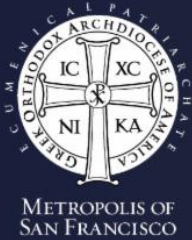


2025 April Edition

GREEK ORTHODOX OF SAN FRANCISCO

MUSIC MINISTRY



THE *Grace* NOTE

YOUR MID-MONTHLY DIGEST OF CHURCH MUSIC NEWS

PROVIDING THE BEST RESOURCES TO OUR PARISHES

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Kali ANASTASI!



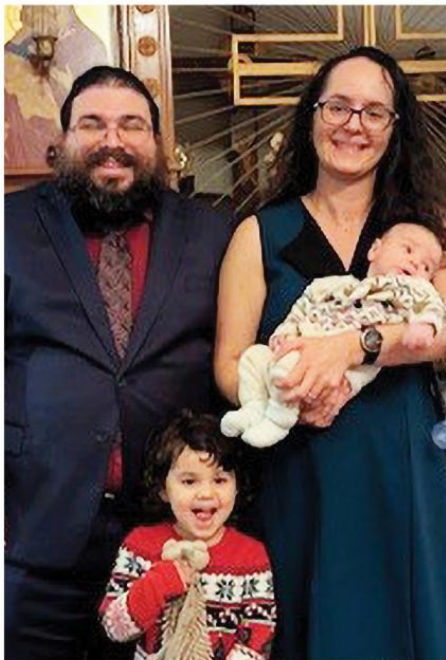
Message from our Ministry Coordinator

As we approach Great and Holy Week, along with the Resurrection of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ, let us reflect as church musicians on the structure of these services. We recently did a series of webinars on the services and music of Holy Week which you can find [here](#). One of the things that impressed me the most was the thirst for knowledge of the attendees - asking insightful questions about these series of services which we might initially think of as "out of the norm" but clearly, they are built logically in our liturgical cycle.

In our Matins services during Holy Week, we see **afulness** of the structure and function, with limited abbreviations. In our Vespers services, we observe how the Divine Liturgy can fit in both within the structure of the evening as well as the morning, truly showing how the celebration of the Eucharist is in a liturgical time and space within the physical. Finally, when we arrive at the Resurrection, we see how traditions are organically woven in to bring the Good News to the entire world, with theological depth and yet, with the simplicity of three words: "Christ is Risen." To quote Metropolitan Hierotheos of Nafpaktos: "The Orthodox Church is called the Church of the

Resurrection not only because it praises the Risen Christ, but because its members live the life of the Risen One. Therefore, the greeting "Christ is Risen" makes sense, not only because it refers to a historical event, but because it is connected to the present and the future. When we say, "Christ is Risen", we mean "the Church is risen", "we are risen".

As church musicians, let us not just rehearse the music to prepare for each service, but let us believe and mean what we chant and sing. Look at the words that the divinely inspired hymnographers provided for us - take them seriously, enunciate them without mumbling or slurring, so that we can lead the people in worship and they can clearly understand the meaning of why the hymnographers used the epithets: Revered, Immaculate, Fearful, Holy, Saving, and Life-Creating Passion. And finally, with enthusiasm and zeal, let us proclaim the Joy of the Day of the Resurrection, which is the Feast of all Feasts, and the Festival of every Festival.



KALI ANASTASI!

Christopher Hondros
Ministry Coordinator



Sustaining Our Scholarships

Perhaps the most significant development resulting from the challenges of the pandemic for our ministry was our decision to begin offering a more robust scholarship program. Since 2021, nearly two dozen church musicians have received funding to support their growth and education in the music of their faith allowing them to better contribute their talents to the music of their parishes for the glory of God and their own personal Christian formation.

Today, as we continue to refine our focus in offering the best resources and encouragement to our parishes and individual church musicians, our determination to build and use our financial strengths in ways that mirror our mission is a primary goal. 2025 is the year we turn from a general stewardship appeal for our ministry to an appeal to sustain future funding for church music scholarships under the guidelines of the Xenia Anton Desby and Dr. Frank Desby Memorial Scholarships. We have a strong foundation of funds we have conserved over the years, which will continue to serve as the basis for our important programs and initiatives going forward as a full ministry of the Metropolis. The scholarship appeal donations will serve as the basis to fund meaningful scholarship awards to Metropolis music directors, singers, chanters, organists, composers, and accompanists.

In June, we will launch a new Scholarship Appeal with the goal of funding as many of our qualified 2025 applicants as possible with awards of up to \$500 each. Rather than offering a certain number of scholarships, we will offer as many as we possibly can with the funds received by December 1, the 2025 scholarship application deadline. We believe this is a sound plan to sustain this important work of the ministry, while utilizing our current assets with support of the Metropolis.



Music Leader Chosen for Summer Camp AT SAINT NICHOLAS RANCH

The Music Ministry is grateful to announce our partnership with the Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Metropolis to support a resident music educator for our Summer Camp at Saint Nicholas Ranch in Dunlap, CA.

Louis Busta, of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in San Francisco, CA, has been chosen to be this year's music leader for the Metropolis of San Francisco Summer Camp at Saint Nicholas Ranch in Dunlap, CA. He will be focusing on teaching the campers hymns from the Divine Liturgy, as well as teaching hymns dedicated to the Mother of God and Saint Nicholas.

Since beginning to chant in 2010, Louis has developed his love, skill, and understanding of church music from a wide variety of experienced and highly trained chanters throughout the Bay area and his study of recordings of renowned chanters from Greece. He is looking forward to helping campers learn the role of Byzantine chant and the structures of music of the Church as well as the importance of hymns and hymnology in their Christian formation.

COMING IN MAY!



MUSIC MINISTRY, Communication, & Social Media Think Tank

Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. PDST via Zoom

Who should we be, what should we do, and what should we have to provide the best, most appropriate, and most effective kinds of communication for our ministry?

What kind of communication works best for a ministry such as ours, which is more liturgical and educational than philanthropic or cultural? How do we budget our time, talent, and treasure in promotion of our resources and programs?

Please mark your calendars to join Ministry Communications Coordinator, Kay Harkins, for a Zoom Think Tank to discuss these questions surrounding the needs and nature of communication and social media in our Metropolis Music Ministry.

This Zoom is for all--younger or older, new to church music, or old hands. Register here and come brainstorm with us!

[Zoom Link](#)

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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Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Church Music Federation Ministry

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