

CAPPELLA ROMANA

35TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON



CHANT ENCOUNTERS

2026–27 SEASON / SEATTLE + PORTLAND / CAPPELLAROMANA.ORG



I love this music, and I know you do too. Cappella Romana's 35th Anniversary season invites you into Chant Encounters: Byzantine, Latin, and Slavic—ancient with modern: “a sound world of unique beauty” (*Gramophone*).

Following Alexander Lingas becoming Music Director Emeritus this past spring, John Michael Boyer will lead this season as Interim Music Director. Welcome John! We look forward to announcing our new Music Director soon following an international search.

John will lead five concerts in the season, opening with Rachmaninoff's stunning *All-Night Vigil* in October. He'll continue directing music for St. Nicholas, the Feast of Epiphany, by the earliest female composer Kassia, and thrilling music for Pentecost. And we are pleased to invite The Tudor Choir as a guest ensemble this season.

SPECIAL DISCOUNTS THIS YEAR

Season subscribers receive a special early discount on tickets, saving 15% if you order five or six concerts, and 10% if you order three or four. You'll also receive first notice for special events.

PLUS FREE TICKETS TO SHARE

Subscribers receive one free ticket on request for every three concerts in your season package. It's the perfect way to introduce Cappella Romana to friends and family!

It's time to secure your season tickets to have your own Chant Encounters! See you soon!

Mark Powell
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cover image courtesy Cappella Romana;
cover chant image: Обиходъ церковнаго
пѣнія (Obikhod tserkovnago peniia), 53 (detail).
Images this page courtesy Cappella Romana.

Welcome to Cappella Romana's 35th Anniversary Season



For 35 years, Cappella Romana has sung the ancient chant traditions of the Christian East and West—from Byzantine and Old Roman melodies to the Znamenny and Kievan repertoires of the Slavic world. Our choral programs have always responded to these same foundational melodies, letting lush harmonies and sublime complexity grow organically from their roots. Our 35th Anniversary Season, *CHANT ENCOUNTERS*, is a celebration of that ever-present source of inspiration.

We open with Rachmaninoff's incomparable *All-Night Vigil*, where you'll hear as well the Znamenny, Kievan, and Greek chant melodies that sustain it—a window into the deep roots beneath one of the choral repertoire's crowning achievements. In December, we gather around the feast of Saint Nicholas honoring the beloved bishop with music from both Greek and Latin traditions. We'll present Dufay's celebrated motet *O gemma lux*—with a chant melody at its heart—and Arvo Pärt's intense English setting of the Orthodox hymn for the saint. January brings medieval chant from Old Rome and New Rome (Constantinople) in celebration of Epiphany. In February you'll hear music by St. Kassia, the ninth-century Byzantine nun who stands as the earliest female composer from whom we have music. And we close the season with an ecstatic Pentecostal concert from the Greek and Slavic traditions, including a stunning chant that evokes speaking in tongues, Byzantine style.

We're also delighted to welcome back The Tudor Choir as a guest in our series, with an extraordinary program of Renaissance favorites anchored by John Sheppard's deeply moving motet *Libera nos*—itself grounded in Sarum Chant.

We can't wait to bring you on this journey with us. Where will the melodies take you? What will be YOUR Chant Encounters? Join us and find out.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "John Michael Boyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Michael Boyer
INTERIM MUSIC DIRECTOR



A revelatory program ... transcendent.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

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Image courtesy Cappella
Romana; chant image:
Обиход церковного п'янія
(Obikhod tserkovnogo
peniia), 53 (detail).

OCTOBER 16, 17



Rachmaninoff's **ALL-NIGHT VIGIL**

John Michael Boyer
CONDUCTOR



Composed in 1915, Sergei Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil* stands as one of the most beautiful choral masterworks ever written—a luminous bridge between ancient Slavic spiritual traditions and late-Romantic expression, with bass notes so low they challenge the limits of the human voice.

