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CLASSICS

PRAYERS FOR MANKIND

A Symphony of Prayers of
Father Alexander Men

ALEXANDER LEVINE

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TENEBRAE

NIGEL SHORT



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A SYMPHONY OF PRAYERS OF FATHER ALEXANDER MEN
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TENEBRAE
NIGEL SHORT DIRECTOR

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PRAYERS FOR MANKIND A NOTE BY ALEXANDER LEVINE

The religious consciousness of Father Alexander Men straddles in his prayers two poles of world history, embracing simultaneously, as it were, two epochs – that of the Gospel and that of the present day. The Gospel events – in particular their dynamism, wherein the mighty, creative power of Christ and the purity of heart of His disciples goes hand in hand with human pride and a host of human vices – were an inexhaustible source of reflection for Father Alexander throughout his entire earthly service. Christianity for him did not lie in the realm of historical contemplation, but was topical and active, inasmuch as the active power of Christ was at the same time the source and the content of his world-view. “Christianity is not a new system of ethics, but a new life which leads Man into direct contact with God.” (A.M.). At the centre of this life stands Christ, who through His love and all-forgiveness, embraces the old world and proclaims the New Testament which is filled with sacrificial love for one’s neighbour. For Father Alexander Men, Christ’s earthly life is, as it were, the actualisation of the theanthropic incarnation. On the one hand, Jesus reveals His Glory and works miracles by virtue of His possessing the entire fullness of

being. On the other hand, Christ, as a human being and as a Teacher, accomplishes His earthly path in prayer and fasting – this purifying power that is capable of elevating the spirit of every human being to the heights of creativity.

Father Alexander Men’s prayers should not be perceived as a commentary or a complement to the Orthodox canon. The creation of the prayers itself is the fruit of spiritual reflection over a period of decades of pastoral service, of encounters and talks with many thousands of people, both believers and atheists. These prayers are indissolubly linked to the personality of the priest himself and without doubt are one of the gems in the spiritual treasury of Mankind. They are a living communion with God and are filled with purity and strength which come from Christ. The prayers are permeated with the light of the Gospel, where human spiritual and physical weakness always find compassion and support, where every desire to come closer to Christ as the Source of life is counted as an act of spiritual endeavour and is rewarded with healing. That is why the life-creating love of Christ – the love for each person and the compassion for human weakness – occupies a special place in the prayers. Contemporary in their language and in the problems they give voice to, Father Alexander

Men's prayers express in essence the expectations of every human being living on Earth. The thirst for revelation, which is characteristic of Man of the time of the Gospels, exists inalienably, as Alexander Men is convinced, within the whole context of history, and revelation is just as much the "daily bread" for present-day Man as well. This process, in his opinion, is ongoing and its vector is directed towards infinity. The synthesis of these two epochs – that of the Gospel and that of the present day – is the result of the spiritual quest of the priest, which goes beyond the framework of a confession or a religion taken separately.

Raised in Orthodoxy and loving the Orthodox faith, and serving Christ to his last breath, Father Alexander Men always believed that loving Christ meant loving all people. And this meant loving the whole world in all its cultural and religious manifoldness: "Just as the colour white absorbs the spectrum, thus does the Gospel embrace the faith of the Prophets, the Buddhist thirst for salvation, the dynamism of Zoroaster and the humanity of Confucius. It sanctifies all that is best in the ethics of the ancient philosophers and in the mysticism of the Hindu wise men." – Epilogue of Vol. VI of the series "In Search of the Way, the Truth and the Life".

1st Movement

Man, embarking on a new day, and turning to the Lord, unites himself in this prayer with the world, and in return endows it with the contents of his consciousness. This prayer is filled with light, energy, hope and an unbounded trust in the Creator.

2nd Movement

The meaning of the *Prayer for Unity* consists in Man expressing his at-oneness with many by expressing his at-oneness with God. By entering into his own depths, he opens himself up to God, and God opens up to him the world in its oneness and wholeness.

