

A Chronology of the Growth and Development of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians

1974

- The Boards of the Mid-Western and Mid-Eastern Federations, through Presidents Nick Maragos and Niki Kalkanis, begin to explore formation of a Pan-Federation Conference in Philadelphia in 1976 as part of the Clergy-Laity Congress. The Federations also approach GOYA about the possibility of assisting with the Liturgical Guidebook.

1975

- The Clergy-Laity Congress is re-scheduled for Athens 1976. Ernest Villas, Director of the Department of Laity suggests the Mid-Eastern, Mid-Western, and Western Federations convene a National Greek Orthodox Choir for a Bicentennial Celebration to be held in Philadelphia. Ernie envisions a choral festival plus a choir for the Divine Liturgy. He asks Nick Maragos to coordinate the effort among the three Federations, including the leadership of Niki Kalkanis and Tom Pallad, who had just organized a successful pilgrimage of west coast choir members to Greece.
- Anna Gallos begins coordinating with the Philadelphia group and prepares an official proposal for the Archbishop: that the joint Federations provide workshops, short recitals, and a concert at the Bicentennial Celebration and that the local Philadelphia choirs sing the Divine Liturgy on Sunday. If a joint activity is not feasible for Philadelphia, the two Federations, plus a new one Anna is trying to develop in the Philadelphia area, commit to a joint activity in the Midwest.
- Subsequently, both the Mid-Western and the Mid-eastern Federations decide not to co-sponsor the concerts and choral recitals, preferring to address church music issues rather than to be seen as performing groups. They would urge individual members to participate in whatever was planned, however.
- Anna continues to advocate for the formation of a National Choir Federation, similar in concept to Niki Kalkanis's ideas of 1964. She urges making the joint event a kick-off for a National Federation, whether it is held in Philadelphia or elsewhere. Niki seeks the support of the Mid-Eastern Federation: *"The time for talk has gone – the time for historic action is NOW!"*
- In October, the Archdiocese decides that the 1976 Clergy-Laity Congress will move back to Philadelphia!
- Representatives of the Mid-Eastern and Mid-Western Federations gather in Detroit (November 1975) to discuss and plan the formation of a national organization of choirs. Niki Kalkanis chairs the meeting. Members of other Federations send their comments by phone or letter.
- Niki Kalkanis, President of the Mid-Eastern Federation and Dr. Nick Maragos, President of the Mid-Western Federation are selected as Interim Co-Chairmen.

1976

- A second organizational meeting of church musicians interested in forming a national organization occurs at Sts. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Glenview, Illinois (January 1976). Discussion topics include finalization of the goals and objectives of the new organization, selection of a name, membership, and

procedures for ratification by the existing federations, and initial activities. A draft Charter is prepared and sent to all active Federations for their review and approval.

- Niki sends the draft Charter to Archbishop Iakovos, who commends the organizers and suggest a few additions.
- A third organizational meeting is held in Chicago (June 1976). Archbishop Iakovos's suggestions are incorporated and the organization of the Forum is more clearly described. Not expecting anything to happen in Philadelphia, the group decides to hold the first meeting of the Forum in Columbus, OH, just prior to the Mid-Eastern Federation's Conference.
- Anna Gallos represents Niki and Nick at the 23rd Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress in Philadelphia (July 1976). Frank Desby, Tikey Zes, George and Daispena Raptis, Jim Futris, Mary Jo Cally, Jim and Anna Counselors. Maria Keritsis, Joan Dwight, Georgia Stavropoulos, and other church musicians attend. Archbishop Iakovos invites the church musicians to a private audience with him – Anna, Mary Jo, George, and the Counelis's are available when his call finally comes.
- Frank, Anna, and George attend the Committee on Sacred Music chaired by Bishop Meletios; Frank is appointed Rapporteur. Frank and George speak before the Committee, presenting the reasons for the formation of a national organization, the Charter, and initial plans of the National Forum. The Committee prepares a resolution recognizing the Forum as *“the Archdiocese's official umbrella organization on all matters regarding ecclesiastical music for all the Greek Orthodox parishes of the Archdiocese”* and establishes a budget of \$2500 per year.
- Father Athenagoras Anesti, Chancellor of Diocese II informs Anna and Frank that the Liturgical Guidebook is being turned over to the National Forum.
- Frank presents the report of the Sacred Music Committee to the General Assembly, and Anna reads the Charter. The Assembly accepts the report and authorizes a budget.
- Archbishop Iakovos bestows the Offikion of Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate upon Frank Desby and George Raptis, the first church musicians to receive such an honor.. Tikey Zes and Ted Bogdanos, though not present, are also named,
- The newly-recognized National Forum convenes in Columbus, Ohio at Capital University (July 1976) for the first time. Representatives from four of the five existing Choir Federations are present. A National Church Music Membership Drive is organized. Four Task Forces are organized: Music Education, Publications, Music Development, and Organizational Relationships.
- Another meeting of the fledgling National Forum occurs in Oak Lawn, Illinois (October 1976), held concurrently with the Mid-Western Choir Federation Convention. The Mid-Eastern, Mid-Western, and Western Federations are represented. Niki Kalkanis is elected as the Forum's first National Chairman. Keke Stamas of Saginaw, Michigan begins her service as Membership Chairman. There is discussion of how to obtain the funds allocated to the Forum by the Archdiocese and also what might be the responsibilities of a Director of Church Music at the Archdiocese.
- In a pastoral encyclical, Archbishop Iakovos describes the Forum as *“an expanded program of service to Church music”* ... *“a dedication to the cause of our sacred hymnology, the vessel through which the prayers and theology of the Church have been transmitted in her divine services for centuries.”* He urges all clergy to provide *“whatever assistance can be offered to this new and coordinated effort.”*

