

# a Russian Christmas

The St. John's Russian Orthodox Choir

directed by Lawrence Havriliak

in a program of Russian-Ukrainian carols



# a Russian Christmas

## Kolyadas

In 1898 the Imperial Academy of Sciences at St. Petersburg published a volume by P. V. Shein, *The Great Russian in his Songs, Rituals, Customs, Beliefs, Tales and Legends*. In it 3,000 songs were set down, yet they reflect only in part the inexhaustible wealth of Russian folk material. Unlike the animated North Russian folk song full of life and color, the Little Russian or Ukrainian music of which this album takes part is slow and pliant. Profound melancholy pervades many of the melodies, often seasoned with a joyous wit. Particularly in their *Kolyadas* or Christmas songs with which every Russian is familiar, a sense of jest and humor is indelibly implanted in the Southern Russian.

## Sacred Music

The preservation of ancient tradition and style in Russian sacred music was the work of those composers from Dimitry Bortniansky (1752-1825) to Alexander Kastalsky (1856-1926) who were primarily concerned with sacred choral music and the church choir. Through their efforts the following characteristics were perpetuated in choral work: the classic simple style of harmonization combined with ancient chants; a capella singing throughout Russia; polyphonic efforts brought to artistic perfection by Kastalsky, who detached himself from the unison tradition of chants. In polyphonic singing the Russians show a preference in harmonization for the regular major and original minor scales. The chief major chord combination is that of the dominant seventh in the minor scale.

## The Language

About 50 years after the introduction of Christianity to Russia in the 11th century, the church literature begins. It was an offshoot of the "Church Slavonic" literature of the Balkans, a language created in the 9th century by St. Cyril and Methodius, and became the literary language of Russia. Although based on a Bulgarian dialect, it was from the first used almost exclusively for translations from the Greek, and is thus permeated with Greek syntax and vocabulary. The overwhelming majority of Russian-Slavonic writings consists of translations of Christian books from the Greek.

After the middle of the 13th century, north-eastern Russia became politically and culturally separated from the south and west. From the end of the 14th century Moscow became the leading center of the north. Literature became exclusively ecclesiastical and more Byzantine in spirit.

To this day, the Church Slavonic language is used by the Russian Orthodox Church. The traditional ban on musical instruments is maintained, and only human voices are allowed to take part in the worship of the Lord. Russian church choirs therefore always sing a capella, and always in the Church Slavonic.

*St. John's Russian Orthodox Choir*  
*Very Rev. John Havriliak*  
*Lawrence Havriliak, choir director*



"I have the honor of making this disk containing Russian Ukrainian Christmas carols for the first time in America. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Lawrence Havriliak"

**COOK**

LABORATORIES — NORWALK, CONN.

РОЖДЕСТВЕНСКІЯ КОЛЯДЫ /Традиційні/.

1. Съ нами Богъ /Свят. Іоаннъ Гаврилякъ/  
 Съ нами Богъ разумѣйте языкъ, и покайтесь: яко съ нами Богъ.

Услышите до послѣднихъ земель: могущи покайтесь:  
 Яко отъ рождѣнія намъ, Сынъ, и дадеся намъ:  
 Это же начальство бысть на рабѣ яго: Богъ крѣпокъ, Властитель,  
 начальникъ мира: Отецъ будущаго вѣка: Яко съ нами Богъ.

2. Рождество Твое /Тропарь/.  
 Рождество Твое, Христе Боже нашъ, возсіа мірови свѣтъ разума,  
 въ немъ бо звѣздамъ служашимъ, звѣздохъ учахуся, Тебѣ кланялися  
 Солнцу правды, и Тебѣ вѣдѣти съ высоты востока, Господи слава  
 Твоя.

3. Радуйтесь вси людѣ.  
 Радуйтесь вси людѣ, радость съ неба намъ спаде! Веселая  
 намъ новина: породила дѣва Сынъ Маріа, Маріа, Маріа!

4. нова радость /соло Маргарита Беннетъ/  
 нова радость стала, яка не бывала! Надъ вертепомъ звѣзда  
 ясна свѣту възсіяла. Ідѣ Христосъ родился, съ дѣвы воплотился,  
 якъ человекъ племени убого появился.

5. небо и земля.  
 небо и земля; небо и земля нынѣ торжествуетъ, ангели, люди,  
 ангели, люди весело празднуютъ: Христосъ родился, Богъ вопло-  
 тился, ангели спѣвають, царіе вѣдаютъ, поклонъ отдають, пасты-  
 ри гравятъ, чудо повѣдаютъ, чудо, чудо повѣдаютъ.

6. Слава въ вышнихъ Богу.  
 Слава въ вышнихъ Богу и на земли миръ, въ челоуцехъ благово-  
 ление.

7. Богъ предвѣщанъ.  
 Богъ предвѣщанъ родился, пріймелъ днесъ со небесе, щобъ  
 спасти родъ свой весь и утѣшилъ. Въ Вифлемѣ родился  
 Мессія, Христосъ нашъ, и Господъ для воіхъ насъ, намъ народил-  
 ся.

8. Не плачь Рахиле.  
 Не плачь Рахиле, глянѣ дѣти цѣли: не умирають, но пребываютъ  
 дѣти нетлѣнны, въ новой святинѣ, за Бога Сынъ бѣла ихъ вина!  
 За Ирода злобу видѣи яко воду кровь разливаему, плоть убива-  
 ему. Тѣломъ хотѣ померли, душами же цѣли, за живота отрату при-  
 няли за плату.

9. Даръ нынѣ. /дуэтъ Ирина Кронеръ и Маріа Паверо/  
 Даръ нынѣ пребогатый отъ небесе прійде, яко капля капля  
 на земли сниде. Во утробу дѣвчѣ Слово Богъ вселенъ и изъ  
 нея невидимый міру явился.

10. Богъ съ каждымъ.  
 Богъ съ каждымъ, то воімя треба знати, Ісусъ му имя, а Маріа  
 мати; Тутъ ангели чудятся, рожденнаго боятся, а воіхъ отъ  
 трясется, оселъ смутно пасется, а пастыри клещутъ, Бога въ  
 плоти бацуть. Тутъ-же, тутъ-же, тутъ-же, тутъ-же, тутъ!

ЛИТУРГІЙНИЙ КОНЦЕРТЪ.

«Господи помилуй» . . . . . А. Львовскій  
 «Отче нашъ» . . . . . Кедрова  
 /Басъ-соло Ричардъ Еггенбергеръ/  
 «Херувимская пѣснь» . . . . . Чайковскій  
 /соло свят. Іоаннъ Гаврилякъ/  
 «Коль Славенъ» . . . . . Вортнянскій  
 /теноръ-соло Петръ Романчакъ/  
 «Вѣру» . . . . . Кастальскій

Traditional Christmas Carols

Priest - Very Rev. John Havriliak

God Is With Us

Thy Nativity

Rejoice All Ye People

New Gladness

solo Margaret Bennett

Heaven And Earth

Glory Be To God On High

The Eternal God Is Born

Cry Not Rachel

The Gorgeous Gift

duet Irene Kroner, Mary Powers

Be It Known To All That God Is Born

Liturgical Concert

Lord, Have Mercy

A. Lvovsky

The Lord's Prayer

Kedroff

bass solo Richard Eggenberger

Cherubim Hymn

Tchaikovsky

solo Very Rev. John Havriliak

How Glorified is Our Lord in Zion

Bortniansky

tenor solo Peter Romanchak

From the Liturgy (Credo)

Kastalsky

printed in U.S.A.