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Save the Date!
August 28, 2010
CHURCH MUSIC INSTITUTE
“Sight Singing for Choir Members”
Zoodohos Peghe Church
Bronx, NY
Greetings from President Anna Dounelis...

It was an eventful year for our Federation. In October 2009, we offered an exciting and well-attended CMI for our membership at Saint Demetrios Church in Jamaica, NY presented by the internationally acclaimed conductor/professor Rodney Eichenberger. During the weekend of February 13-14, 2010, we held our Annual DAD Federation Conference at Assumption Church in Port Jefferson, NY. The Annual Conference Meeting was very productive, and Elections for the 2010-2012 Board were held. Important issues were discussed and voted upon, and the workshops were enlightening and educational. It was an honor to be re-elected as your president, and I am excited to be serving once again with Treasurer Irini Kapareliotis, Recording Secretary Fay Pavlidis, Corresponding Secretary Peggy Stilianos, Librarian/Historian Stephanie Pavlidis, Youth Choir Liaison Georgia Kaufman, and Chanter Liaison Angelo Lampousis. We have two new Board members, Vice President Vasso Patrikis and Public Relations Officer Sophia Niarchos who are replacing outgoing Board members Mike Papantoniou and Spyro Kalas. We thank Mike and Spyro, both past presidents, for their dedicated service to the Federation, and we will continue to look to them for advice and guidance.

Assumption’s Choir Director Peggy Stilianos was the ‘ultimate hostess’ and did a wonderful job conducting the Annual Conference Choir of 45 members that included Demetrios Pappas who joined us in singing his Liturgy at Sunday’s service with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios officiating. His Eminence presented awards to Vasso Patrikis and Costas Gajdjis, and administered the oath of office to the new Board. Afterwards, our Federation presented His Eminence with an icon of Saint Romanos the Melodist, Patron Saint of Church Musicians, in recognition of his 10th anniversary as Archbishop of America. We thank our outstanding Conference workshop facilitators, Rev. Fr. Jim Calogredes of Assumption Church, Rev. Archdeacon Panteleimon Papadopoulos and Spyro Kalas; our Conference Organist Stacy Svolos; and Leah Pappas Monias and Mike Papantoniou for their assistance at the Conference. It was a wonderful success, and I thank everyone who participated and represented his or her parish during the Conference weekend!

In March, I represented our DAD Federation at the National Forum’s Annual Presidents’ Meeting at Saint Spyridon Church in San Diego, CA with NF Chairman Dr. Vicki Pappas and the presidents of our sister Church Musicians’ Federations. (See Page 4.) It was a great experience and very informative! On May 8th, it was a joy to be one of 50 Federation choir members that performed in a Tribute Concert honoring Demetrios Pappas at Holy Resurrection Church in Brookville, NY. Mr. Pappas continues to inspire us with his enthusiasm, talent and love of music, and we have been blessed to have his active participation in our Federation, to serve with him in our churches and to sing his music.

Although our Federation did not meet all its goals this year, I look forward to working together with you to accomplish them in the months ahead. I wish you all a safe and happy summer.

PS... On a personal note, I truly appreciated the loving support I received from so many of you during the months leading up to my husband John’s passing last October and in the weeks and months that followed. Thank you to all who came to pay their respects, for the thoughtful cards, calls, and email messages. Special thanks to the choir members and directors who sang so beautifully at John’s funeral service and at his 40-day memorial at the Cathedral of Saint Paul in Hempstead. God bless you all.

In His Service,
Anna
The Direct Archdiocesan District Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians held its 26th Annual Conference February 13-14, 2010 at Assumption Church in Port Jefferson, NY. The weekend was filled with the music of distinguished Conductor and Composer Demetrios C. Pappas. Jimmy, choir director at Holy Resurrection Church in Brookville, NY, also participated in the Conference Choir conducted by Peggy Stilianos, Assumption’s Choir Director. Stacy Svolos, Organist/Youth Choir Director of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Hicksville, NY, accompanied the choir on the organ.

On Saturday, February 13th, 35 representatives from parishes throughout the Direct Archdiocesan District enjoyed a continental breakfast and fellowship hour followed by the Annual Council Meeting and Election of the Executive Board for 2010-2012. The new officers are President Anna Dounelis, Vice President Vasso Patrikis, Treasurer Irini Kapareliotis, Recording Secretary Fay Pavlidis, Corresponding Secretary Peggy Stilianos, Public Relations Officer Sophia Niarchos, Librarian/Historian Stephanie Pavlidis, Youth Choir Liaison Georgia Kaufman and Chanter Liaison Angelo Lampousis. After a Lenten luncheon, activities included rehearsals for Sunday’s Liturgy and excellent workshops for choir directors, chanters, organists, and choir members that were presented by Rev. Fr. Demetrios N. Calogredes, pastor of the Assumption parish, Rev. Archdeacon Panteleimon Papadopoulos, and Mr. Spyro Kalas. That evening, members gathered at the Alexandros Restaurant in Mount Sinai for a dinner social.

