



# ALOFT

Volume 1, Issue 2

## ♪ Notes from the Director ♪

My Friends,

But is it Worship?

When I was in the U. S. Navy we often had a conversation that went something like this: "So, are you having a fine Navy day?" If the answer was no, then the questioner would say, "Then you must not be doing something right!"

I thought of this ubiquitous piece of Navy dialogue when the opening question popped into my mind. But is it Worship?

At one of our rehearsals, I spoke to you about how I feel on this subject. The bottom line, so to speak, of your participation in the choir every Sunday should be that you felt you had worshipped. If you didn't get that feeling, than something went wrong. Maybe it was you, or maybe me, or possibly some other factor that prevented you from having a worship experience.

Music is a strange mistress and a remarkable art, even more so I think when it is sung. Singing is often called the "first art" probably because it emerged very early in the existence of the human race. It is something most of us do, well or less well, naturally and without any special prompting.

When we add sung and chanted music to the Divine Liturgy we are not primarily concerned with the art of making music. To be sure,

one of our goals is to create harmonious sound, beauty in the melodic line, and glorious sonorous references to the Most High God.

We know that there is liturgical worship in heaven because such is recorded in the 4th Chapter of St. John's Revelation. Also, when Moses received the Ten Commandments from God, he was instructed to build a sanctuary for the worship God the implements of which would be made to the "pattern shown you on the mountain." These examples are set before you so that you would be certain that our liturgical worship is true worship. Our Trisagion Hymn itself is even a variant of one used before the Throne of God as recorded in Revelation 4:8.

While we all prefer that our efforts meet high artistic standards, the real test of those efforts are that they inspire us to worship God. To that end, we should attempt to remove unwanted distractions, prepare ourselves musically and spiritually for the task at hand (extensive preparation musically and meditatively will make distractions less likely) to enable us to be elevated to another level, ideally as was the Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1-8), to heaven itself.

Robert Paul



REV. STEVEN TSICHLIS  
Pastor

REV. STEPHEN KARCHER  
Assistant Pastor

ROBERT A. HENNING  
Choir Director

ROLAND JENSTER  
Organist

### CHOIR OFFICERS

DR. JIM MANOS  
President

JIM MANTRAS  
Vice President

ANNE MANTRAS  
Secretary

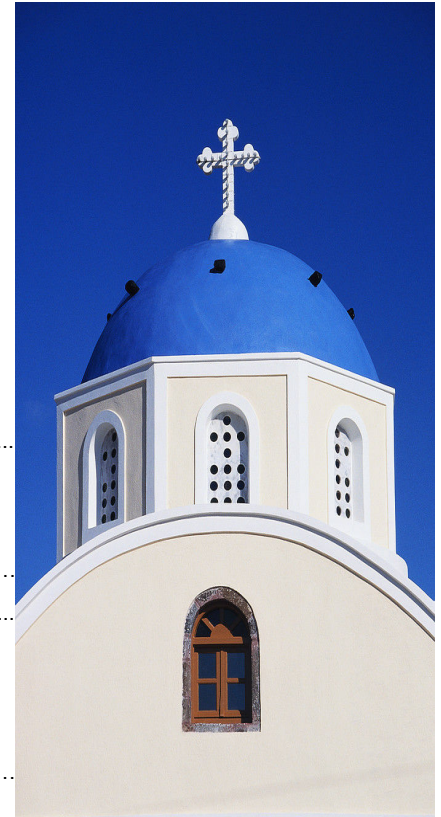
JOHN SMITH  
Treasurer

TERRY MATANTOS  
President-Emeritus

### Mission Statement

"To Provide a Music Ministry worthy of the Worship of the One, True God, our Lord Jesus Christ and Support the Goals and Mission of St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church in the Community and Abroad to the best of our abilities"

