



Just as the best sounds ring from an empty pipe,
The Gracias Choir empties themselves clean, revealing only God.
The ringing that contains only God is the life and source of emotion of the Gracias Choir.

“Gracias” in Spanish means, “Thank you”. The Gracias Choir sings songs to thankfulness for the love it has received in its heart.

The Choir’s music has the power to change sadness to joy, deeply moving the hearts of every listener. The Gracias Choir was formed in the year 2000, and each year it is changing and reaching new heights through new challenges and development.

The Mission of Gracias Choir

Gracias Choir was formed in 2001 with the mission of expressing the spirit that overflows with thankfulness towards God through music. Everyone goes through trouble and pain in life, but just as Jesus changed water into wine, He has transformed the suffering of each member of the Gracias Choir into joy and beautiful praise. Gracias Choir delivers this heart of renewal to audiences everywhere that they, too, may foster the same heart for God.

The Gracias Choir let us experience the praises we were once unable to hear: the joy-filled echoes of the saints and servants that God has touched in the past.

About us



The History

- Aug. 2001** Kenya Nairobi City Hall, Ghana National Theater
- Apr. 2002** Cine Teatro Gran Rivadavia, Argentina
- Aug. 2003** Ebell Theater, LA
- Jan. 2005** Christmas Cantata at the Sydney Town Hall, Australia
- Jul. 2005** Seoul City Hall Plaza, Korea
- Jan. 2006** World Music Concert at Waikiki Shell, Hawaii
- Jul. 2006** Artist Concert at Seoul Arts Center, Korea
- Nov. 2006-8** Bible Crusade at Madison Square Garden, New York
- Jun. 2004-8** IYF World Camp Opening Ceremony at Seoul Olympic Gymnastics Stadium, Korea
- Dec. 2007** Les Petits Chanteurs a la croix de bois performance with Gracias Choir at Sejong Center, Korea
- Jan. 2008** Christmas Cantata at Sydney Opera House, Australia
- Aug. 2008** World Peace Festival at Moi Stadium, Kenya
- Feb. 2009** Christmas Cantata at Teatro del Banco Central, Paraguay
- Apr. 2009** Christmas Cantata at Manhattan Center Studios Hammerste in Ballroom, New York
- Jul. 2009** 200th Anniversary of the Death of Joseph Haydn, Haydn Hall, Austria
- Jul. 2009** Grand Prize winner of the Jeju International Choir Festival
- Jan. 2010** Christmas Cantata at Asia World-Expo, Hong Kong
- Feb. 2010** Christmas Cantata at Paraguayan Presidential Palace, Palacio de López
- Apr. 2010** Bible Crusade at Manhattan Center, New York / Civic Center, Atlanta / Roosevelt Hotel, Atlanta



About us



May. - Sep. 2010 IYF World Camp in Philippines, Russia, Cambodia, Mongolia, and South Korea, Los Angeles, Jamaica

Jul. 2010 IYF Artist Concert in South Korea

Aug. - Sep. 2010 Christmas Cantata in Africa: Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroun, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Malawi

Sep. 2010 Christmas Cantata at UCLA Royce Hall, Los Angeles

Oct. 2010 Bible Crusade at Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims, New York

Nov. 2010 Busan International Choral Festival Award

Nov. 2010 Joint performance with Bassiona Amorosa International Double Bass Ensemble





ABOUT CHIEF CONDUCTOR BORIS ABALYAN



Boris Abalyan is an innovator in choral music, a well-respected educator, and one of the most famous conductors working in Russia today.

Born in 1947, Abalyan pursued a career in music from a very early age, eventually graduating from the Glinka School of Music and the Rimsky-Korsakov St. Petersburg Conservatory with a Master of Fine Arts degree in choral conducting.

In 1987, he founded the Lege Artis Chamber Choir, a professional choir group that went on to win five major international competitions. His success with Lege Artis is also evident in countless featured performances worldwide, 19 internationally distributed CD recordings, five with Sony Classical, conductorship as well as jury membership in prestigious choir competitions, and work broadcasted on several radio stations, including National Public Radio.

Boris Abalyan is also the recipient of several national awards, including the coveted Honored Artist of Russia award, a national honor that is distributed to only a select few each year. Abalyan has truly established himself as a cultural asset to Russia through his heavily decorated career.

In 2007, Abalyan was named chief conductor of the Gracias Choir, helping them further rise to international acclaim. Under the guidance of Abalyan, Gracias Choir recently won their first international choir competition.

Boris Abalyan currently teaches choral conducting at the St. Petersburg Conservatory and Rimsky-Korsakov College in Music, both in St. Petersburg, Russia, along with splitting time between conducting for his two choirs in Russia and Korea.



