

From Russian Newspaper reviews: One

“Music as a recipe for survival” by Nadezhda Diner

The Moscow Male Jewish Choir “Hasidic Cappella,” led by director Alexander Tsaliuk, gave a concert at the Russian Cultural Foundation.... In the audience were US Ambassador Dr. Collins, Cultural Advisor to the Israeli Embassy Shamai Golan, officials from the German Embassy and the British Council, the composer Oscar Feltsman and the writer Arkadi Arkanov. During the concert Mr. Arkanov expressed his admiration for the choir. “This choir is preserving and popularizing Jewish culture in difficult times.” The Hasidic Cappella, he added, is “a magnificent phenomenon” that “adds luster of the highest international caliber to this art form.”

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“Generous Guests” by Viktoria Remenik

The famous choir Hasidic Cappella, headed by Alexander Tsaliuk, has appeared on the most prestigious stages in Russia and abroad, including the Grand Hall of the Moscow Conservatory and the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Hall. World-renowned cantors and other musicians have sung with this magnificent choir.

So when this choir gives a charity performance for the “Senior Citizens Club,” it is a sign of their great generosity of spirit. It’s hard to express how much joy they give the elderly people who attend our club and who aren’t likely to have a chance to hear performers of this professional caliber.

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“Diplomatic Reception” by Mark Irin

For the first time in the modern history of Russia, an evening dedicated to Jewish music was held at the residence of the Ambassador of the US in Russia. This was the initiative of the US Ambassador, Mr. Collins, who has attended many concerts of the Hasidic Cappella choir. In the Ambassador’s residence, in the center of Moscow off the Old Arbat, from time to time there are musical performances of the highest caliber.

There were over 350 guests at the concert, including politicians, cultural figures, businessmen and religious leaders from various confessions.

In his welcoming address, Ambassador Collins noted that the Hasidic Cappella was a truly unique musical group that is successfully reviving Jewish liturgical and folk music. He spoke of world musical culture and the important role played by Jewish music. And he was delighted to introduce soloist Joseph Malovany, “the greatest cantor of our times.”

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“Hasidic Cappella’s New Album” by Mikhail Muzyka

Jewish liturgical music, which had its origins in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century in Eastern Europe, virtually died out in Russia after the October Revolution of 1917. Only in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century did a miracle happen: this music began to be revived. Unusual, unexpected, beautiful and harmonious, it is drawing more and more listeners. And the

choir Hasidic Cappella is becoming more and more popular in Russia and around the world.

The choir was founded in 1989.... It has toured virtually everywhere in the world, gave a command performance for members of the royal families of Denmark and Norway, performed at the ceremony celebrating the Chief Rabbi of Scandinavia, and performed three times with the renowned singer and cantor Mikhail Alexandrovich. In 1992 the choir took first place at the "Zimriya" choral competition. In 1996 the choir was the top winner at the Russian National Choral Competition, beating out world-famous troupes from Georgia, Armenia and Ukraine....

"Universal Music Group"... did market research which showed that not a single respected company had ever put out recordings of Jewish liturgical music; there were no professional recordings, or even recordings of cantors or choirs. The company decided to fill this gap [with the music of the Hasidic Cappella]. The album is a recording of the concert dedicated to the 3000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Jerusalem, performed in 1996 in the Grand Hall of the Moscow Conservatory. The Hasidic Cappella performed with the cantor Joseph Malovany and the State Symphonic Orchestra...

The disc caused a sensation. In 1999 it was awarded "Best Disc of the Year" in classical music produced by Universal Music Group.