1977

- The 1st Annual Meeting of the National Forum occurs in Denver (June 1977), with Bishop John of Theron officially opening the meeting on behalf of Archbishop Iakovos. Niki Kalkanis presides, and seven Federations are represented.
- Topics of discussion include music education programs for church schools, teaching aids for church schools and choir directors, the need for good liturgical translations, training of clergy and seminarians, congregational singing, and a national directory of church musicians. There are presentations by Dr. Walter Collins of the National Choral Director's Association and Dr. Thomas Lelon, President of Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology. Dr. Lelon spoke of how he would communicate the concerns of the Forum to his faculty and how they might lend support to Forum programs. He extended an invitation to the Forum to use the facilities of the campus. Plans for the Forum's first presence at a Clergy-Laity Congress the following year are formulated.
- The Denver meeting concludes with two discussion workshops. "The Clergy and the Choir: A Partnership" includes panelists Bishop John, George Demos, Nicolas Maragos, Father George Gallos, and Georgia Tangires. The panel "Music Education – Getting It On!" is presented by Tom Lelon, Maggie Bovis, Frank Desby, John Tsolainos, and Tikey Zes.
- The Coordinating Committee meets again in at the Assisi Heights Christian Community Center in Rochester, Minnesota (October 1977). The Mid-Western and Mid-Eastern Federations are represented. Progress reports on the Liturgical Guidebook and the upcoming Clergy-Laity Congress are presented. The Forum declines to purchase the remaining copies of George Anastassiou liturgical music because of financial limitations. The Music Education Committee under John Tsolainos sets two priorities for action: congregational singing and a liturgical music curriculum for church schools. The Forum's membership in the National Choral Directors Association is approved.
- Niki Kalkanis formally announces the formation of the National Forum in a national press release (February 1977), given approval from the five existing Choir Federations of the Archdiocese: "*The National Forum was instituted to generate increased understanding and recognition of the important role our liturgical music serves in the Church, and to support the goals of the regional choir federations, thereby strengthening the individual church choirs.*"
- The Forum assists in the formation of the Eastern Choir Federation (New Jersey Diocese).
- Meetings are held with Archbishop Iakovos and other Archdiocesan leaders: Ernest Villas (Department of Laity), Dr. Thomas Lelon, and Pauline Shiolas (Department of Religious Education).

1978

- The National Forum publishes the Liturgical Guidebook for the first time. Peter Vatsures and Frank Desby report their goal is to "publish a Guidebook that is a sourcebook of information for the choir director." In its first year, the Guidebook is sent to 550 directors, and sells for \$5.00.
- The 2nd Annual Meeting is held in Detroit in conjunction with the Clergy-Laity Congress (July 1978). Seven federations are represented. Administrative changes are made for the By-Laws.

- The Forum receives \$1940 of its \$5000 biennial allocation from the Archdiocese, and future allocations are not certain. Plans are made for independent fundraising activities, especially through sales of materials and memberships.
- The Forum sponsors a professional recording of the massed choir for the Divine Liturgy of the Clergy-Laity Congress: *“with the presence of scores of hierarchs and guests, and a very large choir – the recording offers the Forum a unique opportunity for financing its educational and publishing goals.”* Works of the four major composers are featured, and George Raptis serves as Guest Conductor.
- Frank Desby, Dino Anagnost, Georgia Tangires, George Demos, Nick Maragos, Mary Jo Cally, Tikey Zes, John Tsolainos, and Anna Gallos conduct a variety of workshops during the Clergy-Laity Congress.
- Archbishop Iakovos strongly urges the clergy at their Alumni Meeting to support our church musicians.
- Specific National Forum Committees and chairmen are established: Clergy, Archdiocesan Relations, and Finance – Diane Tseckares; Administrative Mechanics – Nick Maragos; Music Education – John Tsolainos; Publications – Peter Vatsures; and Publicity – George Demos.
- The Archdiocesan Hymnal is published, and the Forum affirms that its own effort in this area *“be pursued as earnestly as possible.”* Attention is given to format and the fit of English text with the traditional melodies.
- The Forum discusses the impact of the Archdiocese’s redistricting on the existing federations. Forum members suggest ongoing discussion with the Archbishop and other hierarchs and clergy about the pending changes.

1979

- The 3rd Annual Meeting of the National Forum is held in Valparaiso, Indiana (July 1979), in conjunction with the joint conference of the Mid-Eastern and Mid-Western Federations. Six federations send representatives. Topics under consideration include finances, purchasing a regular church music page in the Orthodox Observer, preparation of a guide for Byzantine music transcriptions and choral music, standardization of phonetics, development of a Chanter Training Project, and liturgical music programs for religious education.
- Annual Meeting delegates hold a lengthy discussion of the concerns of church musicians with Bishop Iakovos, who suggests they be compiled and forwarded to the hierarchy.
- The Forum conducts its first National Choir Survey, headed up by Vicki Pappas.
- The Archdiocese commences partial financial support of the Liturgical Guidebook.
- The Forum conducts its first National Music Seminar at Hellenic College (November 1979). The Seminar staff of several noted composers, directors, and other church musicians conduct workshops for the seminarians and Boston-area church musicians. Instructors are Anna and Father George Gallos, Frank Desby, Nick Maragos, Niki Kalkanis, Mary Jo Cally, and George Demos. Over 40 people attend. Meetings are also held with Bishop Anthimos, Dr. Lelon, Savas Savas, Pauline Shiolas, and numerous students and faculty. *“We left with a sense of accomplishment, with the feeling that we had something to offer that was needed and wanted, but also with the knowledge that we had many more people to reach.”*
- Niki Kalkanis urges and supports formation of a New England choir federation. An organizational meeting is held in June 1979 with the blessings of Bishop Anthimos, and over 40 area musicians attend. After 40 years of dormancy, the New England Federation is established.