Noteworthy Accomplishments

- Master of Fine Arts in Choral Conducting, St. Petersburg Conservatory
- Choral Conducting professor at the St. Petersburg Conservatory
- Founder and Head Conductor of the Lege Artis Chamber Choir
- Chief Conductor of the Gracias Choir
- 6 First Prizes in international choir competitions with Lege Artis and Gracias Choir
- 19 professionally recorded music albums, 5 released with Sony Classical
- Honored Artist of Russia
- Deserved Artist of the RSFSR
- Recipient of the Russian Federation Certificate of Medals for the 300th Anniversary of St. Petersburg





GRACIAS CHOIR MUSIC ARTIST



Boris Abalyan / Conductor

- Chief Conductor of Gracias Choir Germany
- Founded the LEGE ARTIS Chamber Choir
- Awarded Special Conducting Prize at the Choral Competition in Marktoberdorf, Germany
- Founded the LEGE ARTIS Chamber Choir
- Professor of Choral Conducting at St. Petersburg Conservatory



Igor Victorovich Lebedev / Pianist

- Dean of the Piano Department of St. Petersburg Conservatory
- Winner of Citta di Senigallia, Italy
- Winner of Louisiana Internation Piano Competition, USA
- Winner of Serebriakov International Piano Competition, Russia



Anatoly Kiselev / Baritone

- Head of the Department of Methods of Instrument, Vocal Performing Skills and Pedagogical Praticce
- Professor in Voice Direction at Rimsky-Korsakov St. Petersburg State Conservatory



Larisa Tedtoeva / Mezzo Soprano

- Current voice and opera professor at St. Petersburg Conservatory
- Leading soloist of the St. Petersburg Opera and Ballet Theatre
- Honored Artist of Russia



Galina Kisseleva / Soprano

- Professor of Solo Singing at St. Petersburg Conservatory
- Soloist of Mariinsky Theatre of Opera and Ballet
- Prizewinner of Wagnerian Voice Competition
- Honored Master of Art of Russia



Veronika Dzhioeva / Soprano

- Current soloist for the Novosibirsk National Opera and Ballet Theatre
- 3rd Prize winner of the Maria Calla Concourse
- 1st Prize winner of the World Vision Concourse
- 1st Prize winner of the Whole Russia Vocal Concourse
- A Cultural Asset of St. Petersburg
- Grand Prize recipient of the Amber Nightingale Universal Vocal Concourse



Victor Khussu / Oboist

- Soloist of Mariinsky Theatre of Opera and Ballet
- Soloist of Mariinsky's Big Symphonic Orchestra



Vladimir Kashalaba / Clarinetist

- Currently instructs clarinet at St. Petersburg National Conservatory
- Recipient of the concertmaster diploma from the Whole Russian Concourse
- Recipient of the concertmaster diploma at the Geneva Universal Concourse
- Recipient of the concertmaster diploma at the Poland Universal Concourse



Izabella Krasnova / Pianist

- Concertmaster Diplomas from All-Russian
- Competition, Geneva International Music
- Competition, Poland International Competition



Dmitry Eremin / Cellist

- Daniel Shafran Prizewinner of International Tchaikovsky Competition
- Special Prizewinner of Caltanissetta Chamber Music Competition
- Completion of Moscow Conservatory Graduate Program
- First Prizewinner of M. Yudina International Competition
- Professor of Cello at St. Petersburg Conservatory
- Lead Soloist of St. Petersburg Cello Ensemble



Hugo Ticciati / Violinist

- Prizewinner of international competitions Giovani Talenti in Italy
- Mendelssohn Cup in Italy
- Founder and leader of Schrabiati String Quartet
- Associate Professor of violin and improvisation and music history at the specialist music school in Stockholm, Lilla Akademien




Margrit Zimmermann / Pianist

- Completion of Special Music Academy in Novomoskowsk
- Prizewinner of Roma-97 International Piano Competition, Johannes
- Brahms International Piano Competition



GRACIAS CHOIR CHRISTMAS CANTATA

www.graciaschoir.com




CHRISTMAS CANTATA

For Unto You, Is Born This Day a Savior

In New Orleans

Join us for this once-in-a-lifetime Christmas experience with the Gracias Choir as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Through time-honored Christmas music masterpieces, the Gracias Choir will paint a portrait of God's eternal love.



Oct. 4th at 7PM
UNO Lakefront Arena
6801 Franklin Ave. New Orleans, LA 70122
Tel: 504.432.6000
Free Admission

Introducing the 2012 Christmas Cantata

Though notes may sound the same, Gracias music lives through, for each and every member of the choir has been saved and dwells in Jesus Christ. When they sing the birth of Christ in cantata, every song they sing is graceful. People who became distant from God through sin sought God and God called out to them without rest. Inside the Gracias Choir's Christmas Cantata, We can meet Jesus who came to save us from sin as Jesus lives through their beautiful melody. I hope every one of you who come to the Cantata will meet Jesus and experience the blessed Christmas.

What to Expect From the Cantata

Gracias Choir's Christmas Cantata is a musical event designed to take you to a place far away from the hectic maze of daily life. Time and time again, with pure, beautiful harmony wrapped in a Christmas gift, the Cantata has given its audiences the opportunity to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ in grand fashion.

The 2012 Christmas Cantata is upon us and will be presented in four spectacular stages: Promise, Birth, Happiness, and Glory. Each portion of the show will contain familiar, nostalgic Christmas songs and majestic musical pieces that depict the emotion of baby Jesus in his lowly manger. You will experience the heavenly voices of the choir of angels as they rejoice in their King entering the world for the sake of mankind. Even the light of the North Star against the dark expanse of the sky, the beacon that guided the wise men to where Jesus lay; the Cantata will bring all these scenes to life. Gracias Choir hopes to take you on a journey to a place 2000 years ago, to that one silent, holy, and joyous night.