Drawing deeply from ancient Russian Orthodox chants, Rachmaninoff weaves the timeless melodies of Russian plainsong into works of transcendent beauty. Cappella Romana presents the Vigil as intended, with unadorned Russian chants filling out the Vigil—palette cleansers between Rachmaninoff's sumptuous courses.

This is music that transforms—an outpouring of profound emotional and spiritual vision that finds beauty in darkness. This performance won't last all night, but you'll wish it did.

THE SAINT MARK'S
MUSIC
SERIES
2025 - 2026

SEATTLE
Friday, October 16
7:30pm

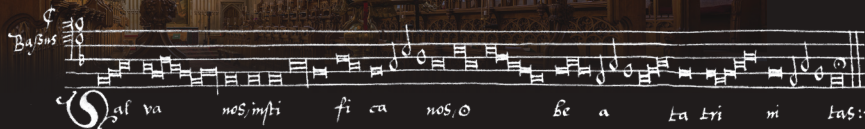
St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral
Seattle

PORTLAND
Saturday, October 17
2:00pm

St. Mary's Cathedral
NW Portland

NOVEMBER 13, 14

Special Guest Concert



These Stones Remain:
Sacred Masterworks of Tudor England

THE TUDOR CHOIR

Doug Fullington

FOUNDER & DIRECTOR



Tudor England (c1485–1603) was deeply unstable—yet monuments of its Latin sacred music survived, including the Sarum rite chant used before the Reformation. This chant formed the basis of devotional works by Taverner, Sheppard, Fayrfax, and Tye. It appears directly in several pieces on this program—among them Sheppard's deeply moving *Libera nos*, whose chant melody is shown here. This music is inseparable too from the stone abbeys

and cathedrals it was made to fill. *These Stones Remain* restores these masterworks to their spiritual home, performed by the Northwest's own Tudor Choir.

Chant image from *The Baldwin Partbooks*,
GB-Och Mus 983 (16th c.), 270 (detail, adapted);
Doug Fullington by Noble Guyon; Magdalen
College Chapel Interior,
photo by David Iliff, CC 3.0

SEATTLE
Friday, November 13
7:30pm

Holy Rosary Catholic Church
West Seattle

PORTLAND
Saturday, November 14
2:00pm

St. Mary's Cathedral
NW Portland



DECEMBER 4, 5

Saint Nicholas in the East and West

OLD SAINT NICK

John Michael Boyer

CONDUCTOR

Long before gift-giving and reindeer, there was St. Nicholas of Myra—the 4th-century bishop whose deep compassion made him one of Christianity's most beloved saints. Patron of children, sailors, the wrongly accused, and countless others, the real St. Nicholas is celebrated throughout the world, East and West. From the medieval West, we'll sing the remarkable isometric motet *O Gemma lux* by Guillaume Dufay, shown here. From the Byzantine tradition an exquisite Kalophonic ("beautiful sounding") chant for his feast day by Manuel Chrysaphes (15th c.).

We finish with Arvo Pärt's "O Holy Saint Nicholas," featured on Cappella Romana's acclaimed recording *Odes of Repentance*, a contemporary meditation that bridges ancient tradition and modern spirituality.

Chant image: *O Gemma lux*,
Cantus 1, Oxford MS Canon Misc
213 (15th c.), fol. 130v (detail)

SEATTLE
Friday, December 4
7:30pm

Holy Rosary Catholic Church
West Seattle

PORTLAND
Saturday, December 5
2:00pm

St. Mary's Cathedral
NW Portland

CAPELLAROMANA.ORG

JANUARY 22, 23

Mystical Chant from Old and New Rome

EPIPHANY

John Michael Boyer

CONDUCTOR

Reprising Cappella Romana's first all-chant concert in 2001, *Epiphany* features an ecstatic repertoire of Old Roman and medieval Byzantine chant.

Celebrated across the Roman Empire on January 6th, Epiphany honored both Christ's nativity and baptism. New Rome (Constantinople) focused on his baptism in the Jordan (Theophany) while Old Rome embraced the adoration of the Magi, expanding Christmas to twelve days.

