

KEYNOTES



May 2012

President's Report

To My Beloved Choir Friends - Christos Anesti!! I hope and pray that you and your families celebrated a joyous and spiritually uplifting Pascha.

I also hope you are now renewed and revved up, anxious to start planning for our 36th Annual Choir Conference, to be held in Charlotte, North Carolina, from July 19 - 22, 2012. As you may be aware, we will be singing Constantine "Dean" Limberakis' arrangement of the Divine Liturgy, and we are fortunate to have him conducting it himself!

For those of you who don't know him, Dean is an instructor of music at Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline, MA. However, in case his name does ring a bell, he was our guest conductor once before, in 1982 in Mobile, AL, when we did a composite Liturgy of Bogdanos, Andros, and Margaris.

Irina Monzolevskaya of Charlotte will be the organist and *Cali Spyropoulos* of Charleston, who so wonderfully directed the children last year in Spartanburg, is returning again this year to conduct the youth choir.

Don't wait too long to order your music – at Dean's request, the host city is filling the orders and I am the contact person. Please email me or call me so that I can get the music to you as soon as possible – my contact information is at the bottom of this article. We would like folks to have practiced the music prior to arriving for the conference. That way, Dean can be working on making us sound beautiful rather than going over notes.

As always, the weekend will be preceded by Church Music Institute workshops running for approximately six hours on Thursday, July 19. I hope you are able to attend the CMIs as well as the conference. We are in the process of finalizing the clinicians but, historically, the presenters

have been very interesting and relevant in their discussions of church music.

I attended the National Forum's Presidents' Meeting as your SFGOCM representative last March in Indianapolis, IN. The presidents of all choir federations meet once a year to discuss issues important to musicians throughout the country. One goal that has been on the Forum's agenda for years culminated in the finalization of the Holy Synod-approved English translation of Christos Anesti and its subsequent dissemination to all communities by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios. I hope all choirs incorporate this version into their repertoires. Perhaps additional hymn translations are just around the corner?

Another important National Forum goal is to create a national database of church musicians. In today's technology-driven environment, it has become imperative to be able to communicate electronically in order to pass on vital information. Please provide your current email address to your choir director so that he/she can pass it on to our Federation Database Manager, John Mitchell. Choir directors, please gather the email addresses of your members and submit them via email to John at johnpm2@hotmail.com. This will also assist your Notable Notes/Keynotes editor, Leon Karahalis, who has indicated that he gets numerous notifications of undeliverable emails each time he sends out communications to all of you. *We don't want you to be out of the loop – the SFGOCM exists to benefit all members.* Finally, these emails will be included in the national database so that you can be advised of upcoming musical events in your area. Don't worry – they won't be sold to third parties. They will only be used for Church Music announcements.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you this July in Charlotte, the Queen City. The conference packet

will be posted shortly on our website, www.sfgocm.goarch.org.

In His Service,
Lucy Zapsas
SFGOCM President

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District Supervisors

There are seven conferences, each with a District Supervisor.

Northeast	Elia Nicholas
Coastal	Mary Koutroulias
Central	Nancy Barke
Western	Connie Tiliakos
North Florida	Jim Kouchalakos
Tampa Bay	Diane Trimis
South Florida	Leon Karahalas

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



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) and rarer and rarer. Please remember that this publication is for you and that you can add to it regularly, as well as to *Notable Notes*.



Triangle Orthodox Chorale

On Friday, April 6, 2012, the newly formed Triangle Orthodox Chorale presented "A Concert of Holy Paschal Music" at the Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Durham, North Carolina. Under the direction of Elia Nicholas, the 40 member chorale sang excerpts from Great Lent, Holy Week, Pascha, and Pentecost. The organist was Dr. Lonieta Cornwall, Assistant Music Professor at Shaw University in Raleigh.

The hour long concert was presented to nearly 200 congregants from across the Triangle. Freewill offerings were collected to support the Saint Barbara Fund.

Participating choristers included members of Holy Trinity Church in Raleigh, Saint Barbara Church in Durham, and Holy Trinity Cathedral in Charlotte.

The mission of the chorale is to minister to Orthodox and Non-Orthodox in teaching our faith through music. We hope to make this an annual event in the Triangle, and to one day minister to those throughout the Carolinas who wish to learn more about our rich Orthodox Faith.

