

# Alexandrov Ensemble Commemorated Amidst Growing U.S. and NATO Tension with Russia

by Richard A. Black, Schiller Institute Representative at the U.N.

Dec. 31—Helga Zepp-LaRouche stated emphatically at the commemoration of the Alexandrov Ensemble, “The Schiller Institute fully endorses the demand by Russia that these treaties must be signed, and that the world must be pulled back from the brink of the abyss.” She explained, “Unfortunately, our species finds itself right now in an incredible danger, in which the world is faced with a reverse Cuban Missile Crisis, to which the President of your country has reacted in an unmistakable fashion: he insists, rightfully, that the promises given to Russia around the time of the German Unification, that NATO would not move eastward, closer to the borders of Russia, and which were broken repeatedly, now belatedly be restated in a written and legally binding form—at least as it concerns Ukraine and Georgia.”

Ambassador Dmitry Chumakov, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation Mission to the UN, presented an extraordinary short statement at the memorial ceremony which marked the fifth anniversary of the tragic death of the entire Alexandrov Ensemble, of humanitarian workers, and others, in a plane crash near Sochi, Russia, on their way to war-torn Syria. Ambassador Chumakov’s full text, and the full text of Helga Zepp-LaRouche’s statement, which was read at the ceremony, follow below.

Guests gathered at the Tear of Grief monument in Bayonne, N.J. on December 29. Capt. Randy Geis, representing the City of Bayonne Fire Department, opened the ceremony. Dr. Harold Rosenbaum, a well-known New York choral director and teacher, sent a message of remembrance. Powerful vocal selections from the Russian repertoire were presented by singers Lisa Bryce, Michelle Erin, and Everett Suttle, with piano accompaniment by David Maiullo. The Schiller Institute NYC Chorus performed Grechaninov’s “Praise Ye the Name of the Lord.”

Ambassador Chumakov thanked the Schiller Institute and the City of Bayonne Fire Department for years of activity in proving the strength of the friendship of the Russian and American people, “amidst a very complicated international situation.”



Schiller Institute/Suzanne Klebe

## Ambassador Dmitry Chumakov: Remarks at the Memorial Wreath-Laying Ceremony in Honor of the Alexandrov Ensemble

Today we have come here to honor the memory of the victims of a plane crash that took place in the skies over the Russian city of Sochi on 25 December 2016. On that Christmas Day, the world lost almost all of the members of the Alexandrov Ensemble, an outstanding philanthropist Ms. Elizaveta Glinka, journalists from Russian mass media, and the flight crew—nearly 100 passengers of that flight who were heading to Syria to organize a charity event.

This tragedy resonates in the hearts and minds of people throughout the globe. Our symbolic ceremony, which is being held on American soil, is another proof of that. What it shows is that human relations and friendly ties between Russians and Americans are indissoluble. We had also affirmed that in September this year, when we gathered at this very spot, by the Teardrop Memorial, to commemorate the victims of 9/11.

Amidst a very complicated international situation, it is the humanitarian ties that strongly bring us together. Russia has always stood for enhancing such contacts. Even today, with new outbursts of COVID-19, cultural people-to-people contacts do not stop but grow larger and stronger. In a sense, they even intensify, because if

we learned one thing from the pandemic, it is definitely new ways and forms of communication.

Our words of gratitude go to the Schiller Institute and the Fire Department of the city of Bayonne, who for many years have been co-organizers of our memorial events. Your contribution to the friendship and solidarity of the people of Russia and the United States cannot be overestimated. Tragic events unite us, but we look forward to being united without them.



EIRNS/Stuart Lewis

## Helga Zepp-LaRouche: Message of Remembrance for the Alexandrov Ensemble and the People of Russia

In the name of the Schiller Institute, I send you my thoughts on the anniversary of the tragic loss of the members of the Alexandrov Ensemble and a

number of other Russians on their way to Syria five years ago. In the artistic work of that choir was, and is, expressed that quality which makes us human.

Unfortunately, our species finds itself right now in an incredible danger, in which the world is faced with a reverse Cuban Missile Crisis, to which the President of your country has reacted in an unmistakable fashion: he insists, rightfully, that the promises given to Russia around the time of the German Unification, that NATO would not move eastward, closer to the borders of Russia, and which were broken repeatedly, now belatedly be restated in a written and legally binding form—at least as it concerns Ukraine and Georgia. Indeed, the history of the last 32 years is a history of an unbelievable series of lies and deceptions to create a narrative to justify the vilification of Russia—to what end?

The Schiller Institute fully endorses the demand by Russia that these treaties must be signed, and that the world must be pulled back from the brink of the abyss. We must shift all efforts to solve the great catastrophes—a pandemic out of control; a famine of biblical dimensions; the greatest humanitarian crisis on the planet, in Afghanistan; and to eradicate poverty for billions of people. We must reach a new paradigm of our civilization, or we may not exist.

Let us revive the spirit of the cultural contribution of the Alexandrov Ensemble to mobilize the strength in ourselves to create a more human civilization!



Schiller Institute/Suzanne Klebe

*The Schiller Institute NYC Chorus Ensemble.*