

THE RUSSIAN CHAMBER CHORUS OF NEW YORK

Artistic Director, Nikolai Kachanov

Over the last 25 years, the Russian Chamber Chorus of New York has grown into one of America's preeminent Russian vocal ensembles. Composed of Russian and non-Russian singers alike, the chorus is an ambassador of Russian culture in America. Known for its stylistic versatility and "splendid" sound (*The New York Times*), RCCNY commands a wide repertoire – from ancient liturgical chants, Russian Baroque, and well-known classical compositions to folk music – and has commissioned and performed world premieres by contemporary composers. RCCNY has appeared at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center and has performed at the invitation of renowned conductors including Vladimir Ashkenazy, Leon Botstein, Valery Gergiev, Vladimir Spivakov, Yuri Temirkanov, and Peter Tiboris. The chorus appeared on NPR's popular broadcast "A Prairie Home Companion" with Garrison Keillor, in December 2009. In addition to its concert performances, the chorus has gained critical acclaim for its recordings.

THE SOVEREIGN ORDER OF THE ORTHODOX KNIGHTS HOSPITALLER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM

Grand Prior, H.E. Count Alexander Woronzoff-Dashkoff

The Orthodox Branch of the Order was established in perpetuity by His Majesty, Emperor Paul I of Russia in 1798. From its historical inception, the Order has been a charitable entity, which helps the needy and the ill. It provides relief to victims of natural calamities, such as hurricanes, famines, etc. At this moment, members of the Order are working in Haiti. More funds will be sent to this hard hit country after this Benefit. After the fall of the Iron Curtain, the Order resumed its humanitarian mission in Russia and former Communist countries. Among others projects, the Order helps to build the orphanages in Russia, provides assistance to children with AIDS in Romania, children with tuberculosis in Georgia and in former Yugoslavia. The Order also supports the philanthropic activities of the Orthodox Church and fosters artistic talent.