



Thirty-three years ago, the choir at Mt. Edgecumbe earned itself a statewide reputation under the direction of Father Michael Ossorgin. Even today, former students from across the state remember those days with extreme fondness, and regard Ossorgin with an admiration and respect seldom reserved for a high school instructor or anyone else. "He's a master in music, a great artist," explains Michael Lekanoff, Sr., a former student. "The greatest I have seen in my time!" "It's almost like a love affair, being in the choir," adds Elaine Etukeok. "Father is the one that brings the love affair to fulfillment!" Ossorgin is spending the summer in Anchorage training a new choir which consists mostly of Native and Mount Edgecumbe disciples. Concerts under this special Alaska Council of the Arts funded program have not yet been scheduled, but will include a broadcast on Channel 13. Lekanoff is serving as an assistant director in Anchorage and will keep the choir functioning when Ossorgin returns to his teaching position at St. John's College in New Mexico for the winter months. Father Michael Williams of Juneau is overseeing the organization of a branch of the choir in Southeast Alaska, and Elizabeth Walters of Nome is doing the same for the Northern part of the state. Ed Reese, formerly of Metlakatla, is journeying all the way from Las Vegas, Nevada, to participate. Practice sessions in Anchorage (above) are held each Monday through Thursday, at the Russian Orthodox Church, beginning at 7 p.m. All interested singers, Mt. Edgecumbe alumni or otherwise, are invited to participate.