



**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

CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR CHURCH MUSICIANS

The National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians strongly recommends that choir directors, choir members, and chanters actively seek to improve their skills so that they become more effective church musicians. These skills would include:

- a good knowledge of the voice,
- music theory - including ear training,
- conducting,
- rehearsal techniques, and/or
- liturgics and rubrics of the various services of our Church

In addition, choir directors must be able to effectively communicate their knowledge and skills to their choir members.

In order to continue to improve, church musicians are encouraged to attend the various local, regional and national workshops that are offered by the Church Music Federations of the Metropolises at their annual conferences and also at Church Music Institutes (CMI's) offered throughout the year. In addition, directors, choir members, and chanters should consider studying voice and attend workshops offered locally by colleges, universities, or choral organizations, such as the American Choral Directors Association.

Since music is a liturgical ministry, parishes should encourage and expect their choir directors, singers, and chanters to continually improve their skills. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that parishes offer financial support to their church musicians to attend training sessions provided through the National Forum and the metropolis church music federations and/or to avail themselves of other educational opportunities.

Choir directors, choir members, and chanters who take an active role in their continuing education, with the support of the parish priest and parish council, have a much greater chance of creating a successful liturgical music program in their parish. Liturgical music is of vital importance to our worship and deserves the moral and financial support of the local parish to ensure its continuation and expansion into the new millennium.

(Adopted July 2002; Reviewed and updated 2015)