

Celestial Music that Sparks Beauty and Faith

“...You will open a window through which the beauty of the Heavenly Kingdom will shine into your life in a particularly intense and radiant fashion.” — *Orthodox Arts Journal review of PaTRAM Institute’s CD “The Divine Liturgy of St. Chrysostom”*

Music holds such immense power that it can dramatically transform your life in an instant. Music can heal, inspire and touch your soul in a way no written word can ever do.

What if you heard music like this?

“It was truly one of the more rewarding and life changing experiences of my life... there were multiple instances where I had to stop singing because I physically couldn’t continue. I was so stunned by this incredible harmony of sound and emotion that it just moved me to tears. I know how transforming this kind of experience would be for any amateur singer, like me,” affirms Keith Preis, one of PaTRAM Institute’s scholarship recipients who joined the PaTRAM Institute Choir and attended its August 2019 recording session in Saratov, Russia.

If there is one organization in the world that touches so many lives with the eternal power of music, it is PaTRAM Institute. It literally transforms people. Ordinary people who have never heard the heavenly sounds of traditional liturgical singing become believers. Music aficionados who know exactly what high-quality music should sound like, are stunned by this new emotional volcano. Amateur singers learn to sing on a completely new level.

Inspiration, emotion, faith – music has the power to spark this in all of us. PaTRAM Institute is committed to sharing this gift with all who will listen.

Our Mission and Vision

The mission of PaTRAM Institute is to foster the authentic and original splendor of Russian Orthodox choral music together with its astounding spiritual depth, in both the English and Slavonic languages.

Our intent is to positively improve the prayerful sound and quality of Orthodox church singing through:

- growing the ranks of trained and professional singers and conductors in church choirs
- producing professional, state of the art recordings of Orthodox choral treasures in their most authentic and prayerful form to serve as inspirational models to which parish choirs can aspire.

A Tradition of Orthodox Church Singing

Orthodox Christian liturgical worship cannot take place without singing. In the Russian Church, the glorious tradition of church singing dates back at least a thousand years. Even in the smallest towns and villages of Russia, in the tiniest churches, music was heard at every service.

Through the centuries, skilled interpreters and professionally trained musicians led choirs that united the hearts and spirits of generations of Orthodox worshipers in prayer. Even in the difficult circumstances of the emigration, professional choirmasters continued to labor in the vocation.

The Rise of Orthodoxy in America

As the faithful of many nations have honored Christ's commandment to "Go into all the world and make disciples of all Nations," the Orthodox Faith has spread throughout the North American continent. Today new mission parishes are being planted all over North America, gathering scattered descendants of immigrants and attracting numerous new converts. A half-dozen seminaries train clergy. The number of monasteries has grown from just a handful a few decades ago to many dozens. Through the beauty of the Liturgy—liturgical prayer and singing—people are discovering the fullness and depth of Orthodox worship in spirit and in truth.

The history of the Orthodox church is deeply interwoven with the history of Russia. The music of the church is profoundly intertwined with the rich and vibrant fabric of the Russian culture. The great Russian masters of music, such as Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky, Chesnokov and Bortniansky, dedicated their lives to composing music of the ages for the ages. These musical jewels must be preserved and shared with generations to come.

Facing the Challenge: Choirs Struggle to Hit the Mark

Yet, sadly, the standard of church singing has been steadily declining throughout North America, and many of our churches have come to lack the critical element of beautiful and prayerful singing that helps draw people to the "right worship" (*orthodoxia or pravoslavie*) of the Holy Trinity. While a small number of Orthodox parishes continue to have on their staff a trained and competent choir director, it is more common for parishes to be challenged merely to find a qualified leader of church singing. Thus, many Orthodox churchgoers today struggle through services marked by lackluster choral performances, often more mechanical than prayerful, rarely experiencing worship in the full beauty of the Eastern Orthodox musical tradition.

"Observing the evolution of church singing in the parishes of North America, I came to the unfortunate and distressing conclusion that it is slowly but surely degrading. The sound of parish choirs grows faint and faded, which hardly lends itself either to bestowing a festal character on the divine services, or to the mission of Orthodoxy. Aside from this, we would like to see prayerful singing to support worship," explains Alexis Lukianov, PaTRAM Institute Founder and Chair.

