July 2023

GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO CHURCH MUSIC FEDERATION MINISTRY



Metropolis of San Francisco









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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 Papazafiropoulos. 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 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 he 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



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 ...



News from the National Forum of Greek

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.

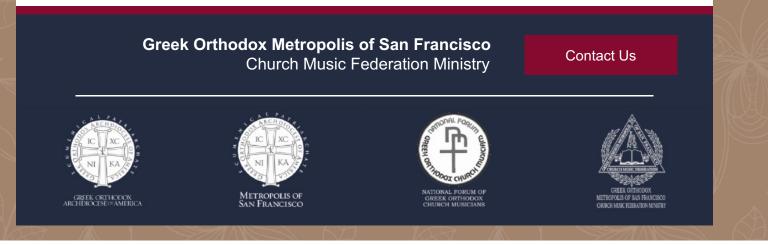
For more information and questions, contact: **Christina T. Stavros Kidonakis** <u>christinatheopestavros@gmail.com</u> 616.307.3328



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.



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