



**NATIONAL FORUM
OF GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH MUSICIANS**
*The musical arm of the Archdiocese that strengthens and perpetuates
Greek Orthodox liturgical music in America*



**Position Statement Regarding
USE OF COMPOSITE LITURGIES**

Many choir directors have made it common practice to select a variety of hymns and/or responses either from different composers' liturgies or from the same composer's various liturgies to form what is commonly called a "composite liturgy."

The National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians recognizes that it is most desirable to perform the liturgical setting of a single composer in its entirety. Musical settings of the Divine Liturgy are conceived as an integrated whole, with careful regard for the movement from one section of the liturgy to another. Each composer creates this liturgical setting in a unique style, selecting a mode(s) or a key(s) that is compatible with specific musical and liturgical goals.

Therefore, the National Forum discourages the use of composite liturgies. More often than not, composite liturgies destroy musical continuity. Styles may clash; keys or modes may be incompatible; and the result may be less conducive to worship.

Furthermore, if music is duplicated for a composite liturgy, the danger of copyright law violation increases, especially when permission from the composer or copyright holder has not been received.

Therefore, if it is necessary to integrate various hymns and/or responses, it should be done with extreme care, remembering that it is of paramount importance to maintain not only the musical continuity, but also the harmonious dialogue that should continuously exist between celebrant and choir.

For further information and assistance in this area, you may contact the National Chairman.

(Adopted June 1989, Reviewed July 2015)