

MINI ACOUSTE



KEY

Metropolis of Boston Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians

Official Communication

www.boston.churchmusic.goarch.org

MBFGOCM ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP - After a long and busy winter, the summer months are here. For many of us this means enjoying the weather with family and friends and partaking in all the activities that our beautiful New England summer affords us. Many of our choirs are taking a well-deserved hiatus until September. Although choirs and church music matters may not be the foremost things on our minds, the Metropolis of Boston Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians is asking for your continued support for the work that it undertakes throughout the year.

Summer is actually a very busy time of year for MBFGOCM, which continues to meet and plan activities for the fall. Representatives from MBFGOCM will convene at the annual meeting of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians in Washington DC in mid-July. MBFGOCM is also working with the Haverhill Parish and Conference Committee to finalize plans and schedule Area Conference Music Rehearsals in preparation for this year's annual Conference. Details are being finalized for "Effectively Conducting the Greek Orthodox Church Choir," this year's exciting Church Music Institute featuring guest clinician, Rodney Eichenberger, that will be open to all church musicians. The *Acouste Key* staff is busy preparing this summer's print edition which will feature Conference details and registration materials and other information of interest to all of us. Presently, the Federation's most exciting work involves the continued growth of the Metropolis Youth Choir program under the direction of Metropolis Youth Choir Coordinator, Antonios Vatousios, with the support and guidance of His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios. Tony will conduct church music sessions with the campers during the summer sessions of the Metropolis of Boston camp in addition to offering a special Music Camp for youngsters between the ages of 8 to 18 at the St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center in Contoocook, NH, August 19-20, 2008. Finally, plans for the second annual Christmas Concert are being finalized.

MBFGOCM relies on the support of its member parishes, through their annual stewardship contributions, to continue to offer these and many other programs and services. We ask that you take some time during these summer months to send in your membership along with your completed membership form and roster. The MBFGOCM membership form may be downloaded directly from our Web site at www.boston.churchmusic.goarch.org/about/membership.html. Thank you to the parishes who have already sent in their membership and roster information.

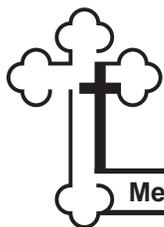
ANNUAL CONFERENCE NEWS - Planning for November's Annual Conference is in full swing by the Holy Apostles Choir under the direction of Ted Guvelis, Choir Director and Conference Coordinator, and with the support and assistance of Rev. Fr. Makarios Niakaros and all the Holy Apostles church organizations. The hotel has been booked and details for the Grand Banquet and the other Conference events are being finalized. The Conference Registration Package will be available shortly on the MBFGOCM Web site and also in this summer's edition of the *Acouste Key*.

Furthermore, the Executive Board of MBFGOCM is pleased to announce the selection of Ona Calogrias as this year's conference organist. Ona, an elementary school teacher, has been the organist and past choir director of the Annunciation Church in Brockton, MA for many years and is currently a District Supervisor of MBFGOCM. Ona was the accompanist for this year's Pan Orthodox Verspers at St. Sava Serbian Church in Cambridge and one of the accompanists at last December's MBFGOCM Christmas Concert at the Annunciation Cathedral in Boston, MA.



Interior Dome, Holy Apostles Church, Haverhill, MA

AREA CONFERENCE MUSIC REHEARSALS - The St. George Choir of Lynn recently hosted a very well-attended rehearsal for the conference music. Thirty-five church musicians came together and had what was for some their first rehearsal with the Zes Choral Setting. Although the rehearsal went well, it underscored that we have a lot of work to do in preparation of the conference in November. Several additional rehearsals have been scheduled with more to be announced in the near future. The Dormition Choir of Somerville, MA will be hosting a rehearsal on Tuesday, July 22 at 7:00 p.m., the Annunciation Cathedral Choir of Boston, MA will be hosting a rehearsal on Tuesday, July 29 at 6:30 p.m., the Holy Apostles Choir of Haverhill, MA will be hosting a rehearsal on Saturday, August 9 at 10:00 a.m. and the St. Athanasius Choir of Arlington, MA will be hosting a rehearsal on Tuesday, August 12 at 7:00 p.m. The St. Catherine Choir of Braintree, MA will be hosting two rehearsals in August and October, dates to be announced. Please check our Web site and future editions of *Mini Acouste Key* for additional rehearsal dates.



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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 each plus \$13 S&H for 2 to 10 copies; \$18.40 each plus \$19 S&H for 11 to 20 copies and \$17.25 each 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 - E-mail: 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.

ANNUAL CHURCH MUSIC INSTITUTE - This year's Church Music Institute (CMI), to be held at Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline, MA on Saturday, September 27 and co-sponsored by the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians, features US and world renowned choir director and clinician, Rodney Eichenberger. Mr. Eichenberger was the recent guest clinician for the Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians in Broomall, Pennsylvania, in April of this year.



Rodney Eichenberger

Mr. Eichenberger's presentation will include a "hands-on" approach to working with choir directors, to show them more effective ways of communicating with their choirs during the Liturgy and also when teaching new music. We will need choir directors to volunteer to be Rodney's students. Choir directors should bring as many choir members as possible and one piece of music to work on with Rodney. Please don't be shy.

This CMI is open to "those who direct and those who are directed," including all choir members, directors, youth choir directors, anyone interested in "substituting" for their director, or just wanting to increase their knowledge of conducting; those who have attended a previous workshop with Rodney; and for those who have never attended a workshop. This "Master Class" will be very rewarding and a lot of fun as well. Please e-mail your name and phone number to Evelyn Czaja at eczaja2000@comcast.net or call her at 781-340-5729. We would like to hear from you as soon as possible.

