“You are the Vineyard, Newly Blossomed”: Contemporary Performance Aesthetics in Georgian Orthodox Chant – John Graham

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* Rustavi performance deliberately slow sweet and delicate
* Anchiskhati performance is at the tempo of most liturgy chants, “at the speed in which it is natural to sing and understand a text”
* “Secular mainstream society associates this chant with weddings and celebrations as well as moments of deep cultural pathos, such as the death of a dignitary or the loss of a battle.”
  + “During the Russia-Georgia conflict in August, 2009, *Shen Khar Venakhi* was performed by the Basiani Ensemble and televised live by CNN and local networks, carrying the local signification of ‘We Shall Overcome.’
* *Shen Khar Venakhi* text written by King Demetre II in the 12th century dedicated to the Holy Theotokos

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* version of chant sung by Anchiskhati was transcribed by the master chanter Vasil Karbelashvili at the turn of the 20th century

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* Rustavi Ensemble arrangement from around 1965 appears on album Alilo: Ancient Georgian Chorales
* Zakaria Paliashvili arranged Shen Khar Venakhi for SATTBB in 1909
  + Contemporary of Rachmaninoff
  + Studied at the Moscow Conservatory from 1900-1903
* Rustavi arrangement was probably adapted from the Paliashvili, as they show significant similarities

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* Paliashvili influenced by Russian composers like Alexander Kastalsky and Stepan Smolensky, who were arranging *znamenny* chant for contemporary performance
* Paliashvili returned to Georgia in 1903 and collected many folk songs with a gramophone recorder in the remote mountain regions
* Published the *Liturgia* in 1911, a selection of traditional eastern Georgian chant melodies arranged for six-part mixed chorus