34th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress
“Gather My People to My Home... Come and See”

CHURCH MUSIC WORKSHOP

GATHER THE YOUTH

Ideas for Youth Music Programs in Your Parish

Come and See, Come and Sing

Tuesday, July 6, 2010
Atlanta, Georgia
Welcome!

Purpose:
A workshop designed to help you explore ways you might successfully implement liturgical music programs for youth in your parish

The Program:
- Introduction
- State of the Art in Youth Music
- Panel of Workable Examples
- Using Hymns in English
- Questions and Discussion

Panelists:
Dr. Vicki Pappas, Moderator
V. Rev. Seraphim Dedes
E. Hope Demitry
Presvytera Maria Hondros
Joanne Kambouris
Diana Ott
Chrysanthy Therianos
Dr. Tikey Zes

and
Members of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians
Greetings!

And welcome to the Clergy-Laity Congress’s Church Music Workshop, sponsored by the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians!

In our research, a recurrent need expressed by both clergy and church musicians is how to involve their young people in the liturgical life of the church. As our choirs and chanters age, there is a need to prepare and enthuse our children and youth about their potential roles as church musicians, and/or to be congregation members knowledgeable about the hymns of their faith. This year, we have attempted to address that need through this Clergy-Laity Congress Workshop. It is an especially fitting occasion because of the Congress’s overall theme - “Gather My People to My Home” – and how important it is to assure that our youth stay close to the Church and actively participate in its worship.

Inside this booklet are samples of some of the work various parishes across the Metropolises are engaging in with their youth - programs teaching hymnology in the Church School classrooms, development of junior choirs, teaching chant to young people, infusing liturgical music into camp programs, and church music workshops and conferences especially for youth. In addition, we have included some samples of music from the Forum’s “Oloi Mazi” project that could be used with young people and for congregational singing – music that is traditional and simpler in its rendition, music that uses English as well as Greek texts, and music that serves several of the feast days of the liturgical year in addition to some of the liturgical hymns of ordinary Sundays.

We hope you enjoy the workshop, and find it useful in your parish ministries!

In His Service,

Vicki Pappas, Ph.D.
National Chairman
MISSION:
Instill in our children love and knowledge of our Orthodox hymns and faith while having fun.

Specific Goals for the school year:
- Establish High School Choir.
- Make clear distinction between Junior Choir and High School Choir:
  Junior Choir:  Grades K-8
  High School Choir:  Grades 9-12
- Learn the following hymns from the Divine Liturgy:
  - Lord have Mercy/Kirie Eleison
  - By the prayers of the Theotokos/Tes Presvies tis Theotokou
  - Holy God/Holy Mighty/Holy Immortal/Ayios o Theos/Ayios Ishiros/Ayios Athanatos
  - One is Holy, One is Lord/Ees Ayios, Ees Kirios
  - Praise the Lord/Enite

  If you learn the above, then add these:
  o Father Son and Holy Spirit    o Holy, Holy, Holy Lord of Angelic Hosts
  o The Anaphora                  o Se Imnoumen
- Add some “fun” songs to our singing program:
  - This Land is Your Land
  - He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands
  - God Bless America

  If you learn the above, then add these, and any you think appropriate:
  o Jesus Prayer                  o I’m an Orthodox Christian
  o This Pretty Planet            o America the Beautiful
  o I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N       o Blowin’ in the Wind
- Add structure to each lesson by:
  - If at the beginning of church school, start with a prayer (the Lord’s Prayer, or other prayer of your or the teacher’s choice)
  - Start with a warm-up, the same, quick warm-up every week.
  - Review a hymn from the previous week.
  - Begin a new or difficult hymn.
  - Include some fun songs.
  - If at the end of church school, end with a prayer (again, the Lord’s Prayer, or other prayer).

JUNIOR CHOIR:
Sept. /Oct.:  Hymn of St. Demetrios
             Hymns from Divine Liturgy (above)
             Fun Songs

Nov. /Dec.:  Prepare for Christmas Pageant:
             O Come all Ye Faithful  Jesus Loves Me
             Your Birth O Christ    There’s Nothing That God
             We Three Kings          Cannot Do
             O Christ is Born Glorify Him  Joy to the World
             Mary’s Boy Child        Hark the Herald Angels Sing
             Little Drummer Boy
Jan./Feb./March
Salutation Service: (Friday, April 3 for Junior Choir K-8)
Memory Eternal/Aionia I Mnimi
Lenten Hymns: To You as Champion/Ti Ipermaho
              Haire Nimfi Animfente/Hail o Bride Unwedded
Fun Songs
March/April:  Christ is Risen/Christos Anesti
              Continue hymns from Divine Liturgy
              Continue Fun Songs
May/June - For Graduation:
              Hymn of Pentecost: Blessed Are You O Lord/Evlogitos Ee Christe
              This Land is Your Land
              He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands
              God Bless America

HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR:
Since this is a new program this year, these are some ideas. We’d have the same/similar goals and curriculum as above, but with separate venues/dates for performances:
- Distinct Sundays that the High Schoolers join the Senior Choir?
- Christmas: A special performance on Christmas Eve, or at the Christmas Pageant
- Lent: Separate Salutation Service? Learn To You as Champion, Hail o Bride Unwedded, and Awed by the Beauty/Tin Oraiotita
- Graduation: I would like Graduation Day to have both Junior and High School Choirs.
  - Hymn of Pentecost: Blessed Are You O Lord/Evlogitos Ee Christe
  - This Land is Your Land
  - He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands
  - God Bless America

Sundays with Senior Choir:
November 16 - Choir Appreciation Sunday
December 21 – Christmas Pageant
January 11
February 8
March 1
May 10 – Mother’s Day

For more information:
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Metropolis of Chicago
Youth Conferences

In the Metropolis of Chicago, we have had separate choir conferences for our youth for more than a decade. If your Church Music Federations have not tried such an event, or if you are looking for ways to involve your young people in choral events, we can wholeheartedly recommend the idea of a Youth Conference to create an atmosphere or enthusiasm and camaraderie among young singers while fostering an understanding and enjoyment of the music of the Orthodox Church.

Why a Youth Conference?
Like many other Church Music Federations, we have also occasionally brought our youth in to sing with the adults at the annual church music conference - a “joint” conference for senior choirs and youth choirs, as it were. This can obviously be a great experience for everyone involved.

However, there are a number of reasons that we believe having a separate youth choir conference is a really positive experience for everyone involved, and definitely worth considering as an alternative to bringing the youth in as part of your Federation’s “senior” conference:

- First, it is an opportunity to make the children feel special by giving them an event of their own, without feeling as though they are “playing second fiddle” to the senior choir members.
- Second, having a specifically dedicated youth conference provides organizers with the chance to design an event with programs, workshops, meals, etc. that are entirely geared toward the needs and interests of young people.
- Third - and maybe most important - when the children have their own conference, then they are responsible for singing the entire Divine Liturgy, and not just selected sections thereof. It is an amazing experience for the kids to have such an important role in the service - and we have found that the more responsibility the children are given, the more engaged and enthusiastic they become.

Questions to Consider When Planning a Youth Conference:
In order to have a successful youth conference - just as with any conference - it is vital to plan well in advance, and to have a number of people responsible for making everything happen. Having the responsibilities spread out among a group of people is even more important than usual with a youth conference, because kids will, by their nature, require a lot more supervision than their adult counterparts (or at least we hope so) - and you’ll need to have a good-sized group of adults on hand.