METROPOLIS OF BOSTON YOUTH CHOIR

The Metropolis of Boston Youth Choir is in its initial stages of formation. Preliminary meetings have taken place with regional representatives of the Metropolis of Boston with choir directors and clergy.

The Youth Choir is open to anyone, age 8-18. Each district of the Metropolis will have their own Youth Choir represented from all churches of that region. They will meet as a Metropolis of Boston Youth Choir joining children from other regions.

The Youth Choir will perform for various functions and events during the year. The choir will chant regularly during liturgies at churches from throughout the Metropolis. Also, the choir will sponsor concerts each year. Additionally, the choir will perform at other functions sponsored by communities of the Metropolis.

Members of the Youth Choir will be invited to attend the annual Metropolis of Boston Summer Camp, in Contoocook, NH. Youth Choir members will be eligible for camperships to attend one of the camp sessions.

Starting in late June of this year, Tony Vatousios, MBFGOCM

Youth Choir Coordinator, began offering a workshop once a week for six weeks at the Metropolis of Boston Summer Camp to teach simple musical examples from our liturgy to campers, grouped by age.

During the weekend of August 19-20, 2008, MBFGOCM will offer an overnight Music Camp at the St. Methodios Faith & Heritage Center which will focus on learning the liturgy and having fun.

On September 13 the Metropolis Youth Choir will participate in the Metropolis of Boston retreat at the camp for all parishes of our Metropolis to celebrate the Blessing of the Water service on the day before the Elevation of the Holy Cross. This will be the first performance scheduled for the Metropolis Youth Choir.

On Sunday, December 14, the Metropolis Youth Choir will perform at the annual MBFGOCM Christmas Concert at the Annunciation Cathedral in Boston, MA.

As you can see, the Youth Choir is off and running. We ask that everyone offers support to their local, regional and Metropolis Youth Choirs wherever possible.

SAVE THE DATES!

Area Conference Music Rehearsals

Tuesday, July 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Dormition Church, Somerville, MA

Tuesday, July 29 at 6:30 p.m.

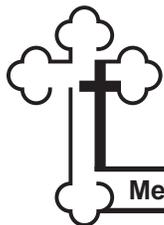
Annunciation Cathedral, Boston, MA

Saturday, August 9 at 10:00 a.m.

Holy Apostles Church, Haverhill, MA

Tuesday, August 12 at 7:00 p.m.

St. Athanasius Church, Arlington, MA



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METROPOLIS OF BOSTON CALENDAR

Please send us your dates to add to the Calendar.

2008

- Jul. 13-17 39th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress
and National Forum Annual Meeting
Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC
- Jul. 22 Area Conference Music Rehearsal - 7:00 p.m.
Dormition of the Virgin Mary Church
29 Central Street, Somerville, MA
- Jul. 29 Area Conference Music Rehearsal - 6:30 p.m.
Annunciation Cathedral of New England
Corner of Parker and Ruggles Streets, Boston, MA
- Aug. 9 Area Conference Music Rehearsal - 10:00 a.m.
Holy Apostles/SS. Peter & Paul Church
154 Winter Street, Haverhill, MA
- Aug. 12 Area Conference Music Rehearsal - 7:00 p.m.
St. Athanasius the Great Church
4 Appleton Street, Arlington, MA
- Aug. 19-20 Musical Camp sponsored by MBFGOCM
St. Methodios Faith & Heritage Center
329 Camp Merrimac Road, Contoocook, NH
More information to follow
- Sep. 13 Blessing of the Waters Service
St. Methodios Faith & Heritage Center
329 Camp Merrimac Road, Contoocook, NH
- Sep. 27 Annual Church Music Institute
for all Choir Members
*"Effectively Conducting
the Greek Orthodox Church Choir"*
with guest clinician, Rodney Eichenberger
Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology
50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, MA
Please note change of date.
- Oct. 5 National Church Music Sunday
- Nov. 7-9 2008 MBFGOCM Annual 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!

Monthly Feature

OUR CHOIRS AND OUR YOUTH

MUSIC - Part 3 - As a choral teacher, I have attended many choral conferences where award-winning children's choirs perform 2, 3 or even 4 part music. They have a full, balanced sound, where the melody, harmony and accompaniment are like a well-prepared three course meal. When these choral conferences are over and we get back to our parishes, we realize that our beginning choirs will not be able to sound like what we have just been exposed to on the first performance or even by the end of the first year. We must not compromise our goals of having a good choir, but still be realistic that it takes time and effort.

At the beginning, I started using simple melodies I found in different liturgical hymnals. Great starting points are the *Kyrie Eleisons* in the beginning of the liturgy. They are short and the choir will respond quickly. I started with a set of five *Kyrie Eleisons*, *Amen* and *To You O Lord*. I picked simple melodies in the third tone. Regardless of the ages of the children, make sure to find a key that is good for them, and not just for you. I have my kids sing the petitions in the key of C or D. In this way, they will be in the lower, but still comfortable, part of their range in the beginning of the liturgy. At first, they all sang in unison. A simple method of teaching is learning by rote, which means to have them "echo" you. Make sure you sing SHORT phrases. Don't expect children to remember sixteen measure lines and sing them back. Break them down to 2 or even 4 phrases and then put them together. Remember, everyone learns by repetition. Once those have been learned, you could then teach the antiphons (*By the Intercessions of the Theotokos, Save Us O Son of God*). For those, I use the second tone versions, which most people grew up with and already know the melodies.

**Antonios Vatousios,
MBFGOCM Youth Choir Coordinator**

To submit information for the *Mini Acouste Key:*

Send to Carol Salvo
either by email (bcjas@comcast.net)
or mail (12 Robin Hood Road, Winchester, MA 01890)
Deadline Date: July 23, 2008