



For Immediate Release

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Russian Masters performance wraps season
Russia's rich choral tradition showcased in a *cappella* performance

Tucson, AZ (March 6, 2017)--True Concord Voices & Orchestra finishes its 13th season with a concert of Russian romanticism featuring Alexander Gretchaninoff's *Passion Week*. Gretchaninoff was a protégé of Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov who was best known for the symphonic suite *Scheherazade*. *Passion Week* is performed infrequently, and this concert will provide local audiences with a rare opportunity to hear a professional, live performance. It is a series of pieces based on Orthodox liturgical texts pertaining to Christ's passion. Works by Sergei Rachmaninoff and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky will round out the program.

The Russian Choral tradition is known for its *basso profundo*, or deep basses in the lowest vocal range. Oktavists are exceptionally deep-ranged vocalists, especially suited to Russian Orthodox choral music. This type of music has been well-received in Tucson. True Concord's two previous Russian programs, Rachmaninoff "Vespers" and Rachmaninoff *St. John Chrysostom*, were crowd favorites with several sold-out performances.

Music Director Eric Holtan has been enamored of the Russian choral tradition with its low basses since his college choir days. He recalls that "(w)e sang Rachmaninoff's exquisite *Ave Maria* from his 'Vespers.'" He encountered Gretchaninoff's *Passion Week* years later, and said of it, "I think it stands with Rachmaninoff's masterpiece as among the most beautiful and compelling music from the tradition. Once you hear it, I think you will agree."

True Concord's 2017/2018 season will be announced at the Russian Masters concerts.

Times, dates and locations for Russian Masters are:

Thursday, March 23, 7:30 p.m.—Christ the King Episcopal Church, 2800 W. Ina Road,
Tucson

Continued on next page

Friday, March 24, 7:00 pm – St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church, 600 S. La Canada Dr., Green Valley

Saturday, March 25, 7:30 pm – Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, 5910 E. 5th St., Tucson

Sunday, February 26, 3:00 pm – Grace Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, 2331 E. Adams St., Tucson

For tickets and information, visit trueconcord.org. or call 520.401.2651.

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About True Concord Voices & Orchestra

Grammy-nominated True Concord is Southern Arizona's professional choir and chamber orchestra. Founded in 2004, its mission is to create experiences with music that move, enrich and inspire. This mission is accomplished primarily through the performance of masterworks and the music of America's cultural mosaic. More information at <http://www.trueconcord.org/> and on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).