1. **Will you invite only current “youth choir” members, or open it up to all the youth in your Metropolis?**
   
   If your Metropolis has an established “presence” of youth choirs, it might make sense to stick to inviting only current choir members. In Chicago, we have always had an “open” conference - allowing any interested children to attend - for a couple of reasons. First, many of our parishes do not have youth choirs at this time. Second, we have found that attending a youth music conference has encouraged a number of children to participate in music programs back in their own parishes.

2. **What will your youngest/oldest age limits be?**
   
   We’ve routinely invited youth from ages 7-16 to our conferences, with the following rationale: kids younger than 7 are going to have issues with sitting still, concentrating, and reading the bigger words - and kids older than 16 might prefer to sing with the “senior” choir. However, we nearly always end up with kids younger than 7, and older than 16 - and it works out fine.
3. **What music will the children sing?**

A lot of this depends on the current state of youth music in your Metropolis - if you are in the beginning stages of building youth music programs, then it’s probably best to stick with more basic, unison music. Good resources for such music are the tried-and-true “Green Book” *Divine Liturgy Hymnal*, as well as the unison setting of the Divine Liturgy by Dr. Tikey Zes.

If, however, you will be working with a number of established youth choirs, the chances are that the kids are used to the “nuts and bolts” of the Divine Liturgy, and can handle slightly more challenging music. Stan and Nancy Takis have compiled an exhaustive collection of church music, including several settings of the Divine Liturgy, and this can be found online at [http://www.newbyz.org](http://www.newbyz.org). It’s an excellent resource and Stan and Nancy have graciously given permission to users to download and reproduce any of their music as needed.

4. **How much of the Divine Liturgy can the children be expected to sing?**

Though you may find logistical or other reasons to have the psaltai “supplement” the children’s participation in the Divine Liturgy, it has been our experience that the kids are absolutely capable of chanting the entire service - including special hymns, memorial service, etc. - without any problem. At our Federation’s last youth conference, we “upped the ante” even more, and invited some of our older participants to take part in a “Chanters’ Academy” led by the host parish’s senior choir director (who is also an accomplished chanter). These young people acted as chanters during the antiphons, and also chanted “Agni Parthene” and Psalm 135 during Holy Communion. “This was so successful and so enthusiastically received by the children who participated that we have repeated the program at our 2009 and 2010 conferences.”

5. **What will you do to make the event fun and “kid-friendly”?**

Whatever else a youth music conference is, it **MUST** be fun in order to be successful. For this reason, it is important to plan in regular activity breaks during rehearsal time - something as simple as basketball in the church hall is absolutely sufficient - and time for the kids to “hang out” and get to know one another. Since our conference rehearsals always take place on a Saturday, we usually “kick off” the conference with an informal social event of some sort on the Friday night beforehand - something as simple as pizza and games is all that is really necessary. We also have some sort of “fun” event for the kids on Saturday night - previous conferences have featured bowling, karaoke, swimming parties, talent shows, etc.

Workshops are also a key component to a successful youth conference - you may choose to have one or two, but make sure that the presenters are prepared to talk to the kids at their own level. We have discovered that the more actively the children are encouraged to participate in the workshop, the more successfully the workshop goes.

A Last Piece of Advice:

Our kids in general are amazingly bright and capable, and that is even more true of the young people who choose to participate in church music. When planning a conference for the youth of your Metropolis, do what you can to engage them at their own level - but don’t underestimate their ability (or desire) to do wonderful things. When in doubt, err on the side of “expecting too much” from them - then watch as they rise to those high expectations.

For Further Information:

Diana Ott  
St. Louis, MO  
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dianaott@juno.com
The Youth Music Ministry is thriving at Archangel Michael! A magnificent fifty-four member youth choir has blossomed over the years. The young people sing and chant the hymns of our faith in both the Greek and English languages for the Divine Liturgy, Heretismi/Salutations, Palm Sunday and the Lamentations on Holy Friday. The Youth Choir is blessed to sing the Hierarchical Liturgy when His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios comes to visit our community on the Saturday of Lazarus each year. Another special service for our choir is when His Grace Bishop Andonios visits during the Christmas season to celebrate the Challenge Liturgy, a service devoted to physically and mentally challenged Greek Orthodox individuals and their families from Queens and Long Island, New York.

A highlight remembered fondly by many of our youth choir members is the experience of singing the Communion Hymns for the July 2004 Divine Liturgy, held during the 37th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress in New York City.

This past October, the Archangel Michael Community joyously moved from Roslyn, NY to their new spiritual home in the neighboring town of Port Washington. While in the Roslyn church, the youth choir sang the Divine Liturgy every Sunday at the first service. We are now grateful to be able to celebrate the Divine Liturgy together at one service in our spacious and beautiful center where the youth choir sings the Divine Liturgy on the first and third Sunday of every month, alternating with the senior choir.

Youth choir rehearsals are conducted on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. The members range in age from nine to eighteen years old and predominantly composed of high school teenagers. This fall, we are introducing a Byzantine Chant program in conjunction with our regular choir rehearsals.

We begin every rehearsals with a prayer for church musicians from the National Forum:

“Bless us, O Lord, your servants who minister in Your church; Grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts we may practice and show forth in our lives. For unto You, we offer glory, to the Father, and the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.”

One of our goals is to develop sight singing skills and basic musicianship. More importantly, we foster a bond to the church by encouraging an understanding and love for the music of our church. We hope to preserve the rich musical heritage of the Orthodox faith and cultivate future choir members, psalti, organists, and conductors.

For more information:
Georgia Kaufman & Eleni Rodopoulos Kaufman
(516) 626-9665
kriseleni@yahoo.com
The Direct Archdiocesan District Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians Youth Choir Conference was a great success! Reverend Fathers Dennis Strouzas and Evan Evangelidis, and the community of the Archangel Michael Church in Roslyn, NY hosted the first-ever event on the weekend of January 24th & 25th, 2009. Choir directors, youth, psalti, and organists from across the District participated in stimulating workshops designed to promote a better knowledge of the magnificent hymns of the Orthodox faith.

Educational and inspirational workshop presentations were given by:

- Anne Ktorides, choir director of the Assumption Church in Danbury, CT
- Marina Alexander, conductor of the Metropolitan Greek Chorale at the Cathedral in New York City
- Georgia Kaufman, youth choir director of Archangel Michael Church in Roslyn, NY.
- Eleni Rodopoulos Kaufman, organist for Archangel Michael Church, provided the piano accompaniment for the workshops and played the organ for the Youth Conference Liturgy.

Workshop instruction included the following:

- Discussion of the value of being part of a youth choir
- The study of hymnology
- A review of what is happening during the Divine Liturgy
- Byzantine chant
- Solfege sight-singing
- Vocal warm-up exercises
- Diaphragmatic breathing techniques
- Craft creations of beautiful cross bookmarks.

A fantastic Youth Choir Variety Show included the hymn Osi Eis Christon played on cello and violin by the Anagnostopoulos sisters from Archangel Michael Byzantine Youth Choir. A lovely Kenyan rendition of Kyrie Eleison was performed by young people from St Paul's Cathedral in Hempstead, NY, directed by youth leader Virginia Pourakis.

