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COMMISSION OF *DIVINE LITURGY* FROM KURT SANDER

PaTRAM Institute is pleased to announce the commission of a new *Divine Liturgy* from American Orthodox composer Kurt Sander. The work is set for completion in 2017 and will be premiered in the context of a Divine Liturgy celebrated at St. Alexander Nevsky Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Howell, NJ.

Metropolitan HILARION, FIRST HIERARCH of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, will preside at the premiere. His Blessedness states: “May the Blessing of the Lord be upon all those who are seeking to adorn the liturgical life of the Church with this important commission!” **Alexis V. Lukianov**, Co-founder and Chairman of PaTRAM Institute added: “The commission is part of a broader initiative to bring newly composed choral compositions into divine worship. We are fortunate to see so many of our talented musicians coming together in Service to the Church!”

Kurt Sander is an American Orthodox composer who has been actively contributing new music for Orthodox divine worship for the past 25 years.

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Sanders states: "The opportunity to treat the setting of the Divine Liturgy as an artistic whole brings simultaneous feelings of exhilaration and trepidation. Nothing is more sublime than the sacrifice of the liturgical act, and hence nothing demands greater circumspection from a composer." Sander holds a Doctoral Degree in Music from Northwestern University and is a Professor of Theory and Composition at the Music Department at Northern Kentucky University. He is Choir Director at St. George Russian Orthodox Church in Loveland, Ohio. He is an internationally-recognized, award-winning composer who is widely published and performed in the US and abroad. For more information, please visit his website: <http://sande91.wix.com/kurtsander2>

The premiere will be conducted by **Dr. Peter Jermihov**: "It has been one of the great pleasures of my musical life to collaborate with Kurt Sander on distinctive events of merit in the past, and I am thrilled and honored to serve as conductor of this supremely important event!" Jermihov, a tonsured Reader of the Russian Orthodox Church and student of master-teacher of conducting Ilya Musin, is a strong advocate of new music and Founder and Artistic Director of the Society of St. Romanos based in Chicago. He will lead the premiere with members of the St. Patriarch Tikhon Choir and outstanding Orthodox singers from across America. For more information, please visit his website: <http://peterjermihov.com/>

ABOUT

The foundational purpose of PaTRAM is to promote prayerful and professionally executed Russian Orthodox church-singing in North America in both English and Church Slavonic. PaTRAM seeks to establish for Orthodox conductors a process and infrastructure to instruct and influence the dynamic beauty of Eastern Orthodox conducting and singing in America and Canada. For a full description of PaTRAM mission, events, and activities, please visit: <https://patraminstitute.org/>