The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday was officiated by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, in which the Conference Choir of 45 members participated. A Mnemosino for our departed DAD church musicians and an Artoklasia for the health and welfare of those living were held after the Liturgy. His Eminence awarded the Patriarch Athenagoras I Medallion on behalf of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians to Mr. Constantine Gajdjis, Choir Director of Saints Catherine and George Church in Astoria, New York, and the Federation’s Choir Member of the Year Medal to Mrs. Vasso Patrikis, choir member at both Transfiguration Church in Mattituck, NY and Holy Trinity Church in Hicksville, NY. Federation President Anna Dounelis presented His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios with an icon of Saint Romanos the Melodist, Patron Saint of Church Musicians, on behalf of the Federation and in recognition of His Eminence’s10th anniversary as Archbishop of America. A reception prepared by the Ladies Philoptochos followed in the church hall.
DAD FEDERATION OF GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH MUSICIANS

SECOND ANNUAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

Georgeann Mavrovitis—Conference Coordinator

The Youth Music Conference that was previously scheduled for Saturday, April 24th had to be cancelled. Unfortunately, there were many conflicts and we are pleased that we have identified a new date that will work for most of our parishes. The new date is Saturday, October 16th at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, New Rochelle, NY. This Conference is very important for us as a Federation. You always hear, “the Youth are the future of our Church” – well it is also true for our choirs that are aging out or non-existent. We are asking the churches to send a group of youngsters who are interested in music, whether or not the church has a Youth Choir. We will reach out to parochial schools as well. If we can spark that interest in singing in the choir or chanting, we will have accomplished a great deal.

The schedule of the day will consist of a brief church service, followed by breakfast and registration. This will be followed by a discussion group and then workshops in Chant, Basics of Music and Advanced Choir. After lunch, there will be another discussion group followed by the workshops. At the end of the day, we will come together for dinner and a performance by the youngsters of what they learned in their workshops. Archdeacon Panteleimon will have a discussion group with parents and directors.

We ask that our members promote this conference in their parishes. There is nothing like word-of-mouth. If each of us does this, we will all benefit in the end.

The 2010 National Forum Annual President’s Meeting at St. Spyridon Church in San Diego, California.

Front Row (L-R): Pam Cramer (Representative, Denver Federation), Denise Karras (President, Chicago Federation), Kathy Meck (President, San Francisco Federation), Fr. Andrew Skordalakis (pastor of St. Spyridon), Dr. Vicki Pappas (Chairman, National Forum), Kathryn Athanasoulas (President, Eastern Federation), Anna Douvelis (President, DAD Federation). Back Row (L-R): Heidi Mason (President, New England Federation), Liz Levy (Representative, San Francisco Federation), Irene Georgantas (President, Mideastern Federation), Lucy Zapsas (Representative, Southeastern Federation).

Headed to China

Greg Tsontakis-Mally, a member of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Resurrection choir in Brookville, NY, will be the first photographer-in-residence at Sanbao, an artist’s colony primarily for ceramic artists, during the month of June. The colony is based at a refurbished farmhouse on the outskirts of Jingdezhen, a city of two million people southwest of Shanghai.

Greg is returning to the colony after a visit there in 2008, during which he took hundreds of digital photos as well as a few dozen large format black-and-white photos with a studio camera.

“I felt my work there wasn’t done yet,” Greg says. “In addition to taking new large-format black-and-white photos, which I will work on when I return home, I will also be offering a presentation of 300 digital photos to the Chinese university students and other residents at Sanbao. I want to show them what China looks like through American eyes.”

To learn more about Greg and see more of his visual art, visit his web site at http://tsontakis-mallystudios.com/
2009-2010 “Note-able” Members of the Federation

CHOIR MEMBER OF THE YEAR... VASSO PATRIKIS... Axia!

The recipient of the Choir Member of the Year for 2009-2010 is Vasso Patrikis, one of our most devoted and enthusiastic choir members. She serves at both Transfiguration Church in Mattituck, NY and at Holy Trinity Church in Hicksville, NY. Vasso was recognized at the Federation’s Annual Conference on Sunday, February 14, 2010 at Assumption Church in Port Jefferson, NY and received her Medal from His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios.

Vasso loves to sing in her church choirs, in the North Fork Chorale, in Federation and Hellenic Music Foundation Concerts! Recently, she participated in the Demetrios Pappas Tribute Concert at the Church of the Holy Resurrection in Brookville, NY.

Throughout the year, Vasso faithfully attends her church choirs and the various Federation events and encourages others to do the same. In the letter the Board received recommending her for this award it stated: “Vasso meets all the criteria needed to receive this honor. She has a ‘can-do’ attitude, is dependable and punctual, is a great team player and is always willing to help in anyway she can.”

CONGRATULATIONS, VASSO!

The Choir Member of the Year Medal is an award created by the Direct Archdiocesan District Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians to recognize individual service of a Greek Orthodox Church Musician.

THE NATIONAL FORUM AWARDS PATRIARCH ATHENAGORAS I MEDALLION AWARD TO CONSTANTINE GAJDJIS

Congratulations!

Constantine Gajdjis, Choir Director of Sts. Catherine and George Greek Orthodox Church in Astoria, NY, is a 2010 recipient of the Patriarch Athenagoras I Medallion Award for his significant contributions and service to the church music ministry of the Direct Archdiocesan District. Costas received the Medallion during our Federation’s Annual Conference February 13th-14th at the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Port Jefferson, NY. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America presented it to Costas, on behalf of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians, following the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday, February 14th.