3rd Movement

The concept of humility is linked by Father Alexander Men directly to Christ, when Jesus, in His human hypostasis and at the moment of extreme spiritual strain, crying out to the Father renounces His own will: "Nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." (Luke 22:42). The fathoming of the will of the Creator, as a process, is the fundamental factor and condition – both in the creativity of the individual, and in all of world culture as a whole. For instance, the humility of Abraham, as a conscious acquiescence in the

will of Him Who Is, led to the emergence of the people of Israel and was at the same time both a creative act of Abraham himself, and an act of the divine will. By this means, humility, as submission to the supreme will, becomes an act of the theanthropic will, and thereby sanctifies any act of the personal will.

4th Movement

The specific nature of this prayer consists in its privacy. It is as if it were proceeding from the mouth and heart of the priest himself and is in essence a personal confession of faith. The prayer speaks of the two basic commandments of the Old Testament: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength"; and: "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." (Mark 12:30-31). At the same time, Father Alexander speaks clearly of the new commandment that Christ gave to His disciples: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." (John 13:34). Therein lies the grace-filled power of this prayer, the power of love which comes from the Primary Source, love as a gift and an inheritance, love which binds the hearts of men in unity, as the Lord has loved them.

5th Movement

The dramaticism of this prayer unfolds in the realm of human interrelations. Father Alexander always believed that people cannot on their own, without help from above, overcome their numerous vices and spiritual flaws. The plea for the sending down of grace-filled help is the basic motif here.

6th Movement

The concluding movement of the symphony is a prayer of thanksgiving. It sums up, as it were, the experience of two millennia of Christianity. And at the same time, Father Alexander unfolds its content so that it is turned towards present-day Mankind, and makes the prayer a starting point. "Christianity, my friends, has only begun, it is a universal religion, for it a thousand years are but as one day. This is only the beginning, only the first steps." (A.M.).

For Father Alexander, being a pupil of Christ meant a concrete and untiring participation in the transfiguration of the world in human hearts. As he himself said: "The disciples of Christ are they who have become fully reconciled to God and have received the seal of the Holy Spirit, they who together tread His path and whose mutual

relations are based on an eternal and unshakeable spiritual bond – Christ Himself.” As it has been said: “He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” (John 15:5).

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Translation by N.S. Matveyev

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

I Утренняя Молитва

Господи, благослови молитву мою.
Помоги мне всей душой и телом
Предстать без рассеяния пред Тобюю.

Научи меня молиться Тебе.
Утверди меня в вере.
Даруй мне пламенную любовь к Тебе.

Освятя, Господи, все помышления мои,
чувства и дела мои.
Научи меня в каждом событии
распознавать волю Твою
и дай мне силы исполнять её.

I Morning prayer

Lord, bless my prayer.
Help me, without distraction,
in body and mind,
to appear before Thee.

Teach me to pray to Thee.
Strengthen me in my belief.
Grant me burning love for Thee.

Sanctify, Lord, all my thoughts,
my feelings and acts.
Teach me for discern Thy will
in every event, and give me strength to do it.

Замкни уста мои
для слова злого и пустого
и удержи руку мою от дурного дела.

Если случится беда,
Дай силы принять её с твёрдостью
и превратить в жертву Тебе.

Источником добра сделай меня, Господи
для всех, с кем встречусь сегодня.

Прими молитву мою за тех,
Кто не знает Тебя,
и избавь их от неверия.

Благодарю, Господи, за душу,
за всё, что окружает меня;
за близких
и дальних,
за небо и землю
и превыше всего,
за животворящую любовь Твою.
Дай мне, Господи, весь день
помнить и благодарить Тебя.
Аминь.

Stop my mouth
to evil and empty words,
and restrain my hand from any evil deed.

Should misfortune befall me,
Give me strength to accept it with steadiness
and turn it into a sacrifice to Thee.

Make me a source of good, o Lord,
for everyone I meet today.

Accept my prayer for those,
who do not know Thee
and deliver them of their non-belief.

I thank You, Lord, for my life,
for everything that surrounds me;
for those who are near,
and those who are not,
for the sky and the Earth,
and above all,
for Thy life-giving love.
Let me, o Lord, all day
remember and thank Thee.
Amen.

II Молитва о Единении

Господи, Иисусе Христе!
Ты сказал нам: где двое или трое
собраны во Имя Мое,
Я там среди них.