As reported by Elia Nicholas



From Saint Sophia Cathedral in Miami, Florida

Despite a smaller than usual choir and diminished congregational attendance, the St. Sophia choir shone in the inspiring services of Holy Week.

Having a new dedicated choir area allowed us to have full access to all of our music, privacy during rehearsals and dispensed with the necessity of climbing the rickety, dark stairs of the stage in the Karnegis social hall. Our new "digs" have ample overhead lighting, closet and storage space in a building adjacent to the cathedral.

Since we are still without a full time chanter, we hired a seminary graduate from Patras, Alexandros Papadopoulos, who had chanted Holy Week services with us 3 years in a row at the end of the 20th century. Alexandros left his fiancée, his family and the comforts of home to be with us in our week of need. He had to pay for his replacement at Agia Fotini in Patras out of his own pocket. In late May, he will be married to Katerini, a Lebanese-American whom he met in Athens. Thereafter, he will be made a deacon and probably in about a year's time he will become a priest. Having chanted with his father, Father Nick of Agia Fotini, since he was 4 years old, he is an



accomplished chanter difficult to equal in the United States.

Father Nick has just finished a round of chemotherapy, and when Alexandros called home one day, he was delighted to learn that Metropolitan Alexios had visited his father that very day, being old friends from the seminary. Our own blessed Metropolitan Alexios has once again shown his compassion and love for all of his Orthodox brethren. I hope that he fully appreciates the recounting of the events at our church as told by Alexandros, whom he has known since birth.

As we gear up for Pentecost and our summer break, we will be rehearsing the Limberakis liturgy for those of us who are able to attend the conference in Charlotte.

The last time Charlotte had a conference was the first time that this writer attended a conference. There I met one of my dearest federation buddies, Geary Mandrapilias, with whom I share an interest in crazy gardening.

Leon Karahalīs



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 Karahalīs 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>.



Please remember to let me know when you change your email address!

AT&T has unfortunately limited my ability to send out the 400+ emails that I was sending out to notify people of the new editions of Notable Notes and Keynotes.

Further complicating the problem is that every time I try to send them out, fully 1/3 of them are rejected and sent back. I tried to update the mailing list that I have, but I cannot include you if you have not contacted me at leonk@bellsouth.net.

Leon Karahalīs

Editor, Notable Notes and Keynotes

Not too late for a worthy student to apply for the Scholarship 100 for 2012!

The Scholarship 100 was established as the †Father George and Anna Gallos and †Michael Zanakos Music Scholarship. Since its inception in 1986, it has made it possible for aspiring music students in our Metropolis to continue and further develop their studies in the field of music. An outcome for scholarship award recipients is the expectation that they will utilize their talents and abilities, in part, in service to the Greek Orthodox Church, to the Federation, its church music ministry, and to the Glory of God.

Scholarship guidelines and application are available on the Southeastern Federation website at [scholarship 100 application guidelines](#). There you will find another link to the application form at the bottom of the page. Scholarship applications are due by May 22.

Please contact Dean Johns by email to submit an application form at deangjohns@gmail.com.



Notable links

A symposium held at Indiana University. Click on [St. John of Damascus Society](#)



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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 2012 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 19-22, 2012**. Your executive board has been finalizing plans. Our guest conductors will be Constantine “Dean” Limberakis (adults) and Cali Spyropoulos (youth). 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** and mail to me at:

Marilyn Neyland
7708 S. Fitzgerald Street
Tampa, FL 33616

Thank you in advance for your prompt response.

In His Service,
Marilyn Neyland



cc: Executive Board



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Athenagoras Medal

April 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christos Anesti! The time has come once again to consider who among your choir 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 up to 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 and to their local communities.

The **deadline** for 2012 nominations is **May 26, 2012**. The nomination form and biographical data cover sheet are available in this issue of Keynotes and on the Federation web site: www.sfgocm.goarch.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:

Donna Trakas
7102 Bucks Ford Drive
Riverview, FL 33578

dptrakas@verizon.net

If nominations are not received by the deadline date, awards will not be presented.

I look forward to receiving your nomination and seeing you in Charlotte!

Yours in His Service,

Donna Trakas
Chairman, Athenagoras Award

