

FIRST MODE

THE EASTERN FEDERATION OF GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH MUSICIANS NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2015

2014 CONFERENCE

This year Kimisis Tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church of Holmdel, New Jersey opened its doors and welcomed the church musicians of the EFGOCM. The community was a wonderful host that provided the musicians with a place to gather, share fellowship, sing and create melodious sounds that filled the church during the Divine Liturgy.

The music for the Divine Liturgy was composed and directed by Constantine "Dean" Limberakis, Archon Primikirios. Dean has a long history as a musician who retired after 36 years as an administrator and teacher in Music Education in the public schools of Massachusetts and became an appointed Adjunct Instructor for Hellenic College and Holy Cross for the past 20 years.

Hope Demitry from St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Trenton, New Jersey was guest organist for the liturgy and accompanist for the workshop conducted by Mariana Alexander from Kimisis Tis Theotokou Church in Holmdel, New Jersey.

Thursday night was the beginning with the EFGOCM board meeting followed by the sight reading of the Doxology, this was just to get everyone started for the next two days of rehearsals leading up to the Divine Liturgy on Sunday. When we walked into the hall we found it decorated in a fall theme and the continental breakfast was enormous and beautifully displayed table full of the wonderful colors of autumn. We couldn't have had a better start to our day. The work began by rehearsing in the church. The choir took up the back left hand portion of the church which needed to have seats added to accommodate 88+ singers. Of course there were breaks and lunch and a small workshop where Marina presented some compositions that she composed. After the workshop we went back into our afternoon rehearsal which ended in time for the federation conference meeting. Our conference meeting has various components like selecting music and conductor for the following year. We remained at the church for dinner and the entertainment that followed. The fellowship is the best part of the weekend. Saturday night is our banquet and the theme was different with roses and votive lights which added a new look to the hall, leaving us to end the evening with dancing.

Sunday was the last day of the conference with the Divine Liturgy and a lunch after church. Just imagine having all of these wonderful voices filling the church with the sounds of music. We all wish we could take every singer back to our own church and have this glorious sound every Sunday, but there is always next year as we migrate down to the southern point of our metropolis where we will sing a brand new liturgy by Christopher Kypros, "Liturgy of Hope" in his home parish of Norfolk, VA. – Hope

*Annunciation Cathedral in
Norfolk, Virginia
invites you to attend the*

2015 EFGOCM Conference
October 1-4, 2015



Registration Packet
included in this
First Mode

DISTRICT NEWS

HOLY CROSS CELEBRATION

New Jersey choir members of the Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians will come together to participate in an historic event, namely – THE HOLY CROSS CELEBRATION – in Asbury Park. This year the celebration will be on Sunday, September 20, 2015 in the Paramount Theater. Once again Kay Kehayas will conduct and Hope Demitry will accompany on organ.

DISTRICT REHEARSALS

For upcoming rehearsals, see next page...

The New Jersey District of EFGOCM had two rehearsals for the conference music on **Monday, April 27 and May 4 at Kimisis tis Theotokos at 7:15 PM**. The music is beautiful and challenging. Thank you Kathy & Hope for giving your time for these rehearsals which went very well.

-Marie Devino

Organist Needed in Richmond, VA

The Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Richmond, VA, is looking for a part-time organist who can regularly accompany the choir for Sunday services, rehearsals, Christmas Eve, Holy Week and miscellaneous services and concerts. If you are an interested musician or know of someone who would be interested in the position, please contact Maria Keritsis by emailing mfk9@comcast.net or calling (804) 539-8606; or Susan Prousalis by emailing sprousalis11@verizon.net or by calling (804) 740-1188.

Regional Choir Rehearsals



Save the Dates!

Saturday July 11 Norfolk VA
Saturday July 18 Falls Church VA
Saturday August 29 Newport News VA

9:30 am to 3:00 pm

Guest Conductor
Christopher Kypros
Composer, *Liturgy of Hope*

Click here for Practice Tracks:

http://www.newjersey.churchmusic.goarch.org/news_and_events/2015-annual-conference/sound-links.html

To purchase music and for details about the Conference
visit the web site <http://www.newjersey.churchmusic.goarch.org/>



**Sponsored by the Eastern Federation
of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians**



News from NJ District #3

For members of the NJ District of EFGOCM, our defining annual event is *The Spirit of Lent*, a choral offering to God that enriches participants and audience alike with the liturgical music of the season. Always held on the last Friday of Lent, just before the Saturday of Lazarus, the concert presents many of the key hymns chanted during Lenten services. These moving works in both ancient and modern arrangements (always with translations in the program or, in some cases, sung in English) give both singers and listeners a deeper preparation for Holy Week and Pascha, as well as a taste of the “joyful sorrow” that is the true spirit of Lent.

