

# Notable Notes

The Electronic Newsletter of the Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians — January 2008  
[click on http://www.sfgocm.org/news](http://www.sfgocm.org/news)

## Epiphany In Tarpon Springs

Firstly, anyone who plans to sing on Epiphany day is required to attend practice at the Cathedral on Friday, 1/4 and Saturday, 1/5. **Those who plan on singing are requested to be at the Cathedral hall next to the Cathedral at 9:00 am on Friday, 1/4.** This is mandatory, so if anyone has a conflict, they should talk to JoAnna Hill, our choir director, who will give more details about practice and what is expected on Epiphany at that meeting.

On **Saturday, 1/5**, AHEPA is having its annual Epiphany banquet at the St. Nicholas Community Center. Tickets can be obtained from Michele Manousos by calling (727) 858-4456 or at [chalkiprincess@msn.com](mailto:chalkiprincess@msn.com).

On **Sunday, Epiphany day**, liturgy begins at 9:30 am.



Information regarding places to stay and places to eat in and around Tarpon Springs can be obtained by contacting Millenium Travel and talking to Litsa Economou. She has all that information. The phone numbers are: (727) 944-2000 or (877) 523-0959. Fax number is (727) 942-1704.

As far as the activities during the Epiphany weekend, here is what I have been able to come up with.

JoAnna Hill will advise the choir when and where they are to congregate. After the liturgy, the choir marches down in the procession to Spring Bayou where the cross is thrown. A glendi follows the end of the ceremonies, usually at the park adjacent to the cross-throwing location. That evening, the Epiphany Ball will again be held at the St. Nicholas Community Center. More information and tickets can be obtained by contacting the Cathedral office at (727) 937-3540 or at Fax (727) 937-1739.

For those who may stay through Monday, 1/7, the Halki Society will be hosting a banquet in honor of the mayor of the island of Halki who will be visiting Tarpon Springs. More information can be obtained by contacting Andie Stavrakis at (727) 937-6243 or at [antigoni@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:antigoni@tampabay.rr.com) or Michele Manousos at (727) 858-4456 or at [chalkiprincess@msn.com](mailto:chalkiprincess@msn.com).



There are other things going on during the Epiphany weekend and anyone who plans to attend shouldn't be at a loss as to what to do.

## More Seasonal Events

Epiphany and Theophany are celebrated in all regions of Orthodoxy, oftentimes more important than Christmas. Sometimes in swimming pools, sometimes breaking ice to dive for the Cross and always in Tarpon Springs. Other parishes in our Metropolis celebrate following January 6 so that His Eminence can join in the celebration. Please contact your local parish for details about a celebration close to home if you cannot attend the Tarpon Springs or West Palm Beach celebrations. **The West Palm Beach celebration has been occurring for 9 or 10 years now and we encourage all choir members of all jurisdictions of Orthodoxy to join us, practice with us and pray the Divine Liturgy at St. Catherine's on the Saturday after January 6 which this year will be January 12, under the musical direction of Jackson King of St. George's Antiochian Orthodox Church in Coral Gables, Florida. Please contact him at (305) 342-7683 or Leon Karahalas at [leonk@bellsouth.net](mailto:leonk@bellsouth.net). This year, as last year, we will be doing mostly Kevin Lawrence.** We welcome you to South Florida's greater Orthodox Community.

## Holy Trinity Church Of Greater Orlando

Good News - we have a new bright shining star in our community. Our Youth Choir under the direction of Stacey Norton is doing a great job. They began the liturgy on December 2, and will be singing one Sunday each month.

Again this year our choir sponsored the annual Church Christmas Card, a very successful program for several years. The proceeds will be used by the church in the form of special projects chosen by the choir. Suggested projects are the purchase of robes for the youth choir or the purchase of a stained glass window. New windows are currently being installed in the church and the one next to the choir loft has not been donated at this point.

Unfortunately our director resigned after Christmas 2006. We have all been working very hard to keep things going. We made it through Easter and the summer months with temporary directors. We especially thank John Rallis II and Stacy Norton for their dedicated support over the past ten months.

*We are now searching for a permanent director and with God's help we hope one will be sent to us soon.* My personal wish is that a young person with musical training will come forward. I'm sure our problem is a universal one for our choirs - HOW DO WE ATTRACT THE YOUTH?

Our former priest Father Constantine Tress was reassigned during the summer. During his stay with us Father Tress was very successful in training a group of new psalti. Father Tress was replaced by Father Constantine Simeonides who joined us in October.

Five members of our choir attended the conference in Savannah in July. We had a great time and are looking forward to seeing everyone in New Port Richey this summer!

Jim Kouchalacos



## Editor's Note Regarding the Need for Choir Directors

Several parishes from the Carolinas to Florida, Louisiana and everywhere in between, through attrition of one form or another, have lost their choir directors and therefore the choir has become inactive. If you know of a church in the Metropolis who needs a choir director, please let me know and I will publish the parish name and the contact.

