

# THE QUARTER NOTE

*Newsletter of the GOMSF Church Music Federation Ministry*

## A Message From Your Ministry Chair

Beloved church musicians,

My heart is full today with so much hope for the days ahead. How long we have waited to plan for us to gather again in learning and song! I'm glad to share this Summer issue of the Quarter Note, full of events and resources we can begin to enjoy now on-line and soon in person!

We remain so grateful to His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, His Grace Bishop Ioannis, and Metropolis staff for their unfailing support and encouragement over these many months of hard work, prayer, and planning. While we have certainly sustained heartbreaking losses, God has remained faithful to us with His comfort and strength.

It was lovely to see many of you at April's Virtual Vitamin, and we are grateful to Father James Retelas, Pres. Pat Tsagalikis, and Protopsaltis John Michael Boyer for their meaningful contributions to our Lenten journey.

Our ministry is at a tremendous point of opportunity, and we cannot encourage you strongly enough to reach out to us with your constructive comments, questions, and willingness to share your talents and skills with us, may they be in musical, visual, creative, or administrative areas. We look forward to seeing you on-line and in person in the coming months, particularly at our first ever hybrid Plenary Planning and Information meeting at St. Paul's Irvine in August, details of which are found in this issue.

May God continue to keep you all in His grace, safety, and peace.

In Christ,  
Kay





## GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΦΡΑΓΚΙΣΚΟΥ

June 15, 2021

✠John the Russian of Evia

Beloved Church Musicians,

*“While your tongue sings, let your mind search out the meaning of the words,  
so that you might sing in spirit and sing also in understanding.”  
St. Basil the Great (On Psalm 27)*

We have reached the summer season, and with that comes our continuing return to parish life and the re-engagement in our ministries. I know that you have long awaited these days when our church musicians can safely begin to come together once more to raise your voices in harmony, praising the Lord. Please continue to follow the guidelines set forth to ensure your safety and the wellbeing of those around you.

Your gift of music inspires and elevates our worship, and please know how much your efforts are appreciated. Use this time to recommit to your music ministry and invite others to join you. Expand your knowledge through classes and workshops. Pursue a scholarship to continue your training. Keep learning and growing in your musical ability.

I am grateful to your Leadership Circle under the guidance of Kay Harkins, who has brought a fresh vision to this ministry, creating many exciting opportunities for growth, expansion and collaboration. I am confident that these efforts will reap exceptional rewards for this vital ministry of our Metropolis.

Beseeching the Lord's every blessing upon you as your voices are raised in hymn and song for His Glory, I remain,

With Love in Christ,

  
✠Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco



## ANNOUNCING SPECIAL CHURCH MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2021



The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Church Music Federation Ministry is pleased to once again offer eight (8) **FRANK DESBY and XENIA ANTON DESBY MEMORIAL MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS** of up to \$500 each for Metropolis church musicians in 2021. These scholarships are yet another way for our ministry to continue to support our church musicians and their parishes in the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic. As our musicians prepare to return to their lofts and soleas, we want to make it possible for them to strengthen their musical skill and understanding by obtaining education and training in singing, chanting, and conducting with qualified professional instructors to continue to serve their Greek Orthodox parishes.

Here are a few of encouraging reflections from our 2020 recipients:

- *Spending more time with the liturgical music of our Church increased a sense of prayerfulness in my home.*
- *The opportunity to study the music of our church through a new lens was made possible through this scholarship. Being able to unfold the distinctions between our church hymns and most choral compositions in our society made me aware of the truly intricate, yet beautiful and simple nature of our church's melodies*
- *Scholarships, such as this one, can provide more value than the mere dollar amount of the scholarship. I would encourage anyone interested in growing in their music ministry, to apply for this scholarship.*
- *I had never received formal voice instruction prior to receiving the Desby Scholarship, and voice lessons contributed to my improvement as a musician and also helped my confidence in singing. Previously, I had only sung as a group member of my church choir, but my voice instructor patiently worked with me through various vocal warm ups and church hymns, and now I sing solos and duets in church.*

Applications will be accepted from June 15, 2021 with a deadline of August 15, 2021.

