

KONEVETS QUARTET www.konevetsquartet.com

THE KONEVETS QUARTET, under the direction of Igor Dmitriev, was founded by graduates of the St. Petersburg Music Conservatoire, Glinka Choral Academy, in July 1992, with the goal of sharing the rich Russian vocal tradition with audiences the world over. They have have an impressive portfolio, and have performed with notable soloists such as baritone, Dmitry Horostovsky and basso profundo, Vladimir Miller



L-R

Maksim Mostovoy - first tenor. Born in St. Petersburg, Russia, graduate of the Glinka Choral Academy of St. Petersburg as choir conductor and the St. Petersburg Conservatory as opera singer. Sang at different vocal ensembles of St. Petersburg. A member of the Quartet since 2008.

Sergey Svoysky - second tenor. Completed special studies at the Music School of the St. Petersburg Conservatory and the Conservatory itself as a choir director. In 1988 was Laureate at the 1st All-Russian choir directors' competition in Nizhny Novgorod. Taught choral directing at the St. Petersburg Cultural University since 1990. A member of the quartet since 2004.

Oleg Palkin - baritone. Graduate of the Glinka Choral Academy of St. Petersburg and St. Petersburg State Conservatory as choir conductor, voice and opera. Performed in operas in Russia and Western Europe and has worked as a soloist with choral ensembles. In 2007 named an Honoured Artist of the Republic of Karelia.

Igor Dmitriev– bass, Director. Graduate of the Glinka Choral Academy of St. Petersburg as choir director and the St. Petersburg Conservatory as composer. Founded the Konevets Quartet in the summer of 1992. Author of many harmonizations of Valaam chant and arrangements of folksongs for the Quartet.

Having been schooled in the great Russian traditions, the Quartet's aim was to become a chamber choir with a common harmonic sound, rather than soloists. Their repertoire was therefore created especially for this purpose, and remains such to this day. The major part of the repertoire is of Russian sacred music, ranging from chants and hymns by twentieth century composers such as Chesnokov, Grechaninov, Stravinsky to ancient chants and hymns in original one, two and three-part arrangements, and sometimes re-harmonized by the Quartet. The second part of the repertoire is devoted to Russian folk songs based on ballads, dances and regimental songs and marches of the Tsarist armies, and from the old military academies, forbidden during Communist times. Some of these songs have been rearranged by the Quartet in order to suit their concert style. The third portion of the repertoire comprises choir music by Russian composers, with lyrics by Russian poets such as Pushkin and Lermontov, and with music by Tchaikovsky, Borodin, Taneyev and other famous Russian composers.

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The Konevets Quartet was founded by graduates and students of the St. Petersburg Music Conservatoire in July 1992. The Quartet takes its name from the Konevets Island and Monastery, some 160 kilometers northeast of St. Petersburg, on Lake Ladoga. It was there, over 600 years ago, that St. Arseny Konevsky founded a cloister in the honour of the birth of Mary, Mother of God. During Soviet years the island was occupied by the USSR military and was removed from all maps. The fabric of the Monastery was almost completely destroyed, but now it is being reborn. During the early years of the Konevets Quartet's association with the Monastery, they sang for those working on the restoration, as well as for pilgrims, tourists and homeless who sought shelter in the restored buildings. Also, the Quartet frequently sang for Monastery Sunday liturgies and Feast Days.



Konevets Monastery of the Holy Nativity

The Quartet has toured extensively across Europe and the USA to wide acclaim, and has appeared at many prestigious European festivals. While touring is the Quartet's main source of income, they often donate some of their revenue to charities. To date they have raised funds for restoration of the Konevets Monastery, and for its daughter church in the heart of St. Petersburg.

THE HIGHLY ACCLAIMED RECORDINGS of the KONEVETS QUARTET are on sale in many countries. A concert or a recording by the Quartet always offers a fascinating program and the chance to learn more about the rich tradition of Russian choral music and the music of the male chamber choir. Their recordings are available for purchase at all local concerts at which the Quartet will be pleased to sign CDs.

Tour coordinators, *Orthodox FaithNet Inc.* now, in our 2nd year of partnership with KONEVETS, are a Chicago based, not-for-profit organization, promoting the arts and cultures of the Orthodox Christian Church. We look forward to working together with you, to bring the quartet to your community.

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