

# KEYNOTES



May 2008

## Editor's Note

Please excuse the paucity of articles and pictures from the various parishes. There were very few responses and that is something that this editor just cannot fake. We need your help in making these publications an expression of the members of our Federation!

*(For those who did not respond — please be sure to contact [leonk@bellsouth.net](mailto:leonk@bellsouth.net) for the next edition of Keynotes and Notable Notes, our monthly newsletter; for upcoming events and news from your parish— remembering that the cutoff dates are always the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month before publication))*

We have rented a photo and video site for you to post your media. If you don't send them, they cannot be shared with everyone. The space is limitless, so please, *please* send them to me as you get anything at all that relates. Yes, this includes baby pictures!

Leon

## Conference Update

Please go to [the SFGOCM web page by clicking here](#) to find the conference flyer. More information will be coming out soon, but please, get a head start on the process to ensure that your choir members are apprised of the opportunities that await them. The Guest Director will be Dr. Phillip Thevaos and the Guest Organist will be Artemisia Thevaos.

## President's Message

*Christos Anesti* to my fellow Federation members and Friends,

I hope your spiritual journey to Pascha was enjoyable.

Let me take this opportunity to update you on the many activities and projects that have been occurring in our federation since we last communicated.

First and foremost The Divine Liturgy for Choir Volume 2 (2008) composed by Kevin Lawrence has been printed and can be ordered. Please reference the federation website under Music by Kevin Lawrence for a brief description and ordering information.

Welcome aboard to Stan Evdemon who has agreed to take on the responsibility as chairman of the Patriarch Athenagoras Award Committee. Due to personal reasons, Joanna Hill stepped down as chairman of the committee. Thank you Joanna for your service in this capacity and we look forward to seeing you at the conference in New Port Richey. Note: deadline for nominations is May 23rd.

Final preparations are being made for our federation adult and youth choirs who will be traveling to Greece with His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios. They will be leaving June 5

and returning June 16, 2008. To help defray their costs, donations were made from the Scholarship 100 Fund and Kevin Lawrence asked that his share of the profits from the Divine Liturgy book be donated to the Choir Trip Fund. This promises to be a trip of a lifetime and we wish them Kalo Taxidi.

Thank you to our webmaster Fr. Den. Charles Joiner for your dedicated hard work. It is largely through your efforts that our federation website has garnered rave reviews most notably from our National Forum Chairman Dr. Vicki Pappas. In a note to all the federation presidents she pointed to our website as the model all others should use when developing their sites.

We now have an adjunct site for photos and videos, thanks to the efforts of our newsletter editor Leon Karahalios. If you have any choir pictures or videos to share with the membership, please send them to Leon at [leonk@bellsouth.net](mailto:leonk@bellsouth.net) and he will upload them to the site for all to view.

We plan to expand our awards and recognition program to include the years of service for all musicians within our federation. Currently we have been tracking the years of service for choir directors, organists and chanters and recognizing them at 25 years of service. To make the program work properly it requires the cooperation of all choirs by returning their information with the annual surveys to our Vice President Margaret Sarafoglu for accurate recording.

The Catherine Kandilakis Federation Library, which includes among other things the music and recordings of our past conferences, will be moving to a permanent location at the Diakonia Center. We thank Toula, our Librarian, who has



been storing the library in her home all these years. We had asked the Metropolitan if we could house the library in the metropolis but he felt it would be better served at the Diakonia Center which would give it more accessibility.

July 13 - July 17 our National Forum Coordinating Committee will be representing our federation at the annual National Forum Meetings which this year will co-inside with the 39th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress in Washington, DC. Among the agenda items is a report by each federation on their annual activities, projects funded by NF and CMI sessions such as the Conductor's Training Academy are reviewed.

July 24 - July 27 are the dates of our annual Choir Conference which as you may know will convene at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in New Port Richey FL. General Chairman Tina Wilson and the entire community of St. George have been working feverishly to assure us that we are in for a great time. As you know, the financial success of our annual conference is largely dependent on the success of the commemorative album, therefore I encourage all choirs to submit a choir picture and consider placing an ad from your Parish Council and Philoptochos. Please reference the choir packet which is downloadable from our website.