1980

- Chairman Kalkanis forwards letters to Archbishop Iakovos expressing concerns discussed at the previous Annual Meetings. These include: church musician representation on diocesan and national committees, relations between choirs and priests, budgeting for overall church music programs, salaries for church musicians, uniform English translation, tonsuring choir members, use of the church for choral music programs, and recognition of choirs by priests.
- The 4th Annual Meeting of the National Forum occurs at the Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta, Georgia (July 1980) prior to the Clergy-Laity Congress. Six federations are represented, with guests from the Archdiocesan District and the New England Federation, both of which are being organized. There are over 200 Charter members of the Forum, including directors, singers, priests, psaltai, composers, music educators, and several entire choirs). Bishop Soterios extends the greetings of Archbishop Iakovos, and later, Bishop Maximos and Ernest Villas attend to express their greetings. Forum members join Atlanta area choir members to sing the Divine Liturgy, under the direction of John Demos.
- Vicki Pappas presents results of the first National Choir Survey. The Forum decides to conduct a second national survey of clergy.
- George Demos proposes home study course for chanters, including a teaching tape by Ted Bogdanos. Frank Desby is identified as the “programmer” for the course materials. Mary Jo Cally presents ideas for two projects for church schools – “Sing Unto the Lord” booklets including familiar hymns in Greek and English and a tape demonstrating the teaching of hymns to children. Other items under discussion include congregational singing, church music articles in the Orthodox Observer and the need for English service material. Dr. Lelon and Bishop Soterios offer their perspectives on the development and use of English in our services. The Forum adopts a motion by Vicki Pappas to propose a standard translation of the Creed and Lord’s Prayer to the Synod and relevant Archdiocesan departments, along with a list of resource people to assist with the project.
- Niki Kalkanis suggests a national award for church musicians to be presented at the 1981 meeting to five honorees signifying the Forum’s first five years (Theodore Bogdanos, Frank Desby, Anna Gallos, Demetrios Pappas, and Tikey Zes). He presents the awardees with personalized leather wallets.
- Niki Kalkanis chairs the Congress’s Church Music Subcommittee of the Music and Spiritual Life Committee of the Congress, chaired by Bishop Soterios. Dino Anagnost serves as resource person. Recommendations include urging clergy to recognize the importance of music in liturgical life and to support development of choir and music education programs; commending the National Forum for its activities, recommending that the National Chairman be appointed Chairman of his Subcommittee on a regular basis, and reiterating the need for a standard English translation of the Nicene Creed and the Lord’s Prayer.
- The Forum elects Dr. George Demos as its second National Chairman during the Annual Meeting. Niki Kalkanis’s farewell reminds Forum members that *“We’ve come to the juncture: we must now develop and put into use those programs, materials, ideas which we’ve talked about and know are needed, plus others that will effectively complement our organizational operation... We must move from talking to doing. We’ve moved from an unknown infant organization to a still young, but vigorous one which has exhibited great potential.”*
- A second Music Seminar is held at Holy Cross (October-November 1980). George Demos, Anna and Father George Gallos, and Ted Bogdanos are instructors.

Attendance is not as satisfying as the first year because it was held during the final examination period. George and Ted meet with the faculty and Deans to clarify the National Forum's objectives and decided to meet again to discuss mutual concerns about church music programs.

1981

- The first Church Music supplement appears in the Orthodox Observer, under the guidance of Public Relations Chairman Valerie Karras.
- A follow-up meeting is held at Hellenic College, with George Demos and Ted Bogdanos discussing goals and future involvement of the Forum with the faculty (June 1981). A Joint Planning Committee is identified, consisting of George and Ted, one other Forum member, President Tom Lelon, Dean Father Alkiviades Calivas, and Dean Michael Vaporis. The establishment of an Endowment for seminarian musical training is discussed and formulated, and courses for the seminarians are outlined by Ted and forwarded to the faculty.
- The 5th Annual Meeting of the National Forum is held in Omaha, Nebraska (June 1981), preceding the combined conference of the Mid-Western and Western Federations. Bishop Iakovos and Father George Neofotistos serve as meeting advisors on behalf of Archbishop Iakovos.
- Topics of discussion include standard English translations for the hymns, a progress report of the church music instructional materials project being undertaken with Pauline Shiolas, Department of Religious Education, development of chanter training materials, amendments to the By-Laws regarding membership and dues, and additions to the Liturgical Guidebook. Peter Vatsures proposes development of a Choir Directors Manual, which is approved. The final draft of the Clergy Survey is reviewed and readied for distribution in the fall. The Forum accepts Michael Petrovich's proposal that until a standard English translation of the Bible is determined, the Forum and the Federations adopt the Standard Revised English Bible as their source for texts.
- The "Salata Players" make their debut appearance, entertaining the audience with their "take" on the assignment of diocesan leadership.
- The Forum accepts George Demos's proposal for a National Church Music Endowment Drive to raise \$350,000 to establish a Chrysanthos Chair of Byzantine and Choral Church Music and support church music education programs at Holy Cross Seminary.
- George Demos meets with Archbishop Iakovos to formalize the National Church Music Fund Drive (September 1981). Niki Kalkanis and George Raptis prepare promotional materials, which are sent to the Archbishop in December for approval.
- Niki Kalkanis is added to the group of initial St. Romano awards recipients as the sixth recipient, signifying six years of the Forum's establishment. Dean Limberakis, as the Forum's new Awards Chairman, establishes the St. Romanos Awards format and procedures. Posthumous awards to the four "Founding Fathers" are approved.

