



DALLAS SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

Andrew Litton, Music Director

October 25, 2003

Yale Russian Chorus Alumni
Gala 50th Anniversary Concert
Woolsey Hall, Yale University
New Haven, CT

Gentlemen:

Greetings and congratulations on your Golden Anniversary!

I first heard the Yale Russian Chorus in Geneva's Victoria Hall during your 1962 European tour. It was, in fact, my very first concert experience. I was three years old and very apprehensive as the lights dimmed. When you burst forth with the fortissimo opening chords of "Tebye Boga Khvalim", I wailed so loudly my parents had to rush me out of the hall. Fortunately, I quickly overcame that trauma! During the ensuing years my parents brought me regularly to Yale Russian Chorus concerts. I grew up with your incomparable sound resonating in my ears. I don't doubt for a moment that it contributed significantly to my special love and affinity for Russian music.

Thank you for that and for the joy and excitement you have been bringing to audiences for 50 years! Were I not conducting tonight in Norway, you would be hearing my cheers in Woolsey Hall. In the words you sing so well, "Mnogoye Leta!"

Cordially and collegially,

Andrew Litton,
Music Director
Dallas Symphony Orchestra