The Latin half features Old Roman Chant, an enigmatic repertoire cultivated in Rome's urban churches before being suppressed in the 13th century. You'll hear chants from the 11th-century St. Cecilia Graduale—the oldest Western source from which Cappella Romana has ever sung, including the joyous introit *Ecce advenit*, pictured here.

The Byzantine selections span centuries, from 8th-century Palestinian hymns to virtuoso compositions by Constantinopolitan and Athonite composers.

Old and New Rome: two eternal Cities,
one eternal Epiphany.



SEATTLE
Friday, January 22
7:30pm

St. James Cathedral
Seattle

PORTLAND
Saturday, January 23
2:00pm

St. Mary's Cathedral
NW Portland



MARCH 5, 6

Music for Lent by the World's Earliest Female Composer

KASSIA

John Michael Boyer

CONDUCTOR

Born in ninth-century Constantinople, Kassia the Nun was a precocious scholar, defender of icons, abbess, poet, and composer. She stands as the preeminent woman hymnographer of the Byzantine tradition. Her hymns—composed three centuries before Hildegard—still resound in Orthodox worship today, her voice especially echoing through Lent and Holy Week.

Her most famous work, known popularly as “The Hymn of Kassianí,” is a hauntingly beautiful lament of the anonymous woman who anointed Jesus's feet before his crucifixion. Startlingly direct and deeply emotional, it has inspired countless settings over the centuries, which can last over four times the length of the medieval melody!

Her odes for Holy Saturday extol Christ's descent into hell and liberation of captive souls; these hymns were later suppressed in favor of texts by male poets, restored here by Cappella Romana.

Discover Kassia's medieval melodies as she herself sang them—before centuries of tradition shaped them into the versions Orthodox faithful know today.



Image courtesy Cappella Romana;
chant image: *The Gradual of Santa
Cecilia in Trastevere*, (1071 AD)
Codex Bodmer 74, 18r (detail)

SEATTLE
Friday, March 5
7:30pm

St. Demetrios
Greek Orthodox Church
Montlake, Seattle

PORTLAND
Saturday, March 6
2:00pm

St. Mary's Cathedral
NW Portland

CAPPELLAROMANA.ORG

MAY 14, 15

Music for Orthodox Pentecost

TONGUES OF FIRE

John Michael Boyer

CONDUCTOR

Fifty days after the Resurrection, the promised Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, descended upon the Apostles in tongues of fire—transforming frightened disciples into fearless witnesses. Orthodox Christianity has celebrated this cosmic moment with some of its most magnificent music, from ancient Byzantine chant to contemporary works from across the Orthodox world.

Central to our celebration is the ecstatic *Teleutaion* (Final Antiphon) of the Kneeling Vespers from Cappella Romana's acclaimed recording *Byzantium in Rome*. This monumental 13th-century chant from Grottaferrata Abbey near Rome features extended psalmody on Psalm 18 and exuberant settings of "Alleluia," capturing the wonder of that first Pentecost—"speaking in tongues," Byzantine style.

Chant image: Cherubic Hymn by Manuel Chrysaphes (15th c.), EBE MS 2401, 277v-278r; back cover image courtesy Cappella Romana

