

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey



Music & Dance Festival
Philadelphia: February 14-16, 2025

"Peace I leave with you;



My peace I give you." John 14:27

Sheraton Downtown Hotel
Philadelphia, PA

Metropolis of New Jersey
Music and Dance Festival 2025
Dance Competition Rules

Dance Group Categories

All groups will receive critique guidelines on how their individual group performs. They will not be compared to other groups. The groups will compete and will be qualified to receive FIRST, SECOND, or THIRD place awards in each category. There will also be a Best Costume Award and a Best Choral Dance Award for each level of dance group.

Performance Areas

All performances will take place at The Sheraton Hotel on Saturday, February 15 and Sunday, February 16, 2025.

Stage area will be a 24'x24'

SINGING AND LIVE MUSIC IS ALLOWED.

Special Requests

Please submit to the Competition Chairperson your requests (in writing) for how you want your dance groups to start performing on stage. For example, do you want your dance group to dance onto the stage at the start of the music, or do you want them to walk on, line up first and then start the music? Also, if using live musicians please report the number of chairs and microphones you will need on stage for the musicians. Each group is to provide their own props. Special requests are due January 25, 2025.

Time Limits

The maximum performance time on stage is ten (10) minutes for each group during the Preliminary Round and twelve (12) minutes for each group during the Final Round.

Any dance group exceeding the maximum time allotted for each round of competition will be penalized as follows:

- Fifteen seconds over maximum time allotted – penalty of 10% subtracted from total cumulative score.

Our sound technicians will be instructed to keep the CD running from the moment it starts until the moment the dance group leaves the dance floor. They WILL NOT start and stop the CD for your group.

Disciplinary Action

Disorderly conduct of any kind (i.e.: excessive noise, use of vulgar language, running through the facility, throwing of food...etc.) WILL NOT BE TOLERATED and may result in an automatic disqualification of person(s) involved without refund. It is imperative that order is always maintained. All MDF participants are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the MDF bylaw rules and the Conduct Policy Statement as described in the Behavioral Policy Statement and on the bottom of the Individual Participant Registration Form.

Awards

First, Second and Third place awards plus Best Costume awards will be given in each dance group level.

<u>Dance Competition Judging Criteria</u>	<u>% of Total Score</u>
Points will be awarded from 1-10 in each category.	
A. Ethnic Quality of Dance 1. Styling 2. Steps/Pattern	35%
B. Stage Presence 1. Orientation 2. Balance 3. Spirit of Expression	35%
C. Precision	20%
D. Level of Difficulty	10%

Costumes will be judged separately from above point system

Definitions of judging format:

All dance groups will be critiqued on how they as an individual group perform.

A. **Ethnic Quality**

This refers to the authentic character of the dance style and steps. Different regions within Greece have vastly differing music and dances; this diversity should be recognized and represented, such as the musical and stylistic variation between the regions of Crete and Epirus.

1. Dance Styling
 - A. Posture
 - B. Demeanor of the group as a whole
 - C. Accuracy of the regional dance style
2. Dance Steps/Patterns
 - A. Accuracy of the regional dance step and style.

B. **Stage Presence**

1. **ORIENTATION:**
Orientation refers to the choreography, space usage, and focus of the dancers and the performance.
2. **BALANCE:**
Reasonably even level of capability exhibited by all the dancers. A group is not in balance if, for example a few outstanding dancers carry the performance.
3. **SPIRIT OF EXPRESSION:**
Refers to the appropriateness of the group's attitude, feeling and projection, whether joyous or serious, in accordance with the authentic character of the dance and the purpose it served in Greek village society.

C. Precision

This refers to whether the dancers are in synchronization “on beat” with the tempo and rhythm of the music and the precision of executing the choreography in synchronization “being together.”

D. Level of Difficulty

This refers to the director’s knowledge and amount of research conducted in relation to the regions presented in the dance performances. This strongly influences the quality of the performance, regardless of the level of the dancing abilities of the individual dancers. The intent is to critique and provide feedback to the director regarding their level of knowledge of Greek folk music and dance and their ability to present the material, rewarding those directors who attempt to achieve novel or difficult material or choreography regardless of the success of the performance itself.

E. Best Costume:

A single score per round will be given by each dance judge that reflects the quality and degree of authentic replication of the costumes.

Criteria for scoring:

1. How well do the costumes align with the region/village/timeframe of the material being performed?
2. Presentation: How well-fitting are the costumes? How neatly are dancers dressed? Are the costumes of good quality fabric and detail?

F. Choral Dance

Choral Dance a form of musical expression that is seamlessly integrated into a dance troupe’s performance. Unlike a standalone choral performance, choral dance involves vocal elements that complement and enhance the choreography. The voices of the dancers or a chorus are synchronized with the movements, creating a unified artistic experience. The choral component is carefully aligned with the dance, supporting the narrative or emotional tone of the piece, and contributing to the overall dynamic of the performance. This fusion of music and movement allows for a deeper connection between the dancers, the music, and the audience, resulting in a cohesive and immersive performance.

Choral Dance Judging Criteria	Explanation	% of Total Score
Musicianship	Technical ability in music, including intonation, phrasing, pitch, dynamics, diction, and ensemble singing (how well the group sings together).	60%
Presentation	Includes memorization, stage presence, a cappella singing, accompaniment (and how accompanying musicians are featured).	20%

Interpretation	Folk songs are sung with a traditional style that demonstrates the most appropriate rendition of a specified village's song, including tone, rhythm, and dialect.	20%
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There will be 5 given awards for each level of Greek Folk Dance.

1. Gold
2. Silver
3. Bronze
4. Best Costume
5. Dance Choral

Metropolis of New Jersey
Music and Dance Festival 2025
Liturgical Choir Competition Rules

Liturgical Choir Group Categories

All groups will receive critique guidelines on how their individual group performs. They will not be compared to other groups. The groups will compete and will be qualified to receive FIRST, SECOND, or THIRD place awards in each level.

Each Liturgical Choir Group should be categorized into one of the following levels, based on approximate age and experience:

- HOPE/JOY ages 6 – 12
- GOYA ages 12-18
- Advanced Young Adult ages 18-35

TIME LIMITS

There will be a **8-minutes** allotted per performance

- A group can perform as many hymns as desired if the performance is within the 8-minute time frame.
- Any group exceeding the maximum time allotted for each round of competition will be penalized as follows:
 - Fifteen seconds over maximum time allotted – penalty of 10% subtracted from total cumulative score.

GUIDELINES

- Each Liturgical Choir Group must perform traditional Orthodox liturgical or para-liturgical music, in either English or Greek
- Lyrics and music for each Hymn must be provided in advance
- Participants are encouraged to wear robes

Liturgical Choir Judging Criteria	Explanation	% of Total Score
Musicianship	Technical ability in music, including intonation, phrasing, pitch, dynamics, diction, and ensemble singing (how well the group sings together).	60%
Presentation	Includes memorization, stage presence, a cappella singing, accompaniment (and how accompanying musicians are featured).	10%
Interpretation	Liturgical and para-liturgical songs are sung with a traditional style that demonstrates the most appropriate rendition of a specified hymn, including tone, and rhythm.	30%

There are three given awards for each level of Liturgical Choir.

1. Gold
2. Silver
3. Bronze

The Executive Committee is aware that changes can occur therefore, any questions or changes your group may have once your registration has been submitted should be referred to Fr. Anastasios Bourantas (Co-Chairperson) via email: YourMDF@gmail.com