

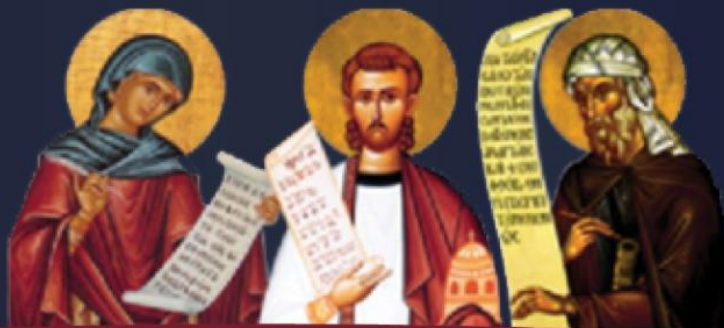
2025 September Edition

GREEK ORTHODOX OF SAN FRANCISCO

MUSIC MINISTRY



METROPOLIS OF
SAN FRANCISCO



THE *Grace* NOTE

YOUR MID-MONTHLY DIGEST OF CHURCH MUSIC NEWS

PROVIDING THE BEST RESOURCES TO OUR PARISHES

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It's *Scholarship* SEASON!



The GOMSF Metropolis Church Music Ministry, is once again accepting applications for the +Xenia Anton Desby and +Dr. Frank Desby Memorial Church Music Scholarships. Eight scholarships of up to \$500 each may be awarded to qualified candidates who wish to develop their musical and liturgical skills and understanding to serve the Church in their local parishes. Originally established as an organ scholarship, these awards have been expanded to serve the entire scope of church musician in our Metropolis, to include singers, chanters, composers, directors, and accompanists. *Preference will be given to those wishing to study organ*

Since 2020, our scholarships have enabled dozens of church musicians to gain the preparation needed to serve their local parishes, strengthening the music programs across the Metropolis.

Church musicians of all ages are encouraged to apply for this great opportunity!

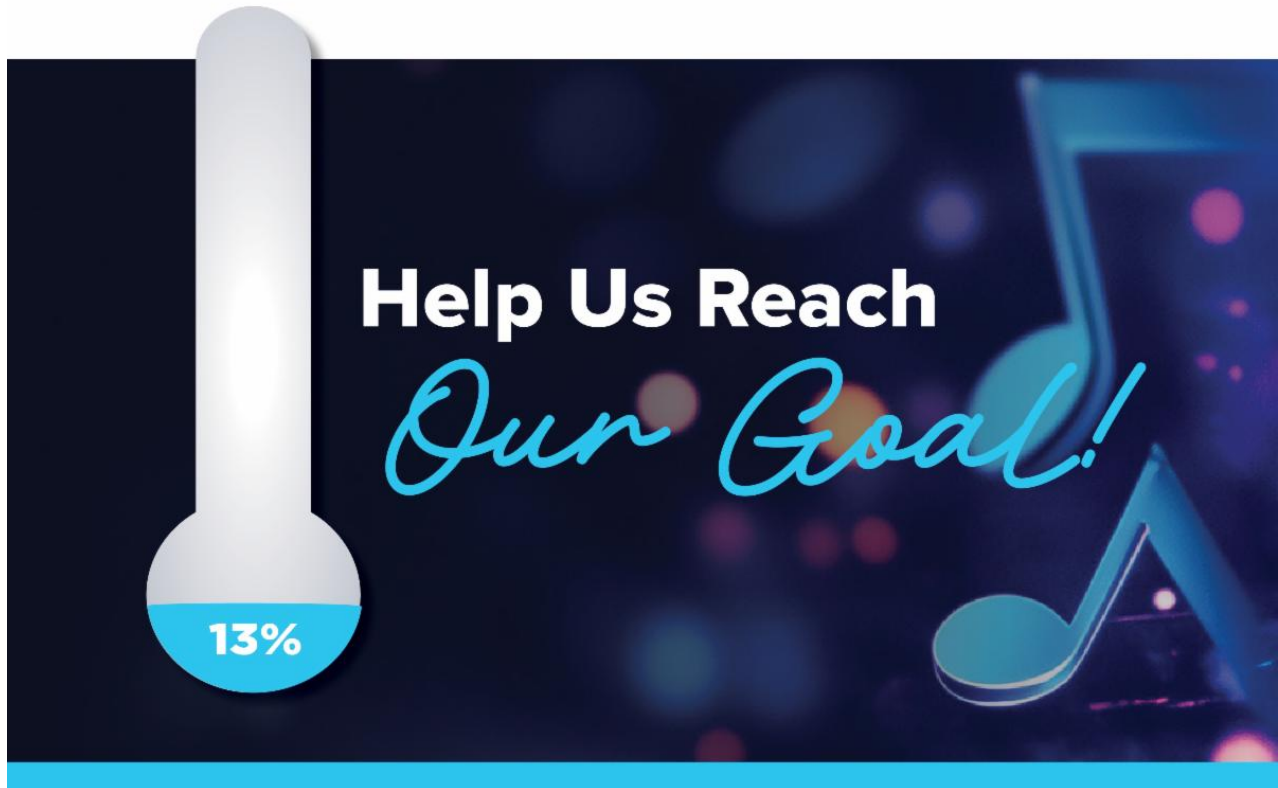
**The application and recommendation will be due by
December 1st.**

We'll plan to announce by December 15.

Scholarship Guidelines

Scholarship Application

For Recommendation Form



Thank you to those of you who have already generously supported our 2025-26 Scholarship Appeal. Our aim is to raise **\$4,000 by November 15** so that we may once again award the full eight scholarships of up to \$500 each to qualified applicants.

Over 35 scholarships have been awarded since 2020, and we want to keep this tradition alive! Our scholarships are a great investment in the future of excellent church music and church music programs in our parishes.

