

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

Svetlana Filaretova

Cherepovets School of Arts, Russia
filaretovas@mail.ru

Abstract. 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. Arkhangelsky, 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.

Περίληψη. Η εκπαίδευση των δοκίμων αξιωματικών στην Αυτοκρατορική Ρωσία γίνονταν σε οικοτροφεία. Δεκτοί γίνονταν ευγενείς ηλικίας 10 ως 17 ετών. Βασικό στόχο είχαν να προετοιμάσουν για τη στρατιωτική θητεία. Για μεγάλο χρονικό διάστημα στη Ρωσική Αυτοκρατορία λειτούργησαν 31 οικοτροφεία δοκίμων, το πρώτο από το οποίο άνοιξε το 1732. Σύμφωνα με το πρόγραμμα σπουδών του μέσου 19ο αιώνα, οι δοκιμοί διδάσκονταν δώδεκα αντικείμενα: θεολογία, ρωσική γλώσσα (στην εκκλησιαστική σλαβονική και την καθομιλούμενη), γαλλική και γερμανική γλώσσα, μαθηματικά κτλ. Τα μαθήματα μουσικής («τραγούδι» και «μουσική») ήταν απαραίτητα, αλλά θεωρούνταν εκτός προγράμματος. Το χορωδιακό τραγούδι ξεκινούσε στην πρώτη τάξη, και η ψαλτική στην τρίτη. Κάθε σώμα δοκίμων είχε μια εκκλησιαστική χορωδία, της οποίας κύριο καθήκον ήταν η συμμετοχή στις καθημερινές ακολουθίες, τις μεγάλες εορτές και τις εκδηλώσεις του Ρωσικού αυτοκρατορικού οίκου. Η εξάσκηση των χορωδών ήταν τουλάχιστον δύο ώρες την εβδομάδα, πλέον μισή ώρα πριν την κάθε ακολουθία και μία ή δύο ώρες επιπρόσθετα για τις ακολουθίες των μεγάλων εορτών. Το ρεπερτόριο των δοκίμων χορωδιών στην εκκλησία αποτελείτο από τρία μέρη: τακτική εκκλησιαστική ψαλμωδία (ρωσικά "Ομπιχόντ"), εκκλησιαστική και κοσμική μουσική. Η τακτική ψαλμωδία είχε προτεραιότητα στην καθημερινή πρακτική των μαθητών, αλλά είναι γνωστό ότι ανάλογη προσοχή δίνονταν στις θρησκευτικές συνθέσεις των Α. Arkhangelsky, D. Bortniansky, A. Kastalsky, G. Lomakin κ.α.. Στο ρεπερτόριο της κοσμικής μουσικής των χορωδιών περιλαμβάνονταν δημοτικά τραγούδια και χορωδιακά αποσπάσματα από όπερες των Μ. Glinka, Α. Dargomyzhsky, Ρ. Tchaikovsky κ.α. Από τις αρχές της δεκαετίας του 1990 άρχισε αναγέννηση των στρατιωτικών σχολών στη Ρωσία, των οποίων οι αριθμός έχει ήδη ξεπεράσει τις εκατό. Οι ευέλπιδες μαθαίνουν τις βασικές αρχές του Ορθόδοξου πολιτισμού, επισκέπτονται ναούς, διαβάζουν προσευχές. Υπάρχει η ελπίδα ότι θα εμφανιστούν σύντομα και εκκλησιαστικές χορωδίες, όπως και πριν, και θα αποτελέσουν αναπόσπαστο μέρος της μουσικής και της πνευματικής και αισθητικής εκπαίδευσης των δοκίμων.

In the Imperial Russia a cadet corps was called boarding schools for noblemen from 10 to 17 years old. They were established to prepare for military service. By 1917 in the Russian Empire worked 31 cadet corps (Moscow, Omsk, Orel, Orenburg, Pskov, Polotsk, Poltava, Voronezh, etc.), the first of which opened in 1732 in St. Petersburg.

According to the curriculum mid XIX century cadets studied a twelve disciplines: Law of the Lord, Russian language with Church Slavonic and Russian literature, French and German languages, Math and others. Music classes were also required, but had an extracurricular status. Choral lessons began from first class, church lessons - from third.

Most pupils were Orthodox. At that time a "nationality" wasn't used, very often instead of this wrote a "creed" [1]. In the minority were trained a Roman Catholic or Lutheran pupils. According to 1866 in the Second Moscow military gymnasium [2] were trained 339 people, part of them were Catholics (8), Lutherans (6), Armenians (6), Mahometans (5) [3].