On Sunday morning, the angelic voices of the youth choir sang the Divine Liturgy in melodious harmony. After the service, Archangel Michael Parish Council President Barbara Mavro expressed her support for the Youth Music Ministry by presenting a plaque and flowers to youth conference coordinator and conductor Georgia Kaufman. Anna Dounelis, President of the Direct Archdiocesan District Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians eloquently delivered a poignant message about the choirs of the future and the preservation of the rich musical heritage of our faith. All of the youth participants were given framed certificates and Youth Choir Conference 2009 bumper stickers for their noteworthy participation. It was a glorious weekend singing praises to our Lord!

For more information:
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Metropolis of Atlanta
Summer Camp Program at St. Stephen's Camp
Salem, South Carolina

Camp Music Program
As of 2008, I am the Music Director of the St. Stephen’s Summer Camp of the Metropolis of Atlanta. My job is to teach the daily music class and to lead the singing at the worship services.

My original idea for the class was to engage the campers in a bit of hymnographic creativity, by challenging them to compose, with my guidance, a short hymn in honor of the saint of the day. It sounded like a cool idea, but in practice it did not work. It lasted one day. The lesson plan necessarily evolved very quickly.

Each of the four daily hour-long lessons has the same format. For the opening prayer, I say the Trisagion prayers line-by-line and have the kids repeat after me. By the end of the week, many have learned them by heart.

Next, I quiz the campers on the sermon from the morning service: who gave it, what was it about. It’s amazing how soon a young person can forget what they heard, but also how much they recall when challenged to do so.

Each day I introduce various issues of church etiquette. Reverence towards God and focused attention are the principles behind the rules of church etiquette. Having that in mind, on Monday we discuss appropriate dress, punctuality, and movement in church. On Tuesday, we talk about how and when to cross/bless oneself, how to venerate icons and relics, and how to greet and get a blessing from a priest or bishop. Wednesday we focus on sacramental etiquette and spend extra time on weddings. Thursday’s etiquette lesson focuses on what to do and not do before, during, and after receiving Holy Communion.

After the daily discussion of church etiquette, we do vocal warm-ups, breathing and intonation exercises. We then practice camp songs, in preparation for the sing-along on Thursday evening. I also outline the biography of the upcoming saint; this will be followed up the next morning with three short hymn in the saint’s honor, specially composed for camp.

We also use these sessions to learn the principal hymns of our camp-style Vespers and Matins. We spend a considerable amount of time on the hymns of the Divine Liturgy, which will be celebrated on Friday. Interspersed are more camp songs and other performances, as well as special topics that relate to the camp’s curriculum.

We end each class by saying the Jesus Prayer all together, thirty-three times. It’s amazing how calming that activity was. I hope the kids remember to pray like that all the time.

Camp Worship
At morning and evening church services, I lead the camp in singing the texts and music, which I have prepared. Campers and staff have no problem singing along, because my aim in composing the services was to elicit the congregation’s maximum participation with minimum preparation.
A couple of years ago, I composed an evening worship service for the Hellenic Dance Festival, which consisted of a recasting of Resurrectional hymns into the meter and melody of the Lamentations of Good Friday. I used these well-known melodies in order to facilitate maximum participation with minimum preparation. Metropolitan Alexios was in attendance and approved, and after the service he asked me to make sure that these hymns became part of the summer camp program as well. So now they are included in the Camp Vespers.

Parish Youth Music Program
St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church
Charlotte, NC

Girls Choir
At St. Nektarios in Charlotte, NC, the Girls Choir has about 20 members, middle-school and high-school age. They sing at the Divine Liturgy instead of the Women’s Choir one Sunday each month, using chant music that I have prepared for them. On the other Sundays, groups of 4-5 girls sing along with the Women’s Choir. These groups follow a rotating schedule, much like the altar boys do. Rehearsals are rare. I provided the girls with the score and a CD. Having learned the music, it's all about singing in church. Special rehearsal focus on music for the Christmas Program. We are planning an intense workshop in late summer to go over any new music the girls will sing this coming year.

Christmas Program
The Parish Christmas Program is not exclusively a youth event, but the youth are in the Choirs, as well as the ensemble of instrumentalists, soloists, cast and crew.

Vacation Church Camp
Music class is one of the components of VCC. Each year, the children learn a song specially written for them, that supports the VCC theme; e.g. Parables, Missions, Evangelists, Fruits of the Spirit.

For further information:
Fr. Seraphim Dedes - Music Director
St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church
5108 Kuykendall Rd., Charlotte, NC 28270
Home Office (preferred): 704-719-3074
Church Office: 704-708-4669 FAX 704-846-6094
Background to Camp Emmanuel:
- Held at a beautiful, remote campground, one hour outside of Albuquerque, NM
- 150 total campers: Juniors 6th - 9th, Seniors 10th - 12th (graduated seniors included)
- 30 staff members and 11 priests
- 12 total cabins of campers, each named after one of the Feast Days of our Lord or a Saint
- Sunday evening campers arrive and leave Saturday morning
- Head of the music program: Chrysanthy Therianos

Objective for the week:
- To instill in our Orthodox youth a love for our Orthodox Hymnology and singing

Daily music routine for 2010:
- Each of the Senior and Junior groups met separately for 45 minutes a day for music
  - Hymns were learned for the Divine Liturgy in 3rd tone and special hymns for the day:
    The Nativity of the St. John the Baptist, Prostasia, Ton Despotin, etc.
  - All of the Odes for the Paraklesis Service were learned
  - In addition, a variety of music was sung including Orthodox folksongs and camp songs
- Another hour of singing was offered to the campers during their free period
  - The kids learned about vocalizing, chanting in tune, how to chant their cabin’s
    Apolitikon, and got to “show what they know” in front of all the priests as they
    processed by cabins to evening chapel

Church Services:
- Daily Morning chapel:
  - Theos Kyrios and More Honorable were chanted every day, 4th tone
- Daily Evening chapel:
  - Lord I have cried (1st tone) and O Gladsome Light were chanted every day.
- The Paraklesis Service was chanted on Tuesday evening with the Juniors and
  Wednesday evening with the Seniors
- The entire camp celebrated The Divine Liturgy on Thursday morning with His Eminence
  Isaiah

Other Singing Opportunities:
- Campfires:
  - Seniors and Juniors each had their own separate night; it was led by Fr. Apostolos
    Hill, Dean of the Assumption Cathedral in Denver, Fr. Makarios from Kenya, and
    Chrysanthy Therianos
• Singing before meals:
  - *Those in whom wealth abounds* was sung before every meal after the prayer was said.
  - Fr. Makarios and Chrysanthy would lead the kids in fun songs before meals
  - Campers received mail from home, but in order to get their mail, they had to sing a silly mail song.

### Examples of some of the songs that were sung:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Many campfire songs (from our camp packet)</th>
<th>Holy God (camp song round)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fruit of the Spirit</td>
<td>The Hammer Song</td>
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<td>The New Testament song</td>
<td>Paraklesis music</td>
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<td>The Sparrow</td>
<td>Lord of the Powers</td>
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<td>Agni Parthene</td>
<td>Liturgical hymns</td>
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<td>Rounds: Jubilate Deo, Dona Nobis</td>
<td>Theos Kyrios</td>
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<td>Making Melodies in my Heart</td>
<td>More Honorable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lord of the Dance</td>
<td>Lord I have Cried</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Angel Cried</td>
<td>O Gladsome Light</td>
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<tr>
<td>My Country ‘Tis of Thee</td>
<td>Apolitikia of the 12 Feasts of Our Lord</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Last Liturgy</td>
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</tbody>
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Literary hymns which were more difficult and worked with smaller groups: Cherubic Hymn, Se Ymnumen, Axion Estin, etc.

