



Notable Notes

The Electronic Newsletter of the Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians — August 2007

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

Our next Conference will be in New Port Richey, Florida in 2008

Father Michael is trying to find a date that His Eminence will be able to attend and there s no fasting. Stay tuned for the final word!



GENERAL MEETING

All Conference Delegates

All officers were reinstated by general acclaim.



Choir Conference in Savannah, GA was a resounding success.

Conference chairman Jim Pethis and his committee along with the entire St. Paul community are to be commended for a job well done. We thank you Savannah on this year of your 100th anniversary for your hospitality and royal treatment we all received.

By most measures the Choir Conference was an enjoyable and spiritually uplifting weekend. The 100+ participants filled the second floor of the church in an antiphonal type arrangement while guest conductor Chris Kypros and guest organist/composer Chris Zervos were at the far end of the second floor where the parish choir normally sings. Kypros brought Zervos' rendition of the Divine Liturgy to new heights, elevating it to a living liturgy through vocal expression

His Grace, Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos, while unfortunately retired, filled in for +His Eminence, Metropolitan Alexios.

A great idea was set forth for us all — attendees had Friday night off to explore the host city.

Although there were very few children this year, Dr. Joanna Hill got them to learn some nondenominational Christian music, very well performed and received at the Saturday dinner

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 ahead.*



Scholarship 100 Awards

Charlie Masterpolis more than matched donations to new record of \$5950.00! Individuals donated \$2,950 and \$3,000 was received from Charlie! We cannot thank him enough!

Scholarships were awarded to Emily Shephard of the Dormition Church in Greensboro, NC, Nicole Rallis of St. Nicholas in Wilmington, NC and Legeri Danielides of St. Demetrios Church in Daytona Beach, FL.

CMI

Dynamic CMI - vocal exercises Evie Simon. Chris Kypros played the piano at CMI.

Federation Trip to Greece, 2008

Please see the next page for forms and contact information.



AXIOS to our the Patriarch Athenagoras I Award winners!

The Patriarch Athenagoras I medals were awarded to Rev. Father James Rousakis of Holy Trinity in Clearwater, FL, Eirene Werts of St. Catherine's in West Palm Beach, FL and Billie Spirides of St. Nicholas Cathedral in Tarpon Springs FL.



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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.

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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.



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From the National Forum

Stan Takis, Choir Director of the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in St. Claire Shores, MI, has just completed a hymnal for congregational singing. He uses the music developed by his wife, Nancy. Both her music and the hymnal are available on this website: <http://www.newbyz.org>

See below for Stan's more extensive explanation of this resource.

One of my biggest projects is now available on our website at <http://www.newbyz.org>. It's the Divine Liturgy pew book which corresponds to the music on the website. This book is what I consider to be the best existing single resource for bilingual congregational chanting in the Sunday liturgy at English-speaking Greek Orthodox churches. It contains the text of the liturgy, followed by a hymnal that has two settings of the Divine Liturgy, Plagal Fourth (major) and Plagal First (minor). It also contains the most frequently-used proper hymns. Everything is in side-by-side Greek and English.

This book is intended to be a replacement for the "Green Book," the liturgy hymnal published by the Archdiocese since the 1970's. While that book filled a need for congregational participation in Greek and English, the English versions of the hymns were quite antithetical to the principles of Orthodox hymnography. The attempt to squeeze English words into the established melodies of John Sakellarides resulted in poor translations that were almost unsingable. In our new book, English texts take two forms, those that are carefully metered to the Greek text and can truly follow the model melody, and those that retain their own meter with melodies that adapt to the new syllabic patterns. In both cases, the English translations are carefully made to be accurate and poetic.

As for the music, it is based upon the traditional system of Byzantine music, even if it does not attain the level of accuracy one would expect to hear from experienced chanters. Traditionalists may argue that only a well-trained Byzantine choir singing true Byzantine music should chant the Divine Liturgy, but the fact remains that most Greek Orthodox churches in America have lay choirs, and priests who encourage the lay congregation to participate vocally in the chanting of the hymns. The result over the last 75 years has been music that sounds closer to the Catholic and Protestant Christian traditions.

Without criticizing those who use polyphonic choirs and organs, we want to provide a more traditional alternative to be available. This book is written to give these lay choirs and congregations a resource in familiar staff notation that comes closer to the traditional music and is less Western in character.

This book is meant to be used by congregations in conjunction with the materials for choirs found on our website. The liturgy books for the choir are in a 3-ring notebook-sized format, and the hymns are interspersed with the text of the liturgy. The selection of proper hymns is much wider in the choir materials. For the pew book, I had to pick what I thought were the most-used hymns to keep the book small and all in one volume that would be easy to use by the layman.

Since we only publish our material on the Web in PDF format, I can update this book and correct errors. With that in mind, I ask you to look at the book and offer your opinions and criticisms so I can keep it up to the highest quality possible.

It is not difficult to publish this book from the PDF file. The file is in legal-sized paper booklet form. When you print it out on 8.5 x 14 paper, you get the front and back sides of a booklet that assumes you will fold the paper in the middle. While there are too many sheets (40) to practically fold it in the middle, the PDF should be printed on both sides, collated, and then cut in half to be spiral-bound, or, if desired, made into a hard-covered volume. The method for doing this is as follows:

In the Adobe Reader program, print the file on legal-sized paper with the option of "even pages only." Then put the sheets back into the printer and print the blank sides using the "odd pages only" option.

If you lined up the paper correctly on the second run, in most printers, you should have your booklet in the proper order. Otherwise, you may have to adapt the printing process to your particular printer.

Cut the booklet in half down the middle of the paper and place the front part of the book on top of the back part. You are now ready to bind the book in the manner you desire.

We offer this book free of charge to the English-speaking Greek Orthodox churches of the world, in the spirit of giving and in service to Christ. We hope it will be useful to whoever desires to use it.

You may access the book at: <http://www.newbyz.org/liturgypewhymnal.pdf>

Sincerely,
Stan Takis