

July 2023

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**

Wishing  
*Everyone*  
a Blessed and  
Fun Summer



[Email Us](#)

**It's Not too Late...**

**The Metropolis of San Francisco Church Music Federation Ministry**



**FRANK DESBY AND XENIA  
ANTON DESBY MEMORIAL  
CHURCH MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2023**

Applications for the **2023 Desby Memorial Church Music Scholarships** are still being accepted. You will find Guidelines, Application and Recommendation forms on our website. **DEADLINE IS AUGUST 1, 2023.**

[Visit the Website](#)





## SPECIAL REPORT

FROM **Athena Anastos**, Assistant to the Ministry Chair

*A warm thank you to Athena for travelling to New York to represent our ministry, taking good notes and bringing us the following report:*

Early in June, members from the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians gathered in NYC at the Archdiocese Headquarters for a special meeting at the invitation of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros. The group consisted of presidents and representatives from each Metropolis Music Ministry along with our Spiritual Advisor the V. Rev. Archimandrite Chrysostomos Gilbert. Also present were the Chief Secretary His Grace Bishop Athenagoras and the Archdiocesan Chancellor the V. Rev. Archimandrite Nektarios Papazafiroopoulos. We were warmly welcomed by His Eminence, and after a lovely toast featuring a delicious pomegranate liquor and tea cookies, a lively conversation took place.

The Archbishop expressed that he is keenly aware of how Covid affected the choirs and wants to help in any way he can. Nick Chimitris, NF Chair, presented an extensive report showcasing the many products the NF has available to all church music ministries both chant and choir. Nick also shared with His Eminence the wonderful work each Federation ministry is doing especially in the area of scholarships. He also updated His Eminence regarding the current Forum committee projects being worked on at this time such as updating the Companion, the St. Romanos Music Festival, the Church Music Directors Certification program, and resurrecting the Visiting Scholar Program at HC/HC. Nick also spoke of the NF Annual Meeting in St. Louis that a composers and arranger symposium will be the highlight of the meeting. There will be 5 symposium sessions each discussing various church music topics.

The Archbishop was most pleased with the ongoing work of the NF and hopes that there may be more regular meetings of this kind with him to collaborate and share all present and future projects regarding church music in our Archdiocese.

## MINISTRY Spotlight



Although never one to seek out the spotlight, Liz Levy, our current Events Team Leader, deserves a spot in center stage, as she may hold the record for the longest serving active leader in the history of our ministry! Liz has sung in her church choir since childhood, and began her involvement with our Metropolis Federation over 40 years ago. She has had many roles and held several offices in leadership, including Secretary, Vice President, and President for six (!) years from 2013 to 2019, and was awarded the Patriarch Athenagoras Medallion by the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians for service to our Metropolis.

Liz is exceptional in her humility, love, and willingness to serve the Lord in small and large tasks, and has been invaluable to the Leadership Circle in these last challenging years. She has given help to every ministry team in one form or another and has never turned down a request for help. Her gentle humor and cheerfulness is exceeded only by her patience.

Liz lives in Livermore, California with her husband Mark, to whom she has been married for 34 years. She loves being at home in her backyard garden, baseball, and hanging out with her grandson, Asher. You are a treasure, Liz!

---



# Bi-Annual Plenary Information and Planning Meeting



Saturday  
**August 5, 2023**

1:00 to 3:00 pm PDST

Registration is now open for our August 5, 2023 Bi-Annual Plenary Information and Planning Meeting. The meeting will be held online via Zoom. There is no charge for the meeting, but you must register in advance. Anyone who registers may attend, but only those who are current with their 2022-23 stewardship are eligible to vote in the meeting.

A Google Drive folder has been set up for the materials for this meeting, which now includes the agenda and minutes from our April meeting. Materials will be added to this folder up until August 1 as they are prepared, as we want to have as up to date financial reports as possible. You may access the folder at the Google Drive link below.

[Click Here to Register](#)

[Stewardship Link](#)

[Google Drive Folder](#)

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago and Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church present ...

1ST ANNUAL 2023

**SYNAXIS OF ORTHODOX WOMEN  
BYZANTINE CANTORS**

## Orthodox Church Musicians

An exciting event is set to take place in the Metropolis of Chicago this fall – the 1st Annual Synaxis of Orthodox *Women* Byzantine Cantors. It will occur at St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church in Elgin, IL on September 28-October 1.

Interested women chanters and choir members are welcome to attend and experience this wonderful opportunity!

See the attached flyer for details, speakers, and activities. Space is limited, so register now for this first-ever such event America.

For more information and questions, contact:

**Christina T. Stavros Kidonakis**

[christinatheopestavros@gmail.com](mailto:christinatheopestavros@gmail.com)

616.307.3328

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago and Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church present ...

1ST ANNUAL 2023  
**SYNAXIS OF ORTHODOX WOMEN  
BYZANTINE CANTORS**

**Saint Sophia  
Greek Orthodox Church**  
525 Church Road | Elgin, Illinois | Chicago Area | USA

**September 28 -  
Thursday afternoon  
to Sunday midday October 1**  
Culminating on the Feast of Saint Romanos the Melodist

Featuring Inaugural Presenter:  
**Fr. Romanos Karanos, Ph.D**  
Director - Byzantine Music Program  
Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology  
Brookline, MA | USA

**\$250 per participant\***  
Includes all meals, workshops,  
printed music packet, and more!

Blessed by Metropolitan +NATHANAEL  
This synaxis (coming together) of female cantors of all  
levels from across the country and the world for Orthodox  
worship, education, and practice in the Public Art is the first  
ever event of its kind on American soil.

Register  
online  
before  
August 31!

Workshop Instructors

Amy Hogg  
Beginning

Sarah Roumelis  
Intermediate

Phoebi D. Robinson  
Advanced

\*Additional Costs: Accommodation and Travel

REGISTRATION, Travel Info, and more at: [www.st-sophia.com/sowbc](http://www.st-sophia.com/sowbc)

[Read More](#)

## No news is ... *no news!*

We would love to share stories and photos from your parish. Items sent by the last week of the month will be featured in the next month's issue of our Grace Note. Can't wait to see and hear what's been happening with you.

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

[Contact Us](#)



GREEK ORTHODOX  
ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA



METROPOLIS OF  
SAN FRANCISCO



NATIONAL FORUM OF  
GREEK ORTHODOX  
CHURCH MUSICIANS



GREEK ORTHODOX  
METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO  
CHURCH MUSIC FEDERATION MINISTRY

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Church Music Federation Ministry | 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

[Unsubscribe sfchurchmusic@sanfran.goarch.org](mailto:unsubscribe_sfchurchmusic@sanfran.goarch.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent bysfchurchmusic@sanfran.goarch.orgpowered by



Try email marketing for free today!