### For more information:

Chrysanthy Therianos  
719-268-0914  
luv2chant@aol.com
Holy Trinity’s hymnology program is a part of its Church School Program:
▪ Children attend the Divine Liturgy through Communion.
▪ On selected Sundays, first-through-fifth graders go to Hymnology Class for a 15-minute lesson; following Hymnology, they go to their classes for a 30-45 minute period.
▪ On Sundays where there is no Hymnology, the children go to class after receiving Communion.
▪ On Feast Days, there is class first. Then the children enter the Divine Liturgy before Communion and stay for the Procession and/or special service.
▪ Preschoolers are taught in their classroom after Liturgy for about 10-15 minutes. They learn simple songs and finger plays – once or twice a year, they “perform” after Liturgy with the songs and hymns they have learned.
▪ Father often gives the adult sermon at the end of the Divine Liturgy; parents have also learned to come to Coffee Hour to await the end of Church School classes to pick up their children.

Personnel:
▪ Hymnology Class includes grades 1st through 5th. Preschool and kindergarten are taught separately. We have not succeeded in formulating a hymnology program for 6th grade and up – boys go to the altar and girls can become “Narthex Angels.”
▪ Hymnology teachers are choir members who are thought of as one of the Church School teachers. They participate in Church School meetings and activities.
▪ The program is coordinated through the priest and the Church School Superintendents.
▪ Teachers are encouraged to sit in on the Hymnology classes, and some do.

Curriculum:
▪ The hymns of the first part of the Divine Liturgy when the children are in Church - all taught in English and Greek.
▪ Responses – Kyrie Eleison’s, Si Kyrie, and Amin’s. Also Grant This, O Lord.
▪ For Communion: Se Imnoumen, Enite (in 7 languages!), Tu Dhipnou Sou, and Exomologhisthe
▪ Also Feast Day Hymns and other hymns of the Divine Liturgy.
▪ See suggested scope and sequence on the back

Special Programs:
▪ Singing as the congregation receives Communion is the most common participatory format.
▪ Our Holy Friday Retreat has become a tradition - Includes hymnology, theology, and iconography
▪ First Resurrection Service on Saturday Morning – children sing the refrain of the Hymn of the Three Youths and sing Arise O God (Anasta O Theos) as Father scatters bay leaves and rose petals around the church. The children ring bells at this point of the service.
▪ Saturday of Lazarus – in the past, the children sang the entire Liturgy then stayed for a Communion Breakfast and making of the crosses

Learning’s:
▪ Help Church School teachers understand that hymnology is indeed Church School instruction, just with a different tool than they use. It is not music class!
▪ It takes time, consistency, and perseverance! Every 10-minute lesson counts!
▪ Children need to sing in church as often as possible. Work with the choir to share singing the hymns.
▪ Prepare handouts for the children to take home to their parents.
▪ Encourage children to sing with the choir. Priest and choir members can be instrumental in encouraging this.
▪ Don’t leave out the older children, but plan a separate liturgical music program for them.
Curriculum Ideas:
For a full-fledged Church School Hymnology Program, the following scope and sequence could apply.

Young Children (Nursery/Kindergarten)...
- What happens in church
- Characteristics of God - God is Holy, God is Mighty (Aghios O Theos)
- God saves us; Jesus came to earth to save us (Soson Imas)
- The Theotokos intercedes to save us (Tes Presvies)
- Words for God: Theos, Kyrie, Lord
- Jesus has many names: Savior, Son of God, Christ
- Mary has many names: Theotokos, Mother of God, Panaghia
- Doing our cross and what it means (Patera Ion)
- The Christmas and Easter stories

Elementary Ages...
- Hymns associated with what’s happening during the Divine Liturgy:
  - Opening hymns (Tes Presvies, Soson Imas, Aghios O Theos)
  - Litanies and petitions
  - Before, during, and after Holy Communion
  - Little Entrance
  - Great Entrance
  - Priest’s Blessing
- Stories and hymns for the feast days of our Church:
  - Sunday of the Cross
  - Christmas
  - Lent (Ti Ipermaho)
  - Holy Friday (Engomia)
  - Pascha (Arise O God from Holy Saturday morning, Christos Anesti)
  - Pentecost
- Hymns with refrains:
  - Arise O God
  - Hymn of the Three Youths
  - O Give Thanks Unto the Lord for He is Good

Teen-agers...
- More of the above, plus hymns associated with:
  - The cycle of the Apolitikia
  - Heretismoi services (add Tin Oreotita)
  - The Lamentations
  - Psalms and refrains
  - The Sacraments
  - The Doxology
  - Vespers
  - Paraklesis

For more Information:
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Program Description:

- The Youth Music Program at St. John the Baptist started as part of the curriculum of the Church School Program.
- The director of music (aka, me, in this case), rotates going to classes almost every Sunday.
- Classes are grouped as following: Pre Kindergarten & Kindergarten
  (Las Vegas, only): 1st through 3rd grades
  4th and 5th grades
  6th through 8th grades
  High School (occasionally)

In past parishes where we have served, the grade levels can be mixed in other variations; however, music is taught between First and Eighth Grades.

- Music for younger grades, stick to the basics in both Greek and English: Kyrie Eleisons, Soson Kyrie, Osi eis Hriston, Christos Anesti, according to the season. Their musical ability is quite limited to a small vocal range. Also, small children need a little movement and animation: walk in circles, hand motions, etc, to keep music exciting and focused. No more than 15 minutes.

- Music for older grades: Can be challenged with more difficult hymns. Goal is to get the majority of the Divine Liturgy music introduced. Again, no more than 15-20 minutes, if disciplined.

NOTE: In the Phoenix, AZ Cathedral, we went through the basics of the Divine Liturgy in one year; the next year we tackled the eight resurrectional tones; and by the third year, I wanted to do the hymns of the 12 Great Feasts, however, we were transferred to another parish.

- Christmas Pageants: Hymns for the season can easily be introduced as part of a Christmas program. For two years in a row, we bypassed the traditional Christmas Pageant and did Saints for December: St. Barbara, St. Nicholas, and St. Spyridon. Music was done in English for the audience and the children to understand.

Progress of the Program:

- Youth Choir: The Group is drawn from interested children from the Church School. We practice every Sunday for 1/2 hour after Church School is over (in our case, 12:15 to 12:45). Their range is from Second Grade and up (my oldest is a sophomore in High School). These children receive more advanced music, now Chant the Divine Liturgy once a month in its entirety, and have accomplished the full Holy Saturday Morning Service along with the responses to the Heretismi. We currently have between 25-30 kids, double of three years ago.

- PLEASE work with the Priest and the Church School Director or Principal to get music into the Church School Curriculum, even if it is a little bit of time. In my experience, we seem to expose more children to Church music this way, rather than starting a Youth Choir with members without any previous Church music experience.

- Keep it fun and light, especially the very young ones; Church Hymns are not easy to teach; pack a lot of patience and lots of compliments and smiles!

- The EVERY SUNDAY rotational has eased up a bit, however, music is still taught throughout the year. Our teachers value the music aspect of the Church School Program, and I will continue to repeat the hymns. Kids always need refreshing and reviewing.

- Youth Choir Accomplishments:
  ✓ Chant Divine Liturgy in its entirety one Sunday a month. They know one Greek Liturgy and one English Liturgy.
  ✓ Chant the Responses to the Heretismi Services of Great Lent
✓ Chanted Christmas Day Liturgy
✓ Chanted the Responses to the Pan-Orthodox Sunday Lenten Vesper Services
✓ Chanted the ENTIRE Holy Saturday Morning Service. The children do all the readings as well.
✓ The Youth Choir has been a remarkable asset to the community by participating in other events: Greek Independence Day, the Folk Dance Festival, etc.

