

Neumes & Notes

The Online Newsletter of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians: August 2006



A New Venture!



Welcome to the inaugural issue of the National Forum's electronic newsletter. It is another one of the ways we use to keep you informed about the activities of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians, the church music ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, and the church music activities of our nine Metropolises. We hope to publish "Neumes & Notes" quarterly. Please send us suggestions about what you'd like to see included and/or any questions you may have.

Please copy this newsletter and share it with those in your parish who may not have access to computers or printers.

Church Musicians Meet at Clergy-Laity

The National Forum's Annual Meeting was held on July 16-20 in Nashville, in conjunction with the Clergy-Laity Congress. Representatives from each Metropolis attended. Highlights include:

- **Archbishop Demetrios** paid the delegates a visit, praising them for their "ongoing and excellent work for the parishes" and thanked them for their substantial financial contributions to Holy Cross School of Theology. Other visitors who spoke with the delegates included Metropolitans Nicholas and Gerasimos, Rev. Fathers Alkiviadis Calivas and Nicholas Bacalis, Angelo Lampousis from the Axion Estin Foundation, Paulette Poulos from Leadership 100, and Rev. Frank Marangos, the Archdiocese's new Communications Director.
- During the past two years, the Forum contributed more than \$15,000 to the federations for **Church Music Institutes** (CMI's) in their Metropolises. For the next two years, they allocated another \$3000 to each Federation for CMI's.
- In 2007, the **Liturgical Guidebook** will be priced at \$30. **The Companion** to the Guidebook will also be sent to each parish free of charge.
- The **2006 Church Music Survey** resulted in five priority areas: recruitment and training of choir members, church school hymnology programs, youth choirs, recruitment and training of chanters, and transcription of Byzantine music into Western notation. A **Psalti Survey** is underway.

- The Forum awarded **financial grants** to Cappella Romana, Jessica Suchy-Pilalis, Chris Gianopoulos, and John Velon to assist them in their church music projects.
- Publications planned for 2007: a Handbook for Senior Voices, an updated Holy Friday Retreat Handbook, a Youth Music curriculum, and a curriculum for a Choir Directors Academy.

A Conversation with the Archbishop

Participants at the Annual Meeting of the National Forum were treated to a morning dialogue with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas. Topics ranged from the growing use of English, the complimentary roles of choirs and chanters in our Archdiocese, the Forum's substantial financial contributions to Holy Cross School of Theology, and the importance of youth involvement in the services of our Church.



Across the Archdiocese: Upcoming Events

- **Anna Gallos Tribute Concert:** September 30th in Towson, MD (near Baltimore). Marina Alexander of New Jersey will be Guest Conductor. Contact: Maria Keritsis at mfk9@comcast.net .
- **Boston Metropolis Conference:** November 3-5 at the Annunciation Cathedral of Boston. Liturgical setting by Chris Zervos. Guest Conductor to be Dr. William Harmand of Syracuse, NY. Contact: Heidi Mason at heidi_mason@kindredhealthcare.com .
- **Chicago Metropolis Youth Choir Conference:** November 4-5 at St. Andrew Church in Chicago. Guest Conductor will be Stacey Cunningham. Contact: Denise Karras at DKarras916@aol.com .
- **Chicago Metropolis Church Music Conference:** October 12-15, Annunciation Church, Milwaukee. Chris Kypros will direct his liturgical setting. Contact: Denise Karras at DKarras916@aol.com .
- **October 1st: National Church Music Sunday**

2006 St. Romanos Medallions Awarded

During the Church Music Reception hosted by the National Forum during the Clergy-Laity Congress, National Chairman Vicki Pappas announced the recipients of the St. Romanos Medallion. The Medallion is awarded to individuals who have made exemplary national contributions to church music. Recipients of the 2006 Medallions are **The Rev. Nicholas Kastanas** and **Dr. Jessica Suchy-Pilalis**.



Are You a Steward of the National Forum?

The Forum is composed of a variety of church musicians – directors, chanters, choir singers, clergy, youth music directors, organists, music educators – anyone interested in church music! See page 3 of this newsletter for a **Stewardship Form**. There are no set “membership” fees --- simply contribute what you feel is appropriate to support your national church ministry and projects and activities as highlighted in this newsletter. Make your contribution today to be listed in the 2006 Stewardship Directory!

