



# Notable Notes

The Electronic Newsletter of the Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians —October 2011  
click on <http://www.sfgocm.org/news>

## Post Conference Edition, October 2011

**Question:** *What happens when philoxenia meets Southern Hospitality?*

Answer: The 2011 Conference in Spartanburg, South Carolina! My goodness, what a welcome we received in Spartanburg. This write must confess that I have a prejudice for things South Carolinian, having gone to college there. Smiles abounded, homemade Greek food predominated.



**Question:** *What do you get when CMI has an expert chanter/musician, a nationally-known music professor/ director and a priest who is a convert from Evangelicism?*

Answer: The best CMI at a conference ever!

**Dr. Yiorgos Vassilandonakis, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Composition & Music Theory at the College of Charleston, School of the Arts and formerly choir director at Ascension Cathedral in Oakland, California, under whose direction I had the pleasure to sing one Christmas a few years ago, started the CMI sessions early on Thursday afternoon with an excellent presentation entitled “Developing Choral Sound in the Orthodox Liturgy”. Dr. Vassilandonakis pulled out all the stops in teaching us how to make a single sound, talking about the physics of chords (in layman’s terms), pronunciation and choral unity. Bravo, Dr. Yiorgo!

**Father Barnabus Powell** followed, who formerly worked at the Orthodox Christian Network, was at once informative and extremely entertaining. The man knows his scripture and somehow manages to integrate scripture into any topic in an informative and often humorous way.

Finally, **Jessica Suchy-Pilalis**, our chant instructor, rounded out the afternoon with her second CMI for SFGOCM, an invaluable informative and scholarly chant theory and practice discourse. She gathered a group to chant Orthros on Sunday. A very good description of her lifelong dedication to Byzantine chant can be found at [http://www2.potsdam.edu/suchyjr/byzantine\\_music.html](http://www2.potsdam.edu/suchyjr/byzantine_music.html).



**Question:** *When does a local boy’s return make everyone stand at attention?*

When that “local boy” is Bishop Dimitrios Couchell. His humility and down-to-earth realism are so very appreciated by all who know him, and he is a great friend of the Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians.



**Well, if you missed it, the shutterbugs didn’t!**

Click on <http://public.fotki.com/SFGOCM/st-nicholas-spartan/> to see well over photos taken by Victor Polizos, Bessie Chomakis and Leon Karahalidis.

**If you took photos during the course of the weekend, please forward them to [leonk@bellsouth.net](mailto:leonk@bellsouth.net).**



**Game time!**

Here’s a little challenge for you: Please go to the photo link mentioned in the last paragraph and put the names of the people you know under them. It could take you a

while, but if you didn’t go, it is a taste and if you did go, it is a nice way to remember this very special occasion.



**Officer Elections**

Margaret Sarafoglu, our president for the last 3 years, gave up the president’s chair to Lucy Papadakes Zapsas (temporarily of Charlotte, where she is on loan from Miami’s St. Sophia). John Mitchell stepped up to the bat as Treasurer.



**Athenagoras Award**

*Shame on us.* Meaning well, we fibbed through our teeth to Margaret for months telling her that no one had been found for the prestigious medal. Indeed, I personally laid it on so thick that she seemed quite irked at times when I would tell her of the frustration of not finding a “worthy” candidate. Click on <http://public.fotki.com/SFGOCM/st-nicholas-spartan/st-pete-and-spartan-104.html> to see Margaret’s surprised and heartfelt reaction.



**AND THE CHILDREN!!!**

Wow. Wow and wow and wow! The children’s choir of 22 was phenomenal, putting forth a wonderfully unified and inspirational sound under the direction of \_\_\_\_\_. These are our future!!!



**Music Selection for the forthcoming conferences**

It is with great pleasure that the Music Selection Committee presents the 2012 and 2013 Liturgy Arrangement to be sung is the Limberakis Liturgy. This is a fairly new liturgy and is bilingual in Greek and English. The committee also recommends that Dean Limberakis, composer, be asked as our federation’s guest director for the 2012 conference.

Our federation has a wonderful history of accomplishing many new liturgies in hopes that some of our choirs can take some of this music back to their home parishes and expose our communities to the rich sounds that make our choirs unique.

For the 2014 conference, the music selected will be the Petrovich arrangement of the Divine Liturgy.

Finally, for the 2015 conference, the selected music will feature the Kypros Liturgy.

Thank you to all who served with me on this committee. It is wonderful to be five years ahead of the game. Well done, good and faithful servants! Now rest for five years until you are called for service again.

In His Service and for His Glory,

Elia Nicholas

Chairman, Music Selection Committee



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