

## EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue contains articles based on the papers presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Orthodox Church Music, held in Joensuu, Finland, 12–18 June 2023. The theme of the conference, “O Taste and See that the Lord is Good: Church Music, Food and Nourishment,” inspired the authors to explore the connections between the physical and the spiritual from different perspectives.

Harri Huovinen opens the section of peer-reviewed articles with an analysis of how the concept of nourishment is treated in the catechetical homilies of John Chrysostom. From advocating moderation in spiritual nourishment to highlighting the role of hymnody and prayer in obtaining spiritual nourishment, Chrysostom’s initiatory instruction also proves insightful for the modern reader.

The issue also includes articles not directly related to the recent conference. The second peer-reviewed article, by Vassileios Varelas, examines the historical phenomenon of nonsense syllables, known as *kratemata* or *teretismata*, in Byzantine Chant. The author evaluates the existing hypotheses about their origin and development by examining selected historical, theoretical, and liturgical sources.

In the section of conference papers, Thomas Arentzen presents seven meditations on the topics of eating, drinking and tasting in the context of Romanos the Melodist and the wider Romanos tradition. James Chater’s essay on Orthodox sacred music explores how the creation of beauty in liturgical music relates to heavenly and earthly, spiritual and physical, aspects of the liturgy. Nina Shultz presents a case study of the Alaska Native practice of Slaviq, which celebrates the Nativity of Christ with processions with a decorated star, prayer services, and traditional meals. Margaret Haig continues with a case study of Christmas carol singing, focusing on the activities of the Mosaic Choir in London.

The eighth volume of the Journal of the International Society for Orthodox Church Music celebrates the journal’s tenth anniversary. After publishing seven volumes of the proceedings of the ISOCM conferences between 2005 and 2017, the Society decided to adopt the policy of peer review and to start publishing an online journal. The celebration of the Journal’s tenth anniversary anticipates the twentieth anniversary of the ISOCM, which will be celebrated with an International conference in June 2025.

However, the joy of seeing the Society and its publication flourish is mixed with deep sadness. On 18 January 2024, the founder and chairman of the ISOCM and editor-in-chief of the Journal, the Protopresbyter Ivan Moody died prematurely. Throughout the history of the Journal, and the preceding Proceedings, Fr Ivan was the main force behind the process of inviting, evaluating, editing, and revising articles. He spent countless hours, often very late into the night, helping authors to express their findings more clearly, both in terms of content and language. His remarkable expertise in a variety of research and artistic fields, not to mention his impressive network of contacts, facilitated the development of the journal in many concrete ways. He was also a pleasure to work with. He always managed to radiate humour and cheer, even in moments of weary desperation, such as when editing highly disorganized footnotes or tackling a stubborn Hebrew font.

It goes without saying that Fr Ivan's contribution will be difficult to replace, and we will feel his absence very keenly in the years to come. But we will continue to work for the Journal to honour his life and legacy. We are grateful to include in this issue a full obituary of Fr Ivan, written by his longtime friend and colleague, Alexander Lingas. The obituary section is also complemented by tributes to Jopi Harri, Bozhidar Karastoyanov, and Melitina Makarovskaya.

The Editorial Board invites articles, book reviews, and obituaries for the ninth volume of the Journal, which will be published in 2025.

Maria Takala-Roszczenko  
Co-editor of the Journal