

*By e-mail from an internet café near Cracow*

To: <Denis Mickiewicz>  
Subject: SCHENKER ON YALE RUSSIAN CHORUS  
Date: Mon. 8 Sep 2003 19:03:07

"Memories, memories, memories: the first spevka in 401 HGS, reading the texts of songs from the purple pages mimeographed by the indomitable Konstantin Dmitrievich; the birth pangs of the Slavic graduate program in which you were the first or second student; my attempts to teach you the elements of Old Russian (while trying to learn them first myself); my visit to you and your parents after your graduation from the Music School and my discussion with Nikolai Adamovich about the spelling of your last name; our sunset climb up the East Rock and our surprising descent at sunrise; Aleksandr Nikolaevich's stories about his army exploits accompanied by frequent servings of his favorite Manischewitz wine; meeting the brilliant Ellen Propper, soon to become Ellen Mickiewicz; partying with your singing trailblazers Barry Rubin, John Francis, Kit Bingham, Dan Gsovski and so many other wonderful people who surrounded you.

For all these memories—spasibo; for all the benefits which the presence of the Yale Russian Chorus brought to our fledgling program—spasibo; for all your glorious music—spasibo!

I can't tell you how much pleasure it'll give me to see you and your faithful retinue at the Beinecke event and to hear once again your vibrant and jolly renditions of Russian music.

Yours,

Alex Schenker

All the best on your 50 anniversary.  
I think of the Chorus as merely six times younger  
than the city of St. Petersburg.