



Claire MacKenzie
Director of Music
Our Lady of Fatima
Russian Byzantine Catholic Church of San Francisco

Director of Music, Claire MacKenzie is an internationally recognized mezzo-soprano, possessing an intrigue of world musics, both sacred and secular. A native of San Francisco, Ms. MacKenzie attributes her knowledge and passion for sacred music to the musical upbringing and education she received through St. Brendan's Catholic School Parish and the San Francisco Girls Chorus. Ms. MacKenzie began her studies in voice and music theory from the age of 7 years old with the San Francisco Girls Chorus School, holding positions of Graduate, Laureate, Alumni, and Spokesperson. She also studied piano, oboe and English horn from an early age and continued to play with symphonies and chamber orchestras throughout her college career.

In 2013, Ms. MacKenzie received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music with concentrations in Opera and Middle Eastern Art Song, as well as a Minor in German Language and Literature from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, after which she went on to study Arabic Language and Recitation at Middlebury College. She has performed a number of Operas and concerts in venues throughout North America, Russia, South Korea, China, Germany, Austria, Spain and Portugal. Notable performances include Ms. MacKenzie's 2011 debut as Alto soloist with the San Luis Obispo Chancel Choir in a production of Mozart's *Requiem*, her collaboration with Grammy Award Winner, Al Jarreau, in their 2013 performance voted "exquisite, exceptional and innovative" by the *Los Angeles Examiner*, her 2014 debut as Alto soloist with the San Luis Obispo Chamber Orchestra in a production of Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, and her most recent Carnegie Hall solo debut of the Rahbani Brothers' *Andaloussiyyāt Suite*.

Ms. MacKenzie recently relocated to San Francisco where she currently holds engagements with Slavyanka Russian Chorus of San Francisco, Silicon Valley Chamber Music and Opera Society, Livermore Valley Opera, Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra, San Francisco Opera on Tap, and Opera on the Spot. In addition to her position as Music Director at Our Lady of Fatima, Ms. MacKenzie is the Saturday Vigil Cantor at St. Thomas the Apostle Roman Catholic Church of San Francisco, and has held past positions of Cantor, Alto Ringer, and Special Events Soloist at the First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo. A Master of Music candidate at the Boston University College of Music, Ms. MacKenzie is currently in pursuit of an MM and PhD in Performing Arts and Music Education with focuses on Sacred Music, Transcription, and Community Music Perspectives. It is her hope to further build upon the sense of community and the sacred that is invoked through the Divine Liturgy, as well as to help preserve the sacred music practices of the Byzantine Catholic Rite at Our Lady of Fatima.