ALL-EUROPEAN CHURCH MUSIC COMMITTEE

Under the auspices of the Synodal Liturgical Music Commission of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia

With the blessing of Metropolitan Mark of Berlin and Germany and Bishop Irenei of London and Western Europe

LONDON
22 - 25
January
2026

PROGRAMME

of the Seventh Pan-European Orthodox Liturgical Music Conference

KLIROS SINGING TODAY: FROM REALITY TO THE IDEAL

(to the centenary of the death of A. D. Kastalsky)

Conference's Features

- acquaintance with the various chants of the eight-tone system
- the opportunity to try yourself as a conductor of a large choir
- work on high-quality performance of Kastalsky's compositions
- understanding the relationship between the participants during the service
- possibility of antiphonal singing

Wednesday 21 January

Arrival of participants and hotel check-in

Hotel's address:

Travelodge London Chiswick High Road
632 Chiswick High Road
London, W4 5RY
+44 8719 846 624

Thursday 23 January

9:30-10:00	**Participants Registration** at the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Mother of God church hall (Address: 57 Harvard Road, Chiswick, W4 4ED)
10:00	Short moleben, Opening of the Conference
10:30	Rehearsal 1
12:00	Lecture 1 «**Alexander Kastalsky: The Fate and Creative Legacy of an Outstanding Spiritual Composer**» (Dr. S. G. Zvereva)
13:00	Lunch
14:00	Rehearsal 2
15:00	Practical Session «**Variations of the Eight-Tone System**» (V. V. Kashlyaev)
16:00	Lecture 2 «**The Art of Reading in the Russian Church Singing Tradition**» (Fr. M. Leszczynski)
17:00	Break
17:15	Rehearsal 3
19:00	Dinner (in the church hall)

Friday 23 January

9:00	Rehearsal 4
11:00	Lecture 3 «**The Relationship Between the Altar and the Choir During Worship**» (Fr. I. Drobot)
12:00	*Conducting Workshop*
13:00	Lunch
14:00	Rehearsal 5
15:30	*Obihod Workshop*
16:30	Break
16:45	Practical Session «**Kastalsky's System for Harmonizing the Eight Tones**» (M. K. Malinine)
18:00	Free time

Saturday 24 January

9:00	Rehearsal 6
10:00	Lecture 4 **«Church singing education in the context of emigration today»** (Dr. I. A. du Quenoy)
11:00	Break
11:15	Rehearsal 7
12:15	Lecture 5 **«Church Education of Children Through Liturgical Singing: Experience Working with a Children's and Youth Choir in a Parish»** (M. G. Kobro)
13:15	Lunch
14:15	Rehearsal 8
15:15	Roundtable **«Paths of Development of Church Singing in Europe in the 21st Century»**
16:15	Free time
17:00	**All Night Vigil** (sung by the Conference participants)
20:00	Dinner (in the church hall)

Sunday 25 January

	Check-out from Hotel
9:00	Rehearsal 9
9:45	Break
10:00	**Greeting of the Bishop and Divine Liturgy** (sung by the Conference participants)
13:30	Group photo
14:00	Banquet and Conclusion of the Conference

Speakers:

Fr. Maciej (Leszczynski)

Graduated from the Icon Painting school in Bielsk, Warsaw Seminary (Poland), St. Sergius Orthodox Theological Institute (Paris, France). Currently serves as a priest at the St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Paris (France). Founder, director and teacher at the Cathedral's School of Orthodox Icon Painting named after St. Andrei Rublev.

Fr. Ioann (Drobot)

Protodeacon of the St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Paris (France). Author of articles on Russian church chants in Russian, French and English. Vice chairman of the Society of Lovers of Church Singing.

Fr. Alexandre (Kedrov)

Graduated from St. Sergius Orthodox Theological Institute (Paris, France). In 1991 he was ordained a deacon and appointed as a psalmist at the Cathedral of St. Alexander Nevsky. In 2007 he became the chief choir director of the cathedral. Founder of a male vocal ensemble. In his many years working and giving concerts with the mixed choir of the cathedral, he preserves the musical spirit of the Kedrovs and the choir-singing practice of the Parisian tradition; he also works on the publication of all the works of the Kedrovs.

Alexei V. Shipovalnikov

The son of the famous Moscow confessor, Archpriest Viktor Shipovalnikov, choir director with many years of experience, orchestra conductor, composer. Graduated from Gnesin State Musical College and the Moscow Institute of Culture. In 1978 he became the director of the choir he founded in one of the temples in Moscow. In 1984 he was appointed artistic director of the Student Philharmonic Society of Moscow State University. In the same year he founded the "Association of Musical Evenings", under which he organized an orchestra under the auspices of Moscow State University and the All-Union Musical Society.

In 1991 he became choir director at the Cathedral of Christ the Savior in San Francisco (California, USA) and chief conductor of the Slavyanka male choir. From 2001 to 2007, Alexei Shipovalnikov taught at St. Tikhon's Theological Seminary (Pennsylvania, USA), where he was a professor of liturgical music. Lecturer at the Synodal School of Liturgical Music (New York state, USA) and the founder conductor of the concert choir "The Spirit of Orthodoxy".

Valery V. Kashlyaev

Member of All-European Church Music Committee, Choir Master at the church of St. Panteleymon (Cologne, Germany), choir director of various vocal collectives, one of the organisers of Liturgical Music Conferences in German diocese. A graduate of the Moscow Conservatory in choir conducting and choral disciplines.

Vadim S. Gan

Choir director at the Synodal Cathedral (New York, USA). Vocalist, conductor, connoisseur of liturgy. He has repeatedly performed as a soloist, conductor and lecturer in North America, Australia and Russia; held several master classes on church bells and the proper performance of the role of the diaconate in worship. In the 1990s, he directed parish choirs in Sacramento and Burlingame, and founded the male choir of St. John in San Francisco. Later he worked as a choirmaster and conductor in Sydney (Australia) for many years. He has participated in numerous conferences and choir festivals in Moscow, Pittsburgh, Toronto and Los Angeles etc., participated in numerous recording projects.

Matfei K. Malinine

Member of All-European Church Music Committee, teacher of solfege at the Popular Conservatory of Music, Dance and Theater (CPMDT) (Geneva, Switzerland), artistic director of vocal ensemble "Malinine", choir director of various collectives in France and Switzerland, member of professional French and Swiss ensembles.

Matvey G. Kobro

Reader and choir master at the Holy Resurrection Parish of the Russian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate (Munich, Germany). He studied vocal and conducting at the Mozarteum Conservatory in Salzburg and with teachers in Moscow and St. Petersburg. He directs the parish's children's and youth choir and organises cultural pilgrimages and concerts for Orthodox youth in Germany and abroad.

Dr. Svetlana G. Zvereva

Author and editor of scholarly publications, participant and consultant in a number of Russian and international projects related to the research, editing, popularisation, and performance of Russian sacred music, as well as the preservation of Russia's cultural heritage. Senior Research Fellow at the State Institute of Arts Studies (Moscow), Lecturer at the Royal Conservatoir of Scotland (Glasgow, Great Britain). PhD in Art History.

Dr. Irina A. du Quenoy

Member of All-European Church Music Committee, member of the Synodal Liturgical Music Commission (ROCOR). Associate Director and instructor of Liturgical Performance Practice at the Synodal School of Liturgical Music (ROCOR). Ph.D. in Political Sciences.