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**ANCIENT  
SLAVONIC  
CHANTS**

Sung by the  
"Ivan Koukouzel Angeloglassny"  
Vocal Ensemble  
conducted by  
Tanya Christova



A MONITOR INTERNATIONAL COMPACT DISC

A Monitor/Balkanton Production

# ΑΠCΙΕΠΤ SLAVONIC CHANTS

In accordance with earliest Christian canons, music performed in the various divine services was to be exclusively vocal. However, musical instruments, particularly the organ, were eventually introduced into Catholic, Protestant and some other churches. Up to the present day, vocal chants have been retained only by the Orthodox Churches. Some of these chants belong partly to Byzantine and partly to Slavic liturgical music. The latter—Bulgarian, Russian, Serbian and Ukrainian—is still sung in Church Slavonic, the oldest recorded Slavic language.

Tanya Christova, director of the choral ensemble heard on this recording, is a graduate of the Bulgarian State Conservatory and she also studied in the U.S.S.R. She spent many years researching ancient Bulgarian chants in the libraries of monasteries as well as the archives of churches throughout Bulgaria. It was decided to have the *neun* music writing deciphered and transcribed into present day musical notation so that these chants could be performed. Some of these chants were tape recorded directly by chapel singers and monks and then transcribed on sheet music so that the choir could learn them. Many of these chants sounded quite unusual to those familiar with liturgical music and it took three years of intensive rehearsals before the choir gave its first public performance under the name of “Ivan Koukouzel Angeloglassny” (Ivan Koukouzel the Angel-Voiced) at the Alexander Nevsky Memorial Cathedral in Sofia. The performance

was a huge success and the vocal ensemble prepared additional material which is heard on this recording, of one-voiced chants emanating from the famous Rila and Elean chanting schools as well as chants by Ivan Koukouzel himself, the greatest 14th century Bulgarian musician.

The diverse treatment of the one-voiced chants are very interesting from a musical point of view. In some chants the line of the melody is fluent, easy and calm with a background of an uninterruptedly underlying tone which sometimes is doubled as an octave. In another series of chants, the melody is more adventuresome covering a diapason of almost two octaves. Some bold modulations can also be heard as well as frequent use of pauses, seconds, and fourths, all of which may be found in Bulgarian folk music. This musical approach may be heard in the selections on Bands 7 and 8 and contemporaries of these chants considered them “non-Byzantine, foreign and barbaric” and, bearing in mind the difficulties connected with their performance, called this music “a scourge for the singers.”

Edited by Peter Yastishak from Notes by Lada Brashovanova

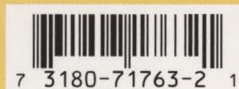
Note: Ivan Koukouzel is known also by his Greek name as John Koukouzeles.

Cover Icon by Dimiter Zograf from the Sokolsky Monastery.

# АНЦИЕНТЪ СЛАВОНІС ЧАПЪТЪ

Sung by the "Ivan Koukouzel Angeloglassny" Vocal Ensemble  
conducted by Tanya Christova

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| <p>1. DOSTOYNO YEST 2:49<br/>It is Truly Meet<br/>(Averkya Monach Rylets -<br/>from the Liturgy)<br/>(Averkya, Monk of Rila)</p> <p>2. KHERUVIMSKA PESEN 5:49<br/>Cherubic Hymn<br/>(Old Bulgarian Chant - from the Liturgy)</p> <p>3. VOSKRESENIYA DEN 2:49<br/>The Day of the Resurrection<br/>(Neophyte Riisky - from Easter Matins)<br/>(Neophyte of Rila)</p> <p>4. TEBE POYEM 2:29<br/>We Praise Thee<br/>(Old Bulgarian Chant - from the Liturgy)</p> <p>5. RADOUYSYA VSECHISTAYA 7:50<br/>Rejoice, All Pure One<br/>(Valassyi)</p> | <p>6. ANIKSANTAR 8:48<br/>(Ivan Koukouzel)</p> <p>7. VLADIKOU E<br/>SVESHTENONACHALNIKA 4:01<br/>Our Master and High Priest preserve,<br/>O Lord, for many years (Ivan Koukouzel)</p> <p>8. TE-RI-REM 4:18<br/>(Finale of "Polieley Na Bulgarkata")<br/>(Lament of the Bulgarian Woman)</p> <p>9. DOSTOYNO YEST 3:12<br/>It is Truly Meet<br/>(From the Elena Region; notated by<br/>Bishop Nikolai)</p> <p>10. ANGEL VOPIYASHE 4:36<br/>The Angel Cried Out<br/>(From the Elena region; notated by<br/>Dunovsky)</p> |
|--|---|



# АНЦИЕНТ SLAVONIC CHANTS

1. DOSTOYNO YEST 2:49  
It is Truly Meet
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Cherubic Hymn
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Our Master and High Priest
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9. DOSTOYNO YEST 3:12  
It is Truly Meet
10. ANĖL VOPIYASHE 4:36  
The Angel Cried Out

MCD 71763

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The Ivan Koukouzel Angeloglassny Ensemble  
conducted by Tanya Christova  
A Monitor/Balkanton Production



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