Dr. Philip Thevaos, our guest director for the conference this year will also serve as a clinician for one of our CMI Workshop sessions. His topic "Analysis of the Robert Shaw Choral Technique" where he will be reviewing the rehearsal techniques which will include video excerpts and open discussion of the methods presented. Once the entire CMI sessions have been finalized, a flyer will be sent to the federation membership via our website and future issues of Notable Notes.

In closing I would like to offer an editorial comment from my personal experiences. Happy and successful choirs thrive in an environment where the parish priest, the chanter and the choir director work hand-in-hand together in harmony as a team to make the liturgies enjoyable and prayerful. Communications and a general mutual respect for one another are key in order for this team concept to work effectively. Once egos and jealousy enter the picture and the mutual respect for one another erodes then the obvious problems develop and we are left with chaos resulting in choirs disbanding.

Fortunately in the parishes where I have been a choir member, communications was never an issue. Frequent meetings are held to review the week's services and rehearsals are often held with the parish priest and chanter present. We rehearsed until everyone felt comfortable and safe in the knowledge that they were an integral part of the impending service. I hope you are among the fortunate who sing in a happy choir.

**May 2008**

I am looking forward to seeing you at the conference this summer in New Port Richey.

I remain in His service,

John

### ***New Athenagoras Chairman***

I regret to inform you that for personal reasons, Joanna Hill has relinquished her position as chairman of The Patriarch Athenagoras Committee.

On behalf of the federation I want to say Thank you Joanna for your dedicated service over the years and we hope to see you at the conference in July.

I have asked Stan Evdemon of St. John's in Tampa to assume the position of chairman of the committee. Stan, who is a past recipient of the Athenagoras Medal, has been very active in our federation over the years having served on various committees, and served multiple terms as Treasurer and Vice President of the federation.

Thank you Stan for agreeing to take on this very important responsibility.

Feel free to ask anyone you would like to serve on this committee.

Future Athenagoras forms will be changed to reflect Stan's home address for submitting nominations.

For your reference, Stan's address is:

Stan Evdemon  
9216 Estate Cove Circle  
Tampa, FL 33569  
Phone # 813.246.5002

I remain in His service,

John

# KEYNOTES



May 2008

## Notable links

Listen to “Xristos Anesti” on the site below... beautifully executed and rejoice in his rising from the dead.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7tKexc4wSM&feature=related>



From a Russian monastery in West Virginia, we have been supplied the following links. <http://www.holycrosskliros.org/> There is music posted - mostly znamenny, but some other things as well.



[Russian Orthodox Church Musicians](#) Offers many scores for mixed choir, mostly those of Synodal Choir director Boris Ledkovsky

[The Society of St. Romanos the Melodist](#) Society promoting and publishing Liturgical Chant in English. The Society publishes fine books like those available [here](#).

[PSALM](#) The Pan-Orthodox Society for the Advancement of Liturgical Music

[The Divine Music Project](#) Lots of Byzantine Chant from St. Anthony’s Monastery. Used to be called “The Divine Liturgies Music Project.”

[Greek Liturgical Texts](#) Complete Liturgical Texts in monotonous and polytonous Greek. An excellent resource compiled by Fr. Leo Scheffe and hosted by [TCG Alaska](#)

[Liturgia](#) A complete Divine Liturgy in Romanian Chant (and in the Romanian language) by Catalin Francu using [Lilypond](#).

[St. Nicholas’ Choir Corner](#) Some scores in English from St. Nicholas Church in Asheville, NC

[Anthology of Serbian Chant](#) Serbian composer Nikola Resanovic has posted a very complete Sbornik of Serbian Chant (in English).

[Kurt Sanders Orthodox Choral Music Website](#) Many scores by Kurt Sander and other interesting materials regarding Orthodox Liturgical Music (and Arvo Pärt).

