

Concert by Yale Russian Chorus alumni well received in New York City

NEW YORK, January 31, 2011.

posted by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Kikilo.

The concert given here on Sunday by the alumni of the Yale Russian Chorus was a real feast for lovers of Russian folk music. Created at the height of the Cold War in 1953, this singing group has throughout the decades maintained its love for Russian songs and its faithfulness to classical traditions of choral art, as its singers became true ambassadors of song who did much to promote mutual understanding between the Russian and American peoples.

The concert began with Orthodox religious music, in particular such classics as "Blessed is the man", "Praise the name of the Lord" and "With my voice I have cried out to the Lord". To the delight of the audience gathered in Buitenweiser Hall in Manhattan, those pieces were followed by such gems of Russian folk singing as "Kalinka", "It is not the wind that bends the branch", "Shall I go down into the valley", "The legend of the twelve brigands", "Oh, the roads", "Oh, you wide steppe" and others. The Chorus also performed with unusual artistry Rimsky-Korsakov's romance based on Lermontov's poem "A little golden cloud slept on the brow of a cliff".

The Chorus has made 16 trips to the USSR and Russia and performs regularly in concerts across America, including the legendary Carnegie Hall. It has sung for leaders such as Bill Clinton, Boris Yeltsin, and Charles de Gaulle. The Chorus has also performed in the Moscow Conservatory and in halls in London, Paris and Berlin. But the most memorable event, in the view of many singers of the group, was the first trip to Moscow in 1958. Preferring informal concerts to formal ones, as they allowed for more live contact with people, the Chorus sang, often jointly with Muscovites, in the parks and squares of the capital.

Sunday's concert featured about 50 singers ranging in age from 35 to 75. Over the years of its existence hundreds of students and graduates of Yale, one of the most prestigious U.S. universities, have passed through the Chorus's ranks. Many of them have become prosperous lawyers, businessmen, engineers, scientists, and so forth, but all have remained true to their main passion - their love of Russian music. When asked by this correspondent how many of the singers spoke Russian, conductor Daniel Gsovski, who began directing the group in 1964, said: "Almost no one, but they all know the content of the songs that they sing. But most importantly - they understand the soul of Russian songs." And one had to agree after hearing the emotion with which the group sang "Soldiers, brave lads" and "Oh, dear beautiful maiden" as encores.

Link to Russian text: <http://ru.euronews.net/newswires/715619-newswire/>

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ITAR-TASS, 31/01 07:23 CET

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