



ALOFT

Volume 1, Issue 1

♪ Notes from the Director ♪

My Friends,

I couldn't be happier than I am right now to be with you. It has given me a lot of joy to see you again. To have become your Director has been something of a wish come true!

It has been a busy beginning. We have had the pleasure of working on music for the Farewell Luncheon for Presvytera Elaine which was held on June 8th. Following in short order we presented our efforts at Music Ministry on my first Sunday with you as Director at the Divine Liturgy on the 22nd of June. A week later we continued our Music Ministry on the 29th of June at the Divine Liturgy and, that evening, offered our hymns of praise at the Ecumenical Service held at St. Paul's. All that occurred on the 29th was in addition, for some of you, to attendance at the Choir Conference in Long Beach. There is nothing particularly ordinary about these sequence of events, nor were they especially easy when we consider that the practice time we had together was minimal!

You made it look deceptively easy by your hard work and proven ability as a choir even though we all know that is was anything but easy. You were stretched quite thin at times, as they say, but you are obviously a choir with a lot of courage since you stayed with it all even though it must have been

very difficult at times. You found yourselves both coming and going at the same time!

This summer, I am sure that you are looking forward to a little peace and quiet, some relaxation, some rest, and a vacation with the family. Where ever you are this summer, I will remember gratefully that we had such a good beginning together. I am also confident that, when you are in town, you will find the time to join with us in the choir loft in the continuance of our Music Ministry.

I have many ideas about what I would like to do in the next Liturgical Year which starts in September. I have thought about and would like to introduce some new music this next year. I would like to organize our binders in a more detailed way to make them more useful to you. I would like to investigate the microphone systems in and around the choir loft area and determine what works and what doesn't work. I would like to strategize with you about the rehearsal time we have together to perhaps compact it and save a little gas money (today's big priority) and yet, in the end, add to the time we have to rehearse together. I have many ideas. I hope that you will like them.

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

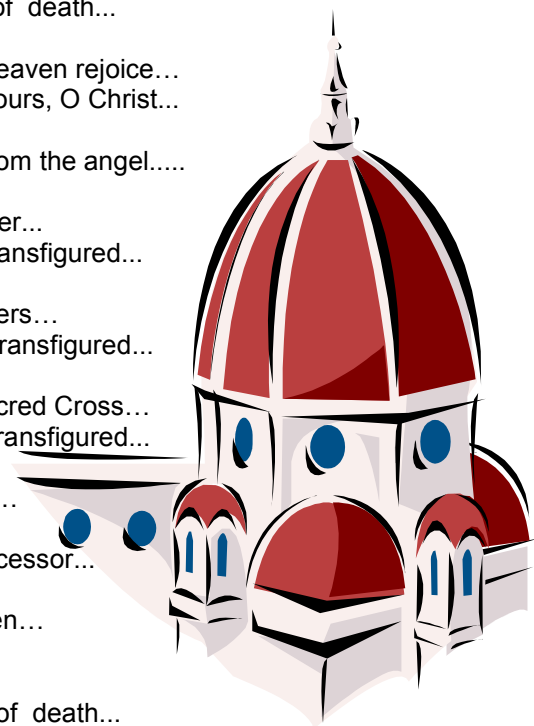
JOHN SMITH
Treasurer

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"

July 6th	2nd Tone	Ότε κατήλθες: When You descended to the realm of death...
July 13th	3rd Tone Apol.	Εὐφραϊνέσθω τὰ οὐράνια: Let all things above in heaven rejoice... Υπέροδεδξάσμενος εἶ, Χριστέ: Unending glory be Yours, O Christ...
July 20th	4th Tone	Το φαῖδρόν: When the tidings of the resurrection from the angel....
July 27th	1st Plagal Tone Kont.	Τον συνάρχον Λόγον: Eternal with the Father... Επί τοῦ Ορους μετεμορφώθης: You were transfigured...
August 3rd	2nd Plagal Tone Kont.	Ἀγγελικάι δυνάμεις: When the angelic powers... Επί τοῦ Ορους μετεμορφώθης: You were transfigured...
August 10th	3rd Plagal Tone Kont.	Κατέλυσας τῷ Σταυρῷ: O Lord by Your sacred Cross... Επί τοῦ Ορους μετεμορφώθης: You were transfigured...
August 17th	4th Plagal Tone Apol. Kont.	Εξ ὕψους κατήλθες: From on high did You... Εν τῇ Γεννήσει: In giving birth... Τήν ἐή πρεσβείαις: She is our vigilant intercessor...
August 24th	1st Tone Kont.	Του λίθου σφράγισθέντος: The stone that had been... Ιωακείμ καί Ἄννα
August 31st	2nd Tone	Ότε κατήλθες: When You descended to the realm of death...



