

MINI ACOUSTE KEY

Metropolis of Boston Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians

Official Communication

www.boston.churchmusic.goarch.org

MBFGOCM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 4, 5 & 6, 2011 - ANNUNCIATION CHURCH DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE



Icon of the Annunciation
Iconostasion Detail - Dover, NH

All year long we sing in our home churches, Sunday to Sunday, on special feast days and during Holy Week. We love our choirs, our youth choirs, our clergy, our fellow church musicians, our families and friends in the congregation, and everything that is familiar to us. We attend rehearsals and struggle through the issues that face all church musicians today. We all have common goals, interests, problems and yes, sometimes even complaints. Once a year, during the first weekend of November, the Metropolis of Boston Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians offers a means to bring as many of us as possible together. This year MBFGOCM Conference 2011 is being held at the Annunciation Church of Dover, NH on November 4, 5 & 6. The Annunciation Choir and Conference Committee have been working and planning for a whole year to offer us a wonderful weekend where we can all come together in fellowship to worship, learn, sing and honor our best. The conference will introduce us to unique music. This year we are singing *The Holy Liturgy of the Greek Orthodox Church*, the historic and beautiful Choral Setting written in 1953 by Triante C. Kefalas, a brilliant concert tenor, music teacher, composer and the first "Organizer of Choirs" in New England. Toula Sparages from the Transfiguration Church in Lowell, MA will serve as Guest Conductor and Marc Gulezian will accompany on the organ. His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios will lead us all in worship. We will elect a new Executive Board, award the MBFGOCM Scholarship and honor our Church Musicians with Years of Service Awards.

This is our weekend, our opportunity to meet, learn, pray, grow, refresh and rejuvenate ourselves. Don't miss your chance

to be a part of something wonderful, Conference 2011 in Dover, NH! Please go to www.boston.churchmusic.goarch.org for registration forms and complete Conference 2011 information.

CONFERENCE 2011 REHEARSALS - Many rehearsals for MBFGOCM Conference 2011 have been scheduled. There will be a rehearsal at the St. Athanasius the Great Church in Arlington, MA on Sunday, October 16 at 3:30 p.m. Another rehearsal will follow at the St. George Church in Lynn, MA on Monday, October 17 at 7:00 p.m.

The Annunciation Church of Cranston, RI will host a rehearsal on Saturday, October 22 at 10:00 am. The Annunciation Choir will sponsor a lunch for all rehearsal participants at 12:00 noon at the Rev. Mihailides Center. Please RSVP to Heidi Mason at 617-710-1159 or HeidiM50@aol.com if you plan to attend to allow the choir to prepare.

Finally, the Conference Dress Rehearsal will be held on Sunday, October 30 at 3:00 p.m. at the host parish, the Annunciation Church of Dover, NH. Please check the calendar on the Metropolis of Boston Federation web site for more information. Thank you to all the parishes that have hosted rehearsals during the past few months. If your parish would like to host a Conference rehearsal - there are a few dates still available - please contact Heidi Mason at 617-710-1159 or HeidiM50@aol.com.

MBFGOCM ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2011

Host Parish

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church,
93 Locust Street, Dover, NH

Celebrant

His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston

Conference Chairman

Siroun Roubian-Braun

Music

The Holy Liturgy of the Greek Orthodox Church
by Triante C. Kefalas

Conductor

Toula Sparages
Transfiguration Church, Lowell, MA

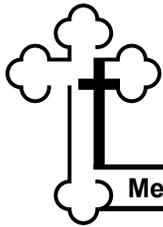
Organist

Marc R. Gulezian
Transfiguration Church, Lowell, MA

Hotel Information

Comfort Inn and Suites, Dover, NH
Downtown Dover Durham Days Inn, Dover, NH

For reservations and room rates please contact
Georgette Kostis at Horizon Travel 603-742-
7664 or e-mail at gstis@horizon-ut.com



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TOULA SPARAGES - MBFGOCM CONFERENCE 2011 GUEST CONDUCTOR



Toula Sparages

Toula was born and brought up in Boston, MA. She attended the Annunciation Cathedral in the 40s and 50s. Her father was an assistant chanter and taught her many of the church hymns. She was blessed to have Archbishop Iakovos of blessed memory as her parish priest and everyone knows the impact he had on the Youth of the Cathedral during his tenure as Father Coucouzis. She sang in the choir there under the direction of Christine Nikitas

and often cites her as an example of excellence in choir directing.

