Church Music Institute
For all Clergy, Choir Members, Psaltai, Youth Directors, Religious Educators

Saturday, March 28, 2020
8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Morning Session:
“A Journey to Priesthood During the Rise of Christianity in Post-Communist Armenia”
Rev. Fr. Anthony Tandilyan, Proistamenos
Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church
Somerville, MA

Afternoon Session:
“Basic Rules for Formal English Diction”
Constantina Tsolainou
Many of us grew up singing all liturgical music in the original Greek. Now that English translations have been approved for our use, we must be mindful of our responsibility to pronounce the texts in such a way that our regional speech patterns are not apparent. Therefore, we must approach the English translation with some basic rules that will help our collective sound become more consistent and more beautiful, bringing forth the meaning of the words instead of the "American-ness" of our daily speech.

Continental Breakfast and Luncheon is included for all CMI participants.

Please note: There is NO Registration Fee to attend. However, we ask that you RSVP to cindialex1@gmail.com so that we can plan for our catering needs.

The Church Music Institute is co-sponsored by the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians and the Metropolis of Boston Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians.

For more information contact Heidi Mason at heidim50@aol.com
Rev. Fr. Anthony Tandilyan was born in 1975 in the small village of Haxpat, Armenia. After graduating the local high school in 1992, he continued his education in the Pedagogical College of Yerevan and received his bachelor’s degree in education with a dream of becoming a teacher. In 1995, he was accepted to the Pedagogical Institute of Erevan when a radical change occurred in his life. Instead of continuing his education in graduate school, he chose to become a member of the Armenian Orthodox Church with the hope of serving as a clergy. This required a long journey of seven years in the monastic community of the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin.

He graduated Gevorkian seminary in the summer of 2001, after defending his thesis concerning “Bioethical problems of possible human cloning”. He was ordained to the Holy Diaconate on July 22nd 2001 on the feast of The Holy Transfiguration and assigned to work at the Religious News center of the Mother See. While there, he prepared daily Church news for public media through the central TV station and weekly radio programs through two major radio stations of Armenia.

In 2002, Fr. Anthony Tandilyan was accepted to Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline MA. There, he received his Master’s degree in Theological Studies in 2005.

In 2009 he started a TV show concerning life and faith issues, called “Feast of Healthy Thoughts”, co-hosted by Dr. Kyriaki & FitzGerald. Later that same year, Fr. Anthony was received into the Greek Orthodox Church and became a member of St. Nicholas community in Manchester NH.

In 2010 he was accepted to the Th. M. program (Masters of Theology) at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and completed the course work in 2011. Fr. Anthony was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on the feast day of St. Demetrios, October 26, 2015, in Weston MA. He was assigned by His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston to serve as the assistant priest of St. Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church in Peabody, MA in November, 2015. In March of 2019, he was assigned to serve as Proistamenos at the Dormition of the Virgin Mary in Somerville, MA.

Fr. Anthony is the blessed father of a wonderful family with his wife Presvytera Kellie and children Michael (4), Ella (7) and David (3).

Constantina Tsolainou, has roots in the Middle Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs. She grew up in Cleveland, Ohio at Sts. Constantine & Helen Church, the daughter of church musicians John & Stephanie Tsolainos. In a career spanning 40 years, Constantina has been in demand nationally and internationally to serve church, community, and academic organizations as seminar leader, workshop clinician, master teacher, and conductor throughout the United States and in Australia, Canada, China, and Europe. In 2019, she was named Professor Emerita at Columbus State University in Georgia, having retired as Director of Choral Activities in the Schwob School of Music. Most recently Constantina retired from her position as Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Arts District Chorale in Dallas, Texas.

Her professional career includes conducting positions at Southern Methodist University, Westminster Choir College, New England Conservatory, McGill University (Montreal, Quebec), Oregon State University, and Oklahoma City University. Constantina has also served as Artistic Director of the Canterbury Choral Society (Oklahoma City), Director of Music at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church (Dallas), and Artistic Director of the Aria Chamber Chorus (Dallas).

During her tenure at SMU, she established the SMU/Dallas Vocal Arts Ensemble; while in Montreal she was the Artistic Director and Conductor of Anima Musica. At Columbus State University, Constantina held the Paul S. and Jean R. Amos Distinguished Chair in Music. Trained first as a singer, Constantina has appeared in opera and musical theatre productions in addition to numerous performances on the concert stage. She has prepared choruses for operatic productions and other collaborative performances presented by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Columbus Symphony Orchestra (Ohio), Fort Worth Dallas Ballet, Ballet Oklahoma, Opera Columbus, Opera Festival of New Jersey, Tulsa Opera, and Voices of Change, SMU’s resident contemporary music ensemble. Conductors with whom she has worked include Leonard Bernstein, Charles Dutoit, Eric Ericson, Joseph Flummerfelt, Carlo Maria Giulini, Zubin Mehta, Riccardo Muti and Robert Shaw.

Constantina currently lives in Dallas with her husband, Gary Wortley and their Chihuahua Cessa. They have four grandchildren ranging in age from 6 to 12.