Ты не хотел, чтобы люди
шли одиноко по жизни,
Ты собрал нас,
чтобы мы были единой семьёй.

Дай нам исполнить Твою новую заповедь,
чтобы мы любили друг друга,
как Ты возлюбил нас.

Дай нам терпение, снисхождение
и власть над собой.
Да будем едины мы,
как Ты един с Отцом и Духом,
по Твоей молитве и заповеди.

Чтобы в этом тёмном мире
просветился наш свет от Тебя идущий,

и люди познали любовь Твою
в любви Отца, в спасении Сына
и в причастии Святого Духа,
Аминь.

II A Prayer for Unity

Lord Jesus Christ!
You have told us: where two or three
are gathered in My name,
There I am in their midst.

You did not desire, that people
walk alone through life,
You have gathered us,
so that we become a single family.

Grant us to fulfil your new commandment,
that we love one another.
As You have loved us.

Grant us patience, condescension,
and power over ourselves.
So that we be one,
as You are one with the Father and the Spirit,
according to Your prayer and commandment.

So, that in this dark world
our light, which issues from You,
May shine through,
And that people may come to know Your love
in the love of the Father, in the salvation of the
Son, and the communion of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

III Молитва о смирении

Господи, помилуй! Христос, помилуй!
Иисусе, кроткий и смиренный сердцем,
услышь и помилуй меня!
Отче Небесный, Боже, помилуй нас!
Сыне, Искупителю мира, помилуй нас!
Душе Святый Боже, помилуй нас!

От желания избежать обиды
– избавь меня, Иисусе!
От желания утвердить своё мнение
– избавь меня, Иисусе!
От желания, чтобы мои советы
принимались
– избавь меня, Иисусе!
От желания быть восхваляемым
– избавь меня, Иисусе!
От желания быть уважаемым
– избавь меня, Иисусе!
От желания быть первым
– избавь меня, Иисусе!
От желания быть любимым
– избавь меня, Иисусе!

От боязни быть забытым
– избавь меня, Иисусе!
От боязни быть подозреваемым
– избавь меня, Иисусе!

III A Prayer for Humility

Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy!
Jesus, meek and humble of heart,
Hear me and have mercy on me!
O' Heavenly Father, God, have mercy on us!
O' Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us!
O' God Holy Spirit, have mercy on us!

From the desire to avoid hurt
– Deliver me, Jesus!
From the desire to assert my opinion
– Deliver me, Jesus!
From the desire that my counsels
be accepted
– Deliver me, Jesus!
From the desire to be praised
– Deliver me, Jesus!
From the desire to be respected
– Deliver me Jesus!
From the desire to be first
– Deliver me Jesus!
From the desire to be loved
– Deliver me, Jesus!

From the fear of being forgotten
– Deliver me, Jesus!
From the fear of being suspected
– Deliver me, Jesus!

От боязни быть неизвестным
– избавь меня, Иисусе!
От боязни быть неправильно понятым
– избавь меня, Иисусе!
От боязни быть отвергаемым
– избавь меня, Иисусе!
От боязни быть оклеветанным
– избавь меня, Иисусе!
От боязни быть униженным
– избавь меня, Иисусе!
От боязни быть осмеянным
– избавь меня, Иисусе!

Когда других ценят более, нежели меня
– помоги, Иисусе, с любовью это перенести!
Когда других принимают, а меня не замечают
– помоги, Иисусе, с любовью это перенести!
Когда первенство дают другим
– помоги, Иисусе, с любовью это перенести!
Когда других почитают более праведными,
чем меня
– помоги, Иисусе, с любовью это перенести!
Когда других любят более чем меня
– помоги, Иисусе, с любовью это перенести!

Дабы я не стяжал высокого положения
– даруй мне, Иисусе, благодать смирения
и любви!
Дабы ради Славы Твоей я охотно

From the desire of being unknown
– Deliver me, Jesus!
From the fear of being misunderstood
– Deliver me, Jesus!
From the fear of being rejected
– Deliver me, Jesus!
From the fear of being slandered
– Deliver me, Jesus!
From the fear of being humiliated
– Deliver me, Jesus!
From the fear of being ridiculed
– Deliver me, Jesus!