St. Romanos

The Melodist

October 1st

Frank Desby Liturgical Music to be Recorded

Plans are “in the works” 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. A previous recording, in an English translation, has already been made and is available currently through St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Los Angeles.

The recording of the Liturgy will take place in the Cathedral in Los Angeles in October and will be preceded by two or three rehearsals to be held on Saturdays. Dates for the recording and rehearsals will be published in the next ALOFT.

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 Romanos flourished during the reign of Anastasius (491-518). He was from Emesa of Syria, and apparently born of Jewish parents, for a hymn written in his honor in Greek says he was “of Hebrew stock,” and it has furthermore been noted that he uses many Semitic idioms in his writings. He was baptized an Orthodox Christian, and at some time became a deacon in the Church of Beirut. He was the first composer of kontakia, the foremost of which is that of the Feast of Christ’s Nativity, “On this day the Virgin...” In composing many of his kontakia, Saint Romanos was inspired by the hymns of Saint Ephraim of Syria. Both an Apolytikion and Kontakion in the Fourth Plagal Tone have been composed in his honor and commemoration.

Binder Reorganization

In the near future, we hope to reorganize the Blue Binders that are being used as our primary music resource. A sample binder is on display in the choir loft for your perusal. Something similar to this sample binder is contemplated.

It is planned to separate the music of the Divine Liturgy into sections, primarily in the order in which they occur in the Liturgy, and also categorized by hymn type such as Apolytikia, Troparia, and similar categories.

The goal is to have one binder in which nearly all music can be found, in the order in which it is sung, and flexible enough to add to when necessary.

Please examine the sample binder in the choir loft and express your opinion on this reorganization project! Your ideas count and it would be a better tool if we could mold it in specific ways to be more useful to you.



ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!
HOWEVER, WHEN YOU ARE
IN TOWN, PLEASE COME UP
AND SING WITH ALL OF US!

Rehearsal Schedule

Tuesday, July 15th 7:30pm

Tuesday, July 29th 7:30pm

Tuesday, August 12th 7:30pm

Sunday, August 24th 12:30pm (Blitz)

Tuesday, September 9th 7:30pm



Please Think About Rehearsing

To continue as a quality choir or even improve on our abilities, we must rehearse often and effectively. Right now, we usually meet on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm. Please let us know if you prefer a different weeknight. Also, let us know what time you prefer to meet: possible times are 6:30 pm, 7:00 pm, or 7:30 pm.

We also would like to schedule short but quick and efficient rehearsals occasionally on Sunday after the Divine Liturgy. This "blitz" rehearsal would give Choir members a short period of time after the Liturgy to socialize in the church hall, a maximum of 20 minutes, after which we would return to the choir loft for the rapid and punchy practice.

Our goal is to rehearse as many as three times monthly, but be as efficient as possible due to the rising price of gasoline and the need for choir members to attend to the many pressing concerns that they have each and every month. Think about it, please. Please email the Director with your preferences at: roberthenning@cox.net.

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 so that you can be included on the complete list!

Also Needed: New Choir Members

It's certainly no secret that our choirs throughout the Archdiocese are ageing! Here at St. Paul's our good looks belie the fact that many of us are advancing in years! We are gratified to have the younger group that already sings with us, however we could still use more of them.

If you know of someone who can sing and would like to sing with the choir, please do not hesitate to invite them to come up and give it a try. The first Sunday in October we will hopefully be kicking off a membership drive in conjunction with the annual Choir Sunday. Please give some thought to how we can most effectively organize this drive. While we invite all ages to join us, we want to specifically welcome our younger parishioners.

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METROPOLIS OF
SAN FRANCISCO