*The problems go beyond the choirs and are multi-sourced:* sometimes the local Board doesn't want a choir, sometimes the local priest has been at odds with the choir or the director or maybe the community doesn't like the idea of a "xenos" directing the choir in our church. The all-time biggest problem we have is that the kids do not want to participate. It isn't "cool" to sing in a church choir, much less one that outsiders are not even sure is Christian.

*What about a new crop of Psaltai?* Occasionally one hears of successful training of a youth as a psalti, but generally we have no domestic crop of psaltai. How can we get young folks interested?

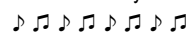
**Let's brainstorm this one!** Notable Notes is a great forum for sharing ideas and plans, yet no one has used it for that as yet.



## Resources

Here is a link to the updated and re-designed website of the Greek Sacred and Secular Music Society. It features much of Desby's works, and also those of Zes, Bogdanos, Maragos, Cardiasmenos, Gallos, and others. The site features both liturgical and folk music.

Tom Lappas, President of the Society (<http://www.gssms.org>), announces that for anyone who purchases folk music liturgical music, he will give a discount of 10% if you purchase a minimum of 5 pieces of music in any combination.



**St. John's Choir in Tampa will be having a "mini-conference" on the weekend of February 23 & 24.**

**The Liturgy of Peace under the direction of Chris Kypros will be the focus of the weekend. Anyone interested in joining us please contact St. John's Church for detailed information by calling (813) 876-8830, or email <mailto:stjohnstampa@tampabay.rr.com>.**



## Federation Trip to Greece, 2008

Please see the attachment for forms and contact information.



**Musicians from Metropolis of Atlanta presented Archangel Michael Award  
by His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios on November 10, 2007**

South Florida Conference: Stevi McQueen, Choir Member, Boca Raton, FL 6654608;  
Christina Callesis, Youth Choir, Miami, FL.

North Florida Conference: Lygheri Danielides, Choir Director, Daytona Beach, FL;  
Anna Felos, Choir Organist, Gainesville, FL;  
James Hargrave, Choir Member, Gainesville, FL;  
James J. Pethis, Chairman 2007 SFGOCM Choir Conference, Savannah, GA.

Western Conference: Viki Moustoukas, Choir Organist, New Orleans, LA;  
Esperanza Mouzakis, Chanter, Jackson, MS;  
Demetra M. Morres, Choir Member, Pensacola, FL.

Central Conference: Georgia Parthemos, Choir Member, Athens, GA;  
James J. Smith, Chanter, Marietta, GA;  
Georgia Annette Lungaro, Choir Member, Peachtree City, GA;  
Alexandra Tagalos, Choir Member, Peachtree City, GA.

Coastal Conference: Anna Gloria K. Bazar, Choir Director, Myrtle Beach, SC;  
Nicholas H. Kekas, Choir Member, Spartanburg, SC;  
Costantin Magoulas, Choir Director, Augusta, GA.

North East Conference: Gus J. Dermas, Chanter, Asheville, NC;  
Mary Fallis Zourzoukis, Choir Member, Asheville, NC;  
Constantinos A. Panos, Chanter, Charlotte, NC;  
Irene Lawrence, Choir Member, Greensboro, NC;  
Persephone K. Cortesis, Choir Member, Winston-Salem, NC;  
Frank J. Kotsianas, Head Chanter, Knoxville, TN;  
George Chris Paris, Chanter, Knoxville, TN.

# 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.

**For those of you in the New York area, the Byzantine Choir of Lycourgos Angelopoulos will be chanting at Holy Trinity Cathedral on Sunday, January 13th and presenting a concert that evening at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.**

**The Axion Estin Foundation, Inc. presents *The Greek Byzantine Choir* to New York and Boston audiences and announces its *Second Symposium on Byzantine Music Education* (January 13-16, New York, New York).**

#### **THE SYMPOSIUM**

A unique symposium on "Byzantine Music Education: Building a Byzantine Choir" will take place on January 14-16, 2008, at the Graduate Center of the City University, New York, NY. The goal of this event is to train music students, choir directors, choir members, psaltes, music educators, and others interested in Byzantine music on the basics of Byzantine chant and the how-to's of creating a Byzantine choir. Workshops will be offered at the introductory and advanced levels.

Workshop instructors and lecturers include the renowned Lycourgos Angelopoulos, artistic director of the Greek Byzantine Choir, who are performing on Jan. 13 at the Metropolitan Museum, as well as throughout the conference for participants. Also lecturing and instructing will be Dr. Alexander Lingas (City University, England), artistic director of Cappella Romana, as well as Professors Achilleas Chaldaiakis (University of Athens), Gregorios Anastasiou (University of Athens), and Photios Ketsetzis (Hellenic College/Holy Cross Orthodox School of Theology). No knowledge of Greek is required by participants.

The CUNY Graduate Center is located at Fifth Avenue and 34th Street across from the Empire State Building, and is convenient to all major transportation routes. Grand Central Terminal, Pennsylvania Station, the midtown PATH, and all major New York City subway and bus lines are within easy walking distance. The location is also close to Manhattan's business and cultural activities. The main symposium hall will be the prestigious Baisley Powell Elebash Recital Hall, which was especially designed for the acoustical needs of music and spoken-word presentations. It is an elegant, gently raked hall, which seats 180.