When others are valued more highly than I
– Help me Jesus to bear this with love!
When others are accepted, and I am ignored
– Help me, Jesus, to bear this with love!
When the first place is given to others
– Help me, Jesus to bear it with love!
When others are esteemed to be more righteous
than I
– Help me, Jesus, to bear this with love!
When others are loved more than I
– Help me, Jesus, to bear this with love!

That I do not strive for high places
– Grant me, Jesus, the grace of humility
and love!
That for the sake of Your Glory I willingly fulfill

исполнял неприятные обязанности
– даруй мне, Иисусе, благодать смирения
и любви!
Дабы в приказах старших я видел
волю Божью
– даруй мне, Иисусе, благодать смирения
и любви!
Дабы на деле, как и на словах, я прощал
обиды
– даруй мне, Иисусе, благодать смирения
и любви!
Дабы я с любовью относился ко всем, а
особенно к тем, кто меня осуждает
– даруй мне, Иисусе, благодать смирения
и любви!
Дабы я был скор на сокрушение
– даруй мне, Иисусе, благодать смирения
и любви!
Дабы я любил бедность и унижение
– даруй мне, Иисусе, благодать смирения
и любви!

Агнец Божий, взявший на себя грехи мира,

– прости нас, Господи!
Агнец Божий, взявший на себя грехи мира,

– услыши нас, Господи!
Агнец Божий, взявший на себя грехи мира,

unpleasant duties
– Grant me, Jesus, the grace of humility
and love!
That I may see God's will in the commands of
those who are older
– Grant me, Jesus, the grace of humility
and love!
That I may indeed, just as in words,
forgive hurts
– Grant me, Jesus, the grace of humility
and love!
That I may treat all with love, and especially those
who condemn me
– Grant me, Jesus, the grace of humility
and love!
That I may speedily be moved to contrition
– Grant me, Jesus, the grace of humility
and love!
That I may love poverty and humiliation
– Grant me, Jesus, the grace of humility
and love!

Lamb of God, Who have taken upon yourself the
sins of the world,
– Forgive us, o Lord!
Lamb of God, Who have taken upon yourself the
sins of the world,
– Hear us, o Lord!
Lamb of God, Who have taken upon Yourself

– помилуй нас, Господи!
Иисусе, кроткий и смиренный сердцем,
услышь просьбы мои и дай по милости
Твоей,

Чтобы я с радостью согласился быть
незаметным на земле,
и чтобы моей радостью были бы Слава и
Любовь Твоя!
Аминь.

IV Люблю Тебя, Господи,

Люблю Тебя, Господи,
Люблю более всего на свете,
Ибо Ты - истинная радость души моей.
Ради Тебя люблю ближнего, как самого себя.

V Молитва о даре мудрости и любви

Из проповеди в день памяти преп. Андрея Критского

Господи!
Сколько в нас, безумия, глупости,
и ограниченности,
а мудрость и любовь У Тебя!
Дай нам хоть искру
Твоей мудрости и любви,
В слове Твоём запечатленных.

the sins of the world,
– Have mercy on us, o Lord!
Jesus, meek and humble of heart,
Hear my petitions and grant, according to Your
mercy,

That I may with joy agree to be inconspicuous
on earth,
And that Your Glory and Your Love be my joy!

Amen.

IV I love You, Lord

I love You, Lord,
I love You more than anything else in the world,
For You are the true joy, You are my soul.
For Your sake I love my neighbour as myself.

V A Prayer for the Gift of Wisdom and Love

From a sermon on the commemoration day of St Andrew of Crete.

Lord!
How much madness, foolishness
and narrow-mindedness there is in us,
and wisdom and love are with You!
Give us at least a spark
of Your wisdom and love
which are embodied in Your word.

VI Молитва Учеников Христовых

Благословен Бог наш всегда,
ныне и присно
и во веки веков.
Благословен Ты, Отче наш,
Сотворивший небо и землю, свет и тьму,
цветы и звёзды
Благословен Ты,
Сотворивший леса и горы,
Моря и степи и всё живущее в них.
Сотворивший нас по образу Твоему и
подобию
Давший нам разум, совесть, силу
созидания
Открывший нам волю Свою
Вложивший нам в сердце Закон Твой
Научивший нас Правде Твоей
Даровавший нам Завет и Обетование
Избравший чад Своих от всех концов
земли

Благословен Ты!
Благословен Ты, явивший Себя в Сыне
Твоем
Слава Тебе!

