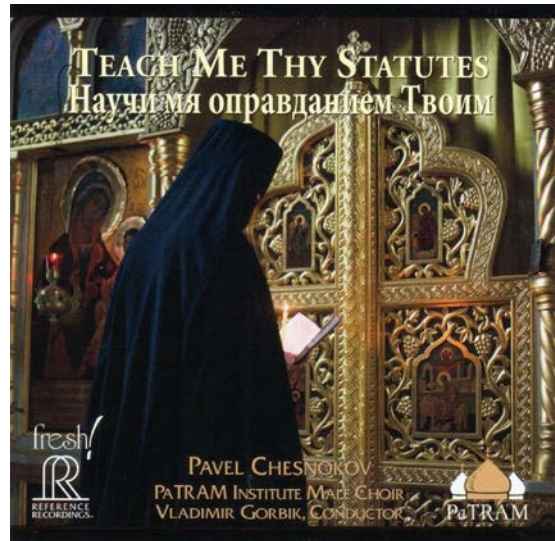


The Kansas City Star

These CDs will carry  
classical music lovers  
through the summer

**BY PATRICK NEAS**  
*Special to The Star*



**Pavel Chesnokov:  
‘Teach Me Thy Statutes’  
Vladimir Gorbik conducts the PATRAM Institute  
Male Choir (Reference Recordings)**

In the past decade or so, choral music lovers in the West have been discovering the riches of the Russian Orthodox tradition. Rachmaninoff’s Vespers have always been beloved by audiences and performers, but in recent years musical horizons have been expanded with recordings of Alexander Grechaninov, Mikhail Ippolitov-Ivanov, Georgy Sviridov and now Pavel Chesnokov.

[The PATRAM Institute Male Choir](#) conducted by Vladimir Gorbik has just released a recording of Chesnokov’s music, and it’s breathtaking. Chesnokov was born in a small Russian village 1877, but his musical genius led him to Moscow, where he graduated from the Moscow Synodal School of church singing with a gold medal. He went on to conduct church choirs around Moscow and lead summer music courses

in St. Petersburg, all while composing his unique and mystical music.

He continued to compose and conduct after the Bolsheviks seized power in 1917 until church music was finally banned in 1928. He died of a heart attack and malnutrition in war-torn Moscow in 1944 while he was standing in a bread line.

Many thanks to Reference Recordings (the Kansas City Symphony's record label) for bringing this unearthly beautiful music out of obscurity for the world to enjoy. It's a Super Audio hybrid recording, so if you have a Super Audio player, you will really be blown away by the power and profundity of this impressive disc recorded in churches at the Saratov Orthodox Theological Seminary in Russia.