[Traditional Polyphony of Georgia](#) A fascinating and extensive site on Georgian music, including an informative section on the history and meaning of Georgian Sacred Polyphony

## **FROM VICKI PAPPAS:**

Dear Members of the Church Music List,

Dimitrios Fouteris is putting together a Byzantine and Classical Music Concert on June 1st at the St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church in Brooklyn, NY. It will feature the finales of the Kalomiris Symphony of Levendia and the Astrinidis Symphony of 1821, among other choral and solo works as well.

He is inviting area singers to join him. If you are interested, rehearsals will start on the morning of April 12th

at St. Nektarios Church at 11:00 am. Additional ones will be scheduled with the group members as the rehearsals continue.

You may contact Dimitri via email at [<mailto:dfouteris@tcrmcommercial.com>](mailto:dfouteris@tcrmcommercial.com) or [<mailto:hfouteris@msn.com>](mailto:hfouteris@msn.com). Or by phone at (212) 371-3933 or (201) 679-3275 or (201) 943-0727.

Below are more details in a letter he has sent me about the concert and his call for singers....

March 27, 2008

Vicki Pappas, President  
National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians  
Re: June 1st, 2008 Concert  
Dear Ms. Pappas:

In continuation to our telephone conversation on March 27, 2008 with this letter we would like to inform you that the Hellenic Opera House and the Hellenic Symphony Orchestra of New Jersey, will present and perform a Byzantine and Classical Music Concert on June 1st, 2008, at the St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church, 340 67th Street Bay Ridge Brooklyn NY, under the auspices of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople and dedicated to the “Fall of Byzantium 1453”.

We will perform the finales of the Symphony of “Levendia” by M. Kalomiris and the “Symphony of 1821” by N. Astrinidis, excerpts from Bellini’s Opera “Norma”, and the religious aria “Agnus Dei” by George Bizet. Soprano Helena Biktasheva from Moscow Opera will participate. She will also perform Greek Folk Songs from the Revolutionary period of 1821 “The Lagiarni”. Master Pianist Inna Leytush will accompany her with our orchestra. Concert Master Raphael Klayman, will perform the violin solo from the Greek Mythology “Tais Meditation”, under the direction of Maestro Dimitrios M. Fouteris.

We will gratefully appreciate if choir members from your organization will help us and participate on subject concert. First rehearsal will take place at St. Nektarios Church Bay ridge Brooklyn NY, on April 12, 2008 at 11:00 AM. Additional rehearsals will be scheduled at this day. All proceeds will be donated at the Sacred Patriarchal and Stavropegial Orthodox Monastery of St. Irene Chrysovalantou, in Astoria New York, which is the only one of the Sacred Patriarchal and Stavropegial Monasteries of the Ecumenical Throne, and celebrating the 10th year of its establishment.

Concluding, I would like to thank you in advance for your kind consideration and support. In the mean time should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at (212) 371-3933 or (201) 679-3275 or (201) 943-0727 or by fax (201) 943-0752

Very truly yours,

Dimitrios M Fouteris, PhD.  
Music Director and Conductor



May 2008

## Parish Notes



### *From the choir of Annunciation Cathedral, Atlanta, GA*

Kali Anesti!  
Since the last edition of Keynotes, The Annunciation Cathedral Choir of Atlanta performed its annual Christmas concert with the Atlanta Hellenic Community



Orchestra. The concert, which took place in the Kartos Ballroom of the Hellenic Center, followed a delicious meal prepared and served by our GOYANS. Over 350 people were in attendance, and the evening left everyone filled with the holiday spirit. The Concert was also recorded on CD and is available for purchase through our Cathedral Bookstore. The spring season found us once again rehearsing for the Lenten season and Holy Week. We would like to wish everyone a blessed Pascha. Christos Anesti!

Christina Polizos



### *St. John, Tampa, Florida*



Christos Anesti!

The choir of St. John The Baptist church in Tampa, FL has spent several very intense weeks preparing for Holy Week services. We were to be blessed with the presence of His Eminence, Metropolitan Alexios for the Holy Friday evening services and were, naturally, a little nervous.

Much to our great sorrow, just a few days before Holy Week, one of our beloved cantors, Dr. Demetrios Halkias passed away. There were some bittersweet moments as he was remembered during the services.

