

Church choir in the religious education system of cadet corps of Russia: lessons from the past

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Cadet corps in the Imperial Russia was called boarding schools for noblemen from 10 to 17 years. They were established to prepare for military service. For a long time in the Russian Empire worked 31 cadet corps, the first of which was opened in 1732. According to the curriculum mid XIX century cadets was studied a twelve disciplines: God law, Russian language with Church Slavonic and Russian literature, French and German languages, Math and others. Music lessons - "singing" and "music" - was required, but had extracurricular status. Choral singing began with the first class, the church - the third. Each cadet corps had had a church choir, whose main task was to provide religious services in the corps during weekly church services, temple and twelve great feasts, activities of the Russian Imperial House. Lessons with the choir singers held not less two hours weekly, up to half an hour rehearsals before each service and one or two hours in addition before the holiday liturgy. Repertoire of cadet church choirs consisted of three parts: regular church chants (rus. "Obihod"), sacred and secular music. Obihod considered a priority in performance practice of pupils, but good known that no less attention was paid to the spiritual works by A.Arkhangel'sky, D. Bortniansky, A. Kastalsky, G. Lomakin. Secular music in the repertoire of church choirs was presented folk songs and choral excerpts from operas by M.Glinka, A. Dargomyzhsky, P. Tchaikovsky. Since the early 1990s began revival of the cadet corps in Russia, whose numbers have more than one hundred. Cadets learn the fundamentals of Orthodox culture, they visit temples, recite prayers. There is hope that church choirs will appear soon, which as before, will be an integral part of the musical and spiritual education of cadets.

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