1982

- Archbishop Iakovos sends his approval of the Endowment Fund Drive (January 1982). Holy Cross officials approve the press release, which is distributed in June, and the first donor is Mrs. Anne Feles of West Bloomfield, Michigan.
- The Clergy Survey is completed and results are sent to all parishes, the hierarchs and the Seminary. The faculty discusses and refers it to their curriculum committee

- The 6th Annual Meeting is held in San Francisco (July 1982) in conjunction with the Clergy-Laity Congress. Frank Desby conducts a choir of nearly 400 voices, and Bill Bobolis conducts a youth choir for the Divine Liturgy. Tina Vratimas establishes the National Forum archives and bibliographic archives, and Peter Vatsures requests the first electronic equipment for the preparation of the Guidebook (a Kroy lettering machine and a computer).
- Chairman Demos establishes the Advanced Analysis Committee to be a *“high level think tank ... research subjects that might be of value to the Forum’s work, and ... offer basic advice or counsel to the various committees of the Forum”*. He appoints Ted Bogdanos, Frank Desby, Anna Gallos, and Tikey Zes to the Committee; Vicki Pappas accepts the role of Committee Chairman. The Committee’s first recommendation is to establish an Internal Review Process for Forum publications.
- Mary Jo Cally and Vicki Pappas report that the Hymns of the Orthodox Faith instructional series has ten hymns undergoing review, with anticipated completion in 1983.
- The “founding fathers” of church music in the Archdiocese receive posthumous awards of the St. Romanos Medallion: George Anastassiou, Nicholas Roubanis, John Sakellarides, and Christos Vrionides. Dean Limberakis first presents the idea of a commemorative plaque to honor these early pioneers.
- The National Forum elects Dr. Vicki Pappas as its third National Chairman. George’s remarks to the Forum include: *“I thank each of you now, and pray that you will continue to serve with distinction and with the same commitment to the future that was the reason for the birth of the Forum. Each year has brought some new development to the fore, has seen the resolution of some problems, and the development of other new ones, but always, the same sustaining thread which ties this all together has been our love and dedication to the Church and to each other.”*

1983

- Archbishop Iakovos designates February 27, 1983 as the first National Church Music Sunday for the Endowment Fund solicitation to the parishes.
- Public Relations Chairman Ida Trakadas keeps the Forum well-covered in the Observer and the Hellenic Chronicle.
- A new Internal Review Procedure, recommended by the Advanced Analysis Committee is implemented for all National Forum publications.
- The 7th Annual Meeting of the National Forum is held at Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts. Dean Limberakis serves as host and Father Calivas welcomes the group on behalf of the School. Jeffrey Economou represents the newest Archdiocesan District Federation. Bishops Maximos and Gerasimos attend some of the meeting as well. The delegates sing at the Cathedral of the Pines in New Hampshire on Sunday morning, with Bishops Maximos and Gerasimos celebrating the Divine Liturgy, and Dean directing the choir.
- The final version of the Charter is approved, and new By-Laws are incorporated and sent to the Federation for approval.
- Forum members decide to host a Choir School in 1985, co-sponsor Peter Tiboris’s Hellenic American Friendship Festival, co-sponsor a Symposium with Holy Cross, and finish development of a Choir Director’s Manual (Jim Maniates).
- Several new publications are approved for publication: The Guide to Congregational Singing (Pallad), the Hymns of the Orthodox Church teaching series (Cally/Pappas), a National Forum brochure, and the Guidelines for Choir Directors

(Zes). Harry Booras suggests procedures for publication and distribution of Forum materials be implemented.

- George Demos, Niki Kalkanis, and Vicki Pappas are elected as Trustees of the Endowment Fund.
- Tom Pallad presents a paper on "The Changing Face of Orthodox Worship." Harry Booras presents "Are We Really Relating to the Liturgy?"
- The Forum adopts Tom Pallad's and Demetra Efstathiou's resolution to encourage papers and discussion about the following topics: impact of congregational singing on worship; language trends in America and development of an authorized standard English text; future roles of the chanters and choirs; use of the organ; impact of the electronic age on worship; and development of new special services.
- Dean Limberakis and John Tsolainos present drawing for the St. Romanos Medallions, and procedures for presenting them at future Clergy-Laity Congresses.

1984

- The Hymns of the Orthodox Church series is completed and announced to the parishes. Also, the field-test version of an Orthodox Songbook is completed by Nick and Connie Maragos, and its availability announced to youth and camp programs..
- Vicki implements a "Delphi Survey" with members of the Coordinating Committee to chart the future course of the Forum in various areas.
- The 8th Annual Meeting of the National Forum convenes in New York City in July, in conjunction with the 27th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress. Members joined the massed choirs of the area, led by Dino Anagnost, in singing the Divine Liturgy in Radio City Music hall.
- National Chairman Vicki Pappas gives the Forum's first address to the General Assembly, reviewing our accomplishments and, calling for an authorized English translation, and urging support of the Church Music Endowment Fund.
- The National Forum hosts its first formal Reception at the Congress, where it presents Archbishop Iakovos with the first of the custom-designed, newly-minted St. Romanos Medallions, Dean Limberakis also presents a plaque listing all the St. Romanos recipients to Dr. Thomas Lelon for permanent placement at Holy Cross.
- Archbishop Iakovos permanently establishes National Church Music Sunday as the first Sunday in October. George Demos reports the Endowment Fund Drive has raised over \$27,000 in its first two years.
- The Archbishop asks Vicki to compile and submit to him a list of the choir director's years of service. The Forum determines to identify this information through the Liturgical Guidebook distribution process.
- An Office of Publication and Distribution is established.
- The Forum establishes a Life Membership Award for a graduating seminarian, and the first recipient is George Pyle.

1985

- A National Symposium on Church Music is held at Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology (June 1985). The Forum co-sponsors this event with Holy Cross. A host of presenters participates, including papers by Vicki Pappas, Frank Desby, Tikey Zes, Demetri Condons, Diane Foliates, and other musicians from Greece. Nicolas Maragos, Steven Karidoyanes, Mary Jo Cally, George Demos, Tom Pallad, and Anan and Father Gallos present workshops and discussion panels.
- The 9th Annual meeting of the National Forum is held in Oak Lawn, Illinois (June 1985). Ida Trakadas and Nick Chimitris are its organizing hosts. Bishop Iakovos

greeted the delegates, noting the importance of national convocations such as these and stressing the importance of church music in our liturgical lives. The National Forum Reception is held at the Diocese House, hosted by Bishop Iakovos and the Chicago Diocese Federation.

