

**Diocese of New York and New Jersey
Diocesan Music Committee Report
November 9, 2010 Diocesan Assembly**

Co-Chairpersons

Doreen Bartholomew, Choir Director, Our Lady of Kazan Church, Sea Cliff, NY

Carol Wetmore, Choir Director, Holy Trinity Church, Randolph, NJ

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Advisor: Fr. John Shimchick, Rector, Church of the Holy Cross, Medford, NJ.

2008-2010 Workshops

Date & Place: October 18, 2008, Church of the Holy Cross, Medford, NJ

Speaker Aleksei Shipovalnikov

Subject: The Art of the Liturgy

No. of Attendees: 35

Date & Place: March 21, 2009, St. Nicholas Church, Whitestone, NY

Speaker Mark Bailey

Subject: Conducting and Singing Chant: A Hands-On Workshop for Choir Directors

No. of Attendees: 30

Date & Place: September 19, 2009, St. Anthony's Antiochian Church, Bergenfield, NJ

Speaker: Fr. Elias Bitar and Mr. Stratos Mandalakis

Subject: The ABCs of Byzantine Chant (Adding Byzantine music to your Choral repertoire)

No. of Attendees: approximately 20

Date & Place: October 31, 2009, Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus, NJ

Speaker David Drillock

Subject: Heaven on Earth! Music and Orthodox Worship

No. of Attendees: approximately 35

Date & Place: November 6, 2010, Ss. Constantine & Helen G.O. Church, West Nyack, NY

Speaker: David Drillock

Subject: Heaven on Earth! Music and Orthodox Worship

No. of Attendees: TBD

Hierarchical Liturgy Guidelines

A comprehensive and detailed outline with choir cues and other helpful tips, plus sheet music for special hymns and appendices dealing with Molebens and processions, is completed in draft and forwarded for input from His Grace Bishop Michael and for coordination through Fr. Karlgut with the Diaconate Training Program. We offer special thanks to Aleksei Shipovalnikov for his expert input and to Andy Miketzuk for his music setting work.

Vespers in Large Type

In order to allow sight-impaired choir members serve the church with their voices, we've put together large print Vespers books, text and basic music. There are two versions, one in traditional language and one in modern language. They will be offered in .pdf format for free via the diocesan website and if a hard copy is required, we'll ask a minimal charge for reimbursement of copying costs, comb binding, and postage.

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Diocesan Website

The Committee is working with Fr. Stavrevsky, Diocesan Communications Coordinator, on adding a Liturgical Music component to the Diocesan Website. It would contain tools for choirs and choir directors, as well as announcements of workshops and other events, and links to other Orthodox music sites. We have begun to explore with Fr. Stavrevsky the idea of offering MP3 files demonstrating good church singing. We see it as a means of enhancing the community of church musicians in the Diocese.

ISSUES

Committee Composition: With the death of Bob Barber and the recomposition of the Diocese, the Co-chairs are seeking other interested Committee members. In particular, we look for church musicians interested in hosting or leading workshops and in identifying and working on new initiatives to establish networks among church singers, choir directors and readers, and to offer educational opportunities on church singing and chanting.

Workshop Attendance:

Attendance at workshops seems to be holding steady at an average of 20-35 people. This is a reasonable number to justify the workshops, but it indicates that a small minority of our choir singers, readers, and directors are taking advantage of these valuable and very reasonably priced offerings. We hope that using the website (and advertising its availability) both for publicity and for concrete assistance will help this problem.

Disseminating Information:

Diocesan members report they are not getting information about our programs from their priests and/or choir directors. Additionally, a number of our flyers, sent electronically and by snail mail based on OCA website parish listings are being returned as undeliverable.

As in the past, we ask that rectors encourage attendance at workshops and update parish contact listings on the OCA/Diocesan website. We rely on parish information regarding the name and email of choir directors to reach parishioners with our programs

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- That the Council support the Department financially as in the past
- That parishes continually update their OCA website information, especially with regard to choir directors names and contact information.
- That the Council delegates encourage their parish musicians to attend the workshops.

Respectfully submitted,
Doreen Bartholomew

Carol Wetmore