

# MINI ACOUSTE



# KEY

Metropolis of Boston Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians

Official Communication

[www.boston.churchmusic.goarch.org](http://www.boston.churchmusic.goarch.org)

Dear Fellow Church Musicians,

I am very excited to announce the formation of the Metropolis of Boston Youth Choir under the direction of Tony Vatosios, MBFGOCM Youth Choir Coordinator. Tony is working diligently to make this long-time dream of both the Federation and the Metropolis of Boston a reality. I ask for your assistance in this endeavor by attending the next organizational meeting to be held on April 12th at 10:00 am at the Metropolis Center in Brookline.

On Saturday, March 29th, MBFGOCM Board members Stella Pathiakis, George Theodossiou, and I had the honor of attending and witnessing the service of the *Opening of the Doors (Thyrnixia)* of St. Catherine's Church of Braintree, MA. It was a moving and beautiful service with many clergy and dignitaries in attendance. We chanted with their choir under the direction of MBFGOCM District 5 Supervisor Christopher Gilbert. My thanks and congratulations go out to Christopher and Evelyn Czaja, MBFGOCM Vice President.

Just as a reminder, the Lenten Retreat hosted by St. Athanasius Church of Arlington, MA is this coming Saturday, April 5. This retreat has been hosted for several years by the St. Athanasius Choir and is a much anticipated mid-lenten event for all. I hope to see many old friends and new faces there.

Finally, the Executive Board of the Metropolis of Boston Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians would like to extend to you and your families its best wishes during Great and Holy Lent. May we all continue to fill our Churches with the beautiful and meaningful hymns of the season during every service that we will participate in, starting with the Heretismoi (Salutations) and continuing with the remaining Sundays of Lent and Holy Week through Pascha.

In Christ,  
Heidi Mason, MBFGOCM President



Lowell, MA (Photo by Arthur Sparages)

## LOWELL LENTEN YOUTH RETREAT

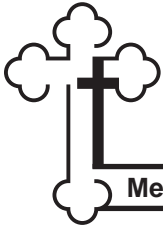
The Transfiguration Church hosted a Lenten Retreat for area youth on March 15. Choir Director Toula Sparages led the music program during which she taught the group several songs. Other activities included arts & crafts and Orthodox Life & Traditions, where the participants made koliva and presented a list with the names of their deceased relatives and friends that were later read at a small memorial service at the conclusion of the day.

## Monthly Feature

### OUR CHOIRS AND OUR YOUTH

**MUSIC - Part 1** - It always starts with the music! If the music is not appropriate for young singers, the kids will not be able to relate to it. At St. Vasilios Church, we sing almost everything in English. If you don't have that option, you need to make sure to teach your choir what every word of every hymn or response means, including *Alleluia* and *Amen!* Language is very important and should not be overlooked. Our Orthodox liturgy is written in Byzantine Greek, which is different from ancient Greek or modern Greek. Singing in English, I prefer to change *thee*, *thine* and *art thou* to modern English. We don't speak that way, why should we sing that way? When responses include *Lord have mercy*, substitute some or all of them with *Kyrie eleison*. Not everything has to be translated. When you are singing the *Trisagion*, it might be a good idea to sing it English-Greek-English. Make sure your music is clear, easy to read and without useless information that will confuse your choir. For example, if your young singers don't need to see the organ part, take it out. If there are parts (alto, tenor, bass) that you never sing, nor ever plan to, take them out. You might need to rewrite the choir books from scratch. If you are starting a new choir, you might not have a choice. Do not try to use adult choral books and try to adapt them for the children.

