



THE QUARTER NOTE

Newsletter of the GOMSF Church Music Federation Ministry

Letter From the Ministry Chair

Beloved church musicians,

It seems a world and lifetime ago since we sent out our last newsletter. The recent pandemic has radically altered our daily lives and our lives as church musicians and we must look to God for wisdom, strength, and patience. I pray that each of you are feeling the protection and presence of Christ, His Holy Mother, and all the blessed saints, and that you and your families remain safe and well. Our prayers go out to all who are ill and have suffered the loss of those they love, to those who have lost their incomes, and for the tireless caregivers who serve us now in these daunting times.



Great thanks to all who joined us on our Zoom meeting on May 16. What a joy to see all your faces, and to enjoy the special blessing of having His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos open our meeting with prayer and stay to share an encouraging message with us. This meeting was the first of our twice-yearly Plenary Information and Planning Meetings for 2020. The second one will be in the fall, likely in October. Your ministry teams have been active and communicating, discovering ways that we may continue to grow and sustain our beloved church music even as we realize that it will take more time than we wish to once again fill our sanctuaries with song and chant in ways we have in the past.

As you know, there will be no Annual Conference this year, but our Church Music Institutes are pre-planned and ready to go once we are assured that it is safe to gather again. Plans are still underway for the October 2021 conference at Assumption, Scottsdale, AZ .

I in invite you to dive in to this brief issue to see the encouraging news and resources in store for us as we weather this storm together.

In His love,
Kay Harkins, Ministry Chair



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO
ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΦΡΑΓΚΙΣΚΟΥ

June 12, 2020

✠Onuphrius of Egypt

Beloved Metropolis Church Musicians,

*“My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast! I will sing and make melody!”
Psalm 57:7*

Thank you for your ongoing patience as we navigate through the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. In accordance with federal, state and local guidelines, some of our parishes are beginning to open. Though parish life will be restored gradually, this still is an opportunity to rejoice that we can once again begin to gather as one Body in Christ.

I know this time of separation has been difficult for everyone, but especially our church musicians. You are used to joining voices in praise to the Lord as choirs and chant groups. These past few months have eliminated that opportunity, instead with only one or two chanters antiphonally offering the responses and hymns during the Divine Services.

And while our church doors will once again open, there will still be restrictions, especially with regard to choirs and chant groups reuniting in their ministry. Regardless if it is one voice or 20 voices, the Lord hears what is in each person’s heart. Please remember that every joyful noise is one that brings Glory to God. Your commitment to music ministry must remain steadfast, so that when the time comes to resume your full participation, there will be a renewed commitment to your ministry.

Just as our parishes have been utilizing online technology to engage people in worship, I am very pleased with the efforts of our Church Music Ministry with your weekly educational videos. These are both innovative and practical, for they focus not only on musical instruction, but also the theology of the hymns and the nuances of the original Byzantine chant.

Though I know your fall conference will not be held, I am confident that your Leadership Circle will continue to provide more opportunities for education and interaction in the coming months. Please avail yourselves to these resources, as well as to this year’s expanded scholarships to further your personal knowledge and skill in service to the Church.

Please be patient! Please stay safe and healthy! Please keep lifting your heart and voice in praise to the Lord!

With Love in Christ,


✠Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco

Statement of Support For Restoring Parish Life and Parish Readiness Guide

Your Church Music Federation Ministry Team Leadership Circle has met and fully supports the guidelines for restoring parish life as set out by our Metropolis.

Your Ministry Chair has been included in on-line meetings and the information chain as these guidelines have been carefully researched and prepared. We feel confident that they are in concert with all professional choral organizations' recommendations and reflect the most reliable scientific and medical guidance. We pray that God will give us abundant humility, love, and patience as our choirs and chant groups wait to return to our sanctuaries and offer praises to Him once more when it is safe for our church musicians and their parishes.