All cadets went to regular church services to confession and holy communion, kept the fasts, wore the Cross, read prayers. We can be found numerous examples in the cadet's memoirs of different years. Thus, a graduate of the Orenburg Neplyuev corps V. Dogadin wrote: "... evenings we were moving to the church, where we stood a vigil for more than an hour, from beginning to end"[4].

Some of prayers – "Glory to Thee, our God", "Heavenly King", "Holy God", "Most Holy Trinity", "Our Father", "Theotokos and Virgin", "It is truly meet to bless Thee", "To Thee, o Master, Lover of Mankind" (morning), "O Lord our God" (evening), "Angel of God", "Save, o Lord, Thy people", prayers before learning and after learning, before dinner and after dinner – were checked at the entrance examinations [5]. Prayers were performed throughout the day: before the first lesson and after the last, before and after meals, after a morning inspection and before bedtime.

Usually morning prayers were held in the following way. After greeting and inspection in the recreation hall duty educator commanded: "to prayer!". All pupils sang "Our Father" and after that they walked into the dining room, where all pupils sang "On Thee, O Lord, we trust", and after prayer they started eating [6]. After breakfast they sang a prayer of thanksgiving again and went to classes [7]. Before start lessons duty cadet was reading the Gospel [8].

All pupils have studied Law of the Lord, namely, the sacred history of the Old and New Testament, doctrine of Worship, Orthodox Catechesis and history of the universal church [9]. It was significant to note that this discipline taught in schools of the Military Ministry, Education Ministry and the Holy Synod. Curriculum on the Law of the Lord was identical to all other secondary educational institutions - real schools, the Women's Institute, gymnasiums.

Law of the Lord taught Orthodox, Armenian-Gregorian, Roman-Catholic, Lutheran and Mahometan teachers. Orthodox cadets studied subject under the direction of Masters of Theology, who graduated one of the theological academies in Moscow, St. Petersburg or Kiev. The fondest speech about priests we can found in graduate's memoirs. So, a Russian writer K.M. Staniukovich wrote about marine cadets who respected a confessor. He was answering to them in return, was tolerable and not very demanding [10]. Confessor of the Sumy corps was loved by all pupils for his kindness, faith, sincerity and dedication of work. According to cadets "even such a dry subject as Catechesis quickly digested" [11].

Each Russian corps had a temple and shrines. All cadets or separate class read prayers near the big icons on full wall. For example, the Don cadet corps had got icons of the Intercession of the Theotokos, the Theotokos icon of Kazan and the Great Martyr Saint George the Victorious [12]. Before each of them was hanging icon lamp which the duty cadet light on and light off. In addition, each cadet had a small icon, which was attached at the head of the bed. All staff went to the cadet temple, parishioners and members of the officers' families came on weekends and holidays.

Each cadet corps had a choir which consists of pupils. Cadets who had a "beautiful and sonorous voice as well as outstanding musical talent" were enlisted [13]. All choristers were divided into two groups (for singing in turn) and third as additional or reserving - for replace the main members of the choir. It is known that the average provincial cadet choir was consisted of 30-40 people. Every third pupil sang in the church choir of the First Petersburg military gymnasium. Moreover, in this school were approved rules for choir singers. Thus, to talk and laugh in the class was forbidden as well as to

drink cold water after lessons. The teacher had two assistants and one or two attendants, who delivered printed music and took them away from church to class if necessary [14].

The main purpose of the cadet choir was participation in the church services. Besides weekly church services, choristers participated in the church holiday and twelve feasts, as well in the events of the Russian Imperial House [15]. Lessons with singers held no less two hours weekly, up to half an hour on rehearsals before each service and one or two hours before holiday liturgy in addition. Irmoses, liturgy, requiem, morning and evening hours, troparions and stikheres sang on the lessons [16].

Repertoire of cadet choirs consisted of three parts: church chants, sacred and secular music. The church chants were considered a priority in performing practice; also no less attention was paid to the spiritual works by Russian composers A. Archangelsky, D. Bortnyansky, A. Castalsky, G. Lomakin. Secular music was presented a folk songs and choral fragments from operas by M. Glinka, A. Dargomizhsky, P. Tchaikovsky, A. Serov, E. Napravnik, A. Rubinshtein. It's known that performance of opera fragments was a quite popular in the late XIXth century. Choristers received free tickets to the theater, printed music, additional improve nutrition as incentives. Undoubtedly, cadet interest to musical lessons stimulated a developed system of incentives.

Since the early 1990s in Russia began revival of the cadet corps, whose numbers have more than a hundred. Modern cadets are learning fundamentals of Orthodox culture; they visit temples, recite prayers. There is hope that church choirs will appear soon, as before, will be an integral part of the musical and religious education of cadets.

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Svetlana Filaretov. *PhD, Musicologist, Researcher, author of several publications about music education in the Cadet Corps of Imperial Russia.*