This year the concert was held on April 3 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Westfield, NJ. Participants included 58 adult singers (including 6 choir directors) from 11 NJ churches, one NY church, and a NJ Pan-Orthodox choir, plus 10 youth singers from the Holy Trinity Westfield choir and 2 from St. George Trenton. Kathryn Athanasoulas, a past president of the EFGOCM, directed the group, with Hope Demitry serving as organ accompanist.



This wonderful tradition began in 1991, established by Dennis Spyros of blessed memory, and was first held at the Cathedral of St. John the Theologian in Tenafly, NJ. After the untimely passing of Dennis in 1997, Katina Kehayas and Kathryn Athanasoulas co-directed the event in 1998, after which Kathryn became the sole director. Hope Demitry has accompanied the choir on the organ since 1992. We also have the enjoyable tradition of a reception after the concert with light and delicious Lenten refreshments.

While the only way to really experience the great joy and fellowship of the event is to be there (and we are happy that EFGOCM Board Member Nick Kyros was able to join us for the evening), thanks to the Internet we can offer you several ways of “catching the spirit” of this concert.

Kathryn has created a photo album that you can view (be sure to click on “Full Screen” at the top left of the Shutterfly box) and optionally order at: <http://share.shutterfly.com/share/received/welcome.sfly?fid=9bce3e764e2156fb&sid=0AcN2zdi0csWrDtg>

A video recording of *Agios O Theos* (as arranged by Chris Kypros and specially featuring the youth choir) is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kf-YncAdXks>

Miriam Kotsonis recorded and edited the concert. Hymns can be downloaded in mp3 format at: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/10vfvlozfofobntc/AABRM2W2opF2eDuWb5W5Fii-a?dl=0>

You can see many additional photos taken by Holy Trinity parishioners at the following two links:

<http://ariadne.smugmug.com/Events/Spirit-of-Lent-Concert-2015/n-cJvcPf>

<http://share.shutterfly.com/action/welcome?sid=0AYt2jNq2cuGrFjA>

Diana Grina created an attractive video preview that we used to advertise the concert: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GtL5ef7ZLuE&feature=youtu.be>

— Miriam Kotsonis



Church Music Institute—March 21, 2015

On Saturday, March 21, 2015 St George Church of Trenton, NJ and choir hosted the Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians (EFGOCM) New Jersey District 3's Church Music Institute (CMI). The beautiful snow that fell the night before did not deter 31 participants from the various churches in New Jersey, St. Luke's Church in Broomall, PA and two choir people of the OCA Church from attending this wonderful workshop. The morning began with a light Lenten continental breakfast followed by Father Jimmy calling all choir members "the angels" who work in conjunction and interact with the priest to enhance the liturgy. We are the heavenly sounds which combine the angels and saints from above as we celebrate the glory of the liturgy. At the conclusion of his welcome he gave us a blessing for the day.

The morning continued with Marina Alexander from Holmdel, NJ vocalizing the singers with warm-up techniques, vocal health and placement of the voice to create a better sound (that's why the next day the choir sounded so beautiful). Dr. Valerie Karras from St. Louis, MO presented on the "Theology Behind What We Sing" in the Liturgy. We broke for a delicious Lenten Lunch and fellowship.

The afternoon began with Valerie presenting her second presentation on "Orthodox Hymnology" that gave us a more technical view of the Byzantine Melodies and their Tones which vary according to the placement and purpose in a specific liturgy. The last two hours were devoted to singing many of the hymns presented in the early talks. Marina, an accomplished musician and conductor, enhanced the singing of these hymns by creating an understanding and depth of how to sing using the techniques from this morning with interpretation and meaning of these hymns. We sang hymns using various church composers both present and past in Greek and English.

I would like to thank Father Jimmy and St. George Church for providing the venue for this CMI. I also give a big "Thank You" to the St. George Choir who helped me with this event. The co-sponsors of this event were The National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians in conjunction with a grant from Leadership 100 and the Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians.

