ABSTRACT

Title of Dissertation: PRAYERS FROM THE OLD CHURCH

Mary Kathryn Coy Whitmore, Doctor of Musical Arts, 2018

Dissertation directed by: Dr. Robert L. Gibson, Department of Music Theory/Composition

Prayers from the Old Church is a three-movement work for SATB a cappella choir and alto soloist based on prayers from the Russian Orthodox Church. Church-Slavonic texts and their translations are taken from the Old Orthodox Prayer Book, which uses pre-Niconian sources favored by Old Ritualists. The prayers were selected due to their significance to the history of the church and to my own personal experience as an Orthodox Christian.

The three prayers in the piece come from the Canon to Jesus Christ and the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom: the Jesus Prayer, the Cherubic Hymn, and the Lord’s Prayer. The Jesus Prayer is based on a Valaam chant, a chant style that developed in the monastery on Valaam in Russian Karelia. The Cherubic Hymn is longer, and more technically demanding, than the outer two movements; it can be parsed into two large sections: the first of more somber quality than the second, set mostly homophonically in four parts, as is traditional for settings of this prayer. The
Lord’s Prayer is set wholly in the Ukrainian language, and opens with the choir singing in true unison sotto voce to evoke themes of simplicity, unity, and peace.
PRAYERS FROM THE OLD CHURCH

by

Mary Kathryn Coy Whitmore

Dissertation submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the University of Maryland, College Park, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts 2018

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Mary Coy Whitmore

Prayers
from the Old Church

for Choir SSATTBB
with Alto Solo
I. Молитва Иисусова
Jesus Prayer

II. Херувимская пьеснь
Cherubic Hymn

III. Молитва Господня
Lord's Prayer
I.

Господи Иисусе Христе, Сыне Божий, помилуй мя грѣшнаго.
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, the sinner.

Иисус, Сыну Божию, помилуй нас.
Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on us.

II.

Иже херувимы тайно образующе, и Животворящей Троицѣ, трисвятую пышь приносяще, Всюю нынѣ жителяскую отложимъ печаль. Яко Царя всѣхъ подъемлюще, ангельскими невидимо дороносима чинми, Аллилуя.
Let us who mystically represent the Cherubim and unto the Life-Giving Trinity offer the thrice-holy hymn Now cast aside all suffering. As we receive the King of all, Who is invisibly borne as a gift by the ranks of angels. Alleluia.

III.

Отче наш, що єси на небесах, Нехай святитись Ім’я Твое. Хай прийде Царство Твое, нехай буде воля Твоя Як на небі, так і на землі Хліб наш наущный дай нам сьегодні. І прости нам провини наші, як і ми прощаемо винуватцям нашим. І не в веди нас у спокусу, але визволи нас від лукавого. Бо Твое є Царство, і сила, і слава навіки. Амінь.
Our Father, who are in heaven Let your name be holy Let thy kingdom come, Let your will be Both in heaven and on Earth Give us our daily bread today And forgive us our faults As we forgive our perpetrators And do not lead us to temptation But deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and power, and glory Forever. Amen.
Prayers from the Old Church

I. Молитва Иисусова
Jesus Prayer

Meditative ($J = 60-72$)

*If sung by a female voice. Male voice: грешно-го.
Исуса, помилуй нас.
Господи, Сыне Своему.
Помилуй мя, грешную.
Господи, Сыне Своему.

Боже, помилуй, помилуй мя, грешащаго.
Господи, Сыне Своему.

Иисусе, Христе, помилуй.

Иисусе, Христе, помилуй.

Иисусе, Христе, помилуй.
Rubato
III. Молитва Господня

Lord's Prayer

J = 72

sempre ppp sotto voce

omit if necessary

falsetto where necessary

omit if necessary

omit if necessary

11

omit if necessary

От-че наше,

От-те-не наше,

От-че-не наш,

От-ще-не наш.