

Notable Notes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February 2007

Message from the Vice President, Margaret Sarafoglu

Choir directors — please fill out the choir/chanter survey attached at the end of this newsletter with your dues so that we can keep accurate records. If you have already sent your dues, please fill out the form and send it on to Margaret so that we can keep the records in good order.

Floridian Epiphanies

Tarpon Springs has once again outdone itself at the talented hands of Dr. Z. Joanna Hill. After the wonderful success of the antiphonal choirs that St. Nicholas got together last year for His All Holiness, Patriarch Bartholomew, the 2007 Blessing of the Waters was again lifted to new heights by a choir of between 70 and 80 voices, augmented by over two dozen participants from the Metropolis of Chicago. The warm (very warm) and sunny day was another contrast to 2006 where the temperatures barely got into the 50s. On Saturday, the morning air hung hot, steaming people who lined the downtown streets, gathered on the grass and clustered around the cathedral. Humidity was so heavy that the choir robes and police uniforms drooped, everyone's forehead beaded with sweat. The dove representing the Holy Spirit arose newly liberated from its confines by dove bearer and choir member Kalliope Cortessis, 16, and hovered above Their Eminences +Archbishop Demetrios and +Metropolitan Alexios then, a homing pigeon, it returned to its trainer in New Port Richey. "I'd always watch at the Epiphany when they let the dove go and got goose bumps," said Kalliope, whose mother, Renee Katsaras, was the dove bearer in 1984. "I feel really special about joining my mom."



St. John the Baptist Church in Tampa was blessed with a visit from Archbishop Demetrios the next day and the choir was again augmented by many of the Chicagoans as well as many from around Florida. The choir's chanting was very much appreciated by our blessed +Archbishop, as he made a special effort to inform me.



St. Catherine's in West Palm Beach had a record crowd staying for lunch on Saturday, January 12. Under the direction of Jackson King of St. George's Antiochian Orthodox Church in Coral Gables, most of the active Greek choirs were heavily represented. There were a few folks from other jurisdiction singing as well. Unfortunately, His Eminence +Metropolitan Alexios had an urgent last minute emergency and could not preside, so it was a non-hierarchical liturgy officiated by priests of many of the jurisdictions of Orthodoxy. The choir and Jackson received many kudos from all corners. **Keep this in mind for next year!**



Good to know —

Mary Alice Kays brought to my attention that in the back of the weekly choir directors' book which indicates the order of service and tone of the week are **references to the accessibility of recordings of many of the liturgies that we regularly sing, but with each individual part brought out.** In other words, and for example only, if you happen to have a singer who sings the soprano part only, this tool will enable that singer to separate his part from the rest (which is in the background) and thus learn his part.

Great source —

Click on [New Byzantine resource site](#) for links to discussions about the use of English and Greek in Byzantine music, and more.



In order for this monthly newsletter to reach everyone, we need your help with news articles, essays, observations or anything else of import to our Federation

Please contribute your writing skills and thoughts! If you have any ideas, just email the editor, Leon Karahalis, at leonk@bellsouth.net or to any of your local Federation officers. Please have all contributions submitted 2 full weeks before the first of the month that the publication is due to be published.

Here are some thoughts for you to respond to: ♪ Have you visited choirs from other Metropolises? ♪ How do you react to the music? ♪ Do you have churches in your area that are not active in the Federation or do not have an established choir? ♪ Do you make an effort to know what the Psalti is singing and why? ♪ Do your Psaltai join you in the choir? ♪ Do you join the Psaltai when the choir is not active? ♪ Are you satisfied with the music that we generally chant or would you like more or less challenging work? ♪ Are you active in Pan-Orthodox visitation (i.e., do you visit, sing with, share fellowship with, invite or attend Sunday of Orthodoxy with Orthodox churches of other jurisdictions)? ♪ Do you have ideas for small parishes getting active? ♪ Do you have ideas for inactive parishes taking part? ♪ Do you have ideas for small parishes getting their children active? ♪ Does your church normally hold Orthros and Vespers? Do you have unusual resources like Orthros music in Western notation? In English?

Choral Competition, part of the Hellenic Dance Festival — Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Clearwater, Florida, February 3, 2007. For more information you can email Joanne at skambour@knology.net.

*I hope this format for Notable Notes and Keynotes will motivate one and all to take a more active role in our Federation.
You can reach any of the officers at the following emails or phone numbers:*

Office	Name of Officer	Email	Phone
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Western Conference	(to be announced – volunteer now!!!)		
Standing Committees			
Patriarch Athenagoras I Award	Dr. Z. JoAnna Hill	greek.girl@knology.net	(727) 934-0140
Music Selection and Scholarship 100	Dr. G. Philip Thevaos	yellowjacketgt@aol.com	(704) 843-3266
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Notable Notes



CHOIR/CHANTER SURVEY 2007

Church name _____ Email _____
Church address _____

Director(s) _____ phone _____ fax _____

Organist(s) _____
Registration fees budgeted by Parish?

Chanter(s) _____ yes _____ no _____ amount

Priest(s) _____

CHOIR CONTACT: _____
address _____
phone _____ email _____
(Please note preferred method of contact by *)

CHANTER CONTACT: _____
address _____
phone _____ email _____
(Please note preferred method of contact by *)

Is chanting in Greek, English, both, or mix? _____

PARTICIPATION BY CHOIR © / ORGANIST (O) / CHANTER (CH) / YOUTH (Y): (mark all that apply)
Vespers _____ Heretismi _____ Average singers per liturgy _____
Paraklesis _____ Paraklesis _____ Weddings _____
Funerals _____ Other _____
National Church Music Sunday in October _____
and how it is observed _____

LITURGICAL MUSIC: (Please indicate usage by number 1=most used, 2=sometimes, 3=not used)
Anastasiou _____ Gallos _____ Maragos _____ Raptis _____ Vrionides _____
Bogdanos _____ Kypros _____ Pappas _____ Roubanis _____ Zervos _____
Desby _____ Lawrence _____ Petrovich _____ Sakellarides _____ Zes _____
Other _____

Composite of _____

CHURCH MUSIC INSTITUTES (CMI), co-sponsored by the National Forum and the SFGOCM, are held twice a year: spring and the day preceding the choir conference. Would your choir/chanter be interested? yes no

“**KEYNOTES**” is now available online at www.SFGOCM.org/news.

Would your choir still require paper copies by mail ? _____: and if so, how many ? _____

Please submit your members’ email addresses directly to Editor, Leon Karahalis, at LeonK@bellsouth.net, to receive “Keynotes” and other SFGOCM publications online.

Please mail completed form to:
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ANNUAL CHOIR CONFERENCE:

Preferred month _____ June _____ July

Average number participants _____

CHOIR ORGANIZATION:

President _____

Vice President _____

Secretary _____

Treasurer _____

Librarian _____

Choir treasury ? _____ yes _____ no

List major fund-raising activities:

Scheduled rehearsal day _____ time _____

Number of voices:

Soprano _____ Alto _____

Tenor _____ Bass _____

Total choir members _____ Liturgy _____

Organ usage % _____

Greek usage % _____ English usage % _____

Congregational singing ? _____ yes _____ no