

Co-Chairpersons

- V. Rev. Daniel Skvir, Rector, Holy Transfiguration Chapel, Princeton, NY, dskvir@princeton.edu;
- Doreen Bartholomew, Choir Director, Our Lady of Kazan Church, Sea Cliff, NY, [johndoreen@optonline.net](mailto: johndoreen@optonline.net);
- Carol Wetmore, Choir Director, Holy Trinity Church, Randolph, NJ, wetmore1@aol.com

Children at the Diocesan Assembly

If our children are not involved in the life of the church, the church will cease being involved in their lives when they grow older. Our children can make a difference, sometimes quite literally, between a parish closing its doors or not. To help get them more involved, we've organized a brief concert to be sung by children of the Diocese. Thank you to Matushka Tamara Cowan and Basil Kozak for working with the children in rehearsal and for conducting the concert. It will be at 7:30 pm on November 1st (the end of the first Assembly day). Do not miss this important event to encourage the children and show appreciation for their work.

Workshops

1. February 6, 2016 - Our first workshop for the Russian-speaking members of our Diocese. It was held at Holy Transfiguration Cathedral in Greenpoint, Brooklyn and the speaker was Aleksei V. Shipovalnikov. Mr. Shipovalnikov led the 9 participants through the order of the Presanctified Liturgy, gave them a better understand the various liturgical components of the service and explained the background behind each.
2. July 23, 2016, Syracuse, NY with over 25 people participating. The topic was *The Character of Choir Singing*, focusing on the specific character of sacred singing, demonstrating its difference from secular singing, and focusing on how and why it is so critical to proper worship of God.
3. November 5th in Clifton, NJ. The speaker is Stratos Mandalakis, choir director of St. Anthony's Antiochian Church in Bergenfield, NJ and also the assistant director of the Spirit of Orthodoxy Choir. This workshop theme is "Orthodox Church Musicians: *Singing with the Spirit AND the understanding also.* (1 Corinthians 14:15)"

Church Musician Sunday

Marked on October 2nd, the Sunday after the Feast of St. Romanos the Melodist. Singers and Directors who achieved twenty-five plus years of service to the church from 2011 to 2016 received certificates signed by His Eminence and the Commission. We prepare certificates every five years; the next round will take place in 2021 for those who achieved 25+ years of service during the previous five years.

Congratulations

Alekesi V. Shipovalnikov, music director at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Jersey City, and director of the Spirit of Orthodoxy Choir was awarded the Order of Saint Romanos by the

Synod of Bishops. (Vladimir Morosan was a second recipient this year.) Our Commission originated the idea and structure of the award, which was then adopted by the OCA.

CoLM on the Web

We continue to enhance the Music Commission's section of the Diocesan website. As always we offer thanks for the enthusiasm and quality support of Fr. Ken James Stavrevsky. Sheet music (often with Midi playback) continues to be available there composed or arranged by Diocesan musicians, as well as guidelines for Hierarchical Services, large-print text for several services, and large-print booklets for parish use.

Choir Director Information

An essential part of the Commission's resources is a Directory of Choir Directors, with contact information, posted on the website. This is the list Fr Ken James and the Commission use to contact our "constituents." The only way to assure accuracy is for Rectors to check the information on the website, and updating via email to the Commission or to one of the Co-Chairs at the addresses above.

CoLM has a Facebook page. We encourage you to find us on Facebook and "like" the page - <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Commission-on-Liturgical-Music-NYNJ-OCA/714919818560882>. As always, you can reach us at nynjmusic@aol.com.

Plans for 2017

- We are working to produce online training, using video capability, for more convenient presentation of information.
- We are discussing the feasibility of co-hosting the *2018 Pan-Orthodox Music Symposium* and are seeking a suitable and affordable location in the Diocese. (The 2016 conference was held in Minneapolis and was sponsored by the International Society for Orthodox Church Music.)

Remember: "Keep CoLM and Carry On"!