- Dean Limberakis designs and donates a new National Forum banner to be used at each Annual Meeting and other national events.
- The Forum approves the publication of “fact sheets” on a variety of church music topics, to be distributed to choirs, parishes, and priests. Jim Maniates is preparing the first one, “An Overview of the Music and Services of the Greek Orthodox Church.”
- The Forum adopts four official position papers: congregational singing, development of an English text, use of the organ, and use of copyrighted materials. The Advanced Analysis Committee recommends official versions of the US, Greek, and Canadian national anthems for use at Clergy-Laity Congresses and other gatherings.
- The Forum’s first National Choir School is held in Baltimore (August 1985), a ten-day event under the direction of Anna and Father Gallos, Georgia Tangires, and Paul Mavromihalis. Workshops and penetrations touch all aspects of church music: liturgics, canon law, and vocal, conducting, and organ techniques. Archbishop Iakovos underwrites the events with a check for \$3000.

1986

- Frank Desby completes his six-year effort to produce his training manual, “A Guide to the Notation, Transcription, and Rendition of Byzantine Chant.” The Forum will assist him in finding a university or commercial publisher.
- The 10th Annual Meeting of the National Forum occurs in Dallas, Texas (July 1986), in conjunction with the 28th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress. Ann Marie Koukios conducts the combined choirs for the Divine Liturgy. A special memorial service is conducted for Niki Kalkanis, the Forum’s first National Chairman, who died in April, and for Kike Stamens, the Forum’s first Membership Chairman. Hosts for the Meeting were Maria Carayannopoulos and the Dallas Choir.
- Archbishop Iakovos hosts a Breakfast to hone church musicians who have given over 25 years of service. He presents Anna Gallos with a St. Paul Medal to honor her 50 years of service.
- New National Forum brochures and delegate stoles are unveiled. The brochure will be distributed to the General Assembly during Chairman Pappas’s address to the group.
- The Forum agrees to host Church Music Institutes each year, and to determine curriculum, sites, and dates through a Standing Committee on Church Music Institutes.

1987

- The 11th Annual Meeting of the National Forum is convened in Belmont, California
- At the Annual meeting, the Forum conducts a mini-symposium entitled, “The Use of the Organ: Reconciling Tradition with Emerging American Practices. The Rev. Anthony Kosturos, Tikey Zes, John Cramer, and Jim Counelis present papers, which are later published by the Forum.
- MUSICA is inaugurated, a periodical that emanated from the Forum’s idea of publishing “fact sheets.” George Raptis serves as its editor. The first two issues are developed by Jim Maniates (The Music and Hymns of the Orthodox Church”) and

Georgia Tangires (The Use of the Organ in the Greek Orthodox Church”) and distributed nationally..

- The Forums agrees to endorse the Greek Orthodox Hymnal by Nicolas Maragos, to be published by Holy Cross Press.
- The Advanced Analysis Committee completes a revised Guide to Transcription and Phonetic Usage. It will be printed in the next Liturgical Guidebook.
- The new Office of Publication Distribution is inaugurated with the appointment of Rae Pallad as its head.
- The Forum works with the Archdiocese to plan and implement the Years of Service Award for choir directors.

1988

- In the fall, Vicki makes the Forum’s first report to the Archdiocesan Council in New York.
- Holy Cross Press publishes the Maragos Hymnal, which the Forum endorsed and financially supported with a donation.
- The 12th Annual Meeting of the National Forum is convened in Boston (July 1988) in conjunction with the 29th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress. Dean Limberakis conducts the choir for the Ecumenical Fourth of July Service. Vicki gives another report to the General Assembly on the work of the National Forum, and for the first time, is seated at the dais for the Congress’s Grand Banquet.
- During the Congress, the Forum conducts a mini-symposium entitled “The Use of English in Our Hymnology and Worship: Reconciling Tradition with Emerging American Practices.” The Rev. Leonidas Contos, Anna Gallos, Jessica Suchy-Pilalis, and George Demos present papers.
- The Forum Songbook, *Sharing in Song*, by Nick and Connie Maragos, is complete.
- The Archbishop Iakovos Years of Service Award is inaugurated, and 109 choir directors across the Archdiocese are honored. Those attending the Congress receive the newly-designed and minted Years of Service pin from the Archbishop in person. The Forum undertakes to administer the award for the rest and continue this service to the Archdiocese in the future.
- The Endowment Fund grows to \$65,000. The faculty make two requests for the use of funds: to implement a Visiting Scholar program and to add liturgical music materials to the Library.
- The Forum agrees to co-publish a “Handbook for the Greek Orthodox Organist” with Georgia Tangires. Scholarships are allocated for each Federation to increase national participation.
- The Forum agrees to co-sponsor a second Church Music Institute, this one on the Use of the Organ, in cooperation with the Eastern Federation.
- Nick Maragos agrees to assist Frank Desby on a project to compile transcriptions of the hymns of the liturgical cycle into Western notation.
- In August, GoTelecom staff travel to Indianapolis to prepare a videotape of that community’s MUSICAMP, which highlights the Hymn Series and youth participation in the Liturgy.

1989

- The MUSICAMP (“Choirs of the Future”) videotape is aired on VISN Satellite Network in November. It is also used in several workshops at parishes.
- The 13th Annual Meeting of the National Forum is held in Atlanta Georgia (July 1989), hosted by the choir and members of Annunciation Cathedral.

- The Transcription Project under Frank Desby and Nick Maragos moves forward with John Velon's donation of his Verspers transcriptions to the Forum.
- The Forum adopts a new position paper on Composite Liturgies.
- The Forum agrees to co-sponsor a Church Music Institute with the Western States/West Federation in 1990 under the same conditions as the Organist School in Baltimore. The Forum again votes to make scholarships available to each Federation co-sponsoring these Institutes to support attendance.
- The Forum decides to establish a Videotape Library of church music training materials, and to develop videotapes of pertinent topics.
- The Forum's distribution of the Years of Service medals for the Archdiocese to choir directors is formalized to occur each year on National Church Music Sunday in October.