Based on the conclusions of the first Axion Estin Symposium, held on January 20 and 21, 2006 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in New Rochelle, New York, the second symposium has two important new characteristics: 1) It will be held during weekdays to maximize the participation of church musicians, who were unable to attend the first conference 2) It will have a strong workshop and on-site Byzantine Music training component.

The Second Axion Estin Symposium has received the blessings and high praises of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Orthodox Church of America. The National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians (National Chairman, Dr. Vicki Pappas) during its recent conference in Boston resolved that \$2,000 will be allocated to AEF towards music transcription fees, to ensure that the original Byzantine Music manuscripts become available to non-Greeks and those who do not read Byzantine musical notation.

For more information and a complete program, please see the website: <http://www.axionestin.org>

#### **THE BOSTON AND NEW YORK CONCERTS**

**NEW YORK:** The Axion Estin Foundation (AEF), in collaboration with the Concerts & Lectures department of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, has also organized the return engagement of *The Greek Byzantine Choir*, directed by Lycourgos Angelopoulos. The concert is already in the 2007-2008 season "Concerts & Lectures" brochure of the Museum for Sunday, January 13, 2008. The setting for the concert will be the spectacular Temple of Dendur in The Sackler Wing. The last time this choir was invited to the Museum was on the occasion of the major Byzantine art exhibition "*The Glory of Byzantium*" in 1997. For more information:

<http://www.metmuseum.org/tickets/calendar/view.asp?id=2159>

**BOSTON:** In addition, the Axion Estin Foundation in collaboration with the Boston Early Music Festival (BEMF) organized a return engagement of *The Greek Byzantine Choir*, for Saturday, January 19, 2008 at 8:00 pm at Greek Orthodox Cathedral of New England, Boston. The last time this choir was invited to Boston was in November 2005. For more information:

<http://www.bemf.org/pages/concerts.htm>

These two events are in essence the prelude and postlude to The Axion Estin Foundation's second symposium on Byzantine Music Education, taking place January 14-16 at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

The above mentioned initiatives by AEF were made possible through the generous support by The Kallinikeion Foundation, by the New York State Council on the Arts, by Orion & Global Chartering Co Inc of the Goulandris family, by Marathon Bank of New York, by Professor Charles Calomiris, by James Vissas, President of Parma Tile, and by numerous anonymous donors from USA and Greece.

Axion Estin Foundation's mission is to promote the appreciation, education and employment of Byzantine music in North America. AEF was founded in October of 2002. The foundation completed four years of continuous weekly programming in New York public radio (2002-2006 on WNYE 91.5 COSMOS FM), which allowed AEF to present to wide audiences basic information on Byzantine music, including the most important fact: that Byzantine music is a living tradition, one which never stopped to evolve and manifest itself through the centuries. During the weekly programs, AEF developed partnerships with a long list of those involved in the field, including musicologists, choir members, performers, soloists, music historians, and students. AEF's presentation of the efforts of this wealth of scholars who actively work on Byzantine music has helped to produce an increasingly educated and demanding audience for Byzantine music in America.

In January of 2006, AEF successfully presented its first Byzantine Music conference. The conference's goal was to identify the most appropriate Byzantine Music teaching methodologies for universities, as well as at schools of Greek Orthodox theology and to church members. The rare eclectic mix of international participants, who are based in England, Greece as well as the United States, included professors, musicians, psalti and priests. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Orthodox Church of America actively participated in the conference by addressing conference participants, as well as by celebrating the Sunday Orthros and Divine Liturgy, which provided an experience rare in America: a complete hierarchical liturgy with authentic antiphonal Byzantine chanting.

Through its first conference in 2006, as through its public radio programming during the past years, AEF aimed to create a *community of friends of Byzantine Music in the U.S.* This community is open and welcoming, growing and demanding, and most importantly one that does not impose any barriers to newcomers – religious or other. One of the most impressive outcomes of AEF's last conference is the collaboration with The Metropolitan Museum of Art in organizing the return engagement of *The Greek Byzantine Choir* at the museum. Based on the progress so far with its first conference, it is safe to assume that AEF's next conference will generate even more significant and long-lasting results. AEF primary mission is to facilitate a constructive dialogue between all those involved in Byzantine music, inside and outside the United States. A related goal is to institutionalize the teaching of Byzantine music at the university level by establishing a chair in Byzantine Music at the CUNY-Graduate Center. AEF has identified a serious opportunity at City University's doctoral-granting institution, the Graduate Center, located on 34<sup>th</sup> Street & 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, New York, New York, which has a Department of Ethnomusicology. The Department, through its director, Professor Stephen Blum, is actively involved in AEF's second symposium. AEF believes that the momentum generated by a series of successful symposiums on Byzantine music education in the New York area will be helpful in achieving that goal.

To learn more about AEF and to make a tax-deductible donation visit [www.axionestin.org](http://www.axionestin.org) or call Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in New Rochelle, New York at 914-235-6100 to place your name and contact information. AEF staff will return your call in a timely fashion.