The art of musically leading Orthodox worship in a competent, inspired way is complex and subtle, requiring talents and skills in a variety of musical styles, knowledge of liturgies and repertoire, music theory, choral conducting technique, as well as pedagogical and personal leadership skills. In a large parish with a full cycle of services, it is essentially a full-time job. And yet, there are few places in the world where a talented, dedicated Orthodox person can obtain the training necessary to fulfill these tasks on a professional level of excellence that is worthy of service in God's Holy Temple.

How PaTRAM Institute Meets this Need

There have been various efforts to address this gap, including periodic conferences for singers, but they are invariably too short and too sporadic. Attendees have said they need much deeper, focused, and ongoing training in order to step into the role of choir director.

Founded in 2013, PaTRAM Institute, named for the great missionary to North America and new martyr, St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow, was envisioned by Katherine and Alexis Lukianov. Katherine, an experienced choir director, who has built and transformed many choirs throughout the US and her husband Alexis, a prominent entrepreneur and seasoned executive in the medtech sector, had a dream to carry forward the unique Orthodox choir tradition in America. They ensured the success of this venture by a solid financial commitment.

“My dream was this: if my business were a success, then I would commit one-tenth of the profits to a systematic correction of the situation,” shares Lukianov. Upon the blessings of Metropolitan Hilarion of Eastern America and New York, First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad, Metropolitan Tikhon, First Hierarch of the Orthodox Church in America, Archbishop Justinian of Naro-Fominsk, Vicar of His Holiness Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, Administrator of the Patriarchal parishes in the USA; PaTRAM Institute became a reality. “We started off with courses for choir directors and singers – we conducted about thirty of these across North America and even in Russia. We first considered recording a CD when it became clear that our choir members needed some example, an ideal, toward which they could strive in their daily service.”

Subsequently, the Male Choir was formed, followed by the mixed, a.k.a. the PaTRAM Institute Singers. It also became clear: “If we do not explain the importance of our work to the clergy, then we will continue just spinning our wheels. Thus, working for the future, we decided to organize master classes in church singing for seminarians and others who serve the church.”

Importantly, PaTRAM Institute's offerings do not displace the jurisdictional and diocesan efforts to recruit and assemble singers and conductors, but rather build upon and supplement them.

Overview of Our Programs

PaTRAM Institute furthers the sacred choral arts in two ways: through educational training for church choir members and directors and through world-class recordings performed by its award-winning ensembles.

1. Educational Programs

Orthodox musicians often lead very busy lives apart from their work for the Church, and so enrolling in a conventional music program is simply not an option for many. The PaTRAM offer the following programs and courses:

- A. Summer Academy for conductors and singers
- B. Master Classes for Male Choir
- C. Online and private courses with professional master teachers

The Academy and Master Class programs are headed by Katherine Lukianov, Executive Director of the Summer Academy, and Maestro Vladimir Gorbik, choirmaster of the Moscow Representation Church of the Holy Trinity-Saint Sergius Lavra, arguably the preeminent church choirmaster of this generation. They are joined by stellar faculty members, who, in their own right, are leaders in the Orthodox musical world. All the members of our carefully selected faculty are eminently qualified to usher in the return of authentic and professional-level singing to North America.

A. Annual Summer Academy

The PaTRAM Institute Summer Academy is held annually and attracts all levels of musicians to the Conductor, Mixed Choir, and Male Choir multi-track programs. The all-encompassing curriculum of the Academy includes theoretical and practical training for advanced and aspiring conductors and choristers. The Academy provides the tools and inspiration to positively effect both the participant as well as their parish choirs once the student returns home. In addition, round table and panel discussions provide an opportunity for students to pose questions and speak about important and pressing topics and in turn receive expert advice.

“The Summer Program exceeded my expectations. Not only did I learn more about singing, but also about my faith and myself.”

“Excellent experience, spiritually transformative. Will be back for more!”

“The program was extremely informative and helpful for me as a small parish choir conductor. I especially appreciated the focus on the mechanics of breathing and how to produce a beautiful sound.”

B. Master Classes

The Master Class program was specifically designed to train male singers in the techniques and execution of the traditional Orthodox church choir. The program is led by Grammy-nominated Maestro Vladimir Gorbik. PaTRAM Institute does its best to keep this program at the lowest cost possible to students, with much of the support provided by the Lukianov Family Foundation and the kindness of PaTRAM Institute's generous donors. To be a participant in this program, a singer must be familiar with the basics of singing, reading music and have experience with other church choirs.

