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IN MEMORIAM

MELITINA MAKAROVSKAYA

(8 JULY 1970–6 APRIL 2024)

On April 6, 2024, Milena (Melitina) Vadimovna Makarovskaya, a musicologist and researcher of the Old Believer liturgical singing tradition, died at the age of 54. She devoted her whole life to studying and performing Znamenny chant, in its various versions and local traditions.

She and I were fellow students at the Gnessin Academy, but while we were studying, we rarely crossed paths. Constant contacts began when both she and I started singing in Orthodox churches—she in an Old Believer, and I in a New Believer community. Milena was baptized as an adult, with the name Melitina. She not only sang in various churches in Moscow, but also went on expeditions to Old Believer communities of various denominations: Pomeranians, Lipovans living in different regions of Russia and abroad, as well as communities in Moldova and Romania. Her scientific views were greatly influenced by her supervisor, musicologist-theorist, Professor of the Gnessin Russian Academy of Music, music psychologist Olga Leonidovna Berak, as well as Irina Vasilievna Pozdeeva, a historian, archaeographer, and head of the archeographic laboratory of Moscow State University. Milena defended her PhD thesis in 2000 entitled “Categories of space and time in the organization of the liturgical chants of Znamenny rospiev (on the example of the Divine Liturgy),” scientific supervisor, O.L. Berak.

Milena Vadimovna combined singing and expedition work with the study of ancient singing manuscripts and teaching Znamenny chant. She taught at the State University of Culture (MGUKI, Associate Professor of the Department of Musicology). For the last ten years of her life, Milena struggled with multiple sclerosis which gradually progressed, despite treatment. The Church of the New Martyrs in Strogino, where she sang in recent years, took care of her and her friends paid for a nurse, since she could no longer walk for the last few years. Nevertheless, with her participation, a large book of spiritual poems of the Old Believers of Verkhokamyje was published—she having contributed the transcriptions and a lengthy article about the melody of the spiritual poems.

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Her collection, *The Divine Liturgy of the Znamenny Chant*, is used by the choirs in churches where they sing Znamenny chant. It so happened that when I needed to learn the Znamenny formulae (popevki), she agreed to teach me, despite already being seriously ill. Every Saturday morning, for almost two years, I would sing to her on the phone a piece of Pomeranian irmology, and she corrected my mistakes and explained how this or that formula was sung. She distributed the main chants of Znamenny chant according to tables—each of the eight tones having its own table. Unfortunately, she did not finish this work on the 6th, 2nd and 4th tones. Nevertheless, we continued to study, she explaining the melodic formulas to me from memory so that, in the end, we sang the irmos of all eight tones.

The last lesson took place at her house on March 30 and I sang from her collection, not from an electronic copy. And despite her illness, she still taught me. On the morning of Saturday, April 6, at the time of our weekly lesson, neither she nor the nurse answered my call. Then I was shocked to read a message in social media about Milena's death. She did her job until the very end. May the dear ascetic of church singing, Melitina, be an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven! Eternal memory to her and her works which continue to serve people!

**NORA POTEKINA**

Gnesin Russian Academy of Music, Moscow