modern Syrian composers.

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