September 7th	3rd Tone	Εὐφραίνεσθω τὰ οὐράνια: Let all things above in heaven rejoice...
		<a href="#">Universal Celebration of the Elevation of the Sacred and Life-Giving Cross</a>
September 14th	Apol. Kont. Tris. Koin.	Σώσον, Κύριε Save O Lord, Your people... Ὁ ὑψώθεις Bestow Your mercies on the people... Τὸν σταυρὸν σου O Your Cross do we venerate... Εσήμειώθη ἐφ ἡμάς Let the light of Your face...
September 21st	1st Plagel Tone Apol. Kont. Koin.	Τον συνάρχον Λόγον: Eternal with the Father... Σώσον, Κύριε Save O Lord, Your people... Ὁ ὑψώθεις Bestow Your mercies on the people... Εσήμειώθη ἐφ ἡμάς Let the light of Your face...
September 28th	2nd Plagel Tone Apol.	Ἀγγελικαὶ δυνάμεις: When the angelic powers... Ταῖς τῶν δακρῶν Like warm and gentle rain...
		<a href="#">National Church Music Sunday</a>
October 5th	3rd Plagel Tone	Κατέλυσας τὴν Στάυρῳ: O Lord by Your sacred Cross...
October 12th	4th Plagel Tone Apol.	Ἐξ ὕψους κατήλθες: From on high did You... Υπέρδεξάσμενος εἶ, Χριστέ: Unending glory be Yours, O Christ...
October 19th	1st Tone	Του λίθου σφράγισθέντος: The stone that had been...
October 26th	2nd Tone	Ὅτε κατήλθες: When You descended to the realm of death...
November 2nd	3rd Tone	Εὐφραίνεσθω τὰ οὐράνια: Let all things above in heaven rejoice...
November 9th	4th Tone Kont.	Το φαῖδρόν: When the tidings of the resurrection from the angel... Ὁ καθαρῶτατος Ναός Behold the temple of the Savior
November 16th	1st Plagel Tone Kont.	Τον συνάρχον Λόγον: Eternal with the Father... Ὁ καθαρῶτατος Ναός Behold the temple of the Savior...
November 23rd	2nd Plagel Tone Apol. Kont.	Ἀγγελικαὶ δυνάμεις: When the angelic powers... Σήμερον τῆς εὐδοκίας Today is the prelude of God's generosity... Ὁ καθαρῶτατος Ναός Behold the temple of the Savior...
November 30th	3rd Plagel Tone Kont.	Κατέλυσας τὴν Στάυρῳ: O Lord by Your sacred Cross... Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον Today the Virgin...



## HYMNOGRAPHER SERIES

St. Kassiani

September 7th

### Frank Desby Liturgical Music to be Recorded and All Interested Singers are Invited

Plans are in motion according to the Cathedral's Choir Director to record the Liturgical Music of the late Frank Desby in the fall. The recording will be in Greek.

The recording of the Liturgy will take place in the Cathedral in Los Angeles Saturday, October 18th from 9 am to 4 pm. The following is the remaining rehearsal schedule: Saturday 9:30 am to 12:30pm September 13 & 27, and October 11.

Please consider participating in this worthy endeavor. You can learn (or re-learn) the Desby Liturgy and enjoy the company of many accomplished singers as well. Car pools may be formed to facilitate our attendance at the rehearsals and recording session.

Saint Kassiani lived in Constantinople and was a regular attendant at the court of the Emperor. The Emperor, Theophilos was to marry and Kassiani and a certain courtier named Theodora were chosen by the Empress Dowager to be presented to the Emperor, her son, from which two he may chose his bride. The Emperor questioned Kassiani: "From women came the worst in the world" (meaning Eve and her original sin). Kassiani replied: "From woman came also the best" (referring to the Virgin Mary who bore the Son of God). Because the Emperor did not desire a woman of wisdom, he married Theodora. Kassiani was much relieved by his decision and entered a convent and after completing her training was allowed to devote herself to composing hymns of great beauty. She established herself as a Hymnographer of the highest caliber coming to the attention of the Church Fathers of the day. Her most famous composition is her familiar hymn sung during Holy Week which bears her name as the "Hymn of Kassiani."