Special Announcement: Expanded Church Music Scholarships Available in 2020

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Church Music Federation Ministry is pleased to announce the 2020 Frank and Xenia Anton Desby Scholarships for Metropolis church musicians. A total of eight (8) scholarship awards of up to \$500 each for candidates desiring to study singing, chanting, conducting, and continuing education in our Orthodox musical tradition.

Understanding that our parishes and individual church musicians may be facing significant financial strain in the wake of the current pandemic, the Metropolis Church Music Federation Ministry has been working to create ways to support and sustain church music in this extraordinary year, even as our choirs and larger chant groups must be limited in their participation in worship services.

As our musicians prepare to return to serve their parishes, the Church Music Ministry wants to make it possible for church musicians to be able to strengthen their skills and understanding by obtaining education and training in singing, chanting, and conducting in our musical tradition by offering them the opportunity to apply for the necessary funds to get the training and assistance they need at this time.

Please refer to the Scholarship Guidelines and online Application Forms link below.

Deadline: August 15, 2020.

www.sfchurchmusic.org/#scholarships

Voice Box

In this issue we want to bring you the following links to various resources that can be used to inform you, encourage you, and foster continuing musical education of church musicians even while we're apart (or must meet with fewer of us than normal.)



Music Literacy

[A Young Singer's Journey: An Integrated Approach to Musical Literacy, 2nd Edition](#)

"I just wish more people of our people knew how to read music!" is a comment we hear so frequently from music directors and choir members. We want to make you aware of a truly excellent and affordable resource available to help both youth and adults to train their ears and read music. Don't let the title of this book fool you, it is really for singers of any age to learn these vital skills in an extremely user-friendly format, including audio files. The book can be used individually, in families, or by music directors who want to hold short Zoom classes. It is a bargain at the cost of about \$18 with free shipping from on-line booksellers.

Outstanding Resources From Choral Professionals

As an antidote to discouragement, please be sure to visit the extraordinary site of [The American Choral Conductors Association Resources for Choral Professionals During the Pandemic](#) offering remarkable practical tools, webinars, and inspiration from choral professionals around the country. If you only have time to look at one of their links, and even if you are not a choral conductor, we strongly encourage you to view the May 26 Webinar, "What We CAN Do!" It will be uplifting, motivating, and inspiring, we assure you.

From Our Own Church Music Development Team

As work was quickly progressing on our Multi-Media Music Education Kits, the pandemic moved us further ahead on the project as the team began building its base of on-line supplemental videos.

Since Pascha we have been producing educational videos related to hymns for the Sundays after Pascha, which have been sent to Metropolis priests and music directors and are featured on our ministry section of the COVID-19 Resources page of the Metropolis website. These videos are merely the beginning of a library of on-line resources that will serve as supplemental lessons to the original Multimedia Kits. This library will not replace the excellent real time workshops and CMIs we have prepared and will continue to prepare. The library will continue to be expanded with a series of videos on performance technique, music theory, and music literacy as well as additional hymns of the week.

The videos may be found on [YouTube](#) and will be posted in its own special resources section of our website early this summer. (Tip: The Ministry Chair's favorite of these so far are the videos for the Sunday after Ascension--be sure to watch those!)



An Inspiring Read

Although we aren't singing together now, there's much inspiration and encouragement to find in this beautiful article by Benedict Sheehan, posted on Ancient Faith, "[With One Mouth and One Heart.](#)" It will inspire you to keep working on your singing and your spiritual life.

AGES Digital Chant Stand

Many parishes and church musicians are relying upon [AGES Digital Chant Stand](#) to support all the services of the church and found it invaluable during Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha this year.

Facebook Pages

No doubt you may have been enjoying your parish's Facebook page and those of other parishes you know and love. Of course we hope you check our [ministry page](#) often as well. If you have not seen it yet, you may find [Quarantined Choir and Cantors](#) page a lovely quilt of music, news, and interesting articles from around the archdiocese. Other pages to check out: [Cappella Romana](#), [Dynamis Byzantine Ensemble](#), [The National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians](#).