The annual Academies and Master Classes culminate with the students performing the music during the hierarchical All-Night Vigil and Divine Liturgy. These services have been celebrated by His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion, His Grace Bishop Nicholas, His Grace Bishop Luke and numerous members of the clergy.

C. Online and Private Courses

The PaTRAM Institute curriculum makes it possible for working church musicians to increase their God-given talents, under the tutelage of some of the foremost Orthodox professional musicians, and at a fraction of the cost of a conventional music program. PaTRAM Institute offers training and mentorship with a concentration on Choral Conducting and Singing as well as training in music theory, choral roots and music history, score analysis and practical applications.

2. Producing World-Class Recordings

The PaTRAM Institute Choirs are counted among the world's greatest choral ensembles and have brought Orthodox music to the world stage. The choirs are comprised of singers from Russia, North America, Australia and Serbia. In 2019 PaTRAM Institute received its first nomination for a GRAMMY Award for Best Choral Performance and was the winner of MusicWeb International's Record of the Year for our *Teach Me Thy Statutes* album. Not a year later, the original composition by Kurt Sander entitled *The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom*, the first and only complete setting of the Divine Liturgy in the English language, earned PaTRAM Institute its second GRAMMY nomination!

Beyond producing liturgical recordings, the PaTRAM Institute Singers have performed concerts for a standing room only audiences and participated in many Divine services along with local choirs in Russia.

The PaTRAM Institute team has several ambitious projects planned for 2020, including the spring release of our new album, *Blessed Art Thou among Women*; a Master Class for Male Choir; a Conductor and Singer Summer Academy; two concerts; a professional CD recording, and a world premiere performance of "Russian Cross" in the Zaryadye Concert Hall in Moscow, Russia.

PaTRAM's Lasting Impact: Inspiring a New Generation of Church Choir Singers

“Attending a summer program in 2014 positively transformed the direction of our small and young choir and gave me the confidence I needed to take over its direction after our choir director retired. We regularly receive glowing reviews from people hearing our choir for the first time. St Elizabeth the New Martyr (ROCOR) is in the heart of the South (West Columbia, South Carolina). We have few giant cathedrals around us, and many converts among our Faithful. When I attended PaTRAM's Summer Academy, I was able to witness firsthand the richness of our Church's musical tradition and learn directly from esteemed masters of Russian Orthodox choral tradition, such as Vladimir Gorbik, Benedict Sheehan, Vlad Morosan, and a host of others, who called themselves “students,” but who were themselves accomplished directors and musicians of cathedral choirs.” ~ Matushka Anne Mancuso

How Can You Help PaTRAM?

“Even with all that we have achieved so far, we perfectly understand that we can't accomplish our mission without devoted partners, donors and volunteers,” shares Lukianov, Founder and Chair of the PaTRAM Institute. “In order to touch the lives of as many people as possible, and not only here in North America and Russia, but globally, we need to dramatically expand our strategic partnerships and find new donors and volunteers. We are looking for partners who are as excited as PaTRAM, and as committed to preserving original and timeless choral masterpieces for generations to come.”

To help pave the way for PaTRAM Institute's global expansion, the Lukianov Family Foundation funds all overhead for the organization. Because of this, 100% of all donations are put toward the cost of educational programs, scholarships, concerts and recordings. This makes it possible for all music loving donors to support new projects and fund new scholarships for young people.

If you have a passion for eternal music and want to preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage of Russia; if you would like to help sow the seeds of liturgical tradition in the U.S. and globally; if you're interested in helping us train local small church choir directors; or if you're excited about co-producing PaTRAM Institute's new Grammy-worthy CD recordings that deeply touch believers and non-believers alike, we are inviting you to join PaTRAM's team with the following projects:

1. Scholarships for Choir Singers and Conductors:

Many choir members in local Orthodox parishes cannot afford this cost due to their family needs.

