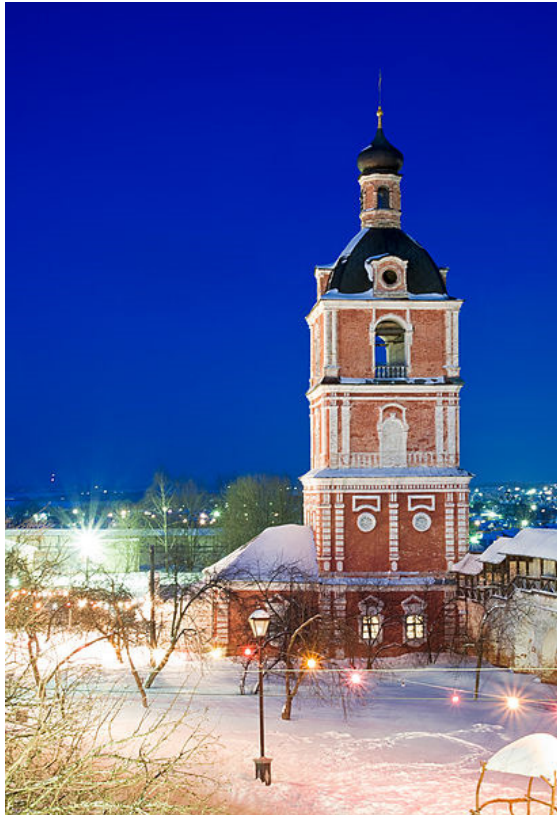


Father Frost and Old New Year: Christmas Traditions in Russia

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Rosamund has a Doctorate from Oxford and has held senior university posts, most recently at the European University Institute in Florence. She specialises in comparative study of art, music and literature, and currently writing a book on the Russian Avant-Garde and European Modernism. An author of several books, including biographies of Tolstoy and Chekhov, whose works she has also translated for Oxford World's Classics.



Where better to spend yuletide in pre-revolutionary times than in snowy Russia? Imagine yourself on Christmas Day wrapped in furs, sitting in your troika, bells ringing, on your way to church to celebrate the end of the 40 day fast, which ends as soon as the first evening star appears in the sky. This lecture explores the rich tradition of religious and folk customs associated with the Christmas period in Russia, and shows how they are reflected in the Russian arts, with musical illustrations. It also discusses the secular Christmas celebrations introduced to Russia by Peter the Great; how they were transformed by Stalin during Soviet times, and what Christmas means to Russians today.

Rosamund has extensive experience lecturing in Russian cultural history at venues such as the V&A, the National Theatre and Covent Garden, and broadcasts regularly on the BBC. She is often invited to lecture on tours, and is founding Director of the Anton Chekhov Foundation, set up to preserve the writer's house in Yalta.

