



Notable Notes

The Electronic Newsletter of the Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians — February 2011

click on <http://www.sfgocm.org/news>



Editor's note: The following article from Rosemary Hendrix is her reflection on changing choirs and finding new challenges in a smaller parish.

Senior Adjustments

I had a difficult time thinking of a title for this article, but as I thought about the topic itself, this seems to be appropriate. I recently opted to attend a Greek Orthodox Church closer to my home in the mountain area of NW Georgia. I am not young, I am told frequently and traveling has become burdensome. This is a good choice. I immediately asked to join the choir and this was appropriate because I have been singing in GOC choirs since I was 13 years old. Everywhere I moved, I sang in the choir - Pensacola, Miami, Chattanooga, West Palm Beach, Fort Meyers, Athens (GA), Atlanta and now in Marietta.

I began as an alto. I chose alto because the young boys in the choir were so handsome. In fact, I did marry one of the tenors. That was an aside - he dropped out and I am still singing. To get back to my point. Adjustment to the various choirs, the choir members, their ways of handling robes and music were all different. So many of them were very helpful as long as you didn't try to take their seats - they were very territorial, it seems.

Every choir I sang in, for so many years, had an Organist and a Director - some were old, some young, some male, some female, some retired, some professional musicians, some professional MDs, but all with a high interest in Orthodox hymns and an uncanny ability to work with the Priest.

The choir members varied as well. I sang along with those who were more than willing to give their voices the opportunity to contribute to our beautiful Liturgy, week after week, years after years. We were different, of course, but in many ways, the same.

This is the first time, I am not only adjusting to new choir situation, but adjusting to singing a cappella. Remembering my Greek school teaching, I thought it meant "without a hat", which was fine, since I stopped wearing hats in church a long time ago, but, I was wrong. There was an organ but no organist! I did a google search and the following article surprised me:

"Present-day Christian religious bodies known for conducting their worship services without musical accompaniment include some Presbyterian churches devoted to the regulative principle of worship, Old Regular Baptists, Primitive Baptists, Plymouth Brethren, Churches of Christ, the Old German Baptist Brethren, the Eastern Orthodox Christian Church and the Amish and Mennonite. Certain high church services and other musical events in liturgical churches (such as the Roman Catholic Mass and the Lutheran Divine Service) may be a cappella, a practice remaining from apostolic times. services. Opponents of musical instruments in the Christian worship believe that such opposition is supported by the New Testament and Church history. The New Testament verses typically referenced are Matthew 26:30; Acts 16:25; Romans 15:9; 1 Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 2:12, 13:15; James 5:13, which reveal a command for all Christians to sing.[4] Further study reveals that in the New Testament, when God was worshiped in song, it was performed a cappella regardless of the day or setting. Paul singing praises to God in jail (Acts 16:25) and Christians singing when they are happy (James 5:13) are two examples. 1 Cor. 14:15, 26 discusses the worship service of Corinth and textually uses the words speak and sing in ways that cannot include instruments."

Am I adjusting? Yes, indeed! Loving every minute of it.

Yours in Christ's musical ministry,
Rosemary Kromidas Hendrix

Scholarship 100

Established in 1986, the +Father George and Presbytera Anna Gallos and +Michael Zanakos Music Scholarship has made it possible for aspiring students to further their education in the field of music. For specific information, please visit the Federation website at: <http://www.sfgocm.org> or in the spring issue of the Federation newsletter, Keynotes or from:

Dean Johns, Chairman Scholarship 100
723 Neill Ridge Road
Matthews, NC 28105



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Dues

According to the By-Laws of the Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians, you, as an individual, or your choir must be in good standing with the Federation in order to participate in the annual conference.

Annual Choir dues are \$100. Individual dues are \$10.

Please join now! Make your check payable to SFGOCM and send to:

Suzy Balasis
SFGOCM Vice President
P.O. Box 47755
St. Petersburg, FL 33743
727-345-4855
frazzledlib@gmail.com

Delegates

Two delegates from each member choir will have voting privileges at the annual meeting. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend the meeting during lunch on Friday at 12:00 p.m.

Future Conference Hosts

Would your parish like to host an upcoming conference? If so, please submit a letter from your parish asking to be considered as a possible host for a future conference. The request needs to be signed by your Pastor, Parish Council President and Choir Director. It is imperative to have their support for a successful conference. Please contact:

Mrs. Margaret M. Sarafoglu
SFGOCM President
6201 SW 118 Street
Miami, FL 33156
305-661-7548
sarafoglut@bellsouth.net



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

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. The award is given as a national recognition to meritorious individuals in each metropolis whose contributions on a local, as well as a metropolis level, to the Music Ministry of the Church, are worthy of distinction. Normally this would involve being an active participant in the choir federation as an officer, committee member, conduct area music workshops, etc.

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 2011 nominations is May 30, 2011. The nomination form and biographical data cover sheet are available in this issue of Keynotes and on the Federation web site: 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

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 2011 for next year.

We look forward to receiving your nomination and seeing you in Spartanburg, South Carolina, the home of our first conference!

Yours in His Service,

Stanley Evdemon

Stanley Evdemon
Chairman, Athenagoras Award



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

In order to send committee members copies of the nominations to review, all nominations must be post-marked
NO LATER THAN May 30, 2011

The nomination form must be signed by the local choir director 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 <u>Director</u> 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



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**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

Nominee

Category

Address

Phone

City/State

Zip Code

Parish

City/State



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