Рожденный от Девы
Уничживши Себя ради нашего спасения

VI A Prayer for the Disciples of Christ

Blessed is our God
Always, Now and Ever
And to the ages and ages.
Blessed are You, our Father,
Who have created heaven and earth,
light and darkness, The flowers and the stars
Blessed are You,
Who have created the fields and the hills, the seas
and the plains and all that lives in them.
Who have created us in Your image and likeness
Who have given us reason, conscience, and the
power to create
Who have revealed for us Your will
Who have put in our hearts Your law
Who have taught us Your Truth
Who have granted us the Covenant and the
Promise
Who have chosen Your children from all the ends
of the earth

Blessed are You!
Blessed are You who have shown
Yourself in Your Son
Glory to You!

Born of a Virgin
Who have abased Yourself for our salvation

Вплотившийся нас ради человек
Испытавши труды и скорби, голод и жажду

Указавший нам истинный путь в жизни

Ты даровал нам прощение грехов
в милосердии Отчем
Ты возвестил нам радость сынов Божьих
Возвестил Новый Завет в Своей крови
Разделил с миром муки и смерть
Победил ад и утвердил Своё Царство

Обещал пребывать с нами до скончания
века
Благословен праведный суд Твой и
милость Твоя
Слава Тебе!

Благословен Ты, явившийся
силой Духа Твоего
Не остави нас!

Ты укрепляешь Духом Церковь Свою
Ты являешь силу Твою в нашей немощи
Принимаешь в лоно Твоё святым
Крещением
Приобщаешь к Себе в Чаше святой
Даёшь благодать Твоим служителям

Who were incarnate for us Men
Who have undergone labours and sorrows, hunger
and thirst
Who have shown us the true path of life

You have granted us the forgiveness of sins
In the mercy of the Father
You have proclaimed to us the joy of the sons of God
You have proclaimed the New Covenant in Your blood
You have shared with the world torment and death
You have conquered hell and established Your
Kingdom

You have promised to abide with us till the end
of the world
Blessed are Your righteous Judgment and Your
mercy
Glory to You!

Blessed are You who have shown Yourself through
the power of Your Spirit
Forsake us not!

You strengthen Your Church with Your Spirit
You show Your power in our weakness
You receive us into Your bosom through holy
Baptism
You join us to Yourself in the holy Chalice
You give grace to Your servants

Исцеляешь немощи наши, души и тела
Охраняешь наш дом, труд и жизнь
Не остави нас.

Иисусе Христе, сыне Божий,
явивший нам Отца Небесного,
Да будем мы учениками Твоими.
Ты обещал даровать мир душам нашим.
Но Ты не хочешь рабов нерадивых,
Дай нам силы стоять на страже и
бодрствовать.
Да будем мы верны Тебе и только Тебе.

Научи нас делать всё перед лицом Твоим.
Сделай нас детьми Твоими.

Даруй нам силы исполнять волю Твою и
завет Твой.
Научи нас делать добро.

Огради нас от закваски фарисейской.
Научи нас видеть главное в жизни,
единое на потребу.

Помоги нам избавиться от греха,
от праздности, от дряблости духа.

Пусть всё доброе и прекрасное в мире
напоминает нам о Тебе.

You heal our infirmities and our souls and bodies
You protect our homes, our labours and our lives
Forsake us not.

Jesus Christ, Son of God,
Who has revealed for us the Heavenly Father,
That we may be Your disciples.
You promised to give peace to our souls.
But You not desire slothful servants.
Give us strength to stand on guard and be
wakeful.
That we may be faithful to You and to You only.

Teach us to everything before Your countenance.
Make us Your children.

Grant us strength
to fulfil Your will and Your covenant.
Teach us to do good.

Protect us from the leaven of the Pharisees
Teach us to see the main thing in life,
and one thing that is needed.

Help us to free ourselves of sin,
of idleness, of inertia of spirit.

