

December 2021

GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO  
**CHURCH MUSIC FEDERATION MINISTRY**



THE *Grace* NOTE  
YOUR MID-MONTHLY DIGEST OF CHURCH MUSIC NEWS



PROVIDING THE BEST RESOURCES TO OUR PARISHES

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# Merry Christmas and *Happy New Year!*



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

Beloved Church Musicians,

***"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward me." Luke 2:14***

During the Christmas season, I am reminded of the angels whose voices were raised in praise and adoration at the birth of Jesus Christ. Our beloved Church Musicians are also part of the angelic choir, offering your gifts of music in your parishes as choir members, chanters, directors and organists, enriching the beauty of our worship services through our rich hymnology. And even though I know your hearts yearned to sing during the many months of limitations brought on by the pandemic, it brings me great joy to hear your voices once again as I begin visiting more parishes.

Your recent Sacred Music Symposium, *The Joy of Rehearsal*, was a wonderful opportunity to enhance your knowledge and expand your repertoire with the music provided by your guest clinician and composer, Benedict Sheehan. He has an incredible gift that he is sharing with the Orthodox Church, and what an honor that his recording of The Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom has been nominated for a GRAMMY® award, thus exposing Orthodox music to an even wider audience.



As these workshops and symposia continue to be offered, I encourage you to take advantage of these important offerings. Maybe they are not what you recall from your previous conferences, but by stepping outside your comfort zone and learning new skills and music, you are improving your own gifts and have an even deeper appreciation and understanding of the richness of our musical heritage.

I give thanks to God for you as stewards who generously offer of your time, talent and treasure for the Church. May this Christmas season and the New Year bring you abundant blessings from God!

With Love in Christ,

*Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco*

✠ METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS OF SAN FRANCISCO



“Like sunshine through the  
endless fog of the pandemic.”

- SYMPOSIUM ATTENDEE

THE JOY OF REHEARSAL:  
A SACRED MUSIC SYMPOSIUM

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral truly became a center for joy and inspiration on Saturday, December 5, as your GOMSF Church Federation Ministry presented the second of its year-long initiatives, ***“Returning Strong in Faith, Skill, and Purpose.”*** Acclaimed Orthodox composers, conductors, and music educators Benedict and Talia-Maria Sheehan were joined by eight singers from Cappella Romana for a lively and motivating day of singing and learning. **A thousand thanks to Father Paul Paris, John Lampus and the Cathedral choir and chanters, along with the Holy Trinity staff and community for their marvelous hospitality!**



21 singers, chanters, and directors alike filled their musical toolboxes with fun and practical techniques to make the most of rehearsal time, renew their spirits, and return to their parishes with full hearts. Over 20 joined us during the livestream and another 22 registered to enjoy the recording on a more convenient day. Here are a few of the many positive responses from our registrants our Metropolis participants and those from other jurisdictions in the Portland area and across the country:

***“What a blessing this symposium was. I learned important fundamentals of rehearsing that I never gave any thought to previously. I hope you will save my email address and include me in your mailings. Can’t wait to see what’s next!”***

***“I thoroughly enjoyed last Saturday. The symposium was a gift. And the concert was extraordinary.”***

***“Benedict and Talia-Maria were a dynamic duo of pure professionalism. The day just flew by!”***

***“Even from viewing the recording I got that wonderful sense of connection and purpose I think we’ve all been missing for so long. So many practical techniques for better singing. What a boost to the hope of possibilities ahead!”***

***“This Symposium and the materials provided were so valuable. I can totally see us using these methods in our chant group.”***

***“Singing with Cappella singers gave me goosebumps!”***

***“George hit it out of the park with that incredible Greek lunch!”***





***Did you miss this fantastic opportunity?***

Registration is still available to view the recording of the Symposium and download the Rehearsal Guide and all materials until December 30!

**Register  
Today!**

# 50, 60, 100!

**Enjoy these wonderful archive photos  
from our parishes who recently  
celebrated their anniversaries.**







**Resurrection Castro Valley – 50 Years**



**St. John the Baptist Anaheim – 60 Years**



**Annunciation Sacramento – 100 Years**



# *Congratulations* **and Chronia Polla!**



Share photos and stories of how your parish music program is rebuilding.  
(And let us know any ways we may help!)

**Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco**  
Church Music Federation Ministry

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