



# The St. Martin's Voice

*The Newsletter of St. Martin's Chamber Choir*

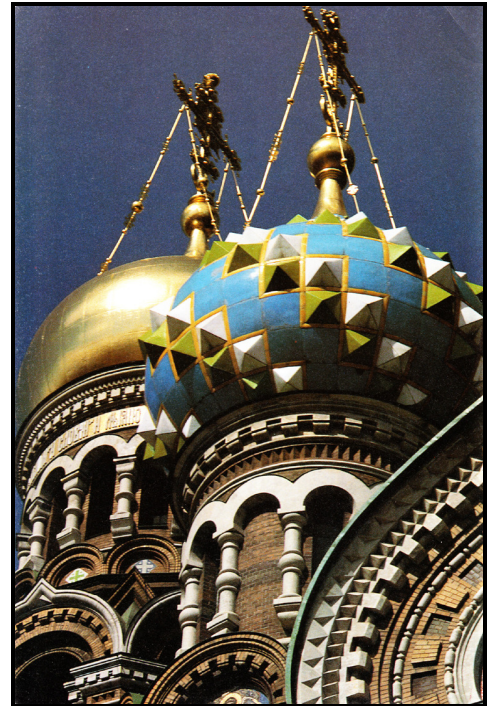
## Music of the Tsars

*By Timothy J. Krueger, Artistic Director*

It is not in my nature to do things by halves. So when I had determined about a year ago to do a concert of Russian music, I began researching the Russian choral tradition, – something with which I had been heretofore wholly unfamiliar -- purchased hundreds of dollars worth of Russian choral scores, and played through them all.

To my surprise, what I had thought was a centuries-old tradition of pieces with solid, slowly-moving and largely non-chromatic harmonies, contemplative pacing, and very low bass parts, was actually only about 100 years old, dating to what was called the "Primitivist Movement" of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The Ukraine was Christianized in about 900 A.D. by Byzantine (i.e. Greek) missionaries. The earliest sacred music conformed closely to the monophonic Greek chants of the Orthodox church. There was little



development that can be called intrinsically Russian to this music for about 600 years. Gradually, especially through the influence of a once-powerful Poland, Renaissance influences from the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches gradually seeped into the Russian church. This accelerated in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century with Tsar Peter the Great's

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## Music of the Tsars

**Concert sponsors:**

**Robert and Juanita Kniss (September 25<sup>th</sup>)  
Trautman Farms**

**Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.,  
St. John's Episcopal Cathedral, Denver**

**Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m.,  
St. Augustine's Orthodox Church, Denver**

*Tickets: \$22 General Admission, \$5 Student, \$30 Premium (Lim. Avail.),*

*(303) 298-1970 or [www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org](http://www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org)*

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## Meet Brian Stone, our newest Mark Sheldon Conducting Intern

We're delighted to announce that Brian Stone has been selected as St. Martin's Chamber Choir's fifth Mark Sheldon Fund Conducting Intern. Brian will work with St. Martin's for the entire 2009-10 concert season, learning from his experiences conducting the choir, attending Board meetings, and observing the administrative operations of the choir.



Brian received his Bachelor of Music in Music Performance in 2008 from the University of Puget Sound. He is now pursuing his Master's Degree in Choral Conducting at the University of Colorado, Boulder, where he is the assistant conductor of the CU's Collegiate Chorale and the University Choir. Brian has also enjoyed a solo career of recitals, and has played roles in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* (Pooh-Bah) and Kurt Weil's *Threepenny Opera* (Mack the Knife).

Please join us in welcoming Brian to St. Martin's Chamber Choir!

### St. Martin's CD Recording News

In the spring of 2009 St Martin's released its tenth CD recording, **"The Waking": Choral Music of Terry Schlenker**. This compilation of Terry's work, much of which has never been recorded before, will make a great addition to your SMCC CD library. The choir has recorded its next CD, **"Enlightenment A Cappella"**, which will be released this fall in time for your holiday shopping.





All SMCC recordings can be purchased at concerts or online. You may buy CDs at [www.Gothic-catalog.com](http://www.Gothic-catalog.com) or [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com), or download our music from iTunes or any online digital retailer.

## Take advantage of SMCC's group discounts

St. Martin's Chamber Choir is pleased to offer group discounts on General Admission tickets. A 10% discount will be offered for groups of 10 or more attending the same performance. This discount will be offered on advance purchases only by phone or online, but not at the door on performance dates.

Groups can be any combination of 10 or more people - friends and family, co-workers, members of clubs and organizations, churches and church choirs, senior residences - any group that loves superbly performed choral music!

A St. Martin's concert is the perfect opportunity for a family get-together, a celebration of a special occasion, an office team-builder or recognition of exceptional job performance - almost any occasion can be celebrated with an evening of great choral singing.