-Hope Demitry



Church Music Institute—June 13, 2015



On Saturday, June 13, 2014, the Choir at St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church in Broomall, PA hosted a CMI featuring guest conductor and composer of *The Liturgy of Hope*, Christopher Kypros. The accompanists were Susanna Faust and Jim Bostaph.

Over 20 singers attended from New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia. They learned how a composer is inspired to write a Liturgy, what composing entails, and how to follow the composer's interpretation and intention in the music.

The attendees especially enjoyed singing the *Liturgy of Hope*, which was selected for the Eastern Federation Conference in Norfolk, VA, in October and will be conducted by the composer. Chris mentioned many interesting thoughts, which he will also share at the Conference, one of which was that he considered his compositions musical icons and that he prayed and meditated prior to writing the next section.

St. Luke Church is in Phase 2 of its iconography master plan, and the iconographer, George Papastamatiou, is installing some of the work this month. He showed us the new icons being painted, especially the ones dedicated to Church Musicians, and answered questions. Interestingly, he mentioned that his preparation for writing an icon included prayer and the singing of the relevant hymn, which was similar to what Chris had mentioned in preparation for his compositions.

- Ginny Botsis





EFGOCM 2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 1-4, 2015

The Liturgy of Hope

Composed & Conducted by Christopher Kypros

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral
7220 Granby St
Norfolk, VA 23505
757-440-0500

\$145.00 (early bird registration); \$160.00 after Sept 6

Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel
777 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA 23510
757.622.6664 (direct to hotel)
\$109 plus taxes per night (free parking pass per room)

Please contact the Sheraton directly at [EFGOCM Conference](#) (OR copy and paste the following link into a web browser) <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/efgocmcon> to reserve your room under 'EFGOCM' by Sept 1, 2015

To order music: <http://www.kyprosliturgies.com/>

Practice tracks:

http://www.newjersey.churchmusic.goarch.org/news_and_events/2015-annual-conference/sound-links.html

Guest Conductor (adults)	Christopher Kypros
Guest Conductor (youth)	Sondra Awad
Guest Organist	Jim Bostaph

For registration packet and more information, visit our website at
<http://www.newjersey.churchmusic.goarch.org/>

EFGOCM 2015 Conference Schedule

Adult Schedule

Thursday, October 1	6:30 pm	Registration at church
	7:00 pm	Rehearsal
	9:00 pm	Federation Board Meeting
Friday, October 2	8:30 am	Registration and Continental Breakfast
	9:15 am	Rehearsal
	12:30 pm	Lunch
	1:30 pm	Choir Picture
	2:00 pm	Rehearsal
	4:30 pm	Federation Council Meeting
	7:00 pm	Dinner
Saturday, October 3	8:30 am	Registration and Continental Breakfast
	9:15 am	Rehearsal
	12:30 pm	Lunch
	1:30 pm	Interview with the Composer
	2:00 pm	Final Rehearsal
	4:00 pm	<i>Explore Norfolk!</i>
	7:00 pm	Banquet
Sunday, October 4	9:00 am	Vocal warm-up (in robes)
	9:30 am	Procession/Doxology/Divine Liturgy
	12:30 pm	Luncheon

Youth Schedule

Friday, October 2	9:00 am	Registration and Breakfast
		Schedule/activities STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION
Saturday, October 3	9:00 am	Registration and Breakfast
	9:30 am	Rehearsal
	10:45 am	Break
	11:00 am	Rehearsal
	12:30 pm	Lunch
	2:00pm	Final Rehearsal
Sunday, October 4	9:00 am	Meet & robe
	9:30 am	Procession/Doxology/Divine Liturgy
	12:30 pm	Luncheon



EFGOCM CONFERENCE 2015 REGISTRATION FORM

ADULT REGISTRATION

(Please print clearly)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Parish Name and City _____

Please circle your singing part or position:

Soprano Alto Tenor Bass Director Organist Psalti

Preferred First Name on Badge: _____

☆ Indicate any food allergies or dietary preferences: _____

If you need transportation from airport, please indicate date and time _____

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION:

Adult Registration fee thru September 1, 2015 \$145.00 (Early bird registration)