1990

- Archbishop Iakovos and the Archdiocese ask the Forum to assist the Archdiocese with the musical planning for the Clergy-Laity Congress Divine Liturgy. The Forum develops Guidelines for Music at Clergy Laity Congress, which the Archdiocese will use for future Congresses.
- Nicolas Maragos is invited to Holy Cross as its first Visiting Scholar from the Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund reaches the \$100,000 mark.
- The two Church Music Institutes the Forum co-sponsored, in Baltimore under Georgia Tangires and in California under Tikey Zes are very successful and very well executed.
- The Forum purchases a computer for Frank Desby to work on the Transcription Project and also the Liturgical Guidebook. With this, the Forum enters the computer age for the publication of its materials.
- The 14th Annual Meeting of the Forum is held in Washington, DC (July 1990), in conjunction with the 30th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress. Patriarch Demetrios attends, and the Divine Liturgy is sung under the direction of Harilaos Pappapostolou. Anna Gallos conducts the choir at an Ecumenical Service for the Patriarch, and Tasso Vrenios conducts the local choir at a Fourth of July Service at the Lincoln Memorial.
- Tom Pallad takes over as head of the Office of Publications Distribution.
- The first discussion of moving to a stewardship plan for membership is initiated by Martha Stefanidakis, Membership Chairman.
- The Forum inaugurates a national 10-year Youth Initiative to bring more children and youth into fuller participation in the liturgical life of our faith through music.

1991

- A weekend meeting was held in Bloomington, Indiana to develop a common vision for the direction of the Computerization and Transcription Project. Frank Desby, Peter Vatsures, Nick Maragos, George Demos, and John Cramer joined Vicki at her computerized work lab.
- The 15th Annual meeting of the National Forum occurs in Houston, Texas, with George and Martha Stefanidakis and the Annunciation Choir as hosts. Vicki Pappas reminds the delegates in her Annual Report: *"The sign of a healthy organization is how it moves forward with its strengths, responds and adapts to changing times and changing needs, and remains flexible, even bold enough to take a leadership role where and when it's called for. We, the National Forum, can, and should, do that! We are an extraordinary, dedicated, and smart network of orthodox Christians, who thrive on our love for our faith, its music and the fellowship we enjoy with each other."*

- The Forum adopts Frank Desby's "Criteria of Neo-Byzantine Music Transcription" as a standard for its transcription Project, and that the Forum prepare publication of the Guide for Frank.
- The Forum votes to co-sponsor four more Church Music Institutes with the Federations in the coming year: for organists in Chicago, for choir directors in Redondo Beach and Boston, and for psaltai in Florida.
- The Forum adopts a resolution for a single, common English translation of the Nicene Creed to transmit to Archbishop Iakovos and the Holy Synod. Mary Ameredes presents her collection of all the different versions currently in use.
- The Forum delegates engage in a strategic planning session and set priorities: assistance to choir directors, continuation of the Youth Initiative, and liturgical education for Church Schools.
- Dennis Spyros and Nick Tarlson continue plans for a Choir Directors Manual.
- Dean Limberakis unveils two new lapel pins for Forum use: for recipients of the St. Romanos Medallion and for Life Members of the Forum.

1992

- Two of the four planned Church Music Institutes are held: the Choir Directors Institute in Redondo Beach and the Byzantine Chant Institute in Orlando. Seven Forum scholarships are given for attendance at their Church Music Institutes.
- The Guide to Congregational Singing is completed (Tim Pallad) and distributed to each parish. The Archdiocese reimburses the Forum fully for this project.
- The 16th Annual Meeting of the National Forum takes place in New Orleans (*July 1992), in conjunction with the 31st Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress. For the first time, the Archdiocese gives the National Forum authority to coordinate the liturgical music aspects of the Congress. Anna Gallos leads the combined choirs in the Divine Liturgy, and Dennis Spyros conducts the Fourth of July Doxology.
- Forum members participate in the Liturgy and Liturgical Life Committee at the Congress, and present a comprehensive set of recommendations as part of the regular business of the General Assembly.
- The new Forum Membership Directory, developed by Martha Stefanidakis, is unveiled.
- Nick Tarlson is selected to replace Andy Armantas as one of the Endowment Fund Trustees. The Fund now totals over \$125,000.
- The Forum's "Handbook for a Holy Friday Retreat" by Vicki Pappas and Indianapolis' Holy Trinity Church School is published. There is still high need for a Choir Directors Manual.
- The Forum starts collecting and cataloging a Videotape Library through Nick Tarlson.

1993

- The Holy Friday Retreat Handbook is sent to each priest in the Archdiocese.
- The Forum begins its annual mailing of materials to each parish to celebrate National Church Music Sunday, in conjunction with the Endowment Fund Drive.
- The 17th Annual Meeting of the National Forum is held in St. Louis (July 1993), hosted by the St. Nicholas Choir. A special memorial service is conducted for Dr. Frank Desby, who died earlier this year. Father George Nicozisin opens the meeting with a keynote address. Exhorting church musicians to encourage "experiential" rather than "intellectual" knowledge of our faith and hymnology.

- The Forum votes to invest the Endowment Fund into mutual funds following prudent investment procedures.
- Peter Vatsures proposes to increase the size of the Liturgical Guidebook to 8 ½ by 11 inches, spiral bound.
- The Forum decides to decentralize its Church Music institutes, based on recommendations in Mike Captain's report. It allocates each Federation \$1000 for faculty expenses to host CMLs in their own regions, as long as they follow the co-sponsorship guidelines of the National Forum.
- Nick Maragos presents a booklet, "Vocal Abuse," which is sent to each priest of the Archdiocese and included as an issue of MUSICA. Dennis Spyros presents a draft of an article, "Wedding Music Protocol. MUSICA is seen as an interim resource for disseminating needed information to choir directors until the Choir Directors Manual is completed.