Our choir has grown substantially in the last year, and it was wonderful to have all but 1 or 2 members each time we sang. We're up to about 30 members when all are there. Doxa Si!

Holy Tuesday's hymn of Kassiani was especially lovely and Holy Friday with the presence of His Eminence was very moving.

After a week off to recuperate from the fasting and the feasting, we will begin to prepare for Choir Conference. We hope to be well-represented since it's "just up the road." Looking forward to seeing many old friends and, hopefully, some new ones, we'll see you in July.

Suzy Belasis



## *From the Choir Loft at Holy Trinity Charlotte, NC:*

Hello from Charlotte! We have big news in the Holy Trinity Choir. In January we began having a choir at the first service on Sunday mornings in addition to the regular second service choir. The 12-member choir is led by Toni Karnazes. The choir sings in unison, in both Greek and English. Their peaceful and serene sound mirrors the serenity of our first liturgy and our community is overjoyed to have a choir help celebrate the liturgy at both services. The first service choir rehearses on Tuesday nights while our second service choir continues to rehearse on Thursday nights.



In addition to the two adult choirs, we now have a Youth Choir. The choir consists of approximately 32 voices ranging from ages 8 to 11. Led by choir member Olga Yamalis, they meet the last 30 minutes of Sunday School two or three times out of the month. The Children's Liturgy occurs on the first Sunday of the month. The Youth Choir sings from the traditional Kevin Lawrence Liturgy hymnal. They chant the Kyrie Eleison/Lord Have Mercy responses throughout the Liturgy and three hymns of the Liturgy as well. Their goal is to be able to sing the entire Children's Liturgy for the future and to include more grades as well. The Youth Choir was introduced mid-year of this 2007-2008 Sunday School year. The Youth Choir will restart in the 2008-2009 school year in September with hopes that it



will accelerate to an even stronger level with the addition of the new 3rd graders coming aboard. Olga makes the learning of the Liturgy music fun and exciting in hopes that this program will be a long commitment for and from the children to benefit all the faithful.

In February of this year, we were very excited to learn that our Parish Council has approved the purchase of a new organ for the Cathedral! The instrument will be custom-made by the Allen Organ Company and will be ready for installation later this year. In the coming months, we will be working on fundraising for the new instrument. We are truly blessed to have a community so supportive of our choir.

As always, Philip keeps us busy with learning new music. We have recently learned a Russian Cheruvikon from the Sofroniev Monastery in addition to some of Tikey Zes' music

## *May 2008*

from his newer Bilingual Liturgical setting. This year during Lent we also learned the Desby "Epi Si Cheri."

We wish you all Kali Anastasi and.... Christos Anesti!!

That's about it for now.

Katherine Kleto

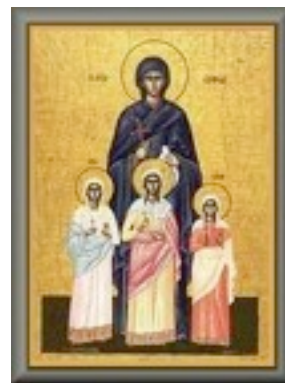


## *From the Choir Loft at St. Sofia, Miami, Florida:*

St. Sofia's choir has been happily busy through Thanksgiving, Christmas, Epiphany and Pascha.

In lieu of our annual Christmas party, we donated the amount we would have spent to one of the Philoptochos' charities, which left us with a much better feeling than possible indigestion that we would have suffered! 'Tis better to give than receive!

Easter was glorious. There were times during Holy Week that some of those readings and hymns that we are so used to just took on such a poignant meaning that folks in the choir and in the congregation were welling up with emotion. It is, after all, why we are what we are. St. Sofia's mighty cherubs were more consistently inspiring than ever.



As we look towards summer, all we think of is the Conference in New Port Richey.

I personally apologize in advance, but I shall not be able to attend this year, as I have to attend a wedding that weekend.

No one but I noticed the coming and going of St. Leonidas day, preferring to pay their taxes instead. Priorities!