Our Federation was honored to submit Costas’ name to the National Forum and delighted that he was selected as a recipient. We congratulate Costas on this achievement and thank him for his constant dedication and commitment to the DAD Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians. AXIOSI

The National Forum established the Patriarch Athenagoras I Medallion Award in 1996 for Distinguished Metropolis Service as a means of giving recognition to meritorious individuals whose Metropolitan contributions to the music ministry of the Church are worthy of this distinction. A recipient may receive only one Patriarch Athenagoras Medallion Award in his or her lifetime. Previous recipients from our Federation:

2000: Rev. Fr. Demetrios Kehagias; Michael Papantoniou; Catherine Zarbis
2002: Jeffrey Economou, Spyro Kalas, Demetrios Pappas
2006: Georgia Kaufman, Leah Pappas
2009: Angela Arettines, Stratis Demertzis, Konstantin Kontos
“Hymns carry a rich heritage of the Byzantine melodies, theological concepts, and poetic expressions, all interwoven to convey messages about our faith,” said Dr. Vicki Pappas, the President of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians. Hymns are the soul of a person’s song to the Church. They express a person’s values and give advice on how to be a good Christian. St. John of Damascus is a very well known Saint who wrote some of the most beautiful hymns. St. John was a monk. He had a tutor names Kosmas. Among the many things he taught him were theology and music. He always remained faithful to Christianity, even when Damascus fell into the hands of the Arabs. During that time, Christian worship was forbidden. All icons were ordered to be destroyed, along with statues that represented Christ and the Saints. St. John wrote three articles called “The Defense of Icons.” They were the most popular arguments in favor of icon veneration. He wrote hymns to soothe his own sorrow. When his brother passed away, John wrote a hymn for his brother. He looked upon death as a living soul in Heaven. John asked God to forgive his brother for his sins and to keep him happy in Heaven. To this day, we sing that hymn in the funeral services. The Arabs found out and forbid him to write any more hymns by cutting off his right hand. John knelt before God and prayed for his hand to be restored. When he woke up, something miraculous had happened! He had two hands! After this, he decided to devote his life to Christ. St. John became a Priest at an Eastern Church. He wrote many beautiful hymns consisting of legendary matter. I read through many of his hymns to better understand his writing style. His hymn spoke of arguments, authority, knowledge and faith. He is most famous for composing sweet, moving hymns, like the one he sang at his brother’s funeral. The religious poetry that John devoted his life to writing, are now in the doctrines of our Church. I personally enjoy singing these hymns among others, with my church’s youth choir during the Divine Liturgy.

Liturgy means the work of the people. The liturgy is not only the communion with God, but a communion with people that gather in joy to worship. Everyone has a role. The choir leads people through worship to an experience with God. There are over 8,000 hymns in the Orthodox Church. There are three types of hymns. There are hymns that praise (ayios ayios ayios). There are hymns of supplication (asking God for things.) The most basic hymn of supplication is kirie-lei-son. Lastly, there are hymns of instruction (Christos Anesti...) There are hymns for every feast day, communion, baptism, marriage and death.

When I sing in the choir I praise God, pray and learn. Hymns are teaching tools which enrich the Orthodox experience. I have grown in personal spirituality ever since I joined the choir and enjoy singing our beautiful hymns. I feel that I am participating in the Liturgy.

St. John has been given the title of “The Doctor of Christian Art.” St. John of Damascus codified a system of eight musical notes, which make up a scale. They are also known as [eighth eight eighth eighth] Currently, a scale consists of eight musical syllables: do re mi fa so la ti and do, which all have different pitches. St. John made a scale consisting of different syllables: knew pa voo ya di ke zo ni. His hymns have really inspired me. As I sing the hymns, I feel they are more than just notes and words. Please Join me in singing one of my favorite hymns - "Eis Ayios." Remember to always sing from the heart; not only the tongue.

— Alexia Efstatiadis

“Ere the morn in beauty wake, Let us seek the Savior’s tomb, Not with ointment and perfume, But with songs the silence break: We shall see the Christ appear, Sun of Righteousness to cheer.” These great words were written by a hymnographer named St. John of Damascus. His music and hymns have influenced many, including me. To me, the message inside is that God doesn’t want fancy perfume and ointment, he wants happiness and that can be shown through song. But I bet everyone in this room sees it differently because everyone has a different perspective.

St. John of Damascus wrote many other hymns to which many Christians listen to today in church that are moving, and beautiful. St. John has contributed much to Orthodox hymnography and they relate to our Orthodox faith. His hymns talk to people and tells them that there is hope, and optimism. The hymns can even create an eye opening experience that is touching to many people, no matter what religion.

Hymns are often overlooked by many people; things we notice least are the things that are most expected, just like hymns in church. Can you imagine church without music that you can sing along to? You would lose something much greater than a tune in church because it’s much more than that to some people, and me. And when you sing along with the choir and everyone in church, you feel like you are a part of something amazing! You feel united with the members in church, even people you’ve never met before. That’s the true power of music...unity as one community. The hymns of St. John of Damascus truly bring us together in church.

St. John created poetry that speaks to people just like icons. There are not many differences between icons and hymns. They both tell you a story, a message, or a lesson behind the melody or painting. They are just seen in different forms but they are seen differently to everyone, because there are different learners in this world and some are visual learners when others can be auditory learners. Any way you look at it, they are both the same basic thing in a different form that helps others learn more about our wonderful Orthodox faith.