Toula graduated from Girls' Latin School on Huntington Avenue, Boston in 1955. She attended a two-year secretarial school and worked part-time before she married Arthur in September of 1957. Together they have three adult children and 9 grandchildren.

In 1972, when the children were in elementary and middle school, Arthur encouraged Toula to attend college full-time and get her degree in Music from what is now UMass Lowell. She graduated cum laude in 1977, the year her daughter graduated high school!

Toula is a retired Elementary Music Teacher - she taught in Andover, MA for 19 years. Her 5th and 6th grade chorus made All-State in 1996 and she considers that one of the highlights of her teaching career. When she retired from public school teaching, she taught music one day a week at the Hellenic American Academy in Lowell for four years.

She is currently the assistant choir director and assistant organist at the Transfiguration Church. In the mid-1990s, Toula had a very active Youth Choir which sang once a month at the Divine Liturgy and on special liturgies during the year. In November of 1996, the Youth Choir sang an entire Hierarchal Divine Liturgy a cappella with His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios at the Transfiguration Church, Lowell, MA.

Each summer Toula brings music to the children of the parish and surrounding area by teaching the hymns and responses at the annual Vacation Church Camp. In addition, she participates in the Advent and Lenten Children's retreats. She has conducted various workshops for the Metropolis in the past and has also served as Secretary of the Metropolis Choir Federation. She has served as accompanist at many church functions and at the annual Ministry Awards Banquets.

At the Transfiguration, she served on the Parish Council in the late 1970s for a short time, but decided her God-given talents were better used singing praises to God.

She is a member of the Philoptochos, serving as Vice President in the 1980s and also as a member of the nursing home, shut-in and nominating committees. In the past, the Transfiguration Theatre group performed at many of the annual Philoptochos Christmas Teas, and Toula has written skits and put together talent shows for this annual fund raiser.

In 2006, Toula and Arthur were awarded the Ministry Award by the Metropolis of Boston. Also, the Choir Federation presented Toula with the Patriarch Athenagoras Distinguished Service Award.

She is blessed to be married to a wonderful tenor who shares her love of church music and is always by her side. They met at a choir conference in New Haven, CT in May, 1954 and have been singing in church choirs ever since!

MARC R. GULEZIAN

MBFGOCM CONFERENCE 2011 GUEST ORGANIST

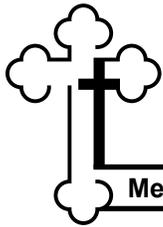
Marc grew up in North Andover, MA and began playing the organ at the age of 10 under the direction of Shanon Grama, a truly gifted musician from New England, who quickly entered Marc into organ competitions through the Yamaha Corporation. Marc placed first in many local and regional Yamaha competitions throughout his teenage years, winning his very first competition playing the song "Zorba the Greek". In 1987 he competed as one of the top 5 in his category from the United States in the national competition, held in Los Angeles, CA.

Marc earned a bachelor of science in General Business/Finance and a minor in music at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 1991. After graduating college, Marc became the church organist for the Ararat Armenian Congregational Church in Salem, NH. He has been employed by DeMoulas Supermarkets and Boston Federal Savings Bank and currently works at Bright Horizons Family Solutions of Watertown, MA as a Construction Cost Manager.

Continued on next page



Marc R. Gulezian



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MARC R. GULEZIAN *Continued from previous page*

In 1993, Marc married Sandra Stamas of Lowell, MA, where they initially settled and started their family of three wonderful children, Stephanie (15), Olivia (13) and Zachary (11). In 2002 they moved to their current residence in Tyngsboro, MA and Marc became the church organist for the Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church in Lowell, MA. The entire family has been very active in the Transfiguration Church serving for many years in various ministries. Sandra has held positions on the Parish Council and in Philoptochos, as well as chairing many events and ministries. Marc has held positions of Treasurer and Secretary for the Men's Guild, decorates the church for Christmas and Easter and has been involved in many events and ministries. All three children have been active in the choir and have musical interests in voice, theater, piano and organ.

Marc has enjoyed his role as church organist and has performed at numerous weddings and functions for the past 30+ years.