-  St. Martin's Chamber Choir Cameo Concerts are a great way to learn more about the music being performed in an informal, relaxed environment.
-  The three Christmas concerts with the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado are eagerly awaited as highlights of the holiday season.
-  For a large chorus experience, enjoy "*Chori Antiphoni*" - a two-performance collaboration with the Colorado Chorale.
-  Contemporary music your thing? Try the "With Fresh Ears" concerts in June 2010 - a feast of 20th and 21st-century choral works.

Call the St. Martin's office at 303-298-1970 or click on [www.St.MartinsChamberChoir.org](http://www.St.MartinsChamberChoir.org) to obtain a discount for your group of 10 or more.

Be sure to check the SMCC website for details on St. Martin's 2009-10 concert schedule. Next up: **"The Unknown Masterpiece"**, a Cameo Concert **Nov. 6 & 8** exploring the mystery of obscurity and fame.

*"Russia", from Page 1*

attempt to westernize Russia into a modern Western state. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Tsarina Catherine the Great even hired exclusively Italian musicians for her court, and Orthodox music conformed to her tastes.

It was not until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, with the rising nationalistic tide following the Napoleonic Wars, that Russian church musicians began striving for an ideal that sounded more Russian – even though there was little, aside from Greek chant, from which to draw. Hence, composers like Glinka, Balakirev, Arhangelsky, and Tolstiaikov began employing Ukrainian and Greek chants in their works, as well as other Russian folk-elements, in an effort to “recreate” something “primitive” that had actually never existed. These early attempts resulted in a flowering of what was to become the quintessential Russian style that was given it's most mature expression by composers such as Tchaikovsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, Grechaninov, Rachmaninov, and Kalinnikov in the late-19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

St. Martin's presents a survey of this rich history in the inaugural concerts of our 16<sup>th</sup> Season, with a representative sampling of everything from 12<sup>th</sup> century Ukrainian chant, through the surprisingly western-sounding music of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, to the flowering of the Russian “Primitivist” music of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Join us as for this mystical journey through the centuries of Eastern Orthodox music!

### *How You Can Support SMCC*

- Make regular donations via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)
- Make your gift through PayPal on our Support page
- Donate a vehicle to SMCC
- Attend a Feast of St. Martin fundraiser

Please visit our Support page at [www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org/support.htm](http://www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org/support.htm) or call 303-298-1970 for more information.

## **Purchase your SMCC concert tickets and make Feast reservations online**

Did you know that you can purchase concert tickets in advance through the St. Martin's website? Why wrestle with your credit card at the box office on the night of a concert, when you can securely purchase your tickets online? You may also make your reservations for any of SMCC's twelve Feasts of St. Martin through the website. Just visit SMCC at <http://www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org> to make your advance purchase for some of the best choral concerts and most intriguing boutique fundraisers in town.

(You can always call the SMCC office at 303-298-1970 to make these purchases by telephone, too!)

## *Feasts of St. Martin for 2009-10*

**St. Martin's Chamber Choir has designed another terrific season of fascinating fundraising events to tempt, treat and tantalize you!**

There are twelve great events in all, ranging from a Gaelic gala to an avant garde musical evening, from a spring wildflower walk at Roxborough to an “organ crawl” on Bach's birthday, from a breathtaking snowshoe hike to breathtaking *synaesthesia* in the work of painter Vance Kirkland, just to name a few! Oh, and did we mention the holiday open rehearsal and sing-along with SMCC and the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado?

For more information about the 2009-10 **Feasts of St. Martin**, call 303-298-1970, e-mail [info@StMartinsChamberChoir.org](mailto:info@StMartinsChamberChoir.org), or visit [www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org](http://www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org). Don't forget, you can make your reservations by phone or through the SMCC website!



**St. Martin's Chamber Choir**  
2015 Glenarm Place, Denver, CO 80205  
*Sixteenth Concert Season, 2009-10*

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## Music of the Tsars

- St. Martin's Chamber Choir explores the music of the Orthodox Church from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries
- SMCC performs lush works by Bortniansky, Titov, Tchaikovsky, Cui, Kalinnikov, Rachmaninov and others
- Experience this great sacred choral literature in St. John's Cathedral or St. Augustine's Orthodox Church

## Where & When:

**Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.,**  
St. John's Episcopal Cathedral,  
1350 Washington St., Denver

**Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m.,**  
St. Augustine's Orthodox Church,  
55 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Denver

*For tickets call (303) 298-1970 or visit*  
**[www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org](http://www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org)**

St. Martin's Chamber Choir' 16<sup>th</sup> Season is sponsored by:

**Carson-Pfafflin  
Family Foundation**



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FOR THE ARTS

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deserves great art.



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