MOSTLY ORTHROS FESTIVAL

DECEMBER 15-17, 2017
NEW YORK CITY

The two panegyris concerts of December 16-17, 2017 are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.
Welcome to the Mostly Orthros Festival - Axion Estin Foundation’s holiday season celebration of Byzantine music and tradition in New York City! This year’s festival weekend is a densely packed and diverse sampler that hopes to bring back passionate long-time supporters and invite new friends to the AEF family. The combination of activities - from conference lectures and practical workshops to concerts celebrating Byzantine and Greek folk music traditions - promises once again to educate, nurture, and inspire.

**Byzantine Pop-Ups:** It all starts on Friday, December 15, 2017 with the Byzantine Pop-Up performances at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, now in the fourth year of collaboration with The Met and the Greek Consulate General. This year, we are thrilled to add the Stavros Niarchos Foundation to AEF’s family of partners with a generous matching grant that doubles Byzantine Pop-Up donor contributions and significantly bolsters the sustainability and depth of our programming.

**Mostly Orthros Conference:** For those seeking greater academic immersion, this year’s Mostly Orthros Conference, an AEF collaboration with the Department of Music of Columbia University, focuses on Saint Gregory the Great, the Pope and prolific writer that authored Dialogues and whose name is linked with Gregorian chant. Prof. Peter Jeffery’s keynote address on Saint Gregory the Great and Gregorian chant ponders the question of whether western music has eastern origins. Master chanter and educator Athanasios Paivanas presents on the topic “Byzantine Music at the Service of Hymnography and the Archon Thrasyvoulos Stanitsas.” Mr. Paivanas will also offer engaging chant workshops and a group listening experience that reflect on rare recordings of the late Thrasyvoulos Stanitsas, one of the most important chanters of the 20th century.

**Panegyris Folk Concerts:** The wrap-up of this year’s Mostly Orthros Festival considers the relationship of Byzantine chant with Greek folk music traditions in the first installment of a new three year program on the multi-layered folk tradition of panegyris. Two concert performances in Queens - at the Saint Nicholas community in Flushing and the Cretan House in Astoria – musically and visually transport the audience to virtual panegyris celebrations. We are grateful to the Benaki museum in Athens for the invaluable text and images used in program materials and to the New York State Council on the Arts and Cultural Crete USA for their financial support in preserving these valuable and fragile elements of our cultural heritage.

Of course it does not end there! Stay tuned for a pair of concerts on March 11th, 2018, at the Fuentidueña Chapel at The Met Cloisters that focus on Saint Gregory the Great viewed from both Byzantine and Latin chant perspectives. The concerts are an exciting new AEF collaboration with the highly acclaimed early music vocal group Pomerium and explore the co-existence of both rich traditions and cultures.

Save the dates and plan to join us for learning and inspiration!

With warmest wishes,

Maria Dikeakos
President
Axion Estin Foundation Board of Directors

Phone: (914) 565-9687 | www.axionestin.org | Email: axionestinorg@gmail.com
OUR MISSION

The mission of the Axion Estin Foundation is to promote the understanding and appreciation of Byzantine chant in particular, and the Byzantine arts in general, as they have survived through the long centuries of Byzantine civilization with a remarkably unbroken continuity and homogeneity. The foundation seeks to stimulate attention and study of potential musical influences to both East (e.g., Ottoman Classical music) and West (e.g., Gregorian chant) of medieval Constantinople, the Byzantine capital. The foundation is depended on its unique network between the large constituency of Greek academics and musicians and their North American counterparts in Byzantine chant, Greek traditional (folk) music, and beyond.

The foundation’s approach is aligned with the 2003 recommendations by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). UNESCO recognized the “intangible cultural heritage” as being under threat in particular owing to a lack of resources for safeguarding such heritage. A related objective of the foundation is to facilitate historically-informed performances of repertory from traditions that have been severely tested in the 21st century as a result of processes of globalization and social transformation, including intolerance phenomena.

The Foundation realizes this mission through exceptional conferences, education programs, research initiatives, and publications, and strives to engage and educate an increasingly diverse international audience through its cultural partnerships.

