

KEYNOTES



March-April 2013

From Our President, Lucy Zapsas

My Dear Choir Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope and pray that your holidays were joyful and that you and your families are blessed with good health and prosperity during the New Year 2013.

Choir Conference News

- A great big “thank you” goes out to the community of Holy Trinity in Charlotte, North Carolina, for a terrific job hosting last year’s choir conference! Special kudos to Conference Chairman, Dr. Philip Thevaos for going out of his way to ensure everything was perfect. NASCAR Hall of Fame was a blast and the kids really enjoyed their outing at Sports Connection. It was so wonderful having Dean Limberakis of Boston conduct his own arrangement of the Divine Liturgy during the Sunday Hierarchical Service celebrated with His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios. He and the rest of his Boston friends are a wicked nice group of people! We were honored to have Federation Presidents Heidi Mason and Drucie Papafil there, not to mention the outgoing National Chairman of the National Forum, Dr. Vicki Pappas. Make sure to check out the photos here, <http://public.fotki.com/SFGOCM/2012-federation-con/> or on our website, <http://www.sfgocm.goarch.org>. The recording sounds great and the CDs should be shipping out soon. If you didn’t order one and wish to do so, please contact me using one of the methods listed at the end of this article.
- I hope you are starting to think ahead to this summer and our 37th Annual SFGOCM Choir Conference to be held in Tampa, Florida, July 25-28, 2013. The host community of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church has been working hard, finalizing the plans for what promises to be a fun and spiritually uplifting event. We will be singing Dean Limberakis’ musical arrangement again, as we did last year. Should you need music, please send a check for \$15 along with your name and mailing address to Constantine Limberakis, 375 Broadway, SPC 367, Lynnfield, MA 01940. If several members of your choir need music, please combine your orders and allow Dean to ship all the books to a single location. Our guest musicians this year will be Christina Polizos of Atlanta, Guest Conductor; Mary Anne Mastorides of Clearwater, Guest Organist; and Dena Byers of Raleigh, Youth Conductor.
- We are looking for a community to host the 38th Annual Choir Conference in 2014. As you know, it’s nice to be able to announce the following year’s location during the current year’s conference. If

you are interested in volunteering your parish, it is not too early to start laying the groundwork. Please contact me and I will advise you on how to proceed.

Recognition Corner

- Congratulations to our most recent recipients of the National Forum’s Patriarch Athenagoras Medal for 2012 – Suzy Balasis of St. John the Baptist, Tampa, and Christina Polizos of Annunciation Cathedral, Atlanta. Axioi!!
- Best wishes to this year’s recipients of the Fr. George+ and Presbytera Anna Gallos and Michael Zanakos+ Music Scholarship – Anthony Giallourakis, Constantine Giallourakis and Alexandra Slezak, all of Holy Trinity, Clearwater. We look forward to having them more involved in our Federation in the coming years!
- Our own Christina Polizos was invited to conduct the Boston Federation’s Choir Conference in Springfield, Massachusetts, last November. Some groupies from our Federation were there cheering her on (the Neylands and I) and we thought she did a great job! Congratulations, Christina!
- His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios was the first Metropolitan in the country to recognize outgoing National Forum National Chairman Dr. Vicki Pappas by honoring her during the annual Archangel Michael Awards Banquet, November 10, 2012. As you may be aware, His Eminence gives out several Metropolitan’s Choice Awards each year and Dr. Pappas received one of the Laity Awards for her “faithful and unceasing ministry” over the last 30 years. We’ll be posting her photos on our website, or you can see all of the honorees on the Metropolis website, <http://www.atlanta.goarch.org>.

Well, I think that’s it for this issue. Please send announcements, choir news, and any other information you would like to share to our editor, Leon Karahalis, at leonk@bellsouth.net.

In Christ’s Service,

Lucy Zapsas

SFGOCM President

Email – Lucy_38@hotmail.com

Home – (704) 827-2684

Cell – (704) 813-7129



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From St. John's, Tampa

They're getting ready for us!

A recent choir workshop was held at St. John Greek Orthodox Church in Tampa FL. The one-day retreat hosted over 75 choir members from the Tampa Bay area and was led by Fr. Stavros N. Akrotirianakis, Proistamenos of the St. John church. Fr. Stavros was recently appointed by His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios to work with choirs and chanters throughout the Metropolis. The goal of this ministry is to further educate choirs, create more uniformity in the celebration of the Divine Services and build chemistry between clergy and choirs. This was the first area-wide workshop held and was a resounding success.



Some of the topics addressed were:

1. How being “technically right” can still be wrong
2. Understanding what is going on in the Liturgy
3. Building chemistry between priest and choir by understanding the roles of each
4. Common mistakes in the Liturgy and how to correct them

Members from New Port Richey, Tarpon Springs, Clearwater, St. Petersburg, Orlando, Daytona Beach and Tampa had an opportunity to share ideas, ask questions, and compare problems and solution from their individual choirs.