Adult Registration fee after September 1, 2015 \$160.00

GUESTS MEALS:

Friday Luncheon: ___ x \$10 = \$ _____

Friday Dinner: ___ x \$20 = \$ _____

Saturday Luncheon: ___ x \$10 = \$ _____

Saturday Banquet ___ x \$45 = \$ _____

Sunday Luncheon ___ x \$15 = \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED (registration and guest meals) \$ _____

I give permission to the EFGOCM and the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians to use my picture on their websites and Facebook pages. Please initial _____

Please make check payable to “EFGOCM Conference 2015” and mail completed form with check to:

Elaine Kyrus
4008 Lambs Creek Court
Virginia Beach, VA 23455



Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians
Annual Conference – Norfolk, Virginia
2015 PROGRAM BOOK

The Annunciation Choir is pleased to announce they will be hosting the 2015 Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians on October 1-4, 2015 culminating in the **METROPOLIS' INAUGURAL PERFORMANCE OF CHRISTOPHER KYPROS' NEW LITURGY OF HOPE.** In celebration of this event, we will be presenting a program book to our visitors from around the New Jersey Metropolis. Please consider supporting this event by placing an ad, announcement or welcome to our visitors.

Please check the size you would like to purchase:

- Full Page \$100
- Half Page \$ 60
- Quarter Page \$ 40
- Business Card \$ 25
- Friend Listing \$ 10

(name only)

Message to read:

Company Name *(if applicable)*: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____ Seller of ad: _____

Digital Formats (Preferred Method):

File formats accepted are: PDF (Adobe), jpg, gif, pub, bmp, doc (MS Word), png

Camera-Ready Artwork:

Includes business cards and photos

Please return completed forms by September 15, 2015 electronically to pherky@cox.net and attach artwork.

Mail checks to: Annunciation Choir
7220 Granby Street
Norfolk, VA 23505



EFGOCM CONFERENCE 2015 REGISTRATION FORM

YOUTH PARTICIPANT

(Please print clearly)

Youth Choir

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone number _____

Designated Adult Supervisor (if not parent) _____

Emergency Contact Information _____

Parent/Guardian Name and Cell Phone # _____

Parent's Signature _____

★Indicate any food allergies or dietary preferences: _____

I give permission to EFGOCM and the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians to use my/ my child's picture on their websites and Facebook pages. Please initial _____

Youth Choir Registration (Includes: Friday & Saturday Breakfast, lunch, Sunday Lunch)

Youth Registration Fee by September 6, 2014	\$ 35.00 (Early bird registration)
Late registration (after September 6, 2014)	\$ 45.00

Parents and guests Meals:

Friday Luncheon:	___ x \$10 =	\$ _____
Friday Dinner:	___ x \$20 =	\$ _____
Saturday Luncheon:	___ x \$10 =	\$ _____
Saturday Banquet	___ x \$45 =	\$ _____
Sunday Luncheon	___ x \$15 =	\$ _____

Total enclosed (registration and extra meals) \$ _____

Please make check payable to **EFGOCM Conference 2015** and mail to: Elaine Kyrus
4008 Lambs Creek Court
Virginia Beach, VA 23455



EFGOCM CONFERENCE 2015
Youth Permission Form
(Please print clearly)



I hereby give permission for my child (please print)

To participate in the Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians (EFGOCM) Conference to be held at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 7220 Granby St, Norfolk, VA 23505 on October 2-4, 2015. I hereby release EFGOCM and the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Norfolk, Virginia and its agents from any accident or injury that may occur during the course of said event, including travel to and from activities that may be held at locations other than the property of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Norfolk, Virginia. I hereby authorize any medical treatment for my child in the case of accident or illness. Further, my child understands that he/she must abide by all rules of the event. I also accept full responsibility for charges resulting from any damage caused by my child.

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____ Date _____

Parent Name _____

Home Phone () _____

Cell Phone () _____

Insurance Company _____ Insurance Phone # _____

Insurance Policy # _____

Home Parish _____ City _____ State _____

Child's Date of Birth _____

***Please read and initial if you agree with this statement:
 I give permission to EFGOCM and the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians to use my/my child's picture on their websites and Facebook pages.***

****Only if you give permission for your child's picture to be used, please initial _____***

Please return this completed form along with your youth registration form.

This form must be received before your child can participate in any activities.