May everything good and beautiful in the world
remind us of You.

Пусть зло мира служит нам
предостережением.

Да видим мы в грешниках зеркало наших
прегрешений.

Научи нас видеть братьев в тех,
кто мыслит иначе, чем мы,
в иноверцах и неверующих.

Дай нам помнить о краткости жизни,
что бы память смертная была для нас
силой трудолюбия и служения.

Вложи в нас умение прощать,
любить и отдавать.

Научи нас жить в молитве.

Дай нам ныне быть причастниками
Царства Твоего.

Научи нас ненавидеть грех, а не грешника.

Даруй нам силу свидетельствовать о Тебе.

Не дай нам быть суетными, мелочными и
пустыми.

Да будешь Ты нам альфой и омегой в этой
жизни и в вечности.

May the evil of the world serve us a warning
to us.

That we may see in sinners
a mirror of our sins.

Teach us to see brothers in those
who think differently from us,
in those of other beliefs and in unbelievers.

Grant us to be mindful of the brevity of life,
so that the remembrance of death be for us
a strength of diligence and service.

Implant in us the ability to forgive,
to love and to give away.

Teach us to live in prayer.

Grant us now to be communicants
of Your Kingdom.

Teach us to hate sin, and not the sinner.

Grant us the strength to witness to You.

Do not let us be vain,
petty, or empty.

May You be for us the alpha and the omega
in this life and in eternity.

Да будем мы учениками Твоими.

Аминь.

That we may be Your disciples.

Amen.

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BIOGRAPHIES

FATHER ALEXANDER MEN

Father Alexander Men (1935-1990) was an Orthodox Christian priest, theologian, biblical scholar, preacher and writer, who has come to be perceived as a saint and martyr by many throughout the world. In 2010, the worldwide commemoration of his assassination coincided with celebrations for what would have been his 85th birthday.

Father Alexander Men was a great leader, and some say the architect of religious renewal in Russia at the end of the Soviet period. He was a priest who found the time to write a great number of books, including a seven volume study of world religions, ranging in style from the academic to the popular. He also lectured widely, invited to speak



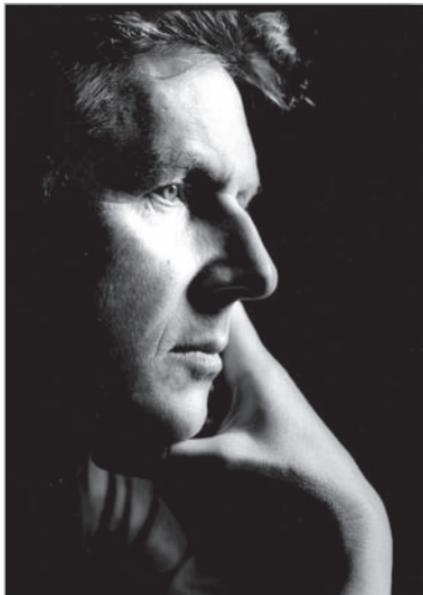
on radio and television and becoming a nationally known figure. He founded the first Sunday school after the communist persecution, established an Orthodox open university and founded a charity volunteer group at a childrens' hospital. He baptized thousands into the faith, and as well as carrying out his day to day ministerial duties he was hailed as "the apostle to the intellectuals".

His life, character and writings continue to speak powerfully to a wide range of people, not just in Russia and the Eastern Orthodox Church. He was assassinated in 1990 on a Sunday morning on his way to the church where he served. As his life and works become better known outside of Russia, through his writings, memory and spiritual heritage, he continues to influence and inspire people the world over.

www.alexandermen.com

ALEXANDER LEVINE

Born in Moscow in 1955, Alexander Levine studied piano and clarinet from the age of six at the Gnessin Music School and at the Gnessin Music Academy from 1976-80. During his college years he also held the position of Principal Guitar in the Orchestra of Russian National Radio and Television.



© Sasha Gusov

In the years that followed he established himself as a composer working in collaboration with a variety of highly acclaimed performers in Russia. His compositions won prestigious awards from the Russian National Radio and Television in 1989, 1990 and 1991.