New National Forum Publications

- **Verses of the Antiphons.** Complimentary copies were recently sent to the head chanters of all 500+ parishes in our Archdiocese. Additional copies are available for \$15 plus S&H.
- **MUSICA:** The 14th issue of this periodical was recently published: *Outline of the Greek Orthodox Liturgy: A Guide for Understanding*. It is available for \$1.00 per copy; the set of all 14 is \$14.00 plus S&H. Discounts are available for bulk orders.
- **A Commemorative CD** of the 1978 Clergy-Laity Congress Divine Liturgy, with Archbishop Iakovos as celebrant and a choir of 160 voices singing the liturgical settings of Bogdanos, Desby, Gallos, Pappas, and Zes. Cost is \$20 plus S&H.
- **To order materials** and/or request a **Publications List:** email pappas@indiana.edu or call 812-855-8248. There is no need to send payment ahead of time – we include an invoice in your order.

E-mail News

If you liked receiving this new electronic newsletter, you may also want to be part of the **CHURCH MUSIC e-mail distribution list**. This is a “broadcast only” e-mail list, so you won’t receive a great many e-mails. You’ll receive about 1-2 messages a week about church music events and resources and Archdiocesan news that is of interest to church musicians. If interested, send your name, church, city, and e-mail address to pappas@indiana.edu

Clergy-Laity Congress Workshop Presented

Members of the National Forum presented a well-attended workshop for the Clergy-Laity Congress, entitled “*Oloi Mazi: Making Congregational Singing Work in Your Parish.*” Alexander Lingas presented some of the historical rationale for congregational participation, and then he and Tikey Zes presented helpful hints for planning and implementing congregational singing for the parish.

Following an introduction by Vicki Pappas, participants then sang through field-test versions of the Forum’s English settings of common “oloi mazi” hymns desired by priests for their congregations to sing. The English texts of these hymns were set to traditional melodies following rules of Byzantine chant formulas and good choral music composition. The Forum will be encouraging use of these English settings until our Holy Synod presents us with standard English translations for these hymns.

The “Oloi Mazi” composition team consists of two chanters, Fr. Seraphim Dedes and Nancy Takis, and two choral composers, Kevin Lawrence and Tikey Zes. Stan Takis serves as scribe for the group.



National Church Music Sunday

This **October 1st**, the Archdiocese will celebrate National Church Music Sunday. This is a day set aside to recognize all the church musicians in the parishes, as well as the work of the Metropolis Church Music Federations and the National Forum.

The Forum will be sending complimentary materials to parish priests and choir directors in early September. The packet will include the **2006 National Church Music Sunday poster** portraying St. John Koukouzelis, designed by renowned artist, Rip Kastaris of St. Louis.

A variety of **commemorative items**, such as full-color pins of hymnographers (Kassiane, St. Romanos, St. Thekla, or St. John Damascene), and the new **Archbishop Iakovos Certificate of Distinguished Service** are also available. A listing of these commemoratives will also be included in the packets being sent to directors and parish priests.

For more information about Church Music Sunday or to order materials, email pappas@indiana.edu.

NATIONAL FORUM OF GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH MUSICIANS

2006 INDIVIDUAL STEWARDSHIP FORM

We encourage all church musicians
(choir members, chanters, clergy, music educators, and interested others)
to become one of the stewards of the National Forum.

Please note there are no longer organizational stewardship or Life Member categories – rather,
we seek the yearly support of individual members of choirs, parishes, and organizations. THANK YOU!

PLEASE PRINT

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr. Rev. _____

Mailing Address: City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: (____)_____ Work Phone: (____)_____ Fax: (____)_____

E-mail: _____ Name of Home Parish: _____
(Please PRINT clearly!)

City/State: _____ Metropolis: _____

Amount of your Stewardship Contribution for this year: \$ _____

Your Category of Membership: (please check all that apply)

- Choir Director Choir Member Junior Choir Director Junior Choir Member
Organist/Director Music Educator Clergy Seminarian
Organist/Accompanist Composer/Arranger Psaltai/Chanter Other

May we include your name in our: Membership Directory? Yes No
Church Music email list ? Yes No

Your Signature: _____ Today's Date: _____

Mail this form and a check (payable to The National Forum) to:

National Forum Stewardship
c/o Martha Stefanidakis, Treasurer
7619 Wycomb Lane
Houston, TX 77070

[NOTE: The Forum's Stewardship year is January 1st through December 31st]

For more information, contact:

Donna S. Aliapoulios, Stewardship Chairman
Phone: 561-586-8157
E-Mail: SteveDonna@adelphia.net

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Date Rec'd: _____
Check # _____