

KEYNOTES



December, 2011

On the Schedule for Keynotes

The editor tries to let everyone know several weeks or more when *Keynotes* is coming out. Keynotes needs *your* input of articles and photos about and of *your* choir.

Very few respond. That is why our publications are getting slimmer and slimmer (unlike the editor). Please remember that this publication is for you and that you can add to it regularly, as well as to *Notable Notes*.



President's Report

Happy New (Ecclesiastical) Year! I hope everyone's summer was enjoyable, and that you have all returned rested, revived and rejuvenated, ready for another year of singing in your respective choirs. It was so nice seeing those of you who attended our 35th Annual Choir Conference in Spartanburg, SC, and a great big "Thank You" goes out to our hard-working hosts. Furthermore, Joanna Cavalaris conducted us beautifully, Kay Nastopoulos never missed a beat on the organ, Cali Spyropoulos did a wonderful job with the children, and the three CMI clinicians were entertaining and informative. All in all, a terrific experience. Kudos, Spartanburg, for a job well done!

I must admit that this edition of *Notable Notes* is a little late because of me. I hoped to have more definite information for you regarding next year's choir conference. I will go so far as to say it will be held in Charlotte, NC. Pencil in July 19-22, 2012; hopefully the date will be set in stone by the time the next publication comes out. The details on how to go about ordering the music will be disseminated at that time as well.

Finally, thank you for electing me as your Federation president. I will strive to earn your trust in me and serve you well during the coming year.

In His Service,

Lucy Zapsas

SFGOCM President



SFGOCM Participates in Eastern Federation Conference:

Four members of our SE Federation attended the Eastern Federation Conference in Baltimore, Maryland the weekend of October 7-9. Federation President Lucy Zapsas of Charlotte, NC, Helen Paliouras of Chapel Hill, NC, and Tony Thompson of Raleigh, NC represented our federation this year. Also in attendance was Eleni Nicholas of Durham, NC in the Youth Choir, and Elia Nicholas of Durham, NC, who served

as conference organist under the direction of Nick Kyros of Alexandria, Virginia.

The selected music for the conference was the Cardiasmenos arrangement of the Divine Liturgy. Over 100 participants were greeted with excitement and enthusiasm in the Annunciation Cathedral community, and we were treated like royalty the entire weekend. From the top notch entertainment of Zephyros Greek Band, to classical music presentations done by scholarship recipients of the Eastern Federation, to a touching musical selection sung by native Raleighian Ann (Davis) Sophocleus, the Friday night performances were magnificent. And the food was absolutely delicious...topped off, of course, by no other than traditional Baltimore crabcakes! His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos celebrated the Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning along with Fr. Constantine of the Cathedral.

In attendance at the Sunday Divine Liturgy were nationally recognized Georgia Tangires and Presvytera Anna Gallos.

As reported by Elia Nicholas



Christmas

Well, by this time, most, if not all, of us have had our Sunday School pageants, our concerts, if any, and are counting down the days until our Christmas Liturgy.

There is a wealth of Orthodox Christmas music available on the internet. Go to any of the internet sites of the OCA (Orthodox Church in America) or the Antiochian Archdiocese and you will find beautiful things. Some individual churches also have seasonal music on their websites.

Although I am now the psalti (by default, not by skill or knowledge) of my parish and know that there is a certain Troparion, for example of the Sunday before the Nativity! Who knew? The one that I found was through a Greek church in California but is to a Russian tune, very familiar to anyone who sings with our Slavic brothers and sisters, but also a tune which Tchaikovsky purloined for his *1812 Overture*. It is late for it this year, but I have attached a copy for next year.

Our GOYA at St. Sophia in Miami announced that it was going to go around caroling for donations this year. The choir used to do that but we stopped a few years back as we have not been getting younger replacements. Naturally, when I received a copy of the email, I responded to all: "I expect to see you ALL in the choir in

the very near future". No one listens to Leon. We have to get our teenagers involved.

We all know that there is talent out there in the teens and young adults. Some are even quite religiously and spiritually centered, and yet, they don't find time.

If they find time to watch every single football and baseball game and spend hours on Facebook, why can they not pray the Divine Liturgy's hymns for the betterment of our worship?

I rarely skip a Sunday in choir. If I am travelling, I always "crash" the local choir. So far, Oakland, California, Rome, Italy and many parishes in between have suffered my choir crashing. I find that it centers my world when I chant/sing the Divine Liturgy on Sunday. Even when I was at Carolina (the *real* one, in Columbia, of course), I sang in the choir whenever I could.

Come on, Yiayiades, get them into the choir. In my estimation, without the Church, we are not Greeks. Without doing as much as we can in the praise of our Lord, how can we experience the Holy Spirit?