TWO CHOIRS JOIN AS ONE *By Alex Mavradis, Boston Cathedral Parish Council member and Photographer*



Annunciation Cathedral and Annunciation Church of Brockton
Combined Choirs - Annunciation Cathedral, Boston, MA

In October of 2010 the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of New England choir was invited by the Annunciation Church of Brockton, Massachusetts to participate in the Consecration of the new Annunciation Church in Brockton.

Mr. Dean Limberakis, Director and Choir Master at the Cathedral in Boston, teaches music at the Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts. Throughout his career as a musician and teacher he has always worked to perfect the hymns from the liturgical tradition of the Orthodox Church during every Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral in Boston.

In October of 2010 he was invited by the Director of the Brockton Church Choir Heidi Mason. Heidi Mason has the distinct honor as the President of the Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians of Boston, whose leadership and support come from His Eminence, Metropolitan Methodios of Boston.

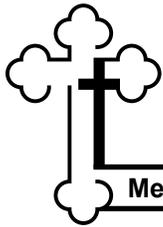
Heidi Mason has brought many parish choirs together over the years for conferences and further developing the Greek Orthodox traditions of Byzantine Liturgical Music.

Mr. Dean Limberakis returned the invitation on January 16, 2011 at the Cathedral in Boston. On that day the Annunciation Cathedral, Boston, and Annunciation Church, Brockton, joined in the hymnals at the Cathedral in Boston.

Mr. Limberakis conducted the two choirs and Heidi Mason participated in singing of the hymns. Two members of St. Demetrios choir in Weston, MA also participated. V. Rev. Dr. Cleopas Strongylis, Cathedral Dean, presided over the Divine Liturgy.

A reception followed the Divine Liturgy in the Upper Hall, sponsored and hosted in memory of Athena Jameson by her family and the Cathedral Sunday School.

(Text & photos, courtesy of Mr. Alex Mavradis.)



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NOMINATIONS FOR FEDERATION EXECUTIVE BOARD - At our Annual Federation Council Business meeting to be held at the Annual Conference in Dover, NH, this November, we will be electing a full slate of new officers. It is important to ensure that our Federation continues its wonderful work supporting our church and its church musicians with all the programs that have been developed over the last few years, significant programs such as the Scholarship Fund, and our nationally recognized Youth Choir program with its music and guidelines for developing Youth Choirs. We have a responsibility to provide educational workshops and materials for Directors, Organists and Members; to continue our work with Youth Choirs; and to continue our Federation Conferences each year.

It is imperative to have involved as officers, people who are capable of maintaining strong continuity in its leadership; people who have a strong commitment to our Greek Orthodox faith, heritage and music; people who will continue to nurture the youth who will carry on the traditions of our church.

If you are interested in offering your name, or the name of a choir member, in dedication to this ministry as an officer, call or contact Stella Pathiakis, Election Committee Chariman, at Stella.Pathiakis@comcast.net or 339-222-2629 as soon as possible. Please don't hesitate to help. Your voice is needed!

MASTERWORKS CHORALE OFFERS A CONTEMPLATIVE TCHAIKOVSKY

The Masterworks Chorale doesn't get the critical attention or large audiences it rightly deserves. Friday's (May 13, 2011) concert may not have been as well-attended as it should have been, but those in the audience realized they were having a rare and extraordinary listening experience.

Review by Susan Miron, Classical Music and Theater Contributor for [The Arts Fuse](http://TheArtsFuse.org) (artsfuse.org)

The Masterworks Chorale has been presenting consistently interesting and unusual concerts in the two years I've attended their concerts. On Friday (May 13) conductor Steven Karidoyanes came up with a rarely performed (and even more rarely recorded) program of selections from Tchaikovsky's "All-Night Vigil" Op. 52, completed in 1882. It was an evening of astonishing beauty.

Tchaikovsky (1840–1893), we learn in Steven Karidoyanes's excellent program notes, wrote "All-Night Vigil" after he had already become the masterful composer of two operas, two piano concertos, *Swan Lake*, the "1812 Overture," and four symphonies. He had been studying ancient church hymns in hopes of transcribing them for four-part chorus. In a letter to the conductor who had premiered many of his works, he wrote that he hoped "contribute toward the sobering up of our church music, which has been distorted by the untalented and banal editions of the Imperial Chapel."