Antonios Vatosios,  
MBFGOCM Youth Choir Coordinator



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## HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN METHODIOS ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF YOUTH CHOIR

- It has long been the dream and vision of His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios to establish a Metropolis Youth Choir which would attract our young people from the communities throughout New England. "Music, both religious and cultural, are very important aspects of our Greek Orthodox Heritage which we must teach and bequeath to the young generations," Metropolitan Methodios has often said. Planning towards making this dream a reality began on Thursday, March 6, when Metropolitan Methodios met with clergy and choir directors to discuss the formation of a Youth Choir for the Metropolis of Boston. Among those in attendance were Fr. Demetrios Costarakis and Choir Director Donna Spanos from the Transfiguration Parish in Lowell, Heidi Mason, President of the Metropolis of Boston Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians and Choir Director at the Annunciation Parish in Brockton, MA, and Fr. Christopher Foustoukos and Youth Choir Director Tony Vatousios from the St. Vasilios Parish in Peabody. All present agreed that a Metropolis Youth Choir would enhance the participation of young people in our churches and the continuation of our rich tradition and musical culture. The following expectations were discussed:

**Age:** Anyone, age 8-18 will be welcome to join. Participation will be especially encouraged for Middle School and High School students. Teenage voices tend to be stronger with a wider range and volume. Also, elementary school voices must be part of our Youth Choirs as they will gain the experience and ability to lead.

**Regional Choirs:** Each district of the Metropolis will have their own Youth Choir represented from all churches of that region. They would meet as a Metropolis of Boston Youth Choir joining children from other regions.

**Music:** The Youth Choir will perform liturgical and non-liturgical music. The music will be chosen by all the regional Choir Directors and rehearsed by the regional choirs. Liturgical music will include the Divine Liturgy and well known hymns from our Byzantine hymnology. Also, the choir would learn Greek and American folk songs from different regions.

**Rehearsals:** The Youth Choir will rehearse at least monthly to ensure progress and retention of music learning. To be fair to the different regions of the Metropolis, choir rehearsals will take place at different central locations to encourage participation of churches throughout the Metropolis.

**Performances:** The Youth Choir would perform for various functions and events during the year. The choir would chant regularly during liturgies at churches from throughout the Metropolis. Also, the choir would sponsor a Christmas and a Lenten Concert each year. Additionally, the choir would perform at other functions sponsored by communities of the Metropolis.

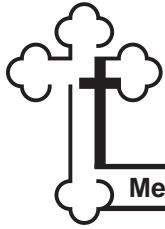
**Retreats:** Members of the Youth Choir will be invited to attend our Metropolis of Boston Summer Camp, a wonderful place to have fun and sing. Youth Choir members would be eligible for camperships to attend one of the sessions of the summer camp.

Besides performances in New England, we hope to showcase the Metropolis Choir throughout the United States and Europe. The formation of a Metropolis of Boston Youth Choir is indeed an exciting venture! To succeed we will need the cooperation of the clergy, choir directors, and families in the parishes. Community Choir Directors will meet in the near future to organize our Metropolis Youth Choir. Please address any questions and suggestions to Tony Vatousios at [vatousios@comcast.net](mailto:vatousios@comcast.net).

**CONFERENCE MUSIC** - The music for this year's Conference is available for purchase directly from the composer, Dr. Tikey Zes. The Zes Choral Setting is \$22 plus \$9 shipping and handling for single copies; \$19.80 ea. plus \$13 S&H for 2 to 10 copies; \$18.40 ea. plus \$19 S&H for 11 to 20 copies and \$17.25 ea. plus \$29 S&H for 21 to 30 copies. Please contact Dr. Zes directly to order your music:

Dr. Tikey A. Zes  
2503 Booksin Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125  
Telephone: 408-723-0640 - Email: [tzes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tzes@sbcglobal.net)

Please note that no one will be allowed to sing at the Conference unless he/she has an original hymnal. Because of copyright rules, no photocopies will be permitted.



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## SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY OBSERVANCES

Pan Orthodox Vespers Services were held in various locations around the Metropolis of Boston on March 16. At St. Sava Serbian Church in Cambridge, a pan Orthodox choir comprised of approximately 40 members of the Serbian, Greek, Antiochian, Bulgarian and Russian (OCA) churches chanted the church hymns. In western Massachusetts, a combined choir sang the responses at St. George Cathedral of Springfield, which hosted the area's Orthodox churches. In northern Massachusetts, the newly-established Youth Choir (19 voices!) and a combined Senior Choir alternately sang the responses at St. George Church in Lynn. In Rhode Island, the Assumption Church of Pawtucket hosted local Orthodox churches and the combined choir chanted in Greek, English and Russian. Food and refreshments followed at each location.