**Plans for the Coming Year:**

- On the Church School Curriculum, it will be more of the same as other years. A review of music never hurts any participant. Again, it is important for all children to be introduced to Church Hymns in a way they could relate to them.

- NOTE: most music is done in English and Greek...It doesn’t matter whose arrangement or what English version to use. The most important thing is to continue to teach with enthusiasm and explanation... otherwise our Orthodox musical expression may be in lost in the future.

- The Youth Choir may be embarking on a recording of the hymns they have learned. Still working that detail out.

- The next goal for the Youth Choir will be more in the Chant end: we have already touched on some of the Parakleisis, and now I would like to introduce them to the Canon of the Heretismi Service. My older kids really have a knack for learning chant.

**Contact information:**
Presvytera Maria Hondros  
c/o St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church  
5300 South El Camino Road  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89148  
Home Phone: (702) 873-3312  
Church Phone: (702) 221-8245  
Sorry, no email; however, can email through the Church Secretary: secretary@stjohn.lvcoxmail.com

Thank You for allowing me to share my experiences in Youth Music with all of the participants of the Clergy-Laity Congress. May God Bless all of you in whatever ministry you excel in or wish to excel in.

*In Christ's service,*  
Presvytera Maria Hondros
Program Description:

- The Youth Music Program at St. John the Baptist started as part of the curriculum of the Church School Program.
- The director of music (aka, me, in this case), rotates going to classes almost every Sunday
- Classes are grouped as following: Pre Kindergarten & Kindergarten
  (Las Vegas, only): 1st through 3rd grades
  4th and 5th grades
  6th through 8th grades
  High School (occasionally)
In past parishes where we have served, the grade levels can be mixed in other variations; however, music is taught between First and Eighth Grades
- Music: for younger grades, stick to the basics in both Greek and English: Kyrie Eleisons, Soson Kyrie, Osi eis Hriston, Christos Anesti, according to the season. Their musical ability is quite limited to a small vocal range. Also, small children need a little movement and animation: walk in circles, hand motions, etc, to keep music exciting and focused. No more than 15 minutes.
- Music for older grades: Can be challenged with more difficult hymns. Goal is to get the majority of the Divine Liturgy music introduced. Again, no more than 15-20 minutes, if disciplined.
  NOTE: In the Phoenix, AZ Cathedral, we went through the basics of the Divine Liturgy in one year; the next year we tackled the eight resurrectional tones; and by the third year, I wanted to do the hymns of the 12 Great Feasts, however, we were transferred to another parish.

Program Outreach:

- Youth Choir: The Group is drawn from interested children from the Church School. We practice every Sunday for 1/2 hour after Church School is over (in our case, 12:15 to 12:45). Their range is from Second Grade and up. These children receive more advanced music, now Chant the Divine Liturgy once a month in its entirety, and have accomplished the full Holy Saturday Morning Service along with the Heretismi service. We currently have between 25-30 kids, double of three years ago.
- PLEASE work with the Priest and the Church School Director or Principal to get music into the Church School Curriculum, even if it is a little bit of time. In my experience, we seem to expose more children to Church music this way, rather than starting a Youth Choir with members without any previous Church music experience.
- Keep it fun and light, especially the very young ones; Church Hymns are not easy to teach; pack a lot of patience and lots of compliments and smiles!
- The EVERY SUNDAY rotational has eased up a bit, however, music is still taught throughout the year. Our teachers value the music aspect of the Church School Program, and I will continue to repeat the hymns. Kids always need refreshing and reviewing.
- Youth Choir Accomplishments:
  ✓ Chant Divine Liturgy in its entirety one Sunday a month. They know one Greek Liturgy and one English Liturgy.
  ✓ Chant the Responses to the Heretismi Services of Great Lent
  ✓ Chanted Christmas Day Liturgy
  ✓ Chanted the Responses and several Hymns to the Pan-Orthodox Sunday Lenten Vesper Services
  ✓ Chanted the ENTIRE Holy Saturday Morning Service. The children do all the readings as well.
✓ The Youth Choir has been a remarkable asset to the community by participating in other events including participation in the Folk Dance Festival.

**Plans for the Coming Year:**

- On the Church School Curriculum, it will be more of the same as other years. A review of music never hurts any participant. Again, it is important for all children to be introduced to Church Hymns in a way they could relate to them.

- NOTE: most music is done in English and Greek...it doesn't matter whose arrangement or what English version to use. The most important thing is to continue to teach with enthusiasm and explanation... otherwise our Orthodox musical expression may be in lost in the future.

- The next goal for the Youth Choir will be more in the Chant end and more in-depth exposure to the canonical tones.

**Contact information:**
Presvytera Maria Hondros  
c/o St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church  
5300 South El Camino Road  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89148  

Home Phone: (702) 873-3312     Church Phone: (702) 221-8245  
Sorry, no email; however anyone can email me through the Church Secretary:  
karen@vegasgreekorthodox.com  

Thank You for allowing me to share my experiences in Youth Music with all of the participants of the Clergy-Laity Congress. May God Bless all of you in whatever ministry you excel in or wish to excel in.

In Christ’s service,  
Presvytera Maria Hondros

St. John the Baptist Youth Choir – Las Vegas, NV 2010
On October 24, 2009 the Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musician (EFGOCM) New Jersey District sponsored the First Youth Singers Workshop of the Metropolis at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Westfield, NJ. The youth throughout NJ were invited. We had a total of 27 talented youth singers from 5 parishes and their ages were from 8 – 19.

Marina Alexander was the clinician and guided the youth through breathing and vocal warm-up exercises; song/hymns in both Greek and English of choral and byzantine styles; a wonderful lunch and great fellowship was had by all. The day concluded with a short program of some of the pieces learned during the day. The youth wore the T-Shirts that were provided for them in their packets and they looked and sounded great. Since our Metropolitan was traveling with the Patriarch, Chancellor Fr. George Nikas represented His Eminence and spoke to the youth.

At each of our workshops or CMI’s we ask the participants to complete an evaluation form. The youth responded positively in their evaluation and they gave us their highlights and impressions of the day. One of the questions was... would they like to be informed of any other workshops and the response was an overwhelming “yes”. (Article from 1st Mode) So that encouraged us to sponsor another workshop which will be held this November 20th.

The procedure that we developed was to have a few dates and approach the State Youth Commission to clear the date. We informed the youth commission about the youth singers’ workshop and asked them not place any other activity on that date. Letters and emails were sent to all priests, youth directors and choir directors promoting the workshop. Many people answered our call many did not even acknowledge our efforts.

We created the workshop flyer, registration sheet, permission form, agenda, and list of music and materials that was needed for the workshop. Once we selected our materials we met with Marina and finalized all materials, order of the day and the final program/concert section. The next big piece was to select the menu for lunch and ask for volunteers to assist on that day.

Music packet included:

- Agenda (including times and activities)
- Marina’s Bio
- Sheets of facts:
  - Why should I join the church choir?
  - Facts about Orthodox youth choir – includes St. John’s Story
  - Words and their Meanings
  - Tones vs Modes
- Voice Care for Children
- Music for the workshop
- Byzantine Session
- Program/Concert selection
- You Know You’re Orthodox If...
- Evaluation Sheet
• T-shirt
• Extra materials (pencil, book marker, note pad)

Once the workshop was completed and before the program/concert we asked the youth to complete the evaluation sheet, take a group picture and line up for the program.