Fr. Stavros looks forward to presenting similar workshops in other communities throughout the Metropolis.

Mrs. Artie Palios, Director of the St. John choir, presented some music from the Dean Limberakis arrangement of the Divine Liturgy, which will be presented at the annual South Eastern Choir Federation conference to be hosted by the St. John Parish the last weekend of July 2013 in Tampa. While familiar to many of the choir members, it was new to others and was well received. Enthusiasm for the Conference was high and many expressed an interest in area rehearsals to learn this arrangement and prepare for the Conference.

Stock up on sunscreen, find your flip-flops and sunglasses, order your music and get ready for a wonderful time in sunny Tampa! Look for information regarding the Conference in upcoming issues of Keynotes and on the Federation website. sfgocm.goarch.org

Suzy Balasis



Did you know

We have a Facebook page! With over 50 “likes”, we are growing fast. You don’t have to post a picture or anything but your name (and even then you can use a pseudonym) to have a page on Facebook and it makes our links and news readily available. Come join us!



Ricky Hill's debut

8 year old Ricky Hill, son of Gene Hill and Joanna (Papadacos) Hill sang the Greek Anthem at the kickoff of the 2013 annual education forum of the AFGLC (American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture) at the University of South Florida.

[Click here to view and hear it on YouTube!](#)



Don't forget our Photo Site!

This editor maintains a photo site just for the use of this federation. Please contact Leon Karahalas at leonk@bellsouth.net for uploading. **There is room for every parish to have an album or more.**

To view this year's conference photos, click on <http://public.fotki.com/SFGOCM/2012-federation-con/>.

There are more to come! For past years' conferences and other photo treatments of our combined music ministry, go to <http://public.fotki.com/SFGOCM/>



To: The Parents of our Youth in the Southeastern Federation

From: Maria Nicholas, 2013 SFGOCM Youth Choir Initiatives Chair

Checking out summer camps for your children? Are you looking for a fun, educational experience, in a spiritual setting for your child? I know I am! My name is Maria Nicholas, the newly-appointed Youth Choir Initiatives Chairwoman for this melodious metropolis. I have two children ages 6 & 10 who have been participants in the summer choir conferences for several years and who are looking forward to this year's choir conference. This year's choir conference promises to be a wonderful one for our children as it will be hosted by the very hospitable community of Tampa. Furthermore, this year's youth choir director, Mrs. Dena Byers from Holy Trinity Raleigh, NC, is a fun and energetic youth music educator in the Durham, NC school system. My own daughter, Eleni, sings under Dena's direction in a locally-acclaimed Durham children's choir. You don't want to miss this opportunity for your child to sing with Dena! Details of the conference are being made now so please keep July 25-28 open on your calendar.

I look forward to sharing more information regarding this year's choir conference in the next SFGOCM Keynotes,

Maria Nicholas

ejnicholas@frontier.com



To: Youth Choir Directors

From: Maria Nicholas, 2013 SFGOCM Youth Choir Initiatives

I hope you are looking forward to sending some of your youth choir members to Tampa like I am! I enjoyed meeting many of you in Charlotte this past summer. I want to remain in contact with you if something comes up for our children, however, my computer was hacked in September and I lost most of my saved emails. If you are a choir director or know of someone who is in our metropolis who works with children, could you please send me your/their emails?

Thank You,
Maria Nicholas
ejnicholas@frontier.com



Sad note

In 2008, another choir member and I thought it was time to honor a young man whose life was music. We nominated him for the Athenagoras Medal which was to be awarded at our SFGOCM Conference in Port St. Richey, FL. He was awarded the well deserved honor. At that time, Peter Zervakos was Atlanta’s Annunciation Cathedral’s organist. This wasn’t his only interest by any means. He was the Principal of a high school, taught music, founded the only orchestra composed of Orthodox members in the Atlanta Metropolis and was the first Director of Holy Transfiguration Choir in Marietta. These are only a few of his accomplishments. His family lives and breathes music as did he. On this day, I find it difficult to

write about Peter, the young man I have known since he was a teen, sitting behind me in the choir, singing his heart out. Diagnosed just a couple of years ago with



Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, he died on March 17. May God rest the soul of Peter Zervakos as he enters His

kingdom, amongst the angels, praising God on high.

May his memory be eternal.

Rosemary Hendrix

Check out these videos!