Guidelines and Application Forms are available on our ministry website. (Please note that 2020 recipients must wait 2 years to apply again for scholarships.)

### Returning Strong In Faith, Skill, & Purpose

Our Leadership Circle has taken a “faith first” approach to assist Metropolis parishes in strengthening their church music programs as the restrictions of the pandemic are eased. We are making special provisions to support our Parish Music Leaders (choir, chant, and youth leaders and those who aspire to these roles) with enrichment opportunities offered at no charge to these leaders or their parishes over the course of the summer and fall. We are looking forward to sharing more with you over the summer and at the Plenary meeting in August.

### Plenary Information & Planning Meeting

Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 7! We are so happy to invite you to our first ever hybrid Plenary Information and Planning Meeting. We will be live at St. Paul's Irvine and online via Zoom for those unable to attend in person. The meeting will begin at 1:00 PM PDST with a complimentary Lenten lunch served at Noon. Please watch your email in box for more information and registration details. There is no charge for the meeting, but registration will be required.





## Video Inspiration!

Cappella Romana has recently sponsored a number of extraordinary conversations about timely topics centered around the music of our faith. The world class panelists and presenters offered well-researched and compelling dialogue on topics so pertinent to the challenges of our time:

- [Language in American Orthodox Music: Liturgical and Pastoral Perspectives](#)
- [Musical Style and Tradition in American Orthodox Churches: Chant and Polyphony](#)
- [Let My Prayer Arise: Music in the Experience of African-American Orthodox Christians](#)

We were thrilled to partner with the Metropolis in creating a wonderful 60 second [video introduction to our ministry](#). This video premiered at the April Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly. Please feel free to share it with those who may wish to know about our work. We are proud of our Ministry Team Leaders for their tireless efforts in planning and creating supporting resources and future events.

You may also enjoy seeing the [entire video](#) of all the ministries of the Metropolis, showing our place in the full depth of ministry.

Our ministry was pleased to offer support to the [Orthodox Christian Choral Fellowship](#) in its virtual recording of a new non-liturgical work celebrating the Resurrection of Christ, "Christ is Risen!" If you were not able to see its premier on Pascha here it is for your inspiration and joy. You will see many faces from our Metropolis and across the Archdiocese who had the opportunity to keep singing and bringing encouragement to the faithful in spite of pandemic restrictions.

Our Ministry [YouTube Channel](#) continues to build a library of educational video and audio resources to grow our faith and skill. Check us out!

## Ready When You Are!

Want help with acapella music? Need some ways to begin, strengthen, or improve congregational singing? Could you use help integrating your young people into your adult choirs? Our Church Music Development Team stands ready to meet your needs when the time is right for your parish to host a workshop or CMI on a topic or topics most helpful to your church music program.



## HELP WANTED

While the pandemic has been a tough time for us to build our ministry teams, they are slowly growing. However, as we move into the third year of our new format, we are particularly in need of folks to help us in the following areas:

- Financial planning and record keeping
- Database management and email marketing
- Website maintenance
- Social media management
- Archival organization
- On-line and hybrid programming

We truly value what you can offer us and are respectful of your time and busy lives with roles that require just an hour or two each month. Please know that you will be working with teams that enjoy wonderful friendship and fun with one another as we work to bring our ministry forward to help parishes and church musicians alike become their best to the glory of God in music. Thanks for reaching out to us!



## News From the Pews

### St. Spyridon, San Diego

Greetings Fellow Church Musicians!

Your musical friends of St. Spyridon bid you a warm, sunny, San Diego hello!

We pray that each and every one of you are well and that your families are well. What a whirlwind year it's been. Can you all believe we have been overcome by this Pandemic for over a year?