Each and every hymn can change you even if you don’t know it. I was changed after reading Ere the Morning Wake by St. John of Damascus; It soothed me when I was stressed. St. John’s words can do that, but more importantly music can do that to a person. It can change your perspective, or even your life! Obviously, St. John had a way with words to represent our beliefs more clearly, and the magnificent music has united our church and our Greek Orthodox community.

— Angie DeDonna
Church of the Holy Resurrection Hosts Tribute Concert Honoring Demetrios C. (“Jimmy”) Pappas

Fourteen Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Resurrection choir members were among the more than 50 performers from the New York metropolitan area who, on May 8, participated in a concert honoring composer, arranger, teacher and conductor Demetrios C. Pappas, to raise funds for the iconography in the choir area of the church, which opened its doors in 2005.

The music comprised a selection of Greek Orthodox liturgical and communion hymns that Mr. Pappas composed and arranged, as well as nostalgic folk songs. Two solos were performed by Church of the Holy Resurrection choir members. “Se Imnoumen” was sung by Margo Allen whose solo performance was followed by a quartet arrangement of the hymn featuring Michael Kranyak, Dean Mihaltses and, from the Church of the Assumption in Port Jefferson, Peggy Stilianos. Later, in the folk music segment of the concert, Theodore Brakatselos sang “Epifania,” one of the many songs Mr. Pappas recorded on the albums “Yassou” and “More Yassou” in the 1950s and ’60s with the Amphion Choir. Stunning solos were also offered by Katia Zallas (“Manna Mou Kai Panaghia”) and Maria Eleni Zollo (“To Yelekaki”).

In addition to the guest of honor, who conducted the choir in his arrangement of “Doxologia,” additional Holy Resurrection choir members who participated were: Despina Albanes, Margo Allen, Stephanie Anderson, Theodore Brakatselos, Eleftheria Brewster, Zefy Christopoulos, Ruth Elias, Michael Kranyak, Dean Mihaltses (who also served as emcee and sound tech manager), Sophia Niarchos, Nicholas Pappas, Greg Tsontakis-Mally, Anna Dounelis and Christine Zeiner.

Dr. Vicki Pappas, National Chairman of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians, traveled from Indiana to honor Mr. Pappas and acknowledged the impact of his work on the liturgical music and traditions of our Archdiocese. Anna Dounelis, President of the Direct Archdiocesan District Federation of Church Musicians, expressed her heartfelt appreciation for Mr. Pappas’ significant contributions as well.

Fr. John Vlahos, Economos of the Holy Resurrection Greek Orthodox Church, expressed gratitude for the hard work not only of Mr. Pappas but for all the conductors and choir members from 9 parishes on Long Island and from as far away as New Jersey, who gave of their time, talents and treasure to be part of the tribute concert. As an expression of appreciation for all Mr. Pappas had given to the parish, Parish Council President Jamie Catacosinos presented a beautiful inscribed silver tray to the revered musician. Metropolitan Opera baritone Ted Lambrinos, a dear friend of Mr. Pappas’, made a special guest appearance and sang O Gero Dimos.

The production was directed by Mr. Pappas’ daughter, Leah Pappas Monias, Choir Director at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Hicksville. Segments of the concert were conducted by Spyro Kalas, Choral Director of the Silver Chords and The Troubadours in Smithtown and Organist at St. John’s Greek Orthodox Church in Blue Point, and Zoe Zollo, Choir Director at Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church in Port Washington. Yannis Xylas, a pianist with an extensive repertoire and experience in classical music, accompanied the singers.

A reception with food and drink contributed by the choir members followed the program in the parish community center. The response to the performance from those in attendance, even those who do not understand Greek, was one of overwhelming enthusiasm. Ticket and program ad sales raised a significant sum for the choir area iconography, for which the parish community is most grateful. A DVD was also recorded and will be available for purchase.

—Sophia A. Niarchos
Conducting for Everyone
Church Music Institute Sponsored by the DAD Federation
Presented by Rodney Eichenberger
By Peggy Stilianos

On October 10, 2009, over 30 of us travelled to the St. Demetrios parish in Jamaica, NY to participate in a CMI on Conducting. As we settled into the Community Center, prepared our coffee and had a bite to eat, we had little information on the invited guest and had no expectations other than, we were there for the day. We immediately missed our dear Anna, and said prayers for her John, and all the family, then turned our attentions to the reason for our travel as our speaker was escorted into the room.

Upon arrival, Rodney Eichenberger galvanized our attention. His presence changed the feeling in the room immediately to “upbeat” (no pun intended) and wherever he was, proved to be a physical gravitational point for all in the room. I came to understand why he had been chosen to make this presentation to us.

After introductions, we made use of the videotape player and television provided by our host church. We watched a segment on tuning and gathering the attentions of the group. We warmed up vocally and got a quick lesson on his methods of “fixing flats” (notes that is) which I called “tip toe tune ups” (done for all in the room without a cane-God help us in our real groups!) and “wind up – tune ups”. (This move, circling your pointer finger around your ear, I wouldn’t recommend with an older crowd, without extensive explanation of its use [as I was convinced it would get me slapped in the face and leave me promptly choir-less]).

Moving on, very seriously, Mr. Eichenberger used physical exercises for tuning and keeping the group on beat, not jumping jacks – but close. I watched the other attendees participate in a “circle dance-moving together exercise”, the slide (what you don’t want the notes to sound like) and “everybody in – everybody out”, physical demonstrations of dynamics. They were loving it! Any choir would.