1994

- The 18th Annual Meeting of the National Forum takes place in Chicago (July 1994), in conjunction with the 32nd Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress. Divine Liturgies are hosted throughout the city, and Forum members participate in the Hierarchical Liturgy held at Annunciation Cathedral. Anna Gallos and Ann Marie Koukios co-direct. Tikey Zes directs the choir for the Ecumenical Doxology.
- The Forum presents an Open Forum panel discussion for the Congress, "Liturgical Music in the 20th Century." Panelists presenting papers include Michael Captain, Anna Gallos, Jessica Suchy-Pilalis, The Rev. Milos Vesin, and Tikey Zes. Nicolas Maragos presents a Vocal Abuse workshop for clergy.
- The Forum participates in the Church Arts/Liturgical Music Committee and presents another comprehensive report to the delegates at the General Assembly.
- The Forum approves proposed projects: Peter Pappadakos to prepare beginning chanter training tapes of the Orthros, Anne Marie Koukios to develop a "works list" of Frank Desby's compositions, and Jessica Suchy-Pilalis to conduct her research on Byzantine Chant.
- Dean Limberakis presents the newly-completed St. Romanos brochures to be sold to choir members.
- The Forum approves establishment of the Patriarch Athenagoras medal for meritorious diocesan service, a national award to recipients identified by each Federation.
- Chris Yokas presents his ideas for a Practical Guide to the Use of the organ in the Greek orthodox Parish, and the Forum accepts it as a project. Georgia Tangires reports progress on her publication for organists.
- Transcribers interested in working on the Forum's Transcription Project meet in Chicago in January, under the direction of Nicolas Maragos, Jessica Suchy-Pilalis, and Alexander Lingas. They review and use Frank Desby's Guide to Transcription as a basis for their work.
- As National Chairman, Vicki Pappas is appointed to the Archdiocesan Council.

1995

- The 19th Annual Meeting of the National Forum takes place in Long Beach (July 1995), hosted by the choirs of Southern California. Charles Ajalat of the Antiochian Archdiocese is the luncheon speaker, providing information about the new SCOBA translation project.

- The Forum continues its yearly allocations to the Federations to co-sponsor Church Music Institutes.
- Georgia Tangires completes the Repertoire for Organ Handbook.
- The Forum budgets monies for EIKONA to record the instructional teaching tape for the Hymns of the Orthodox Church series.
- Dean Limberakis proposes the Forum financially support a National Forum Music Room for the Iakovos Library that is being built.
- Father Costa Sitaris, coordinator for the 1996 Clergy-Laity Congress asks the Forum to coordinate the daily morning liturgies for the Congress, the Liturgical music for the Divine Liturgy, and to host workshops.
- Dean Limberakis shares plans for the Founding Fathers plaque, to be unveiled at the Forum's 20th Anniversary Reception next year. George Raptis will prepare a special 20th Anniversary issue of MUSICA.
- The Forum approves the Historical Videotape project, to be headed by Peter Vatsures and Vicki Pappas. It will be an audiovisual history of prominent church musicians.

1996

- The first mid-year meeting of the Council of Presidents convenes in Indianapolis. The purpose of this meeting is to bind the Federations closer to the Forum and to assist the National Chairman in implementing decisions made by the Coordinating Committee at the Annual Meeting.
- The Kevin Lawrence Hymnal is reviewed by the Council of Presidents and recommended for use at the morning liturgies of the Clergy-Laity Congress.
- The 20th Annual Meeting of the National Forum takes place in New York City (July 1996), in conjunction with the 33rd Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress. Cathy Zarbis leads the combined choirs in a Divine Liturgy in Central Park in the rain.
- Vicki Pappas notes in her Annual Report: "...*His Eminence chose as the theme for this Congress, the text from Philippians: 'Let us go forward on the road that has brought us where we are.' How well this applies to our future as church musicians, as well as to us, the Orthodox faithful of America.*"
- George Raptis and Vicki Pappas compile commemorative articles on the Forum's 10th Anniversary for MUSICA and also for a commemorative album describing the spirit of Archbishop Iakovo's tenure.
- The Forum accepts the unanimous recommendation of the Council of Presidents to use \$100,000 of the Endowment Fund for a liturgical music room at the new Archbishop Iakovos Library. Announcement of the gift was made to Archbishop Iakovos at the Forum's Reception. Dean Limberakis unveils the bronze Founding Fathers plaque, also to be placed in the liturgical music room of the Library.
- The Forum submits its first proposal to Leadership 100 for funding, which is not considered because of changes at the Archdiocese.
- Patriarch Athenagoras medals for meritorious diocesan service are awarded for the first time at Federation conferences..

1997

- Vicki Pappas represents the new Archbishop Spyridon at his Enthronement in New York. She also makes several visits to the Archdiocese during the year to establish relationships with him and new Archdiocesan department heads.
- The second Council of Presidents meeting convenes in Chicago.

- The 21st Annual Meeting of the National Forum takes place in Alsip, Illinois (July 1997), hosted by the Chicago Diocese Choir Federation and President Christ Kutrubis.
- The Forum adopts a resolution prepared by George Raptis honoring Ernest Villas for all his contributions to the Archdiocese upon his retirement this year. A framed document is presented to him in Boston later in the year.
- Ongoing Forum projects continue: additional Church Music Institutes are held, a mailing for Church Music Sunday is sent to all choir directors and clergy in the Archdiocese, additional issues of MUSICA are published, mini-surveys are conducted on various church music topics with the distribution of the yearly Liturgical Guidebook.
- Development continues on other National Forum projects: the Transcription Project (Maragos/Stefanidakis), a Composer's Institute (Zes/Spyros), Orthros tapes (Pappadakos), Organist Handbook (Yokas), and Hymnology Handbook (Pappas).
- The Forum assists diocesan choirs who prepare services for the visit of Patriarch Bartholomeos.