In 1993 he was awarded the Wingate Foundation Scholarship to study in the Postgraduate Composition course at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London with Gary Carpenter and Simon Bainbridge. In the years that followed, Levine collaborated with GSMD Theatre as a composer, arranger and music director on various productions, including *War and Peace*, *The Beggar's Opera* and *Love's Labour's Lost*. His other choral works include: *The Drifters Trail* (2001) – Orlando Consort; *Kolokola* (2004) – The BBC Singers; *The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom* (2006) – Mariinsky Opera Choir.

TENEBRAE NIGEL SHORT, DIRECTOR

Tenebrae is a professional chamber choir, founded and directed by Nigel Short in 2001. Often performing by candlelight, the choir creates an atmosphere of spiritual and musical reflection, where medieval chant and renaissance works are interspersed with contemporary compositions. The carefully selected team of singers use the acoustic and atmosphere of the building to enable the audience to experience the power and intimacy of the human voice.

Singers are drawn from outstanding musical backgrounds – King's College, Cambridge, Westminster Abbey and Cathedral, St Paul's Cathedral, The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and English National Opera – to create a unique vocal mix with an extraordinary range of vocal power and color.

Tenebrae has an exceptionally wide repertoire, from early, through renaissance, baroque and classical music, to romantic and twentieth century works, plus a range of specially commissioned pieces, the most recent of which is Joby Talbot's Path of Miracles. Tenebrae's unique virtuosity and style are exemplified on CD recordings, including Mozart's



Requiem with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Sir John Tavener's Mother and Child, Gaudete, a Christmas disc in association with Karl Jenkins and Joby Talbot's Path of Miracles.

Recording work is complemented by a schedule of regular performances for festivals and venues throughout the UK, Europe and the world. December 2006 saw the commencement of Tenebrae's artistic association with the London Symphony Orchestra, Sir Colin Davies and LSO Live with a series of critically and publicly acclaimed performances and recordings at the Barbican, London. Tenebrae was nominated for a Royal Philharmonic Society Award in 2007.

www.tenebrae-choir.com

TENEBRAE

SOPRANOS

Amy Moore (solo),
Emilia Hughes,
Emma Walshe,
Grace Davidson,
Katy Hill,
Joanna L'Estrange,
Katie Trethewey,

ALTOS

Martha Maclorinan (solo),
Mark Chambers,
David Allsopp,
David Martin,

TENORS

Matthew Long (solo),
Richard Butler (solo),
Benjamin Alden,
Nicholas Madden,
Benedict Hymas,
Richard Rowntree

BARITONES

Stephen Kennedy (solo),
Peter Foggitt,
Matthew Brook,
William Gaunt,

BASSES

Richard Savage,
James Holliday,
Joseph Cullen,
Simon Grant.

Alexander Levine would like to thank Nigel Short, Ben Parry, Yury Kharlamov, Nikolai Sergeyevech Matveyev and the Alexander Men foundation.

Recorded at All Hallows Church, Gospel Oak, London, on 8-10 February 2010.

Producer - Ben Parry
Engineer - Mike Hatch
Editor - Dave Rowell
Assistant - Alex Foster

Cover Image - Shutterstock
Design and Artwork - Woven Design
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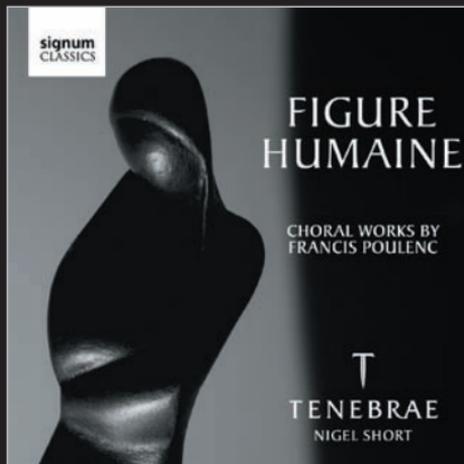


Figure Humaine
Tenebrae

SIGCD197

"... when Poulenc's at his most extreme they seem to have an extra gear, a kind of choral over-drive that allows them to soar almost serenely over corners that have some of the finest vocal ensembles showing the strain."

BBC Radio 3, CD Review, Andrew McGregor

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