**Pan Orthodox Choir - Sunday of Orthodoxy  
St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church - Cambridge, MA**

## METROPOLIS OF BOSTON CALENDAR

*Please send us your dates to add to the Calendar.*

### 2008

- Apr. 5 Lenten Choir Retreat  
St. Athanasius Church  
4 Appleton Street, Arlington, MA - 12:30 p.m.  
*See attached flyer for more details*
- Apr. 12 Metropolis Youth Choir Organizational Meeting  
Greek Orthodox Metropolis Center  
162 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, MA - 10:00 a.m.  
*Youth Choir Directors and Representatives from each Parish are requested to attend*
- Jul. 13-17 39th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress  
and National Forum Annual Meeting  
Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC
- Sep. 20 Annual Church Music Institute for Choir Directors,  
Organists, Psaltai and Priests  
Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology  
50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, MA
- Oct. 5 National Church Music Sunday
- Nov. 7-9 2008 MBFGOCM Conference  
Holy Apostles/SS. Peter & Paul Church  
154 Winter Street, Haverhill, MA
- Dec. 14 MBFGOCM Christmas Concert  
Annunciation Cathedral of New England  
Parker & Ruggles Streets, Boston, MA

### 2009

- Nov. 6-8 2009 MBFGOCM Conference  
*Submit your bids*

To: Prof. Dean Limberakis  
Mrs. Stella Pathiakis  
Members of the Combined Pan-Orthodox Choir

How does one begin to extol the majesty of your singing at the Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers? How can one articulate the solemnity with which the hymns were offered as a labor of love for the glory of God? How can one describe the reverential presentation from the opening hymn to the closing hymn which uplifted the congregation and the clergy to glorious moments to see the greatness of our Holy Orthodox hymnology?

Let me take this moment to express the gratitude of the congregation, the clergy and myself as a sense of obligation that must be expressed to those who coordinated, those who led and those who participated in making this year's Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers meaningful, significant, and uplifting for all.

I thank each and every one of you, for giving of your time, resource but above all your talent in hymnody and psalm for the glory of God.

May you be blessed bountifully during this Lenten Period and throughout the year with grace, mercy, health and long life, from Him Whom we serve.

Cordially in the Lord,  
Rev. Fr. John G. Maheras

## To submit information for the *Mini Acouste Key:*

Send to Carol Salvo

either by email ([bcjas@comcast.net](mailto:bcjas@comcast.net))  
or mail (12 Robin Hood Road, Winchester, MA 01890)  
Deadline Date: April 21, 2008

# **The St. Athanasius Choir of Arlington**

*extends an invitation to all for a*

## **LENTEN RETREAT**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2008**

**12:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

St. Athanasius Greek Orthodox Church  
4 Appleton Street (Corner of Mass. Ave.)  
Arlington, MA

### **PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

- 12:30 p.m. Registration and Refreshments
- 1:00 p.m. Music - The Liturgy by Tikey Zes  
Vespers Music
- 2:00 p.m. Presentation and Discussion -  
Rev. Fr. Nicholas M. Kastanas  
*"Traveling in the Steps of  
Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"*
- 4:00 p.m. Organ Interlude - Sophia Argeros
- 4:30 p.m. Vespers Service  
*Retreat participants to sing  
hymns and responses*
- 5:30 p.m. Lenten Buffet and Refreshments

*We invite everyone to come and participate in a meaningful afternoon of Orthodoxy.  
We will participate in discussions, become more involved in our Lenten experience,  
and find closer relationships with friends.*

### **COME AND ENJOY THIS MEANINGFUL PROGRAM**

For information call: Stella Pathiakis - 339-222-2629  
St. Athanasius Church - 781-646-0705

*The St. Athanasius Greek Orthodox Church Choir is a member of  
The Metropolis of Boston Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians.*