

Russian Musical Arts Society of America

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<http://rccny.org>

A Twentieth Jubilee Celebration

Russian Chamber Chorus of New York

New York City - The Russian Chamber Chorus of New York, under **Nikolai Kachanov, Artistic Director and Conductor**, will perform on **Wednesday, December 8 at 8 p.m.**

This special program celebrates the Chorus's 20th anniversary and will include the highlights from the Chorus's 20th years repertoire to continue on its mission to broaden the awareness of Russian musical culture in the United States. The Jubilee program includes works by two giants of Russian choral music, Sergei Rachmaninoff and a contemporary composer, Georgy Sviridov. It will also feature Ukrainian carols and several arrangements of various folk songs to celebrate the holidays.

The concert begins with the selections from the **Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom by Rachmaninoff**, intensely personal setting of the 1000-year-old Russian Orthodox liturgy. This work is one of the most significant compositions in the history of Russian liturgical music and was not well known in America until recently. The listeners will have an opportunity to hear Maestro Kachanov's special insights into this work.

The second part of the concert will start from **Ukrainian Carols (koliadki) arranged by Kachanov**. Formed under the influence of Western tradition, these Ukrainian Carols make use of subvoices intertwined with elements of counterpoint, allowing each voice greater independence. The chorus continues with rarely heard cantata **Kursk Songs by Sviridov**, one of the strongest Russian composers who embodied Russian contemporary musical tradition. Sviridov is well known for his ability to capture the spirit of Russia through his skillful interpretations of regional folk songs.

Russian folk song, a phenomenon of unusual depth, color and stylistic variety, will be represented in this program through various arrangements, including: **A Lass Walked in the Wood** (Hodila Mladyoshenka), **Under the Oak Under the Elm** (Iz pod Duba, Iz pod Vyaza) and an immensely popular **Evening Bells** (Vecherniy Zvon). Those arrangements of the folk songs add recognizable nostalgic tone to the entire program.

The concert concludes with **Pribautki (Droll Sayings) by Blyakher**. This composition based on an authentic folk song is a merry joke, a collage of fragmentary, disparate pictures reminiscent of a children's cartoon creating an atmosphere of festive hilarity and a rousing finish to the concert. Gulnara Mitzanova and Anton Belov are featured as soloists in this program accompanied by Michael Zeiger, piano. Please call 212-928-1402 to reserve your tickets, or to schedule an interview with Artistic Director Nikolai Kachanov.