

This only goes through 2002. The ministry is still going, but I left in 2003 and it hasn't been updated.

## HISTORY OF DETROIT PAN-ORTHODOX MUSIC MINISTRY

### **1987**

First COCC (Council of Orthodox Christian Churches – Detroit Metropolitan Area) Nativity Choir Festival, individual parish choirs participated.

### **1988**

Second COCC Nativity Choir Festival, combined choir conducted by guest conductor, Fr. Igor Soroka.

### **1989**

In response to the need for English language responses at the COCC pan-Orthodox Vespers during Great Lent, a pan-Orthodox choir was formed and rehearsed by Pauline Costianes.

### **1991**

Pan-Orthodox choir continued to sing responses for Lenten Vespers each year, with conducting responsibilities rotating among the local choir directors.

### **1992**

Winter: Lenten Vesper Choir rehearsals and services.

Spring: COCC gave approval to provide seed money for a choral recording project.

May: Choir directors contacted about the formation of a music ministry and the recording project. Steering committee: Michelle Jannakos, Valerie Yova, Janet Damian, Pauline Costianes.

July: Auditions for chorale members.

August: Rehearsals for recording project.

November: first recording session at Sts. Peter and Paul OCA Church in Detroit, conducted by Michelle Jannakos and Valerie Yova..

December: An octet was formed from within the Chorale to perform Orthodox Nativity hymns and ethnic carols on a season concert of the Lyric Chamber Ensemble, and at several other venues.

### **1993**

January: Pan-Orthodox octet recorded liturgical hymns for use by the local "Orthodox Radio Hour."

February: "Let Us Sing Unto the Lord" recording completed, 500 cassettes produced.

February: Chorale performed excerpts from recording at Orthodox Radio Hour fundraising banquet.

March: Chorale sang Presanctified Liturgy at St. George Romanian Cathedral.

Winter: Lenten Vesper Choir rehearsals and services.

April: 500 cassette tapes sold, 300 more ordered. Seed money returned to COCC.

May: Presented first formal proposal to COCC regarding establishment of a Music

Committee. Decided not to accept their terms. Tabled the idea. Continued informal music ministry!

June: Chorale octet sang excerpts from the recording at Dearborn Music Store ( a local music store which sold the recording on consignment.)

Summer: Held auditions to recruit additional singers for second recording.

September: Chorale sang responses for Pan-Orthodox Liturgy celebrating Bicentennial of Orthodoxy at Sts.Peter & Paul OCA parish in Detroit..

Fall: "Let Us Sing Unto the Lord II": recorded and released; conducted by Valerie Yova and Pauline Costianes. Recording costs paid with profit from the first recording.

December: Nativity concert hosted by Assumption Greek Church.

### **1994**

Winter: Lenten Vesper Choir rehearsals and services.

June: Concert celebrating Bicentennial of Orthodoxy. Chorale's first extensive coverage in local press.

December: Chorale invited to sing alone and with combined choir at "Detroit A-glow" holiday concert at Cobo Arena in downtown Detroit. The combined, all-city choir was conducted by Valerie Yova.

### **1995**

Winter: Lenten Vesper Choir rehearsals and services.

June: Concert and Vespers at Dormition Monastery, Rives Junction, Michigan.

October: Invited to sing at Orthodox Education Day (St. Vladimir's Seminary).

Sang antiphonally with the St. Vladimir's choir at the Saturday morning Liturgy, and presented a concert on Saturday afternoon. The concert was a tribute to Fr. Sergei Glagolev.

November: Chorale members sang at Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at St. Regis Catholic Church, Birmingham, Michigan.

December: Nativity Concert - "Light One Candle" with guest soloist, Phil Marcus Esser, hosted by St. George Romanian Cathedral.

### **1996**

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Winter: Lenten Vesper Choir rehearsals and services.

Summer: Developed Music Ministry database of parishes, clergy, and individuals.

November; Workshop: "Let Us Lift Up Our Hearts" held at Sts. Peter & Paul Romanian parish in Dearborn. Presenters were James Meena,

Archimandrite Roman Braga, and Dr. Thomas Sheets.

## **2000**

Winter: Lenten Vesper Choir rehearsals and services.

Spring: Submitted second proposal to COCC regarding the establishment of a formal Music Committee. Proposal accepted, Valerie Yova Sheets appointed Chairperson by COCC President, Fr. Michael Simerick.

Members of the first committee were: Janet Damian, Mat. Vickie Kopistianski, Reader Joseph Tome, Reader Michael Lapko, Richard Ziats, Jerry Bokas, Karen Madias, and Psaltoi Fred Baz.

Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Lev Kopistianski.

November: Workshop: "Enlivening the Orthodox Worship Experience" held at St. Andrew's Center. Presenters were Fr. Chris Holwey, Dr. Thomas Sheets, Valerie Yova Sheets.

December Nativity Concert: "Magnify, O My Soul" hosted by St. George Romanian Cathedral, conducted by Dr. Thomas Sheets and Mat. Vickie Kopistianski. Acquired first major sponsor.

## **2001**

August: Published and mailed first Music Committee brochure listing all Music Ministry activities for the 2001-2002 Liturgical year.

Winter: Lenten Vesper Choir rehearsals and services.

February: Mini-workshop: half-day workshop for conductors, taught by Dr. Thomas Sheets.

Fall: Six-week session of classes in Music Theory and Voice offered on Saturday mornings at St. Andrew's Center.

December: Nativity concert: "Sing, Earth and Heaven" hosted by St. Clement Ohridski Macedono-Bulgarian parish in Dearborn, conducted by Valerie Yova Sheets. Acquired four event sponsors. Concert was dedicated to the victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

## **2002**

March 23: Workshop -- "Solving the Musical Puzzle" held at St. Andrew's Center Guest presenter was Mark Bailey -- professor of Liturgical Music at St.

Vladimir's Seminary and conductor of the Yale Russian Male Chorus..

March 24: Sunday of Orthodoxy/Annunciation Pan-Orthodox Vespers, choir conducted by Mark Bailey. Troparion of Annunciation composed by Mark Bailey especially for this service.

Winter: Lenten Vesper Choir rehearsals and services.

Summer: Set up Music Ministry office at St. Andrew's Center in Detroit.