Leon Karahalıs
Editor



From the Choir Loft at Holy Trinity in Raleigh, NC:

Greetings to all from the Triangle of North Carolina, where our choirs are busy preparing for a new and improved Christmas Program jointly celebrated with our tremendous Sunday School on December 11. Our adult choir and Youth Choir have been rehearsing for the past month in order to present our annual Christmas Gift to our community.

Some of our musical highlights from our program include In the Bleak Midwinter, He Is Born, Gabriel's Message, Infant Holy Infant Lowly, and O Holy Night. Our men's choir will sing Isayia Horeve--the one the Charleston men's choir have sung so beautifully--such an appropriate piece for Christmas. Another highlight for our group will be the donning of our NEW Choir Robes for our Christmas Program! It has been way too long overdue for our choir, but, we are excited about wearing them!

We also are very blessed to have Tony Thompson, a jazz musician, keyboardist, piano tuner, and byzantine chanter! join our choir this fall. He has already contributed greatly to our group and we look forward to utilizing his mutli-talents in the future.

Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas season and all the best for 2012!

Elia



From Saint Sophia Cathedral in Miami, Florida

Coming back from summer recess early left us somewhat sparse sometimes, but even with 4 voices at times, St. Sophia's choir held our own against the vast open space of the cathedral, even receiving praise for the purity of our sound.



St. Sophia has managed to triple Orthros attendance simply by alternating Greek and English verses. Our exceptional Cypriot psalti, George, has unfortunately returned to Athens to be with his children and grandchildren. We had another psalti for about a month, but it just did not work out. So, Father Stavroforos and I are winging the Orthros in about 90% English. It works.

Leon Karahalıs



District Supervisors

There are seven conferences, each with a District Supervisor. **At present, we still need a Supervisor for the Western Conference.**

Northeast	Elia Nicholas
Coastal	Mary Koutroulīs
Central	Kay Nastopoulos
Western	Suzy Balasis (until a supervisor is appointed)
North Florida	Jim Kouchalakos
Tampa Bay	Marilyn Neyland
South Florida	Leon Karahalıs

PLEASE try to have district and area rehearsals before the conference.



Photo and Video Feature

It seems as if only one person other than myself is using the photo site which is for all of you to use. If you have any pictures or videos, please send them on to leonk@bellsouth.net and I'll upload them onto your choir's own albums on the site. **To view them and many other photos, please visit it by clicking on [this link to our photo site](#).** Again, your choir can have its own album as can any special events simply by letting Leon Karahalıs know. *Please full advantage of this site!*

St. Sophia has placed two of its Holy Week hymns as video links at <http://video.fotki.com/SFGOCM/> - *Simeron Kremate* and the *Troparion of Kassiani*. This was simply made by putting a regular digital camera in front of us and letting it record. Almost any relatively new digital camera can do this. **You can do this** with any of your relevant videos, whether musical or not. Just send them or a link to them to <mailto:leonk@bellsouth.net>.



What do your children or grandchildren do with their spare time?

How often do they sit at the TV channel surfing? How about dry-eyed at the computer, possibly playing games or otherwise frittering away time? How much joy has choir brought to you?

To me, one of the best bequeathals we can give to our future generations is the gift of our church and its music. It's not just for yiayia, you know!

Leon Karahalıs
Editor, Notable Notes and Keynotes

Not too early for a worthy student to apply for the Scholarship 100 for 2011!

[Click here for the Scholarship 100 Application form!](#)

Notable Link

Pilgrims and Pioneers: The Growth of Orthodox Christianity in 20th Century America

http://www.princeton.edu/~florov/orthodox_history_symposium.html



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St. Romanos the Melodist

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Membership renewal time for the Southeast Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians (SFGOCM) is here again. Your membership helps support our annual Federation choir conference and other events that enhance the spiritual journey of your choir members.

Annual dues for 2011 are **\$100 for choirs** and a **minimum of \$10 for individuals**. If your choir is an active member of the SFGOCM, you do not need an individual membership. Individual memberships are for those who do not belong to a member choir, but wish to be involved and updated on Federation happenings.

This year our annual conference will be held in **Charlotte, NC on July __, 2011**. Your executive board will be meeting soon to finalize plans. Guest conductors will be announced in Keynotes. Be sure to mark your calendar and make plans to attend this exciting conference. In order to participate in the annual conference, you or your choir must have paid the current dues.

In order to better serve you, the federation board has compiled the enclosed survey. Please submit your completed survey and dues with a **check payable to SFGOCM** by December 31, 2011, and mail to me at:

Suzy Balasis
SFGOCM Vice President
PO Box 47755
St. Petersburg, FL 33743

Thank you in advance for your prompt response.

In His Service,

Suzy Balasis

cc: Executive Board