It's been very difficult for our choirs to not be singing up in the loft each and every week as we are sure it has been for you as well. Recently I have been joining our head chanter, Michael Haddad, at the analogion, and soon we will be back to singing and gathering as a choral group and sharing our music in our parish.

This past Pascha I had the honor of participating in the virtual choir performance of Christ is Risen, written by the talented Fr. Michael Pallad! It was a great honor to be part of this project and a joy to sing Father's incredible arrangement. Much gratitude to all those who worked to give us this beautiful gift.

We wish you all a very happy and safe summer!

Katherine Loukatos Meck,  
Adult and Youth Choir Director

SEND US *YOUR* NEWS! Deadline for the Fall Quarter Note is August 15!

## From the Archives . . . In Loving Memory

Since our last issue of the *Quarter Note* our hearts have been saddened by the loss of two beloved early members of our Metropolis church music community. Both Bill Bobolis and Mary Futris played major roles since the early years of the organization, and they were long-time friends. Before she moved to Southern California, Mary sang under Bill's direction in the Annunciation Choir in Sacramento. Memory Eternal!



Bill with one of his favorite composers, Ted Bogdanos and a crew of his beloved choir members at the 2006 conference. Front row: Ted and Helene Bogdanos. Back row: Eugene Fotos, Jamie Bobolis, Elaine Mackis, Sylvia Maritsas, Barbara Takanikos and Bill Bobolis.



Mary Futris receiving the St. John Damascus and St. Kosmas the Poet award from Mike Captain and Fr. John Angelis in 1993.

### William Bobolis

February 11, 1926 - May 10, 2021

From childhood, Bill used his gifts and education in music to bring joy to literally thousands of people. Both a highly trained musician and an inspiring educator, he brought a sense of excellence to classrooms, performance halls, and churches in his native state of Utah and his longtime home of Sacramento, California. Hand in hand with his musically gifted wife, Evelyn, he raised a musical family and established a strong choral program at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Sacramento where those in his choir remember that his rehearsals were a music education in themselves. Though good-natured and fun-loving, he took a serious and professional approach in developing a choir that became well known among church choirs in the Western states.

Bill took leadership and responsibility from the early days of the Metropolis Federation, and was its president for eight years, bringing church musicians together at conferences, workshops, and fun social gatherings. He presided over the 50th Anniversary of the Choir Federation, and was awarded virtually every honor and accolade given by the San Francisco Federation and the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Musicians. He continued to use his rich baritone voice his whole life continuing to sing opera into his years of retirement.

Bill will remain in our hearts for his dedication to the treasure of our rich Greek Orthodox musical traditions and his legacy as a leader for decades in the Federation.

### Mary Futris

December 1, 1938 – March 17, 2021

Anyone who ever met Mary will remember her outgoing, lively personality and her impressive mezzo-soprano voice. She gladly took leadership roles for years in the Church Music Federation, serving as Secretary for six years, and archivist for nearly a dozen years, carefully organizing and preserving photos and records of the organization.

Mary's voice rang out in many choirs in the Metropolis, from Annunciation, Sacramento to Saint Sophia Cathedral in Los Angeles, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Long Beach, and St. John the Baptist, Anaheim. Through the years of conferences and workshops she remained the life of the party and a fashion icon. She could fill a room with her distinct, infectious laugh.

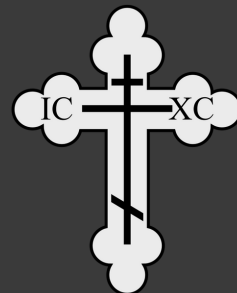
Mary was passionate about her faith, her music, and her many friendships and will be deeply missed throughout the Metropolis.



METROPOLIS OF  
SAN FRANCISCO

## Send Us Your News!

We love hearing all that's going on with music in your parishes. *The deadline for our Fall Newsletter is August 15, 2021!*



### 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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