

September 2022

GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO
CHURCH MUSIC FEDERATION MINISTRY



METROPOLIS OF
SAN FRANCISCO



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



PROVIDING THE BEST RESOURCES TO OUR PARISHES

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWS AND UPDATES

Happy New Year!

"You, the Creator and the Lord of the ages, O God of all, truly transcending all essence, we earnestly entreat, that You will bless the year, and, O tender-loving Lord, in Your infinite mercy, only Master, save us all who worship and serve You, O our Redeemer, and who cry with fear, 'For all Your servants, make fruitful the coming year.'"

Kontakion of the Feast of the Indiction

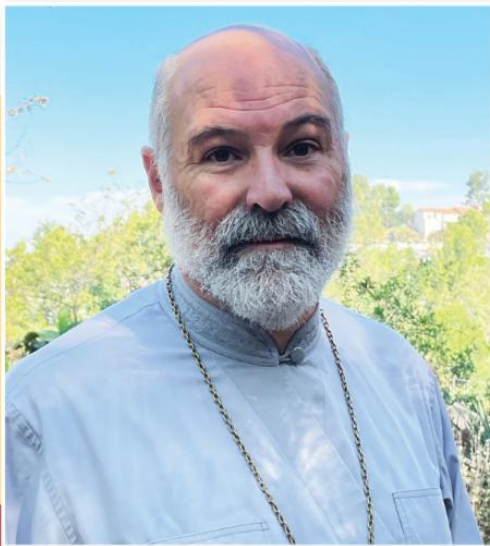


**Blessings to all at the beginning
of our new liturgical year.**



**Please join us in congratulating our
2022 FRANK AND XENIA
ANTON DESBY MEMORIAL
CHURCH MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!**

We are pleased to announce the following eight awardees for this year's scholarships.



Rev. Father John C. Beal

Saints Constantine and Helen Church
Lancaster, CA



Zoi Fontaine

Greek Orthodox Mission Church of
Coolidge and Florence, AZ



Samson Lyman

Holy Trinity Church
Spokane, WA



Jack McAfee

Saint John the Baptist Church
Beaverton, OR



Kiersten McAfee

Saint John the Baptist Church
Beaverton, OR



Yioryia (Yitsa) Prevas

Saint Nicholas Church
Northridge, CA



Petar Simich

Saints Constantine and Helen Church
Lancaster, CA



Vasilia Tussing

Saint George Church
Eugene, OR

This year the ministry received an unprecedented number of applicants, vying for eight scholarships of up to \$500 each to support their goals as Metropolis church musicians seeking to build their musical and liturgical skills to serve in the music ministries of their parishes. This scholarship was originally established in honor of church organist Xenia Anton Desby to support those wishing to study the organ, but its scope was broadened in 2017 to include those desiring to study organ, keyboard, voice, directing, or composition to honor both her memory and that of her husband, renowned composer and conductor, Frank Desby.

Our panel of highly trained church musicians was impressed with the fine qualifications and recommendations of all the applicants, making their decisions quite challenging. They were heartened to find applicants from both smaller and larger parishes, women and men, and a wide range of ages including several under 21.

Our warmest congratulations go out to these worthy recipients and their parishes. May God bless them in their studies!

Meet our *New* MINISTRY LEADERS

On August 6, 2022, eleven stewards and seven interested church musicians were greeted by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, who brought words of encouragement and inspiration as we completed the third year of our new leadership format. We have been so

grateful to God for the many ways we have been able to continue our ministry in spite of the tremendous challenges posed by the pandemic. Since 2020, 19 scholarships have been awarded, 5 online workshops have been presented, a world-class in-person and livestreamed symposium was offered, and we brought to life our own YouTube educational channel, now boasting nearly fifty videos highlighting hymns, hymnology, vocal techniques, music literacy, and parish support.

His Eminence has appointed **Christopher Hondros** of Resurrection Castro Valley to be the new **Ministry Chair**, and to aid him as the workload of Chair has grown, His Eminence has also appointed **Athena Anastos** of Assumption Scottsdale to be **Assistant to the Chair**. Following his own appointment, Christopher then appointed the following church musicians to Team Leadership roles. The stewards unanimously approved his appointments as follows:

Church Music Development Team Co-Leaders:

Samuel Herron of Assumption Scottsdale and **Ross Ritterman** of Holy Cross Belmont

Ways and Means Team Leader:

Sarah Gyurkovitz of St. Demetrios Camarillo

Event Team Leader:

Elizabeth Levy of Resurrection Castro Valley

Ministry Records and Archives Team Leader:

Margarita Jakovas of Annunciation Sacramento

Communications and Outreach Team Leader:

Kay Harkins of Saint Spyridon San Diego

Read Our Leaders' Bios

Our recent Ministry Chair, Kay Harkins, and all the Team Leaders from 2019 to 2022 will be continuing in roles either in team leadership or on the five ministry teams. New faces and new voices have joined the work as our ministry teams have been building slowly, with those having the heart for sustaining and growing excellence in church music and deeper faith and commitment among all the parishes of the Metropolis moving up into primary leadership roles. The leaders and teams are now comprised of younger church musicians and seasoned singers who have served the ministry for decades.

Thank you for your continuing support of our ministry. Please know that we look forward to more

of our church musicians joining our teams, and ask that you will prayerfully consider the blessings of working with us to bring Glory to God. [To learn more about our teams, please click here.](#)



IN THE NAVE — AND BEYOND: A CHURCH MUSIC WORKSHOP



**Holy Trinity
Greek Orthodox Church**
999 Brotherhood Way
San Francisco, CA
94132-2904

**Saturday,
September 24, 2022**

8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Join us for a day of education and inspiration to introduce the history, theology, benefits, and resources to add congregational singing to parish worship.

**Learn More and Register
Now**

***Thinking of an autumn trip
to the Big Apple?***

Check out this wonderful conference event presented by the Archdiocesan District Federation, featuring our

own Kristen Bruskas conducting noted West Coast composer Dr. Theodore Bogdanos, and a Church Music Institute conducted by GRAMMY®-nominated conductor and composer Benedict Sheehan!

The 37th Annual Church Music Conference will be held Friday - Sunday, October 28-30, 2022, at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York City, commemorating the Centennial of the Archdiocese.



[Read More](#)

[Conference Registration](#)

Be sure to send us your news!

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

[Contact Us](#)