Thank you for prayerfully considering your contribution to church

Please join us in
SUSTAINING OUR MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS!

Since 2020 our ministry has awarded 35 scholarships of \$500 each to church musicians of all ages and from both large, medium, and small parishes across the Metropolis.

We believe this is a primary initiative in supporting our mission to enable church musicians to grow musically and spiritually to strengthen the music programs of their individual parishes and the Metropolis as a whole.

Sustaining these scholarships requires the maintaining and building of the reserves of the ministry for this purpose. Our goal for this year is to raise \$4,000 between now and December 1, to again offer 8 scholarships. Every donation large or small is meaningful in showing encouragement to those who seek to grow their gifts in Christ.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration to contribute to this work. Donations are gratefully accepted from individuals and parishes.

"The Desby Memorial Church Music Scholarship enabled me to deepen both my faith and musical abilities by funding chanting lessons at the Triagon School of Byzantine Music. My Yiyia's father was a village priest who intoned these same hymns, and through this scholarship, I was able to connect with that legacy and my Greek Orthodox faith in a profound and personal way. I am deeply grateful to the Desby Music Scholarship for making this experience possible, and I hope its continued support will allow others to grow in their faith and musical tradition as I have."
Erent Delis, 2020 Recipient | Holy Cross GDC | Belmont, CA

"The more I study Orthodox Hymnography, the more I see just how theologically profound it truly is. The need for, and spiritual benefits of the Music Ministry only grow greater each year."

As a recipient of the Desby Memorial Music Scholarship, I can with confidence say it has been one of the largest blessings for me, and for the choir I sing in. It was through this scholarship that I was able to receive the highest level of musical education available to me; text analysis and fundamentals of choral conducting and pitching. This enabled me to formally start on my path as a substitute conductor for my parish. On July 27, I will be conducting my first Sunday Liturgy, sung by a full choir of almost thirty singers.

Stephen Young, 2024 Recipient | St. Lawrence Orthodox Christian Church Felton, CA

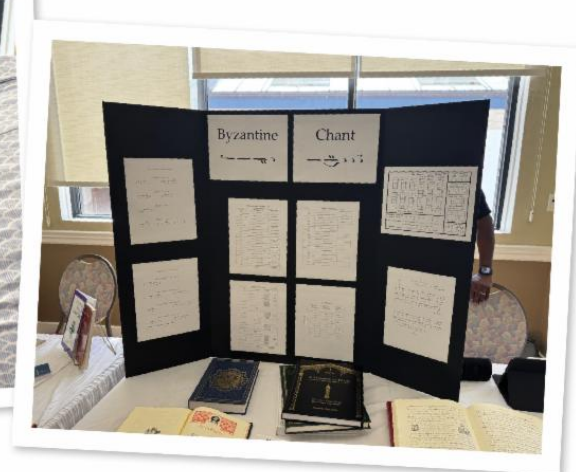
Scan the QR code to donate today!

musicians of all ages in parishes small and large.



Parish Ministry Fairs are Popping Up!

Many parishes have begun to include yearly (or more often) Ministry Fairs to showcase the variety of ways we can be involved in the joyful work of our Church. This is a wonderful way to bring attention to and encourage involvement in church music.



Check with your parish council to see if one is being planned in your parish or as an alternative, your music program might just want to sponsor a table at the coffee hour to highlight the opportunities for spiritual growth through singing and chanting God's praise.

At St. Paul's Irvine, this colorful banner invited the participation of everyone in the parish.





Awed by the beauty of your
virginity, and the exceeding
radiance of your purity;

Gabriel stood amazed and cried
out unto you, O Theotokos,

What praise may I offer that is
worthy of your beauty?

By what name shall I call you?

I am lost and bewildered, but I
shall cry to you as commanded:

Rejoice, O full of grace.

Theotokos of the Akathist

October is National Church Music Month

In his Exposition *On the Orthodox Faith*, St. John of Damascus proclaims: "...we both know and confess that God is without beginning, without end, eternal and everlasting, uncreated, immutable, unchangeable, simple, non-composite, incorporeal, invisible, impalpable, uncircumscribed, limitless, ungraspable, incognizable, unfathomable, good, just, almighty, the creator of all created things, sovereign over all, overseeing all, exercising foresight over all, having supreme power over all, and judge of all." This defender of the Faith and hymnographer wrote this at a time when the Church was fighting against heresies and iconoclasm. He composed hundreds of hymns, packed with dogmatic theology and we sing them on a regular basis within our Liturgical cycle. Our church musicians have a *dedicated responsibility* to clearly sing and lead the people in worship proclaiming what we believe, being careful to not muddle words or mis-pronounce in Greek (for those of us not familiar with the language).

It is for this important work that each year, on the first Sunday in October or during the month of October, parishes across the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

celebrate **National Church Music Sunday**, which began in 1982. This is a day we set aside particularly to honor the contributions of local church music ministry, both the musicians and the music educators who serve their churches through the hymnology of our Orthodox Church. In addition, it is also a day when we recognize the work of the Metropolis Music Ministry as well as the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians, who strive to enhance the development of church choirs, church musicians, and liturgical music at metropolis and archdiocesan levels.

Please recognize the contributions of church musicians this year on **Sunday, October 5th or another Sunday in October**. You can honor your parish church musicians by thanking them for their service to the parish. You can support the Metropolis Music Ministry by **donating to the Scholarship fund**, and you can support the national church ministry, the work of the **National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians** by becoming a steward of the National Forum and contributing to its Annual Church Music Fund Drive held during October. Please remember to stop and thank your church musicians for their service, pray for them, and encourage them to continue to grow in their understanding of the Liturgical Arts and the Faith which they help proclaim.

[Download the
Flyer](#)

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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