

“Kushotz” Kraft

This craft re-creates the “*Kush-otz*,” (Fan/Flabellum), which may be found on the Armenian altar. The exact meaning and utility of the fan was to drive flies away in the form of cherubs. Deacons standing by the celebrant prevented the flies from landing on the consecrated elements of Holy Communion, as though the cherubs were protecting the consecrated elements. However, that initial use has lost its significance and today they serve as a musical adjunct rather than as a fan. The “Kushotz” are metallic cherubs with small bells that are fixed at the end of long wooden rods. At important and mystical moments during the Divine Liturgy, the fans move and ring out representing the singing of the cherubs.



MATERIALS:

- 2 paper plates
- Colored markers, crayons, or paint
- Masking tape
- A chopstick, Straight tree stick, or a Wooden dowel (may be bought at the hardware store)
- String, cut into 3-5 inch pieces
- Bells or beads
- Stapler
- Tape
- “Ku-shotz” explanation template

DIRECTIONS:

1. Give each student 2 plates. Using markers, crayons or paint instruct them to decorate:
 - On 1 plate: Write, “Kushotz”
 - On the other plate: Draw a Cherub

NOTE: *students will be decorating the OUTSIDE of the plates, not the inside!*



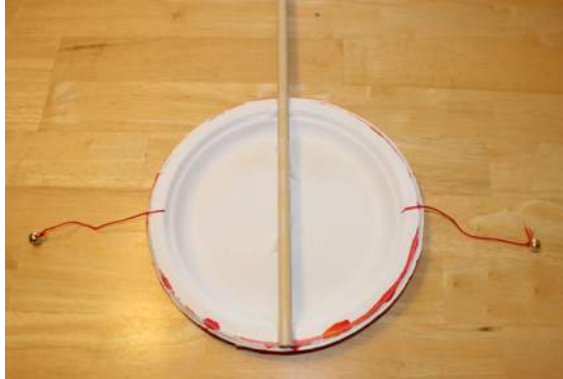
2. Tape a wooden dowel (chopstick, stick) to the inside of one of the plates.



3. Give each student 2-6 pieces of string, (your choice depending on how much time you have and the age of your students), and the same number of bells or beads. Instruct students to tie 1 bell/bead to each string.



4. Using tape, attach the end of each string around the inside sides of their plate.



5. Using a stapler, attach the second plate on top. Make sure the students staple where the pellet strings were attached to help secure them in place.

