

**Fritz Mountford,**  
**The Hastings College Choir**  
**‘Singing’ Russian pronunciation for “O Tebe Raduyetsia”**  
**NCDA Summer Convention, 2009**

Note: Bear in mind that sustained singing naturally exaggerates and alters the sounds of spoken language. As in most languages, random unaccented sounds tend to ‘migrate’ to the color of adjacent sounds, so the following are merely general guidelines:

- [o] pronounce with no diphthong, in unaccented syllables [o] opens toward ‘aw’,  
 initial syllable [o] is sometimes nearly ‘uh’ /
- [e] in accented syllables is ‘yeh’, but unaccented spoken [e] tends toward ‘ee’,  
 and after some consonants [e] is straightforward ‘eh’ /
- [я] unaccented is spoken toward ‘yih’, but accented [я] is ‘yah’ /
- [й] is vanishing sound of diphthong (as in ‘oy’ ‘ay’) /
- [x] is air-scrape of ‘Bach’ /

*oh* tyeh-*byeh* rah-doo-yeht-syah, blah-goh-*daht*-nah-yah, *fsyah*-kah-yah *tvahr*,  
 Ó Те-бé rá-ду-ет-ся, Бла-го-дát-на-я, вся-ка-я тварь,  
 OH IN YOU REJOICE BLESSED ALL CREATURES

*ahn*-gehl-skyeeee saw-*bohr*, ee tcheh-law-*vyeh*-tcheh-skyeeee *rohd*;  
 А́н-гель-ский со-бо́р, и че-ло-вэ-че-ский ро́д,  
 ANGELIC ASSEMBLY AND HUMAN FAMILY

uh-svyah-*skhehn*-nyihee *hrah*-myee ee *rah*-yoo slaw-*vyehs*-nyihee,  
 о-свя-щен-ный хра́-ме и ра́-ю сло-вэс-ный,  
 SANCTIFIED TEMPLE AND PARADISE TOLD-IN-STORY

*dyehv*-stvyeh-nah-yih raw-hvah-*loh*,  
 дэв-ствен-на-я по-хва-ло,  
 VIRGIN PRAISED

eez nyeh-*yah* zheh *boh*g voh-ploh-*tyee*-syah, ee mlah-*dyeh*-nyehts byihst,  
 из Не-я же Бо́г во-пло-ти́-ся, и мла-дэ-чец бысть,  
 FROM MYSTERY SAME GOD INCARNATE AND INFANT LIVING

*pryehzh*-deh *vyehk* syihee *boh*g nahsh;  
 прэж-де вéк сый Бо́г наш,  
 BEFORE AGES YOUR SON GOD OUR

loh-zheh-*snah* boh tvoh-*yah* pryeh-*stohl* suh-tvaw-*ree*,  
 ло-же-сна́ бо Тво-я́ пре-сто́л со-тво-ри́,  
 TO LIE WITH BODY YOUR THRONE CREATED

ee *kryeh*-voh tvoh-*yeh* pryeh-*strahn*-nyeh-yeh nyeh-*byehs* soh-*dyeh*-lah.  
 и чрэ-во Тво-é про-стран-не-е не-бэс цо-дэ-ла.  
 AND WOMB YOUR SPACIOUS HEAVEN MADE

( oh tyeh-*byeh*... ) ... *slah*-vah tyeh-*byeh*.  
 Ó Те-бé... ... сла́-ва Те-бé.  
 GLORY TO YOU

*oh* *tyeh-byeh* *rah-doo-yeht-sah*, *blah-goh-daht-nah-yah*, *fsyah-kah-yah* *tvahrrr*,  
*oh* *tyeh-byeh* *rah-doo-yeht-syah*, *blah-goh-daht-nah-yah*, *fsyah-kah-yah* *tvahr*,  
О Те-бэ ра-ду-ет-ся, Бла-го-дát-на-я, вся-ка-я тварь,

*ahn-gehl-skee* *soh-bohr*, ee *tcheh-loh-veh-tcheh-skee* *rohT*;  
*ahn-gehl-skyeeee* *saw-bohr*, ee *tcheh-law-vyeh-tcheh-skyeeee* *rohd*;  
Ан-гель-ский со-бóр, и че-ло-вэ-че-ский рóд,

