

Diocese of New York and New Jersey
Commission on Liturgical Music Report for the Diocesan Assembly, 2024

Co-Chairpersons

- V. Rev. Daniel Skvir, Rector, Holy Transfiguration Chapel, Princeton, NJ, dskvir@princeton.edu;
- V. Rev. Stephen Evanina, Rector, Holy Resurrection Church, Wayne, NJ, frstephen@heisrisen.org
- Subdn Stratos Mandalakis, Choir Director, Holy Resurrection Church, Wayne, NJ hymnodia@optonline.net
- Doreen Bartholomew, Choir Director, Our Lady of Kazan Church, Sea Cliff, NY, deedeabar38@gmail.com;
- Larissa Sovyrda, Choir Director, Ss Peter & Paul Church, Syracuse, NY, Isovyrda@gmail.com
- Carol Wetmore, Choir Director, Holy Trinity Church, Randolph, NJ, wetmore1@aol.com

CoLM Composition:

Doreen Bartholomew, a CoLM “founding member” and driving force in all our activities, is moving to Florida. We thank her for her untiring efforts and hope she can continue to support CoLM from afar. Many Years, Doreen and Father John!

CoLM has added three new members, Fr. Stephen Evanina, Subdn. Stratos Mandalakis, and Larissa Sovyrda.

Choir Director and Clergy Survey

CoLM designed and administered two information-gathering surveys in 2024, using Survey Monkey. We accumulated anonymous education, training and experience data from Diocesan choir directors and pastors. Choir director results and analyses were communicated to participants and pastors; pastor results were communicated to them. In general, both surveys disclosed a lower level of musical training on the part of both choir directors and clergy than our Orthodox liturgical music tradition demands.

Workshops:

During 2024 CoLM publicized the numerous training opportunities available within the Diocese, the OCA, and other jurisdictions.

1. These opportunities obviously are means of addressing the shortfalls identified in the clergy and choir director surveys.
2. Our ability to communicate these opportunities relies on the accuracy of our choir director database. It is essential that we be notified of

current choir director changes. Please notify us at nynjmusic@aol.com by **1 December** of any changes in choir director in the last 12 months.

3. We remain available to assist in hosting liturgical music workshops at Diocesan parishes.

Church Musician Appreciation Day

This was marked on Sunday, September 29th, the Sunday closest to the Feast of St. Romanos the Melodist. Parishes were requested to express appreciation to their musicians. CoLM facilitated the process by offering the certificate template and the special petitions which were offered during the Divine Liturgy.

Respectfully submitted:

V. Rev. Daniel Skvir,
V. Rev. Stephen Evanina,
Subdn Stratos Mandalakis,
Doreen Bartholomew,
Larissa Sovyrda,
Carol Wetmore