

In Recognition of Distinguished Service

Although the Mid-Eastern Federation of Church Musicians was started in 1947-48 (as the Tri-State Federation – Ohio, Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia), more than 30 years elapsed before “special” awards were established to honor church musicians/administrators for outstanding service. In 1980, the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians instituted the first of these awards, the “Saint Romanos Medallion for Exemplary Archdiocesan Service in Church Music.” Subsequently, two additional awards were established: the Archbishop’s “Years of Service Award” in 1988, and the “Patriarch Athenagoras Medal for Distinguished Metropolis Service ” in 1996. Since 1980, more than one hundred Mid-Eastern Federation members have been recognized for their national or Diocesan/Metropolis accomplishments. These honors are bestowed as formal expression of gratitude from the Archdiocese, the National Forum, and the Federation for significant contributions by choir directors, organists, composers, chanters, and clergy toward the progress of Greek Orthodox liturgical music in America.

The National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians bestows its most prestigious award, the Saint Romanos Medallion, for Exemplary Archdiocesan Service; and the Patriarch Athenagoras Medal is awarded for Distinguished Metropolis Service. In addition, His Eminence, Archbishop Iakovos – in response to a recommendation by the National Forum of Church Musicians – instituted a special Years of Service Award in 1998 which is presented to men and women having 25 or more years of service as choir directors. We are pleased to pay tribute in this 67th Anniversary Album to our Federation members who have been honored since 1980. (Taken in part from the MEFGOX 50th Anniversary Album, George Raptis – Editor).

St. Romanos Medallion Recipients:

1980	+Niki Kalkanis	Sterling Heights, MI
1985	George Raptis	Detroit, MI
1986	Peter N. Vatsures	Columbus, OH
1988	Dr. Vicki Pappas	Bloomington, IN
2000	+John N. Tsolainos	Cleveland, OH (posthumously)
2006	Dr. Jessica Suchy-Pilalis	Camp Hill, PA

Archbishop’s Years of Service Award – Detroit Metropolis:

67	George Raptis	St. Nicholas	Troy MI
56	+Delores Revelos	SS Constantine & Helen	Middletown, OH
51	Peter Phillips	Assumption	St. Clair Shores, MI
51	+Elizabeth Sarafis	Holy Trinity	Grand Rapids, MI
51	Kally Tshulos	Holy Trinity	Binghamton, NY
47	Helen Lutz	Annunciation	Muskegon, MI
46	Dr. William Harmand	St. Sophia	Syracuse, NY
45	Ann Samouris	St. George	Bloomfield Hills, MI
44	+Lucretia Papayanakos	St. Vasilios	Watertown, NY
41	Irene Vratsinas	Annunciation	Little Rock, AR
40	Ester Conomikes	Annunciation	Vestal, NY

39	Edna Antalis	Holy Trinity	Fort Wayne, IN
37	Nick Vergos	Annunciation	Memphis, TN
35	+Alex Marinos	St. John	Sterling Heights, MI
35	+Catherine Gianisis	St. John	Sterling Heights, MI
35	Lena Tzavaras	Annunciation	Chattanooga, TN
33	+Don Zouyras	St. George	Southgate, MI
33	+Terry Jonethis	St. Nicholas	Jamestown, NY
32	Karen Madias	Assumption	St. Clair Shores, MI
32	Evey Simon	St. Nicholas	Troy, MI
31	+Mary Skarlatos	Annunciation	Rochester, NY
29	+Dr. George Georgantas	Holy Spirit	Rochester, NY
29	Naki Plataniotis	Assumption	Springfield, OH
28	Thomas Krestos	Annunciation	Buffalo, NY
27	+Dr. Chris Demakes	Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas	Cincinnati, OH
26	Maritsa Madias-Kalasz	SS Constantine & Helen	Westland, MI
26	Pauline Preketes	Assumption	Flint, MI
25	+Andrew Athetis	Zoodochos Peghe	Hot Springs, AR

Archbishop's Years of Service Award – Pittsburgh Metropolis:

62	Helen Pappas	Assumption	Erie, PA
61	+George Baxewanis	SS Constantine & Helen	Reading, PA
59	Dr. George M. Saribalas	Annunciation Cathedral	Columbus, OH
58	Dr. Charles Francos	Annunciation	Lancaster, PA
58	Mary Demetri	St. Nicholas	Youngstown, OH
56	+Steve Bournos	Holy Trinity	Canton, OH
52	+John Kehayas	Holy Cross	Pittsburgh, PA
52	Kal Stanley	St. John	Charleston, WV
48	Dr. P. K. Pandelidis	Annunciation	York, PA
47	Michael Chiadis	St. Nicholas	Bethlehem, PA
45	Christine Gaetano	Archangel Michael	Campbell, OH
43	Maria Gregorakis	Assumption	Aliquippa, PA
43	Annie Rigas	Holy Trinity	Altoona, PA
43	Kathryn Kalabokes	Holy Trinity	Ambridge, PA
43	Paul Pappas	St. John	Charleston, WV
42	Louisa Americus Pappas	Annunciation	Easton, PA
41	+Sophie Lucas	St. George	New Castle, PA
41	+Rose Magyari	Zoodochos Peghe	Martins Ferry, OH
41	Sylvia Passas	St. John	Youngstown, OH
40	Bob A. Kariotis	Annunciation	New Kensington, PA
39	Pana Mastros	Holy Trinity	Steubenville, OH
38	Irene Kitrenos	SS Constantine & Helen	Mansfield, OH
37	+Dr. Nicholas Evans	Assumption	Morgantown, WV
36	George Rafeiledes, Jr.	St. Demetrios	Rocky River, OH
36	John Nychis	Holy Trinity	Pittsburgh, PA
35	Stephanie Duda	Archangel Michael	Campbell, OH
34	Emanuel Creekus	St. George	Massillon, OH
33	Mary Kovac	Annunciation	McKeesport, PA
33	William Leogas	St. Spyridon	Monessen, PA
33	Stephanie Zeremenko	All Saints	Canonsburg, PA
33	Dr. Alex Christ	St. Haralambos	Canton, OH
32	+Mike Hadgis	Annunciation	Akron, OH

30	Maria Alex	St. Spyridon	Clarksburg, WV
29	Michael J. Orfanopoulos	Presentation	East Pittsburgh, PA
29	Kaliopi Bouloukos	Holy Cross	Stroudsburg, PA
28	Pete Caleodis	Holy Trinity	Steubenville, OH
28	Annette Vidis	St. John the Divine	Wheeling, WV
27	Gus Manos	St. Spyridon	Monessen, PA
26	+John Tsolainos	SS Constantine & Helen	Cleveland Heights, OH

Athenagoras Award For The Detroit Metropolis:

1997	Peter Phillips	Assumption	St. Clair Shores, MI
1998	+Gloria Michaels	Annunciation	Dayton, OH
1998	Rev. Fr. Chris Hadgigeorge	Holy Trinity Cathedral	Toledo, OH
2001	+Terry Jonethis	St. Nicholas	Jamestown, NY
2002	Ruth Econ	Holy Cross	Farmington Hills, MI
2002	Barbara Minton	St. George	Southgate, MI
2003	+Dr. George T. Georgantas	Holy Spirit	Rochester, NY
2003	+Rev. Fr. Michael Harmand	St. Sophia	Syracuse, NY
2004	Rev. Fr. Philemon Karamanos	St. George	Southgate, MI
2005	+Dr. Don E. Stathulas	Holy Trinity Cathedral	Toledo, OH
2006	+Elizabeth Serafis	Holy Trinity	Grand Rapids, MI
2007	Stan and Nancy Takis	Assumption	Flint, MI
2008	Chris Zervos	Holy Trinity Cathedral	Toledo, OH
2011	Evey Simon	St. Nicholas	Troy, MI
2012	Irene Georgantas	Holy Spirit	Rochester, NY

Athenagoras Award For The Pittsburgh Metropolis:

1996	+Mary Ameredes	Annunciation	Akron, OH
1996	+Steve Bournos	Holy Trinity	Canton, OH
1997	+Michael Hadgis	Annunciation	Akron, OH
1997	George Rafailedes, Jr.	St. Demetrios	Rocky River, OH
1999	+John N. Tsolainos	SS Constantine & Helen	Cleveland Heights, OH
2001	Angie Angelos	All Saints	Weirton, WV
2001	+Rev. Fr. George Bartz	Annunciation	Akron, OH
2002	Hieromonk Seraphim Dedes	St. Gregory Palamas	Hayesville, OH
2004	Dr. George M. Sarabalas	Annunciation Cathedral	Columbus, OH
2005	Erma E. Rangos	Holy Trinity	Steubenville, OH
2007	Michael J. Orfanopoulos	Presentation	East Pittsburgh, PA
2009	Dan Packis	St. Demetrios	Rocky River, OH

MEFGOX CHURCH MUSICIANS WHO ARE ARCHONS

+Dr. Christos Demakes, Cincinnati, OH	Archon Exarchos
+Mr. George T. Loutsion, Canonsburg, PA	Archon Deputatos, 1976
Mr. George Raptis, Detroit, MI	Archon Lambadarios, 1976
Dr. Nicholas Loutsion, Canonsburg, PA	Archon Aktouarios, 2003
Mr. Peter Papadakos, McKeesport, PA	Archon Ekdikos, 2006
Mr. John Tangelos, Sterling Heights, MI	Archon Dierminefs, 2010
Mr. Peter N. Vatsures, Columbus, OH	Archon Kastrinsios, 2011
Mr. Philip G. Yamalis, Pittsburgh, PA	Archon Protekdikos, 2012