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# The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

OF NORTH AMERICA

**DEPARTMENT OF SACRED MUSIC**  
[www.antiochian.org/music](http://www.antiochian.org/music)

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Dear Church Musicians,

This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Sacred Music Institute. When I think back on the early years, I remember a group of music lovers who “boldly went where no one had gone before”. We didn’t know what to expect, but quickly learned that the Sacred Music Institute was not only a place of learning, but also a place of love. Musicians helping musicians...Christians helping Christians. Friendships were formed and these bonds are thriving to this day. Personally, my earliest memory of the SMI was as a young seventeen-year-old being coached by Maestro James Meena, and directing my first Cherubic Hymn. How the years have passed...Twenty-four years later, I found myself organizing the Sacred Music Institute and here we are at year twenty-five.

The curriculum has expanded over the years. Here are some of the highlights being planned:

- We welcome back our beloved Bishop Basil, the music department’s overseer, and look forward to hearing his words of inspiration and musical brilliance.
- An expanded Byzantine Music Program will be led by Charlie Marge of the Boston Byzantine Chorale, and Dr. Sam Cohlma, Protopsaltis of the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America and St. George Cathedral, Wichita, Kansas. Additional faculty are Dr. Stephen Esper of St. George Cathedral, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Dr. Jessica Suchy-Pilalis, a specialist in the history, theory and practice of Byzantine music and Protopsaltis of the Greek Archdiocese.
- Classes on Theory, Vocal Techniques, Choral Conducting and Music for Mission Parishes will also be offered, just to name a few.
- For the second year, and back by popular demand, is the SMI Chamber Choir, who along with the Boston Byzantine Choir will be performing a concert featuring selections of Orthodox music from various traditions.

If you have never attended a Sacred Music Institute before, this is the perfect time to join in and participate in a wonderful weekend of musical fellowship and learning. And if you are a regular attendee, we look forward to seeing you again for this milestone celebration!

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The mission of the Department of Sacred Music is to provide leadership to the parishes of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese, drawing from the talents of the faithful in order to serve as a resource for the publication of music, to organize workshops and seminars, to build strong ties of communication throughout the Archdiocese, to support the work of missions, and to be a positive influence in the creation of new works of liturgical music for the glory of God and the Holy Orthodox Faith.

Please find enclosed more information about this wonderful weekend, as well as Registration Forms and other details you will need. Make your reservations early.

Until then, I wish you peace, health and love, and look forward to seeing you this summer!

Yours in Christ,

Paul Jabara  
Chairman  
Sacred Music Institute