Within the next few weeks, the following items were completed and presented to the New Jersey District III choir director’s meeting:

• A financial sheet
• Complying of a list of all participants, age, address, church, T-Shirt size, etc.
• The youth singers workshop evaluation summary
• An article about the Workshop was written for the 1st Mode (EFGOCM publication).

Because of this most productive workshop we are working on our 2nd Youth Singer’s Workshop featuring Christmas music. Our date, November 20, 2010, has been secured through the State Youth Commission planning session. The host parish will be St. George of Clifton, NJ and they will provide lunch for this workshop.

Flyer, registration and permission forms are ready to go. We will meet during the summer to select music for the workshop and any other materials that will be needed. The T-Shirt this year will be long sleeved and in the color red with a white logo.

For the past 20 years the EFGOCM NJ District III presents a Lenten Program and since 2002 a Christmas Concert. The participants are senior choir members from NJ and youth choir members from Westfield and Trenton and in the last couple of years the youth from Wyckoff and Clifton churches. This year we will be singing a Christmas Concert at St. Nicholas Church in Wyckoff, NJ. The main reason for having this youth workshop in November is to provide some new music for the youth and possibly encourage more youth to join the federation concert.

We are hoping that this workshop is successful and we will plan one more workshop in 2012 during the Lenten season so as to have newer music for the youth to sing during our Lenten program and improve their sound. The entire reason and our goal for having these youth singer’s workshops is to improve the youth’s voice quality, maintain health of the voice and encourage their love of singing. The Westfield and Trenton youth participate in the liturgy every Sunday and occasionally sing the liturgy without their senior choir members.

The youth are the present and the future of our choirs. We encourage them to continue to sing and stress their participation which helps and strengthens our church choirs as they sing praises to the Lord.

Hope Demitry  
Organist of St. George Trenton, NJ  
Youth Choir Director/Organist  
Vice-President - EFGOCM  
(609) 695-4033  
EHopeD@verizon.net
Background:
Jeanne Burpulis, a former choir member from St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Rocky River, OH, took it upon herself to pick my sister and me up every Wednesday night for choir practice and frequently drove us to church on Sunday mornings when I was twelve years old. I was of course too young to have my license and my father owned a restaurant/bar and my mother did not drive.

I have been a faithful choir member ever since. Jeanne’s gesture provided me with a love and commitment to my church and my choir and taught me an important lesson. If my young choir members constantly show up to church just before communion, I offer to pick them up and bring them to liturgy and sometimes, they are the only members of my choir there to begin the liturgy at 9:30 am. The last two times I bought an automobile, I bought a van for that exact purpose. Even at school for my ensemble performances, I drive the students back and forth. I still see Jeanne on Sunday mornings and thank her any chance I can.

Lessons Learned:
• **Young people like to do adult things!**
  ✓ This is why I ask the children, especially those who I observe not voluntarily singing, to read the petitions and prayers that the priest reads in the Divine Liturgy during practices; at Vacation Bible School these students actually perform the reading as part of the program that we present on the last day as the rest of the students chant the responses.
  ✓ This is also the reason why we sewed robes for the children at the Annunciation Greek School because they like to feel like the adult choir and why we are hemming some of the old adult robes at St. Demetrios. It is also the reason why we sing with the adult choir on Good Friday and on some Sundays.
  ✓ This is why we encourage mothers and fathers to bring their children up to the choir loft to join us on Sunday mornings. Some of the children follow along in the music and others memorize the entire liturgy by just being there. Many of our choir members have come from choir member families.
  ✓ This is also the reason why I allow the children to vote on and decide what language they want to sing certain parts of the Divine Liturgy. Some people would be very surprised at their choices and reasons why they make these choices. Father Jim is very understanding. He wants a Youth Choir to chant the Divine Liturgy at least once a month after the Holidays and anything the children want, basically he accommodates. This is why we rope off the first three rows of pews on Good Friday and every Sunday so that the children can sit up close to the front and see and participate more in the Divine Liturgy, if they and their parents want to. Nobody is forced to do anything.

• **Parties are more fun than rehearsals to many of our young adults.**
  ✓ Every Saturday morning rehearsal I provide the children with a pizza/brownies/pop party. It only takes a half hour and has solved the problem of parents picking up their children early from rehearsal.
  ✓ I know that some Sunday School students just come for the pizza but the joke is on them! Involving them in this activity while they are young instills in them roots that are invaluable and provides a strong foundation for their faith and love for their choir and church.
Finally, I believe it is important to explain the Divine Liturgy to the students, especially what they are singing. What difference does it make if one sings *Amin* or *Amen* if one does not know what it means?

- Singing is not the only thing to do during a rehearsal. Take the time to discuss the liturgy and explain the liturgy and learn from the children what they know about the liturgy and have fun.
- We need to constantly teach, encourage and praise our children; not constantly correct and shame them into doing things.
- We need to keep learning about our faith so that we can keep a renewed spirit and pass on the knowledge.
- We need to know what our children are lacking and try to help them in any way that we can.
- We truly need to love them and they need to feel it and they will respond and form tight bonds with one another, their community and with our Orthodox faith.

### Sample Yearly Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 5th</td>
<td>National Church Music Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 12th</td>
<td>Youth Choir Sunday School Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 9th</td>
<td>Youth Choir Sunday School Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 7th</td>
<td>Breakfast With Santa and Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 14th</td>
<td>Christmas Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 11th</td>
<td>Sun. Liturgy Rehearsal after Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 8th</td>
<td>Sun. Liturgy Rehearsal after Communion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 7th</td>
<td>Saturday - Rehearsal/Pizza Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 8th</td>
<td>Sunday of Orthodoxy - Youth Choir Chants the Liturgy with Choir/Procession with Icons</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 4th</td>
<td>Saturday - Rehearsal/Pizza Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 5th</td>
<td>Youth Choir will chant the Liturgy</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 17th</td>
<td>Rehearse/Chant Lamentations with Choir</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9th</td>
<td>Saturday - Rehearsal/Pizza Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10th</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Sunday/Chant Divine Liturgy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 17th</td>
<td>Present Participation Certificates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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For Further Information:
Diane K. Matzorkis
440-463-3068
dianematzorkis@hotmail.com
Our job as church musicians is “…assisting the faithful in connecting with God…” according to Nick Chengas, (who is a psalti and the director of the Byzantine Academy of Music). The Hymnology of the church needs to be an integral part of the Orthodox education of our youth, and not limited to the idea of building choirs. Our goal is to prepare our youth for worship, in terms of the meaning of the hymns and also of their practice. An additional benefit is laying the groundwork for youth choirs and future adult choirs.

With Father Nicholas Bacalis’ support and Father John Manuel’s collaboration and assistance, we developed a Liturgical music instruction program which is implemented through and in conjunction with the Religious Education program (i.e., Sunday School).

The basic resource used is: The Divine Liturgy: A Hymnal in Greek and English, by Kevin Lawrence.

Members of the choir act as mentors to teach the hymns to the children during Sunday school time. (Sunday school meets after communion.) Each mentor meets with his/her class approximately once a month. The mentor goes into the classroom toward the end of the lesson (at the conclusion of the Liturgy – they miss the homily) and introduces the designated hymn / or responses.

The choir has recorded a CD of the Liturgy which may be used by the mentor, but was specifically recorded for the Sunday school teacher to use the following 3 weeks to reinforce what was taught. We recorded a typical Sunday Liturgy.