*oh-svyah-shehn-nee* *hrah-meh* ee *rah-yoo sloh-vyehs-nee*,  
*uh-svyah-skhehn-nyihe* *hrah-myee* ee *rah-yoo slaw-vyehs-nyihe*,  
о-свя-щён-ный хра-ме и ра-ю сло-вэс-ный,

*dyehv-stvyehn-nah-yah* *poh-hvah-loh*,  
*dyehv-stvyehn-nah-yih* *paw-hvah-loh*,  
дэв-ствен-на-я по-хва-ло,

eez *nyeh-yah* *zheh bohx* *voh-ploh-tyee-syah*, ee *mlah-dyeh-nyehts bwyihst*,  
eez *nyeh-yah* *zheh bohg* *voh-ploh-tyee-syah*, ee *mlah-dyeh-nyehts byihst*,  
из Не-я же Бóг во-пло-тí-ся, и мла-дэ-чец бысть,

*pryehzh-dyeh* *vyehk syihe* *bohx* *nahsh*;  
*pryehzh-deh* *vyehk syihe* *bohg* *nahsh*;  
прéх-де вéк сый Бóг наш,

*loh-zheh-snah* *boh tvoh-yah* *pryeh-stohl soh-tvoh-ree*,  
*loh-zheh-snah* *boh tvoh-yah* *pryeh-stohl suh-tvaw-ree*,  
ло-же-сна́ бо Тво-я́ пре-стóл со-тво-ри́,

ee *tchree.eh-voh* *tvoh-yeh* *proh-strahn-nyeh-yeh* *nyeh-byehs* *soh-dyeh-lah*.  
ee *kryeh-voh* *tvoh-yeh* *pryeh-strahn-nyeh-yeh* *nyeh-byehs* *soh-dyeh-lah*.  
и чрэ-во Тво-э́ про-стран-не-е не-бэс цо-дэ-ла.

( *oh tyeh-byeh...* ) ... *slah-vah* *tyeh-byeh*.

( *oh tyeh-byeh...* ) ... *slah-vah* *tyeh-byeh*.

О Те-бэ... ... слá-ва Те-бэ.

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'Singing' Russian pronunciation for "Veniki"  
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Note: The obvious 'trick' to executing tongue-twisters at a fast tempo is to simplify pronunciation and to find the patterns-of-sounds (rather than trying to make strict sense of the meaning of the lyrics). Here the words of 'Veniki' are organized measure-by-measure to emphasize the sing-song accents -- which often ignore the normal word accents. The faster the tempo, the less detail -- especially the initial 'y' in so many vowel combinations -- but with any luck, including the details slowly will build-in the forward placement of the Russian sounds as the tempo increases.

*veh*---nee-kee,    *veh*-nee-kee,    dah  
*vyeh*---nyee-kee,    *vyeh*-nyee-kee,    dah  
Бé---ни-ки,    бé-ни-ки,    да

*veh*-nee-kee-*pah*-*myeh*-lee-kee,    dah  
*vyeh*-nyee-kee-poh-*myeh*-lyee-kee,    dah  
бé-ни-ки-по-мé-ли-ки,    да

*pah*    *peh*-tchee    vah-*lah*-lee-syah,    dah  
*poh*    *pyeh*-tchee    vah-*lyah*-lyee-syah,    dah  
пó    пе-чй    ва-ля-ли-ся,    да

*s'peh*-tchee    ah-bahr-*vah*-lee-syah.  
*s'pyeh*-tchee    oh-bohr-*vah*-lyee-syah.  
с пé-чи    о-бор-вá-ли-ся.

*koohm*    gah-*vah*-ree-lah,    *koohm*    gah-*vah*-ree-lah,  
*koohm*    gah-vree-lah,    *koohm*    gah-vree-lah,  
Кўм    Га-врй-ла,    кўм    Га-врй-ла,

*ya*    gah-*vah*-ree-leh    *gah*-*vah*-ree-lah.    Eh-ehihkh!  
*ya*    gah-vree-leh    *goh*-voh-ree-lah.    Eh-ehihkh!  
я    Га-врй-ле    гó-во-рй-ла.    Э-эх!