[Click here to view Litrosin by Bay Voices at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Tarpon Springs during the Christmas Concert](#)

Crash the choir in Honolulu:

<http://www.schgoc.hi.goarch.org.php5-26.dfw1-2.websitetestlink.com/ministries/choir>

For Lazarus Saturday:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=fg6D9iQcKs

National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians Directory

Mrs. Maria F. Keritsis, National Chairman

9030 Kings Crown Road

Richmond, Virginia 23236

Phone: 804-745-8605 (voice mail) or 804-539-8606

E-mail: MFK9@comcast.net

National Forum Website: <http://www.churchmusic.goarch.org>

Spiritual Advisor: Rev. Fr. Nicholas G. Bacalis
[Sts. Constantine & Helen Cathedral, Richmond, VA](#)

Stewardship

Mrs. Donna Aliapoulos

8157 Pine Tree Lane

Lake Clarke Shores, FL 33406

Phone: 561-586-8157

FAX: 561-586-9270

E-mail: SteveDonna@comcast.net

Liturgical Guidebook

Mr. Peter N. Vatsures

68 W. Cooke Road

Columbus, OH 43214

Phone: 614-263-1343 (10 am to 3 pm)

614-442-1109 (7:30 pm to 10 pm)

E-mail: vatspvn@hotmail.com

Dr. Nicolas Maragos

3625 Lakeview Court NE

Rochester, MN 55906

Phone: 507-288-3379

FAX: 507-284-8855

E-mail: maragos.nicolas@mayo.edu

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Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians

37TH ANNUAL CHOIR CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, JULY 25 - SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2013

HOSTED BY

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

TAMPA, FLORIDA

**Featuring the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostomos
Arranged by Constantine “Dean” Limberakis, Archon Primikirios**

**Conducted by Christina Polizos, Atlanta, Georgia
Accompanied by Mary Anne Mastorides, Clearwater, Florida
Youth Choir Directed by Dena Byers, Raleigh, North Carolina**

Keep checking the SFGOCM website for the most updated information!

www.sfgocm.goarch.org

Conference Chairman- Donna Trakas- dptrakas@verizon.net

Registration Chairman- Diane Trimis- dtrimis@earthlink.net

SFGOCM President- Lucy Zapsas- lucy_38@hotmail.com

“Sing unto the Lord a new song! Sing unto the Lord all the earth!” Psalm 96:1



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Athenagoras Award

February 6, 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

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 2013 nominations is **June 25, 2013**. 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 Tampa!

Yours in His Service,

Donna Trakas
Chairman, Athenagoras Award



**†Father George and Anna Gallos
and †Michael Zanakos
Music Scholarship**

The Scholarship 100 Fund 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 the Metropolis of Atlanta to continue and further develop their studies in the field of music. The first scholarship was awarded in 1990. The Federation has since awarded 61 scholarships.

SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

1. Applicants must submit a formal application for scholarship.
2. Applicants must be a member of the Metropolis of Atlanta.
3. Qualified applicants must be seeking an education in the field of music.
4. Applicants may be high school, college, graduate, or doctoral students.
5. The applicant must be (or have been) involved in a church choir at some given time.
6. All applications must be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from a local priest and/or choir director.
7. At least one scholarship will be awarded annually. Other scholarships may be offered if funds are available.
8. Applicants may wish to apply scholarship toward a summer music study.
9. Applicants may also wish to apply scholarship toward their vocal or instrumental instruction.
10. The Scholarship Committee will review and discuss all applications for scholarship.
11. Interviews and/or auditions of applicants will be conducted if deemed necessary.
12. Scholarship recipients will be selected by the scholarship committee with the approval of the Executive Board of the Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians.
13. Application and guideline information is available at www.sfgocm.org.
14. All applicants are reminded that an audition tape may be requested.

Scholarships are announced and awarded at the Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians annual conference usually held in July. 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 sfgocm.goarch.org/. Scholarship applications are due by May 22 to:

Dean G Johns
SFGOCM Scholarship Chairman
723 Neill Ridge Road
Matthews, North Carolina 28105
deangjohns@gmail.com

**SOUTHEASTERN FEDERATION OF GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH MUSICIANS
THE †FATHER GEORGE & PRESVYTERA ANNA GALLOS
& †MICHAEL ZANAKOS**

SCHOLARSHIP 100 GUIDELINES

1. Applicant must submit a formal application for scholarship.
2. Applicant must be a member of the Metropolis of Atlanta.
3. Qualified applicants must be seeking an education in the field of music.
4. Applicants may be high school, college, graduate, or doctoral students.
5. The applicant must be (or have been) involved in a church choir at some given time.
6. All applications must be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from a local priest and/or choir director.
7. At least one scholarship will be awarded annually. Other scholarships may be offered if funds are available.
8. Applicants may wish to apply scholarship toward a summer music study (i.e. Brevard Music Center).
9. Applicants may also wish to apply scholarship toward their vocal or instrumental instruction.
10. Scholarship committee will review and discuss all applications for scholarship.
11. Interviews and/or auditions of applicants will be conducted if deemed necessary.
12. Scholarship winners will be selected by the scholarship committee with the approval of the Executive Board of the Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians.
13. Application and guideline information is available at www.sfgocm.org.

All applicants are reminded that an audition tape may be requested.

Please mail completed application and letter of recommendation
by **MAY 22** of the current year to:

Dean G Johns
SFGOCM Scholarship Chairman
723 Neill Ridge Road
Matthews, North Carolina 28105
deangjohns@gmail.com