

**Diocese of New York and New Jersey
Commission on Liturgical Music Report
2012 Diocesan Assembly**

Co-Chairpersons

V. Rev. Daniel Skvir, Rector, Holy Transfiguration Chapel, Princeton, NY
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.

A Special Thank You

Bishop Michael has attended our workshops, endorsed our plans, and pushed us to achieve throughout this year. His visible support has been key to good attendance at our workshops and to our overall success this year.

Diocesan Website

Our reason for existence is to improve the quantity and quality of Diocesan church musicians. This year we put in place a new means to that end -- a website on the Diocesan web page. The CoLM site enables networking, support, and access to numerous Orthodox musical resources. Through the skill, enthusiasm, and many hours of work by Fr. Ken James Stavresky, we have posted a contact directory of Diocesan musicians, including mentors and substitutes; special resources, such as a detailed guide to Hierarchical Services; and, a unique section of sheet music and recordings composed or arranged by Diocesan musicians. To date we have posted approximately 40 musical works by 12 musicians and we welcome more submissions.

Choir Director Information

Here is the annual appeal..... We are still missing emails, phones and even names for the directors in some parishes. Please, we ask you (*once again*) to provide this information to the Music Commission for including in our mailing list and on the website. This is the only way we'll be able to disseminate information about workshops and other upcoming events to your church musicians.

Choir Appreciation Day

The 2011 celebration took place on October 2nd and this year's celebration was held on September 30th. The highlight of the 2011 inaugural year was the presentation of certificates and St. Romanus pins to 206 people who celebrated twenty-five plus years of service to the church as musicians and/or choir directors. This year \ Bishop Michael sent a letter to priests with instruction to mark the day by honoring their choir members in some special way, e.g., a special luncheon. Certificates will be presented every five years so the next round will take place in 2016 and will be given to those who have achieved 25 years of service during the previous five years.

Online Conducting Course

The diocese (and beyond) has a number of beginner musicians 'testing' this class which was developed and is taught by David Drilllock. Test participants are taking part in ten weekly sessions, watching instructional videos online at a time of day convenient to them, and subsequently participating in one weekly 20-minute Skype conference with the instructor. The course covers such topics as basic beat patterns, entries on and off the beat, the relationship between text and music, singing in phrases, and techniques of conducting chant. On completion of this initial offering, the course will be offered OCA-wide, with a tuition fee.

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2011-2012 Workshops

Date & Place: September 10, 2011, Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus, NJ **AND**
July 28, 2012, Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, NY
Speaker Aleksei V. Shipovalnikov
Subject: The Hierarchical Liturgy: Sorting Out the Liturgical Puzzle
No. of Attendees: Approximately 20 in each place

This workshop explored the format of the Orthodox Hierarchical Liturgy from the standpoint of the choir director, singers and readers and described in detail the differences between a 'normal' Liturgy and the Hierarchical Liturgy, so that everyone involved could effectively prepare themselves for such occasions.

Date & Place: November 12, 2011, St. Basil Church, Watervliet, NY
Speaker Mark Bailey
Subject: The Art and Technique of Orthodox Choral Singing
No. of Attendees: Approximately 30

The purpose of this workshop was to explore and enable effective techniques for rehearsing and singing the liturgy. Mark Bailey taught and explained the art and skills involved in singing as an a'cappella choir..

Upcoming Workshops

Date & Place: December 1, 2012, St. Andrew Church, Dix Hills, NY
Speaker David Lucs
Subject: Making Music with Kids

This workshop was designed to introduce children to the meaning, beauty, and basics of Orthodox liturgical music

TENTATIVE

Date & Place: April 6, 2013, Church of the Holy Cross, Medford, NJ
Speaker: Alice Hughes
Subject: Honing Sight-Singing Skills (Tentative)

Remember: "Keep CoLM and Carry On"!!