

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR ORTHODOX CHURCH MUSIC (ISOCM)

ANNUAL REPORT

1st January – 31st December 2023

I THE ORGANISATION OF THE SOCIETY

1. The Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Society took place on 14 June 2023 at 4.40 p.m. during the 10th International Conference on Orthodox Church Music at the University in Eastern Finland in Joensuu. The meeting was attended by seventeen registered members and two non-members, and it was chaired by **Hieromonk Damaskinos** (Olkinuora). At the meeting, the Society's annual report, accounts, plan of action, and budget were discussed, and the Board of 2022 was discharged.

2. The Board

The chairperson elected in 2021 for the years 2021–2025 was Very Rev. **Ivan Moody** (UK/Portugal). The Board elected in 2021 for the years 2021–2023 consisted of **Maria Takala-Roszczenko** (vice-chairperson, editorial secretary, Finland), **Bogdan Djaković** (Serbia), **Margaret Haig** (UK), and **Costin Moisil** (Romania). The Board had one e-mail meeting that took place 22–30 May 2023.

At the annual meeting, a new Board for the years 2023–2025 was elected. **Richard Barrett** (USA), Margaret Haig (UK), **Andrew Mellas** (Australia), and Maria Takala-Roszczenko were elected Board members. The new Board had one meeting on 16 June 2023. Maria Takala-Roszczenko was elected vice-chairperson, and **Tuuli Lukkala** was invited to continue as secretary-treasurer.

3. The Operations Inspector

The operations inspector was **Mika Hänninen** (Helsinki, Finland).

II ECONOMY

The Society's financial year was active because of the organisation of the 10th International Conference on Orthodox Church Music, which was a hybrid event with many on-site participants. The registration fees for the conference were 70€ for members of the Society, 100€ for non-members, and 50€ for Board members for on-site participants, and 15€, 30€, and 10€, respectively, for online participants. The participation fee for the excursion, 20€, was not included in the registration fees.

The number of membership fees paid was the same as in the previous year. Publication sales were high on account of the sales in the conference. The sales of the new publication of the Society together with Cappella Romana were also active.

The accounts of the Society were taken care of by Videns Oy (Joensuu, Finland).

III MEMBERS

At the end of 2022, the Society had 200 registered members, four of which were association members. The membership fee for the year 2023 was paid by 62 members and six people not officially registered as members.

The membership fee was 50€/€50 (full) or 20€/€20 (low income / student).

IV THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES

1. Conference

The 10th International Conference on Orthodox Church Music, "O Taste and See that the Lord is Good: Church Music, Food and Nourishment", took place 12–18 June 2023 at the University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu. Online participation was also possible. The conference gathered 53 participants from 20 different countries, 43 of whom participated on site and 13 online. It featured two keynote presentations by **Thomas Arentzen** and **Davor Džalto**, 31 presentations, and a poster. A workshop on traditions and songs related to bread was given by **Anna Conomos**, and a concert, Echoes of Byzantium in Western Rus, was conducted by **Marcin Abijski**. The programme included divine services in the Orthodox seminary church and the church of St Nicholas in Joensuu, an Evening of Songs, where Tevri Ensemble from Finland performed traditional Georgian *supra* songs, and an excursion to Sonkajärvi and Ilomantsi.

2. Publications

One issue of volume 7 of the Society's open-access electronic Journal (JISOCM) was published on the Open Journal System platform (journal.fi/jisocm) in August 2023. The volume contains two peer-reviewed articles, one non-refereed article, two conference papers based on presentations of the 2021 online conference, and two book reviews.

The editorial board of the JISOCM consisted of Ivan Moody (Editor-in-chief), Maria Takala-Roszczenko (Co-editor and graphic designer), **Yulia Artamonova**, Margaret Haig, Andrew Mellas, and **Nina-Maria Wanek**.

In January 2023, Cappella Romana and ISOCM co-published a manual of Byzantine chant by **John Michael Boyer**, *Byzantine Chant: The Received Tradition – A lesson Book*. The ISOCM had no financial obligations concerning the publication of the book, and it is not included in the Society's publications series. The book was for sale in the Society's webshop for customers outside the USA and it was promoted and sold at the conference in Joensuu in June.

During the year, 48 copies of the Society's publications were sold:

Vol. 1, <i>Traditions of Orthodox Music</i> (Proceedings of 2005)	1 copy
Vol. 2, <i>Composing and Chanting</i> (Proceedings of 2007)	2 copies
Vol. 3, <i>Church, State, and Nation</i> (Proceedings of 2009)	1 copy
Vol. 4, <i>Unity and Variety</i> (Proceedings of 2011)	3 copies
Vol. 5, <i>Modernism and Orthodox Spirituality</i>	4 copies
Vol. 6, <i>Church Music and Icons</i> (Proceedings of 2013)	3 copies
Vol. 7, <i>Creating Liturgically</i> (Proceedings of 2015)	4 copies
Vol. 8, <i>Liturgy and Music</i> (Proceedings of 2017)	5 copies
Vol. 8 (sic), <i>Aspects of Christian Culture in Byzantium and Eastern Christianity</i>	2 copies
<i>Prayer, Music, and Joy</i>	3 copies
<i>Enlightenment and Illumination: Essays on Sacred Music East and West</i>	1 copy
<i>Byzantine Chant: The Received Tradition – A Lesson Book</i>	19 copies

Depending on the destination, the copies sold online were dispatched from Finland or from the USA.

3. Website

The official website of the Society (isocm.com) continued to be updated by the secretary and

David Lucs. Apart from the basic information about the Society and its membership, the website contains photos from conferences, online registration and payment options for conferences, and a webshop for publication sale.

4. Other

Different social media channels were used for announcing events and other ISOCM news and for promoting discussion among members of the Society and other interested people. The Facebook page "The International Society for Orthodox Church Music" had 1,642 followers at the end of 2023. The Facebook group "ISOCM - The International Society for Orthodox Church Music" had 976 members and the YouTube channel "isocm" 476 subscribers at the end of 2023. The Society's X account "isocmusic" had 31 followers at the end of the year.