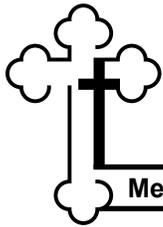
Steven Karidoyanes conducting the Masterworks Chorale

All-night vigils have been relegated, understandably, to monastic life. Tchaikovsky's "Vigil" is composed of harmonized music for two services of the Orthodox Church: Vespers, sung in the evening, and much longer Matins, sung in the morning. The composer set his music to the traditional language of the Russian Orthodox Church, Church Slavonic.

The combination of singing in a totally unfamiliar language without instrumental accompaniment was a huge challenge, and the choir rose magnificently to this challenge. The two male soloists, culled from the chorus—Valery Steinbok and David Potts—were dramatically and musically superb. This contemplative music opposed, in every sense, the boisterous "1812 Overture" but was mesmerizing on its own sacred terms. This was music, as Mr. Karidoyanes pointed out, conducive to prayer and meditation. To keep the spirit of the vigil alive, no clapping was allowed after the Evening Vespers.

In order to get the audience focused and into the contemplative mood needed for the perfect listening mood for "All-Night Vigil," Mr. Karidoyanes cleverly programmed, as an opener, a sacred chorus by Tchaikovsky, a beautiful hymn for the Russian Orthodox Memorial Liturgy composed around 1885, just a few years after the Vigil. It was a brilliant idea and a moving listening experience.

The Masterworks Chorale doesn't get the critical attention or large audiences it rightly deserves. Friday's concert may not have been as well-attended as it should have been, but those in the audience realized they were having a rare and extraordinary listening experience.



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SOMERVILLE CHOIR AND FRIENDS RECORD MUSIC FOR UPCOMING MARIA MENOUNOS MOVIE

On Friday, November 19, 2010, the Dormition Church Choir of Somerville waited in eager anticipation of seeing one of its own former Choir members walk through the Church doors. Just days earlier, the Choir had received word that Maria Menounos, an alumnus of the Church Choir and currently TV journalist for *Extra*, needed a choir to sing for *Serial Buddies*, a movie she was producing. She didn't look far; she immediately thought of her friends and fellow Choir members back home at the Dormition Church and contacted them.

"Maria's here!" At approximately 7:00 p.m., word travelled quickly that Maria was finally IN THE BUILDING! The excitement was palpable as many hadn't seen or spoken to her for a long time. Maria entered the Choir loft, had big hugs for her old friends and also greeted new ones, as well as Church priest, Fr. Panteleimon Klostri. She was ever gracious as she smiled and posed with her friends as cameras were clicking away.



Somerville Choir and Friends with Maria Menounos

Finally, it was time to get down to the business of singing – the reason why the Choir had gathered! Maria had requested that her former Choir Director Mary Carafotes lead the carolers for two songs – "O Come All Ye Faithful" and the "Hallelujah Chorus." Everything went smoothly and several "takes" later, the recording session was over!

Maria surprised everyone with dinner in the Church hall and, following dinner, all gathered one last time on the Church solea for a group photo in remembrance of a fun and exciting evening!

PLEASE SUPPORT THE MBFGOCM SCHOLARSHIP FUND! - The MBFGOCM Scholarship is funded entirely by your generous contributions. Please consider supporting the fund and our young Church Musicians by returning the form below along with your generous donation!

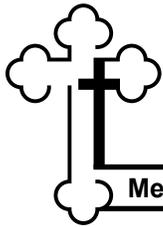
METROPOLIS OF BOSTON FEDERATION OF GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH MUSICIANS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Pledge: \$ _____

Received from: _____
(name and address)

In honor / memory of: _____
(circle one)

Please make checks payable to: **MBFGOCM Scholarship Fund**
and mail to: Sophia Argeros, 8 Stagecoach Lane, Lynnfield, MA 01940



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UPCOMING CHRISTMAS CONCERT - This year's Concert will once again feature the Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology Chorale and the Metropolis of Boston Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians' Choir along with the Greater Boston Strings Orchestra. Sunday afternoon rehearsals will begin in November the week following the annual Conference. The complete list of rehearsals is listed in the Calendar section below. All Church Musicians in the Metropolis of Boston are invited and encouraged to participate. Look for more details on the Federation Web site and in upcoming issues of *Mini Acouste Key*.

