

The International Society for Orthodox Church Music – ISOCM
8th International Conference on Orthodox Church Music
Joensuu, Finland 2019



Dear conference participants,

Welcome to Joensuu and our eighth biennial conference!

Located on River Pielisjoki, Joensuu was founded in 1848 and today serves as the capital of Finland's North Karelia region. It is a lively student town with a population of around 76,500 people.

Joensuu is the only place in Finland where Orthodox church music is taught on an academic level (bachelor's and master's degrees as well as doctoral studies). It is taught in the School of Theology, Philosophical Faculty at the University of Eastern Finland.

The Seminary of the Orthodox Church of Finland is also located in Joensuu (Torikatu 41). It provides instruction in practical liturgics for students of theology and church music. During the semester, daily divine services are celebrated in the church of St John the Theologian.

The Orthodox parish of Joensuu is the second largest in Finland with its 6,300 members, six churches and fourteen chapels. The main church in the city of Joensuu is dedicated to St Nicholas (Kirkkokatu 32). Orthodoxy has a long history in the region of North Karelia whose capital Joensuu is. The Orthodox faith was rooted in Karelia by missionary monks in the thirteenth–fourteenth centuries, if not earlier. From 1923, the Orthodox Church of Finland has belonged to the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The International Society for Orthodox Church Music was founded in Joensuu in 2005. It has organized international conferences in Joensuu every second year. In 2016 and 2018, the Society organized in cooperation with local institutions a pan-Orthodox symposium in Minneapolis (USA) and a conference in Prague (Czechia). The Society has published six conference proceedings, a monograph by Very Rev. Ivan Moody, and three volumes of its peer-reviewed, electronic Journal (JISOCM).

Here is some useful information for this year's ISOCM conference:

- The **conference venue** is the Agora building on the University of Eastern Finland campus (Yliopistokatu 4, Philosophical Faculty, School of Theology, auditorium AT100).
 - Participants are encouraged to bring publications, music books, CDs, and videos, which can be made available for purchase by attendees during the conference in a secure room at the university.
- If you have registered for the full package, you will be **accommodated** in [Hotel GreenStar](#) (Torikatu 16).
 - Breakfast is included in your package and served 7–9.30 (on Saturday and Sunday 8–10.30). *If you are not going to have breakfast on any given day, please inform the hotel staff beforehand!* (There will be Divine Liturgy in the schedule of the conference on Thursday 13 June and on Sunday 16 June.)
 - The hotel is conveniently located in the city centre. It takes about 10–15 minutes to walk to the university (Torikatu–Koskikatu–Yliopistokatu).
- **Lunch** is served from Monday to Friday at the university restaurant “Aura” (Yliopistokatu 2), in the Aurora building on the campus.
 - You can check the daily and weekly [lunch menu](#) of the restaurant on their website.
 - The lunch is served between 10.30–14.00, and it is a buffet lunch including salads, a choice of several main dishes (including vegetarian and vegan options), drinks, bread and coffee. If you have a special diet, please ask the restaurant staff for assistance.
 - If you have registered for the full package, you will receive a folder of information

including lunch coupons upon your arrival. *Please remember to keep the coupons with you each day of the conference!*

- If you have registered for the partial package, you have different lunch options of varying prices (6.20€–9.90€).
- After assembling your meal, please give your lunch coupon / pay your meal to the cashier.
- There are two **Orthodox churches** in the centre of Joensuu:
 - The Orthodox seminary church (Torikatu 41), where we expect to have Vespers on Tuesday 11 June, Wednesday 12 June and Friday 14 June as well as Divine Liturgy on Thursday 13 June.
 - On Sunday 16 June we will participate in Liturgy at the parish church of St Nicholas (Kirkkokatu 32).
 - Hieromonk Damaskinos (damaskinos.olkinuora (a) uef.fi) will be organizing the singers for all services. Please feel free to bring texts/music if you would like to sing or read, and speak with him about when you can participate during the week. The commemorations will be celebrated according to the [Revised Julian \(New\) Calendar](#).
- The **concert** of [Uzorika](#), a renowned ensemble of Russian early music from Moscow, will take place in the main Lutheran church in Joensuu (Papinkatu 1) on the opening day, Monday 10 June, at 18.00.
- The **reception** hosted by the City of Joensuu at the City Hall (Rantakatu 20) on Tuesday 11 June after Vespers at 18.30 (*Please be punctual!*), has become a popular conference tradition – memorize your favourite folk songs for an enjoyable evening!
- On Wednesday 12 June after Vespers at 18 there will be a **reception** served by the Orthodox Church of Finland at the Orthodox seminary. The event will be attended by HE Archbishop Leo of Helsinki and All Finland.
- On Saturday 15 June, the excursion to Lintula and Valamo monasteries departs from the hotel at 9.30. *Please, make sure not to be late!* We will return to the hotel at around 20.00.
- Joensuu has a variety of shops, pharmacies, fast-food and other restaurants, and cafés. The **supermarkets** (S-market, K-Citymarket, K-Market) are open until 21–23. The biggest shopping centre, Iso Myy, is in the very heart of the town (Torikatu 25, open Mon–Fri 9–19, Sat 9–17, Sun 12–16).
- There are several **cashpoints / ATMs** in the centre, marked with orange colour and the text “Otto.” It is possible to pay with a credit card in every shop and restaurant.
- If you want to **exchange money**, it can only be done in the banks: Osuuspankki (Koskikatu 9, open Mon and Fri 10–16, Tue–Thu 10–13) and Nordea (Siltakatu 10, open Mon–Fri 10–16.30).
- **Prepaid SIM cards** can be bought at “R-kioski” (Koskikatu 5 and Siltakatu 12, open until 21, marked with blue-and-white-striped windows).
- **Stamps** can be bought at the post office, located inside the shopping centre “Centrum” (Kauppakatu 29, open Mon–Fri 7–22, Sat 7–21, Sun 11–21), and also in local bookstores and some supermarkets.
- **Weather forecasts** for Joensuu: [Finnish Meteorological Institute](#); [Foreca](#)
- If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact:
Tuuli Lukkala (isocm.secretary (a) gmail.com)
Maria Takala-Roszczenko (maria.takala (a) uef.fi) +358 294 45 2208
Hieromonk Damaskinos (damaskinos.olkinuora (a) uef.fi) +358 294 45 2060
Noora Palmi (noorpa (a) uef.fi)