By the end of the session it was easy to understand the concepts of engaging your choir to “read you” for rhythms, rhythm changes, tones and fixing flats and sharps as the notes are happening. It all made perfect sense. When it comes together in a performance, it makes for beautiful music.

SINGING FOR OUR SENIORS

Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Resurrection choir members under the musical direction of Holy Trinity Church Choir Director Leah Pappas Monias, entertained residents at St. Michael’s Home for the Aged in Yonkers, N.Y., on April 17 with an abbreviated version of the two-hour concert performed on May 8 as a fundraiser honoring Mr. Pappas at their parish.

Among the selections offered were: Christos Anesti, Laloun T’Aidonia, Kelaidiste, Ta Paideia tou Pirea, To Yelekaki, Epifania, Samiotissa, Anthismeni Amigdalia, Vraxo-Vraxo, O Stamoulis O Lohias and Yirise.

The performance was one component of an afternoon visit to the Home by the Senior Citizens group at the church. Residents sang along, both on- and off-mike, and several got up and danced!
1. The Direct Archdiocesan District Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians established the Federation Scholarship Program for bona fide Federation members... the church musicians and their children. The annual program is administered by a select committee of the Federation whose purpose is to identify and honor exceptionally talented applicants, and to aid one or more in obtaining or advancing an education in music.

2. Federation scholarship winners are chosen on the basis of academic records, leadership, and dedication to Church ideals, significant Church music accomplishments or promise and anticipated college/university goals. The sole criterion, which must be adhered to, is that all scholarship recipients must plan to either major or minor in musical study -- private music lessons for college credit, for example.

3. Each scholarship is renewable, covering up to four years of study. A separate application must be submitted each year. The maximum amount that may be awarded to a winner is $1,000 per year for up to four years, or until completion of requirements for a scholastic degree, whichever occurs earlier. The amount to be awarded is determined by the select Federation committee. Up to four scholarships per year may be awarded.

4. The Federation President appoints the select committee, with the consent of the Federation Council. The committee may be comprised of up to five members, at least one of who must be a Federation Board officer, and at least another of whom must be a Choir Director from a member choir in the Federation who does not sit on the Board.

5. Winners are selected according to merit based upon information provided by the applicant in the approved application form. Although not strictly a competition, the committee -- at its sole discretion -- may choose to award, or not award, scholarships based upon a comparison of applications submitted in any given year, rather than simply upon the merits of each application separately. The committee may request test scores, school grades and other 'quantitative' information from the applicant if the committee feels additional information is required to reach a valid judgment.

6. The scholarship program is administered as follows: Applications and guidelines are distributed each year beginning at the regular January Federation Council meeting. Applications are also made available upon request. Applications are then accepted at any time until the deadline set forth by the committee, or July 31st of each year, whichever occurs earlier. Applicants may then be requested to make themselves available for an interview by the committee. Scholarship decisions are rendered in September, with the goal being to have the award presented at the recipients' home churches on Church Music Sunday by their Parish Priests (although this is not mandatory). All scholarship applicants -- including those who have been awarded a scholarship and those who have not -- will be notified, by mail, of the committee's decisions, in advance of the presentation.

7. The Direct Archdiocesan District Federation Council reserves the right to modify or discontinue the Scholarship program at any time, either temporarily or permanently.

8. The winners' obligations are as follows: The winner must commence (or resume) studies at a college (or equivalent) no later than the first full term after the scholarship award has been made and must pursue a course of musical study (major or minor, except as described in #2 above), ultimately leading to a baccalaureate degree or equivalent. The scholarship winner is expected to make normal progress from year to year and must remain in good standing according to the regulations of the institution she/he attends. While honor grades are not required, scholarship winners have a responsibility to do quality work while attending school.
DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT
FEDERATION OF GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH MUSICIANS
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Please complete the entire application. Use a separate sheet if you need more space.
Don't forget to attach reference letters as requested below.

PERSONAL

NAME:  ____________________________________________________________

ADDRESS:  __________________________________________________________

CHURCH: ___________________________________________________________

ADDRESS:  __________________________________________________________

EDUCATION

YOUR HIGH SCHOOL: ________________________________________________

LOCATION:  _________________________________________________________

YOUR COLLEGE: ____________________________________________________

ANTICIPATED MAJOR & MINOR: _______________________________________

EXPECTED COLLEGE GRADUATION DATE: _______________________________

EXPERIENCE AND INTERESTS

Please briefly describe your musical background and experience:

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

Please briefly describe your involvement in your church's musical activities:

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

What other activities and interests of yours would you like us to know about

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

REFERENCES

Please list two (2) references and attach a letter from each indicating their knowledge and association with you.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Use a separate sheet to tell the evaluating committee anything else you would like them to know about you.

_____________________________________  _______________________
Signature        Date

Completed forms must be received by July 31st and mailed to:
Mrs. Anna Dounelis, 112 East Zoranne Drive, Farmingdale, NY 11735
Heard from our Choirs—“Lofty Notes”

ARCHANGEL MICHAEL YOUTH CHOIR, Port Washington, NY
Submitted by Georgia Kaufman

On the Saturday of Lazarus, the angelic voices of our choir joyously celebrated a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios. Every year, we are honored to have His Eminence visit our church. Our youth choir members truly enjoyed being a part of such an inspirational day. We are also grateful to Archdeacon Panteleimon for his kindness and support of our youth choir. The day was also made special because of our standing members of our choir. Nicole is a delightful young woman and valued vocalist who has contributed so much to the blending harmony of our alto section. Christina Vlahos has been singing the Divine Liturgy on Sundays since she was in elementary school. She first recited the Communion Prayer at the Clergy-Laity Convention in 2004 and has been reciting it at our church ever since! Her exceptional dedication to our youth choir is greatly appreciated and highly commendable. May God Bless both of them as they embark upon their college careers.