## Vocal Wisdom

Maxims of Giovanni Battista Lamperti

“Never say to a pupil, ‘You sing incorrectly’ or ‘You sing badly.’ You must guide the pupil’s progress without his (or her) awareness of your purpose or intent. Later on it is easy to explain what you have accomplished. Never say anything too prematurely—speak only of the immediate needs, never of things to come.”

(Lamperti, (1839-1910) has been described as “the last master of the old Italian manner of singing.” He was a teacher of the Bel Canto style of singing. We will be examining his maxims, from time to time, to apply them when possible to our choral singing.)

### Christmas Concert Planned at St. Sophia Cathedral

If you are interested in singing in the annual Christmas Concert at our L. A. Cathedral, the performance is on Sunday, December 7 at 5:30pm. Rehearsals are scheduled for November 1 & 15 (9:30am-12:30pm), and December 6 (10am-3pm). Everyone has a great time participating in this annual event. Please consider lending your voice to this special and fun concert. You will be happy that you did!



### Coffee Hour

Choir Coffee Hour comes around on the first Sunday of every month. It is especially important for all of us to help with this effort so that the burden is not borne by the few. Please mark your calendars! Note: October 5th is National Church Music Sunday when we celebrate and honor the contributions of our contributions as a choir. Please be prepared.

## Choir Coffee Hour

### Rehearsal Schedule



Wednesday, September 24th 7:30pm

Tuesday, October 7th 7:30pm

Tuesday, October 21st 7:30pm

Sunday, November 9th 12:30pm (Blitz)

Tuesday, November 18th 7:30pm

**Youth Choir to Sing on October 5. Please welcome our new**

**Youth Choir on National Church Music Sunday, October 5 as they assist the Adult Choir. They are the future of our Choir!**

## New Music

Plans to introduce new music are being formulated.

We want to gradually introduce the musical arrangement of the Divine Liturgy (in Greek and English) composed by Frank Desby. We will learn this music in phases, starting with the Great Ektenis (Litany) through the Small Entrance. While English will be the predominant language, some Greek will be used in the Litany and elsewhere. The Desby arrangement we will be using is the same one discussed on page 2 which will be recorded in October at St. Sophia Cathedral. Additional singers are invited to participate in this recording and it would be a good opportunity for our choir to learn (or re-learn) this musical setting.

A new arrangement of the Troparion for the Great Martyr Demetrios, *Megan Evrato*, will be prepared for October 26th. The Feast Day of St. Demetrios falls this year on a Sunday so we will have the pleasure of singing this hymn in his honor. We do not often get this opportunity. The arrangement we will be using is a new setting of the hymn for soprano, alto, tenor and bass from traditional sources (Anastasiou and Tangires).

We will be preparing the Desby arrangement of the Apolytikion for Christmas, *H yennisis Sou Hriste*. This beautiful setting of the hymn is as wonderful to sing for a choir as it is for a congregation to hear. I believe that this arrangement will quickly become one of your favorites.

### Still Needed: Choir Email Addresses

We have many choir members' email addresses from the current roster, but there are some that are missing. The Choir Director would like to have as complete an email list as possible so that communicating with choir members can be done quickly in the event that is needed.

He also needs your email address to be able to send you an occasional hymn in advance to be better prepared for the task of the Music Ministry.

Please send your email address to him at: [roberthenning@cox.net](mailto:roberthenning@cox.net) so that you can be included on the complete list!



### New Members

The truth is that many people wait to be asked to help or join in a group. A select few will offer their services unbidden, but they are the exception. We need new choir members to continually grow musically and enhance our sound and repertoire. Chances are good that the only way these new members will come into our ranks is if you ask them! If you know of someone who has singing ability and a willingness to give time to choir, then please, by all means, ask them to come to a rehearsal and give it a try!



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METROPOLIS OF  
SAN FRANCISCO