



Alexander Levine
The Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom For A Cappella Choir

Major New Work CD Launch Concert
THURSDAY, 7th MARCH, 2013, 7:30pm

Edition Peters Artist Management is delighted to invite you to attend the CD Launch Concert of Alexander Levine's major new work, *The Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom*, which will be held at 7:30pm on Thursday 7th March at the Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great. The piece will be performed by the renowned chamber choir **Tenebrae**, under the direction of **Nigel Short**. The concert marks both the release of the recording of the *Divine Liturgy* on Signum Records and the publication of the piece by Edition Peters.

Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great

West Smithfield, London EC1A 9DS

Nearest tube: Barbican (Hammersmith and City, Metropolitan and Circle Lines)

Parking: The nearest car parks are in Beech Street (under the Barbican) and West Smithfield.

TICKETS

Full price £12; Concessions £10 (students & OAPs)

Online: www.stmif.org; **Phone:** 020 7766 1100 (Mon-Sat 10:00am-5pm)

In person at the Box Office of St Martin-in-the-Fields: Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 4JJ
(10:00am-5:00pm Mon-Weds, 10:00am-8:30pm Thurs-Sat)

The Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom

The *Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom* is Alexander Levine's most significant large scale religious work to date. Inspired by the humility and humanity of the murdered Russian priest (and friend of Levine) Fr. Alexander Men and composed over a three month period of spiritual immersion, research and contemplation similar to that described by his great forebears Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov, the work traces a continuous spiritual growth towards the central point of the Liturgy – the Holy Communion.

The musical material rigorously follows liturgical textual canon, but with some additional 'offerings', which traditionally come from the deacon during the service. The work embraces 22 relatively short movements, and could be described as a sequence of litanies in which the choir responds to the deacon's prayer offering, antiphons and hymns, as well as some of the core movements – such as *Hymn to the Lord*, *Hymn to the Virgin*, the *Creed* and the *Lord's Prayer*. The musical style of this Liturgy includes Greek or Byzantine chant, Medieval polyphony, Renaissance counterpoint, Byzantine chant and poly-chordal texture. Levine has also added fragments of the Russian folk song *At the Father's gate* to the *Creed*. This folk song was conceived in Leo Tolstoy's imagination as a symbolic archetype of Russian *muzhik* and the symbol of the peasant population in its remarkable resistance to Napoleon's Army during the occupation of Russia in 1812. Tchaikovsky also used the complete quotation of this song in his *1812 Overture*.

The Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom was premiered in 2009 by Andrei Petrenko and the Mariinsky Opera Choir, and subsequently performed over the next three years at Valery Gergiev's Easter Festivals.

Further information: <http://www.editionpeters.com/divineliturgy.php>



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