Leon Karahalis

May 2008

choir/committee great success in their planning, and the execution of those plans.

Billie Spirides



## *Greetings from Tarpon Springs, Florida, the Epiphany City!*

Greetings from the Epiphany City, 2008!

There have been some changes in our choir. JoAnna Hill, our choir director, has taken a hiatus from directing, due to personal and professional reasons. We hope to have her back in the future.



Katie Faklis, who was our director for many years before semi-retiring, giving JoAnna the leadership several years ago, is now directing us again through Lent and the Easter season. It is our tradition to sing until Pentecost and then stop for the summer. The last several years, those who wanted to sing during the summer would come to church and participate in the service.



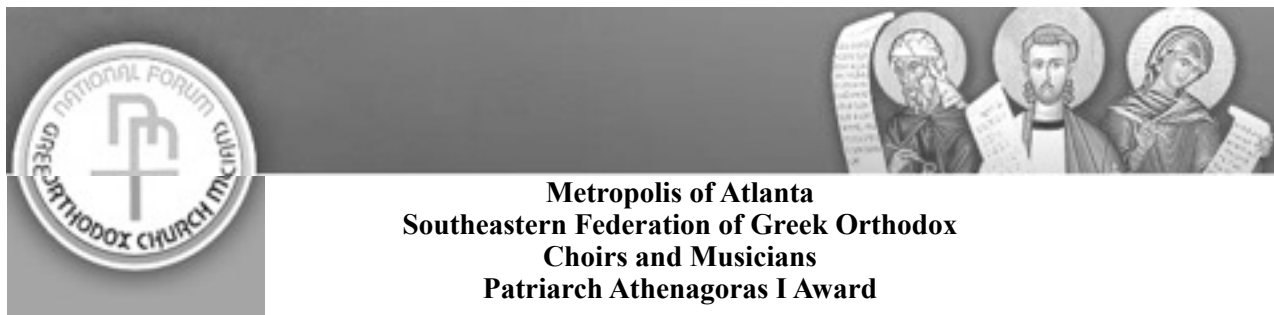
We sang as usual on New Years Day, and held an Artoklasia for members of the choir, especially those whose name day falls on New Years Day, as well as those who have family members who celebrate that name day.

Our choir, again, enjoyed participating in all the excitement of Epiphany on January 6, which included the beautiful liturgy and the procession to the Spring Bayou for the cross-throwing service. The weather cooperated and everyone was buoyant with enthusiasm. The dove carrier this year was Irene Koulianos, a very devout member of our choir who sings alto and participates in all of our functions. She was very deserving young lady. There were 50+ divers between the ages of 16 and 18, and the young man who retrieved the cross was 18 year old Christopher Kavouklis.

We sang during the Salutation Services each of the five Friday nights. As is our custom in Tarpon Springs, we will be singing at the Nymphios Services during Holy Week, including the Kassianis on Holy Tuesday night. Friday night, we sing the Lamentations and proceed through the downtown area of Tarpon Springs with the Epitaphios in the Epitaphion, which is carried by young men of our community. Holy Week culminates in the traditional Resurrection Service at midnight - complete with fireworks!

We, at St. Nicholas, would like to wish all of you a blessed Lenten Season and Kali Anastasi. We are looking forward to attending the choir conference at St. George in New Port Richey in July. We wish the New Port Richey





**Metropolis of Atlanta  
Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox  
Choirs and Musicians  
Patriarch Athenagoras I Award**

Spring 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The time has come once again to consider who among your choir members should be recognized for their dedication to the Music Ministry of our Church. The Patriarch Athenagoras I Award was initiated by the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians and established in 1996 as a means of giving national recognition to meritorious individuals whose contributions to the Music Ministry of the Church are worthy of distinction.

Each year at the conclusion of our choir conferences three individuals are recognized for their meritorious service. Each recipient shall have significantly contributed talents and/ or service to the development and perpetuation of the Greek Orthodox Church Choirs and Musicians of the Atlanta Metropolis.