Approximately once a month a GROUP of classes participate during the Liturgy. They may join in with the choir, then they sing the responses and hymn which they have prepared.

**Step by Step:**

First and foremost EVERYONE involved needs to buy into the concept as well as the program.

- **Choir mentors** - need to be trained and be confident in their teaching.

- **Sunday school teachers** - need to be supportive and need to reinforce. Their enthusiasm directly affects the children’s response. Those who sing with the class as they are being taught tend to have better participation. When the mentor says the children are ready to sing it by themselves (without any adults) there is always a sense of accomplishment.

- **Parents** - need to be informed and supportive i.e. encouraging children, singing with them during Liturgy, and bringing them to church on time for participation Sundays. It is also helpful when the parents let their children know that going up to the balcony to participate is important and special.

**Curriculum:** Decide on hymns to be taught (curriculum) which will be expanded upon in time. We use the Kevin Lawrence hymnal. Each classroom has a set of books (which were donated).

**Calendar:** Get a copy of the religious education calendar for the year; consult with Priests (and youth director, if you have one) and decide on teaching Sundays and participation Sundays.
**Participation Sundays**: The children are asked to come up to the balcony at 10:00 at the BEGINNING of Liturgy – depending on how many come up, the choir may or may not sing with them on their hymn. The children will sing the responses before their special hymn.

On the Sunday prior to a Participation Sunday - which is usually a lesson day - they practice in the balcony. (Our balcony has 2 microphones. I try to strategically place the children, but the choir is singing while the children come up – making it difficult for me to make any adjustments.) The religious education teachers usually also come up to the balcony. They can assist with the lineup. Children stay in the balcony until communion, at which time they go to their Sunday school classes.

**Mentors**: Need training for the teaching process. My suggestion regarding process is:

a. tell about the hymn
b. listen to the hymn (sung by the mentor or recording)
c. mentor then teaches phrase by phrase – by singing first, then having the group echo
d. (the mentor should not sing while the group echoes - this allows the mentor the opportunity to hear if they are singing it correctly).
e. have the group sing the entire hymn alone, then with the recording (optional). Our recording has organ accompaniment.

**Materials**: Each classroom needs a CD player and a CD of the Divine Liturgy. Another possibility is to also make and distribute booklets for each child to take home to use for reinforcement (I got permission from the composer to do this.)

This is a long and slow process. Some of the benefits we have seen are ... Father John’s teaching Liturgies...where the children sing all of the hymns and responses. For one of the Presanctified Liturgies the youth sing all of the responses, as well as the hymn “Let My Prayer Arise.” The priests have even commented that the altar boys are singing more during the Divine Liturgy.

The SUCCESS of the program depends upon close collaboration of Priest, choir director, Religious Education director, choir mentors, Religious Education teachers, and parents. ONGOING COLLABORATION and COMMUNICATION are absolute key factors.

**For More Information:**
Sondra Awad
(804) 282-5301
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It’s painfully evident that our church choirs are getting smaller (and older) year after year and will die out unless something is done about it. Many choirs are flourishing, but they are in the minority. We need to make it a priority to do whatever we can to help the young people of our faith know the hymns of their faith and use them in their worship!

Over the past several decades, young people have opted to join dance groups, YAL, athletic groups, but not the choir. Youth choirs which could act as feeder groups to adult choirs are relatively rare. There have been some very good materials developed by the National Forum, such as the Hymn Series to be used in Church Schools, but they are not part of the Church School curriculum and therefore are generally not used. At present, most, if not all Church School curriculum does not include hymnology. I strongly believe that it will be essential to include Hymnology in the Church School curriculum in order to build a music program which will eventually have a salutary effect on our church choirs.

Why is hymnology important? Because the hymns of our church contain the entire core of our faith and “can serve as teaching tools to enrich our Orthodox experience and understanding” according to Dr. Vicki Pappas in her article on “What Our Hymns Can Teach Us” in MUSICA #3, October, 1990. In that article, she also states:

“…hymns are integral to our spiritual life and our liturgical experience, for ours is a liturgical church. They are interspersed throughout the Divine Liturgy and other services of the Church; there are special hymns for each of the feast days, they surround all our personal experiences in the Church from our Baptism, through marriage, and eventually at our funerals.”

The importance of hymnology is evident to us as church musicians but not, apparently, to Church School teachers since they generally do not include hymnology in their weekly instruction.

So how can hymnology become an integral part of the Church School? Since our Church is a hierarchical one, I believe the answer lies at the top of the administrative structure of the Church. I would recommend that it start at the Metropolitan level with the cooperation of the Metropolitan, the Religious Education Department, and the musical leadership of the Metropolis. I would propose the following plan:

- A Metropolis would be selected to develop a comprehensive program which would integrate hymnology into the curriculum.
- This hymnology component would include hymns for K-12 in Greek and English drawn from the Divine Liturgy, the 12 Great Feast Days, and from other services such as Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Memorials, Artoklasias, Vespers, and Heretismi.
- A model program would be submitted to the National Forum for review, and eventual approval and adoption.
- Then one of the Metropolises would use the program for 2-3 years.
- This model program would then be evaluated and revised as necessary.
- The National Forum would then make this program available to the Metropolises.
The benefits of this program, eventually, would be:

1) Many of the Church School students would go voluntarily into a Youth Choir;
2) Youth Choirs would then function as feeder groups to the Adult Choirs, and
3) Church School students not going into Youth Choirs or Adult Choirs would be able to participate more meaningfully and actively in the services of the church.

For more information:
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tzes@sbcglobal.net
**Metropolis of Atlanta**  
**Orthodox Youth Choir of Tampa Bay**

**Program Description:**
The Orthodox Youth Choir of Tampa Bay (OYCTB) is an auditioned mixed choir comprised of young people between the ages of 11 and 17. These students come from various Orthodox parishes throughout the Tampa Bay region of Florida. Although the study of sacred music is of primary focus, quality secular music is also studied and performed. Our chief objective is to make our students aware of the Church’s teachings and the love of Christ as expressed in our hymnology, and to study the similarities and differences present in the music of various Orthodox jurisdictions.

**Progress to Date:**
Together since October 2005, this group performed several times during its inaugural year, including two performances for His All-Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew. The choir has also performed in concert at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Clearwater, FL, St Sava Serbian Orthodox Church in St Petersburg, and several times for His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios during his annual Epiphany Celebration in Tarpon Springs. It has also participated in many worship services throughout the Tampa Bay area including the Vespers for Sunday of Orthodoxy, the feast of St. Stephanos, Salutations services in Lent, and the Divine Liturgy at several parishes.

In February of 2007, the OYCTB received the gold medal in their division for the Atlanta Metropolis’ Hellenic Dance and Choral Festival. As a result of this honor, the choir was invited to participate in the 2008 Atlanta Metropolis Choir Federation tour of Greece. They were the featured performing group at the June 2009 Atlanta Clergy-Laity gathering in Clearwater Florida, and recently participated in the Atlanta Hellenic Dance and Choral Festival in Orlando where they received a Gold Medal and Platinum Award of Excellence for their performance of a Liturgical hymn and Greek Folk song. They were also privileged to sing the Divine Liturgy together with other singing groups during the HDF weekend. In October of 2010, the choir plans to travel to Chicago as guests of the “America’s Greek Dance Competition and Choral Festival” and the Metropolis of Chicago.

