



# GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

## ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

November 7, 2016

To the Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy  
Dedicated Parents of our Beloved Youth of the  
Northern New Jersey and Delaware Valley Regions of the  
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

My Beloved,

*"...but be filled with the Holy Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord..."*

**Ephesians 5:19**

We are surrounded by music in our daily spiritual lives. Our faith is filled with hymns and praises to our Lord, feeding our souls and bringing us ever closer to God. This beautiful phenomenon is especially noticeable in our Parishes when our cherished Youth are singing in the Choir during the Divine Liturgy or singing traditional Greek songs during a March 25<sup>th</sup> Greek School presentation.

For many years, it has been my dream to establish a Metropolis-wide Youth Choir, Band and Chorale. To this end, and to further develop and preserve the best of our Orthodox and Hellenic Cultural Heritage, I am hereby pleased to announce the establishment of the **Hellenic Cultural Music and Arts Center** of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey.

The purpose of the Hellenic Cultural Music and Arts Center (HCMAC) is to make available quality instruction in Ecclesiastical and Greek Music and the Performing Arts to all members of the Greek-American Community, beginning in the Northern New Jersey and Delaware Valley Regions of our Holy Metropolis, and gradually expanding to Maryland and Virginia. The HCMAC will operate on a non-profit basis, which will permit us to offer high quality instruction at a low cost, making it possible for all members of the Community to participate in its program.

The HCMAC will offer a wide range of instruction in music and the performing arts including: **Byzantine Ecclesiastical Music, Adult and Youth Choral, Piano, Guitar, Theory of Music, a Concert Band, Voice and Dance, including Ballet.** The program offered will be tailored to meet the specific needs and interest of our Young people.

Instruction will be held at various locations throughout New Jersey and Greater Philadelphia so that travel time will be kept to a minimum. Additional and special courses of instruction are offered when interest is expressed in them. This program is designed to provide the students with a well-grounded base in and appreciation of music and the performing arts, and for the most talented, an opportunity to prepare for more advanced training and a professional career.

Therefore, it is with much anticipated enthusiasm that I appeal to you as Clergy, but especially you the Parents, to encourage your children to participate and take advantage of this wonderful opportunity being offered by our Holy Metropolis of New Jersey. How majestic it will be to hear a Youth Choir of over 100 voices strong or to have our very own Marching Band, comprised of our Orthodox Youth instead of relying on a local High School. The opportunities are endless and worth the effort to explore and realize them. I look forward to your assistance with this vital new Youth Program.

Attached, please find the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey Hellenic Cultural Music Art Center Proposal for your information. Finally, Dimitrios and Helen Fousteris will contact you and meet with you in order to explain further the music programs in greater detail.

With Paternal Love and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Metropolitan Evangelos". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

† E V A N G E L O S  
Metropolitan of New Jersey