

Special Topics in Liturgics
From Cradle to Grave with the Choir Director: Baptism – Wedding – Funeral

July 17-22, 2017

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Schedule: 5 sessions of 50 minutes each (see <http://sslm.hts.edu/cep-schedule/> for details)

Description:

We look at the role of liturgical music and the choir director in the principal stages of Christian life: entrance into the church, marriage, and repose. We begin with the rites of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Chrismation, and the first Eucharist), then move on to the rites of Marriage (Betrothal and Crowning). Finally, we turn to the services and rites associated with Christian repose and burial: the Canons before and after the parting of the soul, the practice of reading the Psalter, various funeral rites, and the rites for commemoration of the departed. For each of the rites, we study its structure, theological interpretation, and musical content. Traditional musical examples will be provided from the *Precentor's Companion* (*Sputnik Psalomschika*) and other sources.

Format and Organization:

This is a seminar-style course with assigned reading materials. Students will need to read the material ahead of time and be prepared for discussion. The course is taught in English. Reading material is available in English or Russian. A basic knowledge of Church Slavonic and ability to read square notation would be helpful, though not required.

Main Texts:

1. The *Great Book of Needs* (vols. 1 and 3) (Большой Требник), available on site.
2. St. Athanasius (Sakharov), Bishop of Kovrov, *On the Commemoration of the Departed according to the Church Typicon* (Афанасий (Сахаров), сщсн., О поминовении усопших по уставу Православной Церкви)

Other Recommended Texts:

3. Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, *Of Water and the Spirit: A Liturgical Study of Baptism*
4. Fr. John Meyendorff, *Marriage: An Orthodox Perspective*
5. Archbishop Job (Getcha), *The Typikon Decoded* (or a similar manual in Liturgics)

Outline of Topics:

1. Lesson 1: The Rites of Initiation – a brief look at their structure, interpretation, and musical setting.
2. Lesson 2: The Marriage Rites – their structure and theological meaning, their musical elements.
3. Lesson 3: Canons before and after the Repose; the reading of the Psalter for the Departed
4. Lesson 4: The Funeral Rite – its origin, theological meaning, and musical interpretation
5. Lesson 5: Special services for the Commemoration of the Departed: typical Pannychida, Pannychida for children, memorial services for non-Orthodox, and other considerations

Grading: There are no grades or exams in CEP courses.

Registration:

Please register online at <http://sslm.hts.edu/register-for-continuing-education/>. Please contact the SSLM administration with any questions about registration, housing, and scheduling.