**Plans for the Coming Year:**
- Expand choir membership from other parishes and jurisdictions
- Continue a cappella study of the Divine Liturgy in various tones
- Learn remainder of the Byzantine hymns of the Canon for Salutations services in Greek/English
- Continue study of the hymn “Christ is Risen” in several more Orthodox Languages
- Study of quality folk/art music arrangements of non-Orthodox origin
- Travel to Chicago in October 2010 for the “America’s Greek Dance Competition and Choral Festival” in the Metropolis of Chicago.
- Travel to Winston-Salem, NC for annual Metropolis of Atlanta Hellenic Folk Dance and Choral Festival in February 2011

**What We’ve Learned:**
1. **Excellence is paramount.** Children, teens, and parents know what is worthy of their time and effort in this hectic world.
2. As with all matters involving youth education, **parent cooperation, and “buy in”** is critical.
3. **Spiritual guidance is important and necessary.** Without the support of the priest and chanters, little can be accomplished.
4. Organization within the program and preparation for **each rehearsal** is an absolute must.
5. Communicate **constantly and consistently.**
6. Do **only** what you can do comfortably within a certain time period! Don’t over- (or under-) do.

**Contact Information:**
The choir is under the direction of local church musician Joanne H. Kambouris (jhkambouris@gmail.com) and spiritual advisor Father James Rousakis (frrous@aol.com), both of Holy Trinity, Clearwater.
Apolytikion of the Cross

SAVE, O LORD, YOUR PEOPLE
Σῶσον Κύριε

First Mode – D

Save, O Lord, your people and bless your inheritance, granting victory to the faithful over the enemy, and by your Cross protecting your commonwealth.

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Permission is granted to use this melody and text unaltered for liturgical and catechetical purposes, musical arrangements, and performances.
BLESSED ARE YOU, O CHRIST OUR GOD
Εὐλογητός εἶ Χριστὲ, ὦ Θεὸς ἡμῶν

Plagal of the Fourth Mode – F

Blessed are You, O Christ our God; you made the fish-er-men all-wise by send-ing down up-on them the Ho-ly Spir-it,

and through them you drew the world in-to your net. O Lover of man-kind, glo-ry to you.

Mode pl. 4. Ga.
The wealthy have become poor and hungry, but those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.
From the Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of Christ, Theophany, the Saturday of Lazaros, Pascha, and Pentecost

AS MANY OF YOU AS WERE BAPTIZED
Ὅσοι ἐις Χριστὸν

First Mode – D

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have

clothed yourselves with Christ. Alleluia.

As Many of You As Were Baptized.

Mode 1. Pa.
From the Divine Liturgy for Feasts of the Holy Cross

BEFORE YOUR CROSS
Τὸν Σταύρον Σου

Second Mode – G

Before Your Cross.

Mode 2.

Before Your Cross we bow down, O Master and your holy resurrection we glorify.
From the Divine Liturgy

BLESS BE THE NAME OF THE LORD
Εἴη τὸ ὄνομα Κυρίου εὐλογημένον

Second Mode – G

Bless ed be the name of the Lord from this time

forth and for ev er more. Bless ed be the name of the

Lord from this time forth and for ev er more.

Blessed be the Name.

Mode 2.

Bless ed be the name of the Lord from this time forth

and for ev er more

Bless ed be the name of the Lord from this
time forth and for ev er more
Paschal Troparion – Version One

CHRIST IS RISEN
ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ

Plagal of the First Tone

Christ is risen from the dead,

trampling down death by death,

and on those in the tombs bestowing life.

Christ is Risen.

Mode pl. 1. Pa.
Paschal Troparion – Version Two

CHRIST IS RISEN
Χρίστος Ἀνέστη

Plagal of the First Mode – D

Christ is risen from the dead; by death, he has trampled death, and to those in the tombs he has granted life.

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The First Antiphon of the Divine Liturgy

THROUGH THE INTERCESSIONS

Ταῖς πρεσβείαις τῆς Θεοτόκου

Second Mode – G

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

Through the Intercessions.

Mode 2.

(Δ) Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior save us.

(Δ) Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior save us.
Kontakion of the Annunciation

TO YOU, DEFENDER AND COMMANDER
Τῇ Ὑπερμάχῳ

To you, Defender and Commander in a time of war, I, your City, offer gratitude for victory, for you rescued me from sufferings, O Theotokos. Since the power you possess is unsurpassable, from all dangers I entreat you to deliver me, that I may cry to you: Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride.
Kontakion of the Annunciation

TO YOU, DEFENDER AND COMMANDER

Τῇ Ὑπερμάχῳ

Mode pl. 4. Nh.

To you Defender and Commander in a time of war
I your City of Fer grat i tude for vic to ry
for you rescued me from suf frings. O The o to kos
Since the pow er you pos sess is un as sail a ble from
all dan gers I en treat you to de liv er me that I may cry
to you Re joice O Un wed ded Bride
From the Memorial Service

MEMORY ETERNAL
Αιωνία ἡ Μνήμη

Third Mode – F

Memory Eternal.

Mode 3. (γ')

Mem-o-ry e-ter-nal. (his, her)

May their mem-o-ry be e-ter-nal.
From the Memorial Service

EVERLASTING MEMORY

Αιώνια η Μνήμη

Third Mode – F

Everlast-ing be their mem-o-ry. Ever-
in their mem-o-ry.

Everlasting Be Their Memory.

Mode 3.

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From the Divine Liturgy

ONE IS HOLY
Εἶς Ἅγιος

Plagal of the Fourth Mode – C

One is holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

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From the Divine Liturgy

PRAISE THE LORD
Аινείτε τὸν Κύριον

Plagal of the Fourth Mode – C

Praise the Lord from the heav - ens. Praise him in the high- est. Al- le- lu- i - a.

Praise the Lord.

Mode pl. 4. Nh.
Receive me today, O Son of God, as a partaker of your mystical Supper. I will not reveal the mystery to your enemies, nor will I give you a kiss as did Judas, but like the thief, I confess you: Remember me, O Lord in your Kingdom.
From the Communion Prayers of the Divine Liturgy

RECEIVE ME TODAY
Τοῦ Δείπνου Σου

Mode pl. 4.

Receive me today, O Son of God,
as a partaker of your mystical Supper.

I will not reveal the mystery to your enemies, nor will I give you a kiss as did Judas, but like the thief I confess you:

Remember me, O Lord, in your Kingdom.
SAVE US, O SON OF GOD

Σοςῶν ήμᾶς, Υἱὲ Θεοῦ

Second Mode – G

Save us, O Son of God who rose from the dead; save us who sing to you: Al-le-lu-ia.

(Al-li-lu-ia.)

Save Us, O Son of God.

Mode 2.

Save us, O Son of God who rose from the dead; save us who sing to You: Al-le-lu-ia.
From the Divine Liturgy

THE THRICE-HOLY HYMN: HOLY GOD

Second Mode

Holy God.

Mode 2.
From the Divine Liturgy

WE HAVE SEEN THE TRUE LIGHT
Εἴδομεν τὸ φῶς τὸ ἀληθινόν

Second Mode – G

We have seen the true light; we have received the heavenly Spirit.

We have found the true faith, worshiping the undivided Trinity, for the Trinity has saved us.

We Have Seen The True Light.

Mode 2.
From the Divine Liturgy

WE PRAISE YOU
Σὲ Ὑμνοῦμεν

Plagal of the Fourth Mode

We praise, we praise you; we bless, we bless you; we give thanks to you, O Lord, and we pray to you, our God.

We Praise You.

Mode pl. 4.