



Intercession Church Music Festival launched in Moscow

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The Intercession Church Music Festival was launched on October 13, 2011, the eve of the Day of the Intercession of Our Lady and the commemoration day of St. Roman Sweet-Singer. The All-Night Vigil at the church of Our Lady the Joy to All the Afflicted in Moscow was led by Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, head of the Moscow Patriarchate's department for external church relations.

The classical liturgical hymns by Chesnokov and Kastalsky as well as modern composers Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, Arvo Pärt and others were sung by the Moscow Synodal Choir and the Orthodox choir of the department of theology of the University of Joensuu, Finland.

Addressing the congregation after the service, Metropolitan Hilarion spoke on the Feast of the Intercession and the Day of St. Roman Sweet-Singer, saying, 'He is one of the great hymnologists of the Orthodox Church, who not only wrote liturgical texts but also composed music for them. For this reason the Feast of the Intercession has become a feast for all church singers. On this occasion I would like to greet the Moscow Synodal Choir who toil in our church and the choir of the University of Joensuu department of theology, who have sung during the service today.

'The Moscow Synodal Choir will sing with special solemnity during the Sunday and Intercession Day divine services, and we have decided to call these services the Intercession Church Music Festival. It is not a festival in the common sense of this word, with balloons and fireworks, but divine services will be accompanied with especially solemn and majestic singing. Music by our great composers Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky will be sung, and the festival will be concluded with the Patriarchal service on our church's patronal day, the Day of Our Lady the Joy to All the Afflicted'.

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