SEATTLE

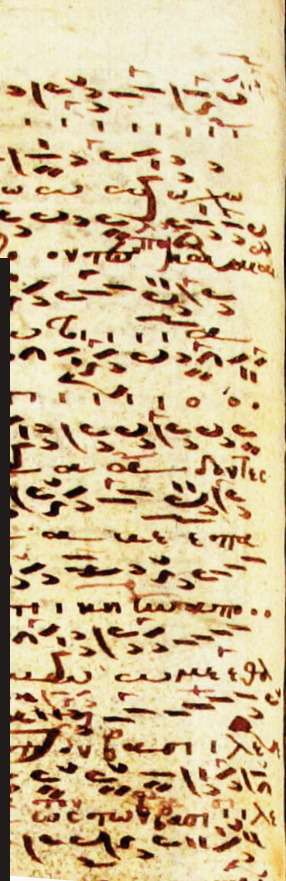
Friday, May 14
7:30pm

St. Demetrios
Greek Orthodox Church
Montlake, Seattle

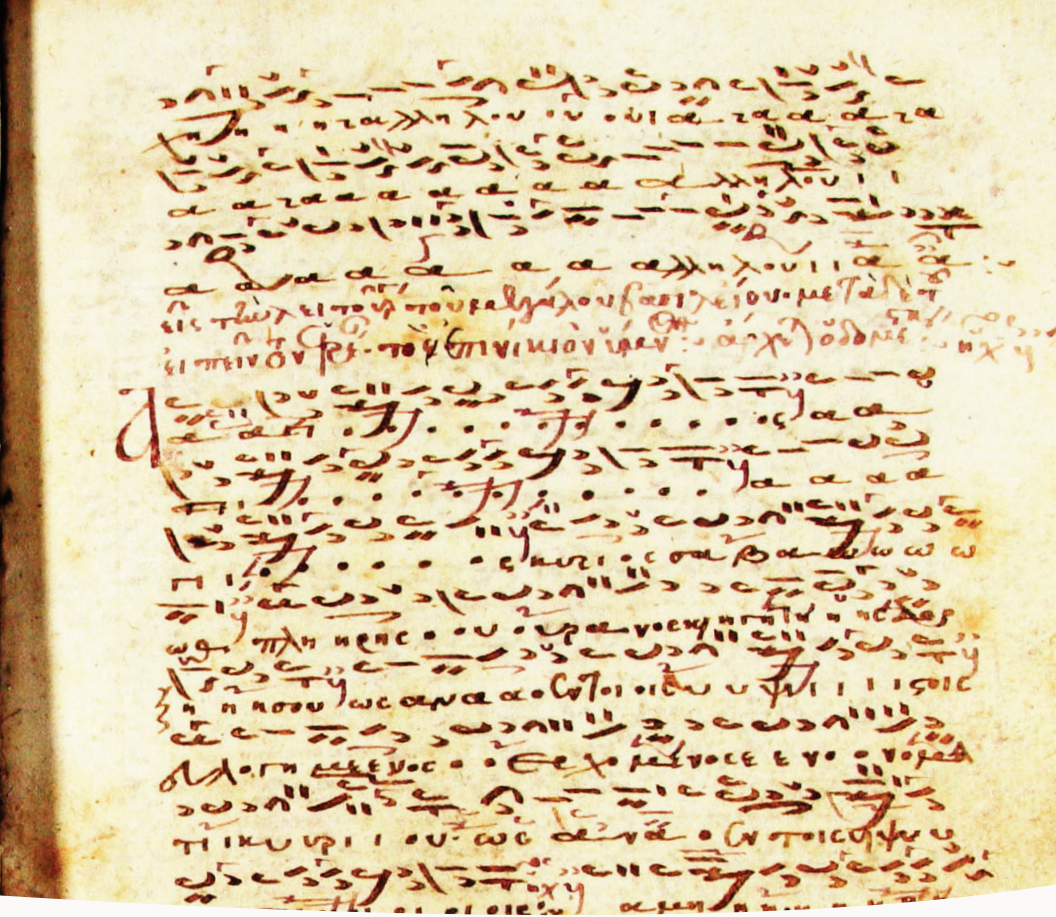
PORTLAND

Saturday, May 15
2:00pm

St. Mary's Cathedral
NW Portland



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 - + 10% off for 3 or 4 concerts
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- + Full ticket exchanges between concerts by request
- + FREE tickets to invite friends and family
 - + All subscribers receive one free ticket on request for every three tickets in your season package
 - + 10% off any additional tickets you wish to purchase
- + First access to private events
- + Invitations to behind-the-scenes events and rehearsals
- + 20% off all recordings (including downloads) at cappellarecords.com
- + Personalized service: call us during business hours at (503) 236-8202 for assistance

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SEASON 35

At-a-glance

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