Coming This Fall...

Great news from Samuel Herron, Assumption Scottsdale!

Trisagion School of Byzantine Music is an online academy focused on Byzantine Chant education in English with a focus on providing instruction using the ever-growing English language repertoire available in Byzantine notation. Trisagion School publicly offers flipped classroom online courses to train students in all the necessary skills to become a competent parish chanter. The comprehensive curriculum will teach vocal performance, Byzantine notation, the hymns of the Resurrectional Octoechos, the Great Feasts, the use and application of the Typikon, and advanced papadic repertoire. The courses are offered alongside private lessons with our instructors, Samuel Herron, Amy Hogg, and Garbriel Cremeens. The Classical Greek repertoire of Byzantine chant is also offered via private lessons with the instructors, along with private lessons of the Greek repertoire taught in Modern Greek by Instructor Dimitrios Katsiklis.

Check their website for updates which will be active in early June: trisagionschool.org

Online Schools for Choir Directors & Singers

If you or those you know are preparing online schools or courses, please let us know as soon as possible!

Other News From Metropolis Parishes

We welcome all your news and photos! Deadline for the Fall Quarter Note is August 15, 2020 sfchurchmusic@sanfran.goarch.org.

Our Ministry Teams Are Growing!

We are so happy to welcome the following members to our teams:

- **Andrea Jervinis**, St. Anthony, Reno, joins the Communication and Outreach Team to prepare our newsletter. (Bravo, Andrea, on your first issue!)
- **Chrysanthe Pappas**, Resurrection, Castro Valley, now brings her expertise to this team in overseeing our new YouTube channel.
- **Kathy DiGiovanni**, Ascension Cathedral, Oakland, and **Fareeda Christ**, Holy Trinity, San Francisco are now assisting Meg Jakovas with the work of the Records and Archives Team.

You, too, are welcome to find your “happy place” on one of our teams. Your skills in social media, audio-visual, fundraising, data management, finance, and other areas of the ministry will make us stronger together. Please reach out to us at sfchurchmusic.org and we will direct you to the best team for you.

From the Archives

Thank you to **Elaine Arapostathis** and **Cynthia Stanley Samarkos** for sharing these beautiful photos from the Choir Convention in 1956. If you have photos or stories to share, please send them to us, and be sure to label them with as many names as you can remember.



ABOVE: The St. Spyridon San Diego table at the Banquet: Pictured here, from left to right, are Peter Tashcoff, Helen Zarkos, Christine Krooskos, Helen Krooskos, Alex Krooskos, Florence Nicholas, Loula Simitzes, Bill Denos, Bill Diamond, Cynthia Stanley Samarkos, Katherine Stassis Jackson, Sally Copitas Stamatopoulos, Catherine Copitas Taylor, Athena Zarkos Harmon, Bill Demos, Virginia Krooskos Demos, Chris Demos.

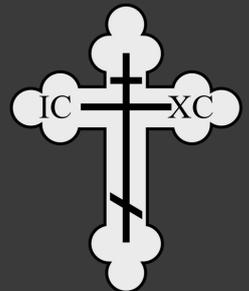


LEFT: Putting the emphasis on music: Helen Zarkos, Peter Tashcoff, Cynthia Stanley Samarkos.



Send Us Your News!

We love hearing all that's going on with music in your parishes. *The deadline for our Autumn Newsletter is August 15th!*



Music Directors! Please Note!

Thank you for printing and sharing this newsletter with the church musicians in your parish who do not have e-mail, Internet access, or personal access to a computer, and please let us know if these folks wish to have hardcopies of important information sent to them via the postal service. Also, please remember that church musicians may now update their contact information and access the calendar, forms, and documents through our online platform, Charms Office Assistant. Please click [this](#) link for easy directions to access this service.

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