MBFGOCM CONFERENCE 2010 LITURGY CDs NOW AVAILABLE! - The MBFGOCM Conference 2010 Hierarchical Divine Liturgy has been professionally recorded and is available for purchase. The cost is **\$14 for each CD** (price includes shipping). If you would like a copy of this beautiful Liturgy featuring the music adapted and arranged by Dean Limberakis, please send a check along with your name and address to:

Attn: Stella Pathiakis - Church Choir
St. Athanasius Greek Orthodox Church
4 Appleton Street, Arlington, MA 02476

Please make checks payable to:

St. Athanasius Church Choir

Contact Stella Pathiakis at 339-222-2629 or stella.pathiakis@comcast.net for more information. Order forms are also available at the Metropolis of Boston Federation Web site at <http://www.boston.churchmusic.goarch.org/conference.html>.

METROPOLIS OF BOSTON CALENDAR

Please send us your dates to add to the Calendar.

2011

- Oct. 16 Conference Area Music Rehearsal - 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
St. Athanasius the Great Church
4 Appleton Street, Dover, NH
- Oct. 17 Conference Area Music Rehearsal - 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
St. George Church
54 South Common Street, Lynn, MA
- Oct. 22 Conference Area Music Rehearsal - 10:00 am to 12:00 noon
Annunciation Church
175 Oaklawn Avenue, Cranston, RI
- Oct. 30 Conference Area Music Dress Rehearsal - 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Annunciation Church
93 Locust Street, Dover, NH
- Nov. 4-6 **MBFGOCM Conference 2011**
Annunciation Church
93 Locust Street, Dover, NH
- Nov. 13 Christmas Concert Rehearsal - 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Annunciation Cathedral
514 Parker Street, Boston, MA - 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- Nov. 20 Christmas Concert Rehearsal
Annunciation Cathedral
514 Parker Street, Boston, MA
- Dec. 4 Christmas Concert Rehearsal - 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Annunciation Cathedral
514 Parker Street, Boston, MA
- Dec. 10 Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal - 10:00 am to 12:00 noon
Annunciation Cathedral
514 Parker Street, Boston, MA
- Dec. 11 **HC/HC Chorale & MBFGOCM Choir Christmas Concert**
Maliotis Center (on the campus of Hellenic College)

2012

- Nov. 2-4 MBFGOCM Conference 2012
Submit your bids!

YOUR PARISH MUST BE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING:

- To vote as a parish delegate at this year's Conference

(NOTE: Election of Federation Officers for 2011-2013 will take place at this year's meeting)

- To receive a Federation Years of Service Award
- To be eligible for the Federation Scholarship

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR STEWARDSHIP TODAY!

To submit information for the *Mini Acouste Key*:

Send to

George Theodossiou

E-mail: gtheodossiou@msn.com

Deadline Date: October 25, 2011



MBFGOCM Conference 2011

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

Dover, New Hampshire

Adult Choir - MBFGOCM Conference 2011 Registration Form

- PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY -

FIRST NAME: _____ LAST NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME/CELL PHONE: (____) _____ EMAIL: _____

PARISH NAME: _____ CITY/STATE: _____

Please circle your singing part and/or position

Soprano Alto Tenor Bass / Choir Member Director Organist Psalti

Are you a Delegate for your Parish? Yes _____ No _____

Please note: Your parish must be a member in good standing prior to the Conference

Do you have a guest attending the Conference? Yes _____ No _____

Please fill out Guest Meal Order Form below

Banquet Meal Selection (*please circle one*) Chicken Casserole Supreme Sirloin Tips Vegetarian

Registration:

Adult Registration Fee (*all meals included*) \$ 110.00

Guest Meal Order Form: For Non-registered participants

| | | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|---|-------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Friday Dinner: | <input type="checkbox"/> | x | \$10.00 ea. | = | \$_____ |
| Saturday Lunch | <input type="checkbox"/> | x | \$10.00 ea. | = | \$_____ |
| Saturday Banquet | <input type="checkbox"/> | x | \$35.00 ea. | = | \$_____ Chicken or Beef or Vegetarian |
| Sunday Lunch | <input type="checkbox"/> | x | \$10.00 ea. | = | \$_____ |

Total enclosed (registration and guest meals): \$_____

Please make check payable to: **Annunciation Church Choir**

Mail completed form with check to:

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Choir

MBFGOCM Conference Registration

93 Locust Street, Dover, New Hampshire 03820

- Early registration would be greatly appreciated in order to prepare for catered events -

The full registration package along with up-to-date Conference information is available on the Metropolis of Boston Federation Web site
www.boston.churchmusic.goarch.org