

The official arm of our Archdiocese responsible for liturgical music activities and the development, education, and support of church musicians is the **National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians**. Chartered in 1976 as an official auxiliary of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, the National Forum serves as the liaison among local church musicians, the Metropolis Church Music Federations, and our Archdiocese. The National Forum also serves as the gathering place for church musicians to discuss issues related to liturgical music and to formulate needed responses.

The National Forum has four major areas of focus:

- Support for **CHOIRS**, providing resources and activities to improve the quality of choirs and the availability of choral music in the church
- Support for **CHANTERS** and the perpetuation of **BYZANTINE CHANT**
- Support for **YOUTH CHURCH MUSIC PROGRAMS**, including hymnology and junior choirs
- Support for **CLERGY** and their parish music ministries

On this day, your support of this dedicated organization is encouraged.

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**Yes, I want to support the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians.**

**Enclosed is my tax deductible donation in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.**

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip/Metropolis\_\_\_\_\_

Email\_\_\_\_\_

Please send your donation to:

Treasurer Philip Vavalides, 4307 Shoal Creek Dr. Greensboro, NC 27410

**About the Icon:** Saint Romanos the Melodist is the patron saint of church musicians. St. Romanos, surnamed *O Melodos* and *O Theorrheter*, was a poet of the 6<sup>th</sup> Century. The only authority for the life and date of this greatest of Greek hymn-writers is the account in the Menaion for October; his Feast day is October 1<sup>st</sup>. According to this account, he was by birth a Syrian, served as deacon in the church at Berytus, and came to Constantinople in the reign of Anastasios. It was in the Church of the Most Holy Theotokos that he received the charisma of sacred poetry. "After a religious retreat at Blachernae, he returned to his church, and one night in his sleep, saw a vision of the Theotokos, who gave him a volume of paper saying, 'Take the paper and eat it.' In his dream, Romanos opened his mouth and swallowed the paper. It was Christmas Day, and immediately he awakened and marveled and glorified God. Then, mounting the ambo, he began the strains of his *I Parthenos Simeron ton Iperousion Tiktei*, the same Kontakion we sing today for the Nativity! He also wrote about one thousand other feast day kontakia before he died in 510 AD.

## National Church Music Sunday

**Today is the day parishes across our Archdiocese honor the gifts and stewardship of the church musicians of our parish – our clergy, the choir, our chanters, and those who teach the hymns of our Church to our youth. Their contributions enhance our worship and assure that the glorious treasury of our hymnography continues to edify us and future generations.**



National Church Music Sunday always occurs on or the Sunday following the Feast Day of St. Romanos (October 1<sup>st</sup>), the Patron Saint of Church Musicians.