1998

- Peter Vatsures, Nicolas Maragos, and Vicki Pappas work with Archdeacon Elias to develop Hierarchical Guidelines for church music. Standard versions of the fimi and polychronion for Archbishop Spyridon are developed.
- The Federations assist the Archdiocese in the musical presentations for the visit of Patriarch Bartholomeos in the spring. As National Chairman, Vicki Pappas is invited to the Gold Medal ceremony in the Rotunda of the Capitol and to Vice-President Gore's Breakfast for the Patriarch.
- The third meeting of the Council of Presidents occurs in Indianapolis in April.
- The 22nd Annual Meeting of the National Forum takes place in Orlando (July 1998), in conjunction with the 34th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress. Joanna Cavalaris leads the combined choirs for the Divine Liturgy and the Ecumenical Doxology.
- The Forum moves to a Stewardship structure for annual memberships.
- The Forum continues to budget \$1000 to each federation to co-sponsor Church Music Institutes in the dioceses. The Forum affirms that a national Composer's Institute be convened at Holy Cross School of Theology.
- The Endowment Fund reaches more than \$215,000. Peter Pappadakos is approved as the third Trustee of the Endowment, replacing Nick Tarlson.
- The Forum approves a Choir Member's Stewardship Oath for use in parishes.
- Seventeen directors with 50 or more years of service are honored at the Congress's Church Musicians Reception. They received framed certificates and the congratulations of Archbishop Spyridon and the Forum.
- Rip Kasteris designs a commemorative poster for National Church Music Sunday, and the Forum sends it to all parish priests and choir directors.

1999

- The EIKONA tape is complete, and new packaging of the Hymn series results in a highly successful Family Packet for sale.
- The first Companion to the Liturgical Guidebook: A handbook for Choir Directors is published and distributed to each parish. This emanated from the Forum's longstanding desire to have such a resource for choir directors. It will be published every 3-5 years.

- The 23rd Annual Meeting of the National Forum is held at St. George Church in Southgate, Michigan. Bishop Nicholas welcomes the members to his diocese, as does St. George's Father Philemon Karamanos.
- The Forum recommends Anna Gallos's *Se Imnoumen* for inclusion in a songbook the National Council of Churches of Christ is preparing, as per a request of Bishop Demetrios.
- The Forum's proposal to Leadership 100 is successful. It receives \$53,000 to conduct a national as well as diocesan Church Music Institutes on the use of English, and also to disseminate materials to assist parishes.
- The Historical Videotape Project begins to take shape, with videos of Anna Gallos and Tikey Zes completed.
- The Forum authorizes purchase of audio-visual equipment for the Liturgical Music Room from the Endowment funds.

2000

- The 24th Annual Meeting of the National Forum takes place in Philadelphia (July 2000), in conjunction with the 35th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress. George Raptis leads the combined choirs for the Divine Liturgy and Chris Jeleps, for the Fourth of July Doxology. The Archdiocese places full responsibility on the Forum to make all the arrangements for the liturgical music programs of the Congress.
- With this Congress, the Forum begins a two-year celebration of its Silver Anniversary of its Charter. The Forum presents Vicki Pappas with a framed icon of the Choirs of Angels, as well as His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and each of the Hierarchs.
- The Forum conducts an all-Congress workshop on "*New Music Workshop: Repertoire for English*" to an overflow crowd.
- The Forum's materials are advertised for the first time in the catalog of the Department of Religious Education.
- The "*How to Start a Youth Music Program in Your Parish*" handbook, by Joanne Kambouris and Lynn Jebeles, is complete. Copies are sent to each parish priest in the Archdiocese.
- The Forum decides that it must take the leadership on the development of hymns in English. It approves a project to translate priority feast day and sacramental hymns and set them to traditional melodies for use in congregational singing.
- The Endowment Fund has reached its original financial goal of \$350,000. \$100,000 has been donated for the Iakovos Library, and the remaining \$250,000 lies in an investment portfolio.
- The *Guide to the Transcription of Post Byzantine Chant* is published, written by Frank Desby with additions by Alex Lingas, Jessica Suchy-Pilalis, and Dimitri Conomos; and edited by Nicholas Maragos.

2001

- The Forum completes revisions of the Hierarchical Guidelines with Archbishop Demetrios's office, and distributes them to every parish.
- The Council of Presidents meet in Chicago.
- The 25th Annual Meeting of the National Forum is held at Assumption Cathedral in Denver, Colorado. Bishop Isaiah Nicholas welcomes the members to his diocese, as does Assumption's Father Costa Pavlakos. Four of our composers are also present at this meeting: Theodore Bogdanos, Kevin Lawrence, Nick Maragos and Tikey Zes. Forum members pray for all their departed members and other church musicians.

- Archbishop Demetrios visits the Annual meeting and engages in a lengthy discussion with delegates about the importance of church music and its role in our faith, the need for involving young people, and the need to consolidate English translations.
- The Forum sponsors a 25th Anniversary Concert. Paul Barnes presents a lecture-recital on the piano, using the iconography of the Cathedral. He is joined by violinist Kevin Lawrence for a second half duet.
- The Endowment investment reaches more than \$265,000. The Forum deliberates and approves a transfer of the funds to Holy Cross. The three Trustees travel to Holy Cross to meet with the faculty and forge a Visiting Scholar Program. The funds will be transferred to an endowment fund administered by Holy Cross at the 2002 Clergy-Laity Congress.
- Since its inception, George Raptis reports that 11 issues of MUSICA have been published and distributed.
- Tom Pallad ends his tenure as Chair of the Office of Publications Distribution, and Barbara Minton takes over the role.
- George Raptis volunteers to edit a 25th Anniversary Commemorative Album. Each Federation pledges to try to raise \$1000 in patron listings for the Album.
- Plans continue for a National Church Music Institute on the Use of English at Holy Cross in 2002.
- The Forum develops a new position statement about continuing education for church musicians.
- Vicki Pappas add these words to the 25th Anniversary Meeting of the National Forum: *“How pleasing it is for us to stand at the threshold of a new century, able to look both backwards and forwards, with the experience, reputation, and wisdom gained from over 25 years of providing significant service to our Church.”*