Each year, on the fourth Friday of Lent, our youth choir sings the Cheretismi/Salutations. This year, Crystal Anagnostopoulos and Alexia Skiadas melodiously chanted the Aspile and Ke Thos Imin as the entire congregation was touched by their spirituality.

On Holy Friday, many alumni of our Byzantine Youth choir, who are currently attending college or holding jobs, came to sing to Lamentations with us. It was wonderful to see them again and to have their beautiful voices grace our choir.

Congratulations to our 2010 high school graduates Nicole Keegan and Christina Vlahos, who have been outstanding members of our choir. Nicole is a delightful young woman and valued vocalist who has contributed so much to the blending harmony of our alto section. Christina Vlahos has been singing the Divine Liturgy on Sundays since she was in elementary school. She first recited the Communion Prayer at the Clergy-Laity Convention in 2004 and has been reciting it at our church ever since! Her exceptional dedication to our youth choir is greatly appreciated and highly commendable. May God Bless both of them as they embark upon their college careers.

We look forward to our annual Broadway Theatre Trip and Choir Pool Party, annual events that everyone enjoys. And we send our best to all for a Kalo Kalokeri!

Transfiguration of Christ Church, Mattituck, NY
Submitted by Vasso Patrikis

The Transfiguration of Christ Church celebrated its 40th anniversary at a Dinner Dance on Saturday, October 10, 2009, at which James Talas, their choir director and organist, was honored. James has volunteered his services for 22 years to make the Transfiguration Church Choir what it is today. We are all inspired by his devotion, dedication and commitment.

James was born in Jacksonville, Florida and moved to Greece when he was one year old. He finished high school there, entered the University of Athens; then, in 1947, he returned to the United States. James has served in the US Marine Corps, and in 1950, he married his wife Parie. They have a married daughter and four grandchildren. James has been involved with choirs since childhood, as a singer, and has served in many churches on Long Island.

The Transfiguration Church Choir serves from mid-May to mid-November, and we welcome members of other choirs to come and sing with us during the summer months.
Heard from our Choirs—“Lofty Notes”

ST. PARASKEVI CHOIR, Greenlawn, NY

Submitted by Fay Pavlidis

Musical skills. Language skills. One must learn to pray with both.
How often it has been said that a theologian is one who prays.
Father Meyendorff once said that theology is the search for words adequate for God.
Perhaps sacred song is the search for the adequate utterance of these words, as the music of the heart.

Fr. Sergei Glagolev, retired priest, composer and teacher, St. Tikon’s Seminary

Of course, both musical and language skills are part of our ongoing learning process in choir, and also in the development of our Youth choir, which has participated in services several times. A new program has been added to our Youth Choir Ministry: a Byzantean” choir for singers aged 12 and up, and the Junior Choir for children in first grade and up. Our Senior Choir members are very proud of them. We are especially proud of the young voice of Ariana Warren, who doubles as an assistant to the directors of the Youth Choir and also sings with the Senior Choir. We are also happy that several other young voices sing with us: Athena Margarites, Victoria Gavras, Joanna Gavras and Theodora Misthos. Congratulations to Athena, who has been accepted to her first choice college, Syracuse University, especially known for its music program, where she will major in vocal performance. We will miss her and her beautiful soprano voice, but we wish her our very best!

Kudos to our Senior Choir members, too, one of whom is Marie Michalopoulos Warren a music teacher with an exquisite mezzo-soprano voice, who participates often in the monthly Opera Night held in Northport, NY. Another talented member is Gregory Panos, who is preparing to be ordained a deacon and then study for the priesthood. He shares his rich voice with the psaltai as well as with the choir, and has delivered several inspiring sermons, as well.

A highlight of our choir year was singing at the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday, July 26, 2009, officiated by His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios, during which we honored St. Paraskevi and celebrated the ordination of Deacon Elias “Lou” Nicholas to the priesthood. We were happy to not only shout “Axios” but to sing it as well. We thanked our visitors from St John’s in Blue Point, Fr. Lou’s home parish, who joined us in our loft for that truly memorable day: Spyro Kalas, Marcelle Wheeler, Stella Kalos, and Peggy Stilianos, formerly of Blue Point and now the choir director at Assumption Church in Port Jefferson. We are delighted that Father Lou is now our second priest.

The much heralded “Greeks Got Talent” show has become an annual event at St. Paraskevi. Many of our choir members and youth participate in this well-attended and highly successful event. The evening receives rave reviews and we are now looking forward to the next one.

We have continued to have happy moments with engagements of members’ children and additional births of grandchildren in the choirs Yiayia and Pappou Club. Na sas zisoune!

Yet with all this happiness, we are also deeply saddened by the falling asleep in the Lord of our Beloved Chanter, Pantelis Korosis, who passed away peacefully in March 2010. Our psaltsi for 16 years, he was a lover of music, books and learning, accompanied by a wonderful sense of humor. He was second psaltsi as the Cathedral in Athens and then went on to become a Protopsaltsi. Eonia I mnnimi! We welcome Michael Korsanos, our new psaltsi, and his beautiful voice to St Paraskevi’s musical family.