10 scholarships at \$500 each to sponsor conductors and singers to attend the Summer Academy

10 scholarships at \$500 each for singers to attend the Male Choir Master Class

2. PaTRAM Youth Scholarship:

20 scholarships at \$500 each to sponsor aspiring conductors and singers to attend the Summer Academy

3. Sponsor Online Training for Local Church Directors and Church Choir Singers:

10 scholarships at \$1000 for students to receive online training from a PaTRAM Institute certified instructor. (10-12 lessons)

4. Professional Recording and Concert Tour:

PaTRAM Institute is embarking upon exciting, landmark projects in October of 2020! PaTRAM Institute's professional recording will be a first-of-its-kind, international Male Choir CD of one of the greatest compositions in all of Orthodox music – Rachmaninoff's "All-Night Vigil." GRAMMY-nominated Maestro Vladimir Gorbik will conduct the all-Orthodox, 50 member PaTRAM Institute Male Choir, featuring 25 choristers from North America, Australia and Serbia and 25 choristers from Russia. The PaTRAM Institute Male Choir will also perform a concert of the "All Night Vigil" for the public in Moscow on October 14, 2020.

We are seeking Associate Producers at \$12,000 for our 2020 recording.

We are seeking singer sponsors at \$5000 to fund the training of an amateur singer to allow him the opportunity to participate in our 2020 recording.

On October 21, 2020, PaTRAM™ Institute Male Choir will also take part in the world premiere performance of "Russian Cross" with international stage and screen star Evgeny Mironov. This concert is being held in partnership with the Life in Motion charity at Zaryadye Hall in Moscow, Russia.

We are seeking partners to help fund critical expenses: travel, lodging and meals for the Choir in Russia. In these challenging political times, we believe that collaborating through our Orthodox faith and creating beautiful, prayerful music for worship builds bridges of understanding and unites East and West.

5. Global Tour 2021:

We are also looking for long-term partners for our upcoming world tour in 2021! We are excited to inspire new audiences with this opportunity.

Easy Ways to Give to PaTRAM Institute

Supporting PaTRAM Institute is easy. You can simply select from a list of projects, and donate online:

<https://patraminstitute.org/donate/>

You are also welcome to send us a check, donate stock, real estate, or royalties. Please mail your check to the following address:

Address: P. O. Box 749, Tiburon, CA 94920

If you enjoy traditional choral music and its transformative impact on young people, please consider including PaTRAM Institute in your will.

Bequests and Retirement Plan Gifts: If you are considering including PaTRAM Institute in your estate plans, you can choose from many options to create an enduring legacy for you or your loved ones. Bequests and IRA designations represent the easiest and most flexible options.

A bequest is a gift from your estate—a transfer of cash, securities, or other property—made through your will or revocable trust, or through a beneficiary designation in your retirement plan or life insurance policy. Bequests can be made for a specific amount, for a percentage of your estate, or for all or a portion of what remains after you have provided for your family. To make a bequest, you must sign a new will or living trust instrument, add a codicil to your present will, or make an amendment to your present trust instrument.

Here are just some advantages of a bequest:

- A bequest comes at no costs to you, and still it gives you the satisfaction of supporting PaTRAM Institute's essential programs for years to come
 - You retain control and use of your assets during your lifetime
 - Gifts to PaTRAM Institute from your estate are exempt from all federal estate taxes.
- Please let us know if you are considering or have already included PaTRAM Institute in your estate plans. We would like to thank you for your generosity, and properly recognize you for your extraordinary commitment.

Designate Your IRA: Designating PaTRAM Institute as a beneficiary of your retirement account or life insurance policy is an easy, tax-effective way to support

PaTRAM. All you need to do is contact the retirement plan administrator or your life insurance company and complete the appropriate beneficiary designation form to name PaTRAM, federal tax ID number, as beneficiary.

If you are 70 or older, you can also make annual tax-free transfers directly from your IRA to PaTRAM Institute of up to \$100,000. Although you are not entitled to a charitable income tax deduction for the distribution, these contributions count toward your annual Required Minimum Distribution, are excluded from your taxable income, and are not subject to annual charitable deduction limitations.

We appreciate your generosity! When you make a planned gift of any amount, or if you have already provided for PaTRAM in your estate plans, please let us know so we can thank you and recognize you, either by name or anonymously if you prefer. Donors who have made such plans for PaTRAM are honored as PaTRAM Legacy Partners.

Every Dollar Makes a Difference – Please Help Us Preserve the Beauty of Traditional Liturgical Choral Music:

No matter how big or small your donation is, it makes a huge difference! As you give to PaTRAM Institute, you will join a growing group of passionate supporters of the world-class choral music who care about the future. Your generosity will help us bring choral literacy to hundreds of thousands of local communities nationwide and many more communities globally. Join us today!

Thank you so much for your generous support!