The **deadline** for 2008 nominations is **May 23, 2008**. The nomination form and biographical data cover sheet are available in this issue of *Keynotes* and on the Federation web site: [www.sfgocm.org](http://www.sfgocm.org). Guidelines are available on the Federation website or by request. A letter with the nomination form and biographical data cover sheet should be mailed to:

Stanley Evdemon  
Athenagoras Award  
9216 Estate Cove Circle  
Riverview, Florida 33578  
[stan.evde@verizon.net](mailto:stan.evde@verizon.net)

Nominations for this prestigious award should be received by our Athenagoras Award Committee no later than the deadline date in order to be considered as an eligible candidate. Late nominations will be placed on file and reviewed by the committee in 2009.

We look forward to receiving your nomination and seeing you in New Port Richey Florida!

Yours in His Service,

*Stanley Evdemon*

Stanley Evdemon  
Chairman, Athenagoras Award



May 2008

**Metropolis of Atlanta  
Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians  
Patriarch Athenagoras I Award  
NOMINATION FORM**

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In order to send committee members copies of the nominations to review, all nominations must be post-marked  
*NO LATER THAN MAY 23, 2008*

The nomination form must be signed by the director of the local OR the parish priest.

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_ Category \_\_\_\_\_

Parish of Nominating Choir \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Contact Person submitting Nomination \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ FAX number \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Choir Director or Parish Priest Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed material including Biographical Data Cover Sheet

- 1. Regional Contributions
- 2. Local Contributions
- 3. Federation Activities
- 4. Special Achievements/ Awards /Contributions

To: Stanley Evdemon  
Athenagoras Award  
9216 Estate Cove Circle  
Riverview, Florida 33578





May 2008

**Metropolis of Atlanta  
Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians  
Patriarch Athenagoras I Award  
Stanley Evdemon, Chairman**

Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians  
and the  
National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians

**PATRIARCH ATHENAGORAS MEDAL  
FOR METROPOLITAN SERVICE**

**Metropolis of Atlanta  
Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians  
Patriarch Athenagoras I Award**

**NOMINEE'S BIOGRAPHICAL DATA COVER SHEET**

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**Nominee**

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**Category**

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**Address**

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**Phone**

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**City/State**

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**Zip Code**

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**Parish**

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**City/State**



May 2008

## FEDERATION CHOIR TRIP TO GREECE

As you may remember, His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios has recently been encouraging the federation to organize a choir tour to Greece. We have accepted this challenge and have now begun making plans for this trip. We have confirmed with His Eminence a departure date of Thursday, June 5th, 2008, and a return on Monday, June 16th.

Traveling with His Eminence, we will be singing the divine liturgy at the church of St. Andrew in Patras, and also presenting a concert there. In addition we will visit Kalavryta, Zachynthos, Olympia, Delphos, and Meteora, presenting concerts of sacred and folk music. We will also sing the divine liturgy at a church in Athens.

While the cost of the trip cannot be confirmed at this date, based on this year's costs, plane fare will be approximately \$1000 to \$1200 per person, and the cost of lodging, food and local transportation is estimated to be approximately \$1000 per person. The federation will make every effort to keep travel costs low; for example, we are exploring the possibility of staying in homes while in Patras.

The core of the choir will be members of the Dormition choir from Greensboro, NC and the Orthodox Youth Choir of Tampa Bay, groups which were awarded gold medals in the Metropolis 2006 and 2007 Hellenic Dance Festival choir competitions. The group will be directed jointly by Kevin Lawrence and Joanne Kambouris. We are sure to have room for additional singers from around the Metropolis, especially tenors and basses. Since it is important to have some idea of how many are interested in taking part in this adventure, we ask you to fill out the brief survey and return it by the end this month.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Toula Chininis  
336-288-7968  
[2LA@bellsouth.net](mailto:2LA@bellsouth.net).

### CHOIR TRIP SURVEY

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Federation Choir Conference (years participated) \_\_\_\_\_

Voice Part \_\_\_\_\_

Any musical training in voice \_\_\_\_\_

Any musical training in an instrument \_\_\_\_\_

Member of church choir (years) \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit survey only if you are truly committed towards this trip. Selection may be based on auditions and choir director's recommendations.