Congratulations to Leah Pappas Monias for the extraordinary concert celebrating the life and career of Demetrios Pappas. For all those who were present, it was a beautiful evening of both liturgical and secular music. Bravo!

We wish everyone in the Federation all the best for the coming year. Have a wonderful summer and stay well!
Heard from our Choirs—“Lofty Notes”

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, Danbury, CT
Submitted by Therese Papdopoulos

On December 24, 2009, the Youth Choir of Assumption Church in Danbury sang several Christmas Carols. Julianne Papdopoulos and Robin Rockwell also shared their wonderful clarinet talents that evening. Our Youth Choir sings during the Divine Liturgy twice a month, and we are so proud of them!

St. John’s Voices had a terrific year, welcoming several new members and enjoying continued success introducing our entire Sunday School to the Liturgical music of our Sunday and holiday services. Our new members include Michelle Hatzis-Georghiou, Victoria Hatzis-Georghiou, Stella Terrenova and Maria Athanasiou. We welcome them to our family of dedicated vocalists!

Our organist, Spyro Kalas, took the helm of a community chorale, The Silver Chords, a multi-generational group specializing in classic pop tunes, Broadway, and light classical music. Supported by public grants, the group gives four free concerts per year, and Spyro is enjoying great success as their new director. We wish him all the best in this new endeavor – Spyro’s talent as a conductor is certainly well-known through the Federation. Spyro will celebrate his 40th year as a servant in the music ministry at St. John’s in 2010-2011, and we congratulate him for that as well.

Our Sunday School children continue to visit the choir loft every Sunday, and are rapidly becoming accustomed to the rigors of singing every Sunday. They form the foundation of what will ultimately become, we hope and pray, a robust Junior Choir. And, as every church choir hopes, a “feeder” organization for the church’s adult choir. St. John’s Voices continues to be strong supporters of the Federation and its activities, and we encourage ALL the communities in the Direct Archdiocesan District to do the same. Have a wonderful summer, everyone!

St. John’s Greek Orthodox Church, Blue Point, Ny
Submitted by Marcelle Wheeler

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Cathedral of St. Paul Byzantine Choir, Hemptstead, NY
Submitted by Chris Doundoulakis

The first Choir at Saint Paul’s was organized in 1949. Our members are parishioners who volunteer their services to the Cathedral and perform two liturgies every Sunday. Dr. Strati Demertzis has been directing the Choir for over 40 years with Adrienne Stamatas Borbely as organist for over 30 years.

Through the years the Choir has participated in many activities for the St. Paul’s community, as well as for the community at large, including joining Choirs of all faiths in the annual Food Drive Centers, sponsored by the Nassau County Council of Churches, singing Christmas carols at local hospitals and homes of parishioners and singing at the annual tree lighting at the Garden City Hotel. In 1981, the Choir presented its first Christmas concert entitled ‘Tidings of Peace’. These concerts continued through the mid 90’s. Over the years the Choir has performed a concert of Byzantine and Greek folk music at Hofstra University, a concert at St. Basil’s Academy and, at the invitation of the Russian Orthodox Church, participated in a gala presentation marking the millennium of Christianity in Russia.

Our Cathedral of Saint Paul recently celebrated its 65th Anniversary, and the Choir performed at the Celebration Luncheon at the Garden City Hotel on May 2, 2010. Many members have been part of the Choir for over 30 years, and wonderful friendships have been formed to create a large Choir family.

Assumption Church, Port Jefferson, NY
Submitted by Peggy Stilianos

This has been such a busy season. It seems like I’ve seen all of you continuously since our Conference weekend. To this day, I feel so fortunate to have been the Conductor for the visit by His Eminence on February 14, and the unofficial tribute to our beloved Demetrios Pappas by singing his Liturgy. Thank you Anna, for placing your trust and confidence in me. Thank you to Leah and Mike who walked me through the protocol. Believe me, no matter how many of these I’ve sung, it was very different to be on the other side of the stick! To all of you, you sounded wonderful; it was very humbling and I can’t thank you enough.

For some local news, our little group has undergone some changes. Anthony and Olga Antoniou, who have faithfully served under three conductors during the past twenty years, have both retired. We were able to present the Archbishop Iakovos Distinguished Service Award to them, as well as Florence Caraminas (Past Choir Conductor - 60 years) Paul Constas (60 years) Jean Rigos (57 years) Paraskevi Rontiris (31 years), John Rontiris (20 years as Psalti) George Kaneris (19 years, Protopsalts) and yours truly, for 37 years. We’ve also gained three new sopranos, Panagiota, Domenique and Marialena who were very big contributors to our Anastasi services, as was my daughter Kimie. The attendance of my grandson James, born February 5th, who didn’t cry once during all the commotion, was an added joy.

While our Community is steadfastly Greek and only Greek, little bits of English will wiggle their way into parts of the service when sung by our Sunday School members, grades 3 through graduation. In the new format, the children will sing with us until the Communion portion of the service when they are dismissed to class. We look forward to adding some of these voices to our membership in the future.

