

CHOIR REPORT 2018

Looking at the big picture, the St. Nicholas Cathedral Choir – this includes both English and Slavonic Choirs – has made good progress this past year. Progress meaning improved knowledge of the music necessary for services, the order and planning of services, and building confidence in producing quality music. Providing a contemplative and supportive background for prayer is perhaps our most important goal. This is accomplished through disciplined and smart practice with good leadership. Andrea, Kevin and I are consistently working toward this goal.

This is not an easy process but I think we have been largely successful! Father George and the Church Council have been very supportive providing interested choir members the financial support needed to attend classes, workshops and symposiums all centered on Orthodox Liturgical music. There is always work preparing for new services, keeping translations updated, typesetting new and Old music, introducing new music while maintaining what is already learned. That is why building a good Choir requires time, dedication and commitment.

Our biggest problem has been with attendance at our rehearsals. The Slavonic choir continues its Rehearsals before Liturgy and this is very effective. Trying to find a convenient time for The English Choir And also for a combined English-Slavonic choir rehearsal has been difficult. Monday evening rehearsals For all choir members and an after Liturgy rehearsal for the English choir is where we are now. Also, More technology is being used to make music available for study at home. This, of course, only works If you can read music and teach yourself correctly.

St. Nicholas is striving to be a shining example for the Orthodox Church of America in many different Ways. Inviting Seminary choirs to visit and give concerts shows that music is important to us. Every facet of faith that leads us closer to God is important and music is that vehicle for many of us. The Blini Luncheon gives every choir member the opportunity of fellowship, singing Liturgical music And Folk music during the Fall Bazaar also brings us together in the unity of faith and music. We also Invite potential new members to come in the choir loft and experience the beauty of the human voice And the wonderful acoustics of St. Nicholas Cathedral!

Another idea we are working on is to build and promote a Youth Choir. Originally called Children's Choir, our goal is to prepare our youth to be our choir of the future. We have the talent, it just needs To be developed and given a chance to perform. I sincerely believe that this can be a huge asset for Our church.

Finally, I thank Fr. George, Fr. Valery, the church council and all of you who have been positive And supportive. Also thank you to Andrea, Kevin and Elena Forrest who has started conducting Slavonic services. Carl Riemann also deserves a hearty thank you for a lot of time spent typesetting music. As you can see, it takes a village to build a good choir. However, with determination and a vision, we will be successful. There are still many more ways that we can improve ourselves musically and Otherwise. This gives us an 'area of opportunity. No one person has all the answers. Let us work together in Peace and Fellowship constantly striving to create beautiful music in harmony with God and each other.