



**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 THE OFFICIAL STANDARD ENGLISH
TRANSLATION OF LITURGICAL HYMNS**

Early in 2016, the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America announced completion of the first official and standard translation of the texts for the Divine Liturgy and its associated hymns. The Holy Synod also asked the National Forum to work with them, through Metropolitan Methodios serving as their liaison, to develop new unison musical settings for these hymns. The new musical settings, in both Greek and English, will be used at Holy Cross Seminary, in the Department of Religious Education's curriculum materials, in the National Forum's "Hymns of the Orthodox Church" series, and in a new hymnal for congregations, replacing the "Green Book" originally developed for the Archdiocese in 1982 by Ernie Villas, of blessed memory.

There will also be need for additional music for choirs. As our composers and arrangers develop these resources, the National Forum issues the following best practices and guidelines regarding use of the new texts.

- There should be no changes in the officially-approved Greek and English texts. The Holy Synod's goal is to achieve consistency of the English and Greek translations across all parishes of our Archdiocese and also within the parish (among priest, choir, chanter, and texts used in pew books and/or church bulletins).
- It is a violation of copyright laws to insert the new English texts into previously-composed hymns and liturgical settings which were developed according to Greek or other English texts without permission from the composer/publisher. The National Forum strongly considers this to be an unacceptable and unethical practice.
- Development of new musical arrangements for the new official texts is appropriate and encouraged. However, be aware that the Archdiocese holds the copyright to the English text, and permission to use it should be requested.
- Likewise, development of future choral arrangements for the music as developed by the National Forum's Oloi Mazi team is encouraged, as long as appropriate credit is given.

[Adopted July 2016]