Thankfully, Father Jim continues to provide very strong support for the choir. We are grateful for his presence, and our service to the Community and Our Lord, for many years to come.
Heard from our Choirs—“Lofty Notes”

Holy Trinity Church Choir, Hicksville, NY

Submitted by Terri Macris

The Hicksville Choir has had a lot of excitement this year!

Congratulations to our choir director Leah Pappas Monias and choir member Jerry Monias! Their daughter Cindy passed the Bar Exam and also got engaged to a very nice gentleman.

The Choir Member of the Year winner for 2009-2010 is one of our choir members, Vasso Patrikis! This is the 3rd consecutive year that this award has been given to a member of the Hicksville choir! In addition to this award, the Town of Riverhead recognized Vasso for all her contributions to the community, and December 22, 2009 was proclaimed ‘Vasso Patrikis Day’ in the Town of Riverhead, NY.

In March, choir member Nicoletta Stamatelatos became a grandmother to twins, Peter and Valentina, by her daughter Alice. Then, in May, the Stamatelatos family celebrated the wedding of Nicoletta’s son Marino! Congratulations to choir member Vaso Varlas whose daughters added both a grandson and a 2nd granddaughter to the Varlas family tree this year!

On Saturday, May 8th, a choral concert honoring Demetrios Pappas, for his contributions as composer, arranger, teacher and director, was performed at the Church of the Holy Resurrection in Brookville, NY, where he is the choir director. Leah Pappas Monias was concert director, and she, together with choir members from Holy Trinity, Holy Resurrection and from parishes throughout Long Island and Queens, performed. The concert was a great success!

Sadly, this year our choir lost one of its strongest supporters, past Parish Council President John Dounelis who fell asleep in the Lord in October 2009. He was the husband of our Federation president Anna, one of our choir’s most faithful members for many years. We will miss him tremendously.

Sts. Catherine & George, Astoria, NY

Submitted by Katia Zallas

The choir of Sts. Catherine & George Greek Orthodox Church of Astoria congratulate their distinguished and beloved choir director, Constantine Gajdjis, for recently receiving the Patriarch Athenagoras I Award for his significant contribution to the development and perpetuation of the Music Ministry of the Church. May God grant him many more years!

Costas also sits on the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Music Foundation and is a strong believer in promoting and preserving the Greek musical heritage, part of which is expressed in the CD albums “Romantic Greek Nights”, “Great Musical Hits of Greece” and “Immortal Greek Melodies” all of which were produced by the Hellenic Music Foundation in cooperation with the Direct Archdiocesan District Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians. Costas researched, prepared and arranged most of the music with devotion, dedication and enthusiasm. He has been invited to sing at a Music Festival in Drama in Northern Greece. He attended the festival and represented the Federation Choir and sent heartfelt regards as he spoke of all the activities of our choirs and all organizations that promote the continuation of the Greek heritage in the Diaspora. He performed 3 representative songs that were well received by the public, the mayor and other dignitaries who were present and was subsequently interviewed by the local press and television where he elaborated on the activities of the Greek community of New York.
Heard from our Choirs—“Lofty Notes”

St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church,  Orange, CT
Submitted by Aspasia Pappas

We are fortunate that we have many of our choir members who are active in other areas of our church. The following are members of our Parish Council: Val Lott, Evans Montzouris and John Ioucopoulos. This year, Olympia Hadjumichael is President of the Philoptochos. Other active members of Philoptochos from the choir are Claudia Basel, Marina Benas, Helen Faraclas, Jane Hadjimichael, Thespina Hadjimichael, Paula Kavathas, Val Lott, Evelyn McGrath, Joy Morris, Marie Verinis and Maryanne Verinis.

This year our membership stands at 37. Hopefully, we can reach our goal of 40 members. We boast a large contingent of basses, eight in all. After many years, progress has been made in the tenor department with four voices. Our alto class stands at seven and, last, but not least, the sopranos are sixteen strong. As we all know, these may fluctuate on any given Sunday, which makes for interesting and varying dynamics, mostly good.

We are blessed to have a great assistant director in Stacey Grimaldi, and two former choir directors, Stephanie Halepas, formerly of New Britain, and Val Lott of Ansonia. We also have two organists, Hrant Shahinyan and Peter Pantelis. Peter arranges and rewrites all of our music. Most important is our President and Librarian, Jane Hadjimichael, who keeps our music in order and has all changes ready to go on any given Sunday.

Milestones reached this year: Helen Faraclas’ husband celebrated his 90th birthday, and Gus and Betty Demady their 50th wedding anniversary. Mercy Scafariello’s son Paul, started singing with us when he was in high school. This year, he’s graduating from college and will be going on to law school in the fall. Maryanne Verinis’ daughter is a popular cabaret singer in the Los Angeles area. And let’s not forget my assistant, Stacey, who is so talented. She sings in the premier choral group in Connecticut, Concora, the national recording choir the Archangels’ Voices as well as in the Connecticut Opera. And finally, Paula Kavathas, who sings with the New Haven Chorale.

This past Lenten season the choir performed brilliantly, right through Easter. This year we added some Kypros music to our repertoire and are looking forward to organizing a Lenten concert next year.

This past fall, we had the consecration of our new facilities, a new classroom area, Book and Icon Store, library and a fantastic new hall. We have also been blessed with two new psaltai, Peter Proestakis and Theo Jentopulous. They have been doing an outstanding job with great cooperation between choir and chanters. We send best wishes to our fellow church musicians for a fantastic summer!