Partners and collaborators

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, New Rochelle, NY
Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Flushing, NY
The National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians
Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology
Saint Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary

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Byzantine Pop-Ups at The Met

The Axion Estin Foundation’s international ensemble of chanters return to the Metropolitan Museum’s Medieval Sculpture Hall for the critically acclaimed Byzantine Pop-Ups. Praised by the New Yorker as a “commendable effort to bring holiday music back to the magnificent space,” the chanters perform ancient sacred and secular chants in Greek, Arabic, Armenian and Russian, in front of the only full-scale, authorized painted copy of the Deesis Mosaic from Hagia Sophia. The original mosaic displaying the Deesis (Christ flanked by the Virgin and Saint John the Baptist) was one of the finest works produced in Constantinople, capital of the Byzantine Empire. Concealed for centuries after the fall of the city to the Ottoman Turks in 1453, the mosaic was one of the many in Hagia Sophia restored by the Byzantine Institute of America in the late 1930s. The newly revealed mosaics were the focus of an exhibition at the Museum in 1944, when this work was featured.

Byzantine Pop-Ups
The Metropolitan Museum of Art
Friday, December 15, 2017
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., and 8:00 p.m.
Medieval Sculpture Hall (Gallery 305)
The Metropolitan Museum of Art
free with museum admission

Holiday Reception
Consul General Dr. K. Koutras
Friday, December 15, 2017
5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Consulate General of Greece
69 E 79th Street, New York, NY 10075
*open to registered attendees

Museum guests will be invited at the Medieval Sculpture Hall (Gallery 305) at the sound of “talanto,” the wooden plank used instead of a bell in monasteries of the Eastern Christian tradition to summon the fathers to prayer and supper. The program of music includes the signature hymn “Christ is born Glorify Him...” and proceeds with an eclectic selection of Christmas chants and carols from the Byzantine Empire. The music includes scores in multiple languages as they have been transmitted orally or preserved in centuries-old music manuscripts.

Eleftherios Eleftheriadis, director of the Axion Estin Chanters, is the foundation’s artist in residence since 2013. He returns this upcoming December 2017 to The Metropolitan Museum of Art following his performances in three previous Byzantine Pop-Ups (December 2014, 2015, and 2016), as well as in the concerts Looking East from Byzantium (March 2015) and Al-Quds: Jerusalem (December 2016,) both at The Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium. Eleftherios is affiliated with the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church and the William Spyropoulos School, both in Flushing, New York.

* The reception is free of charge. However, please note that due to building requirements only registered attendees will be admitted to this event. No walk-ins will be permitted.
Highlights from December 2016 Performances!

Excerpt from Heidi Waleson’s review in the Wall Street Journal (December 13, 2016) of the performance Al-Quds: Jerusalem at the Met Fifth Avenue.

[...On Friday, the Metropolitan Museum presented “Al-Quds: Jerusalem,” an imaginative concert devised to illustrate and amplify the themes of the current exhibition “Jerusalem 1000-1400: Every People Under Heaven.” No concert could be as wide-ranging as the objects in the exhibit, but it did evoke the idea of the city as a rich mix of cultures, languages, religions and voices.

The sharpest contrast came from the concert’s Christian bookends. To begin, the Axion Estin Foundation Chanters, an 11-voice male choir, performed traditional Byzantine chants. In one selection, two soloists alternated—in Greek and Arabic—chanting a Bible text about the many languages of Jerusalem, illustrating the city’s polyglot overlap. But most striking was how the weighty, rhythmic character of the Byzantine music contrasted with the ethereal qualities of the 12th century abbess and composer Hildegard von Bingen’s “O Jerusalem,” exquisitely sung at the end of the program by the sopranos of ModernMedieval Trio of Voices...]

The Axion Estin Foundation Chanters, December 9, 2016

Dr. Konstantinos Koutras (right)
Consul General of Greece in New York City
Axion Estin Reception at the Consulate General of Greece in New York

Dr. Helen C. Evans (right)
Mary and Michael Jaharis Curator for Byzantine Art
The Department of Medieval Art and The Cloisters
The Metropolitan Museum of Art
St. Gregory the Great, who was born into a wealthy and prominent Roman family, was the bishop of Rome (i.e., the pope) from 590-604 AD. One of the best-educated men of his time, he wrote important commentaries on the Bible, a book of Dialogues on the lives of the Italian saints, and a treatise on how to be a good bishop. He also left behind over 800 letters on administrative matters, which demonstrate how effectively he ruled both the city of Rome and the Church throughout Europe.

Gregory is best known in the west for having sent the first Christian missionaries to Anglo-Saxon England. In the east he is best known as the author of the Dialogues. Unusually for his time, he defended the rights of Jews to retain their religious freedom and not be forced to convert.

About the year 578, Gregory was sent to Constantinople by the preceding pope, Pelagius II, to serve as ambassador (apocrisarius) to the court of the Byzantine emperor. He remained there until about 585, but we know little about what he did while there. But he seems to have learned something about Byzantine Christianity and monasticism, despite a limited knowledge of the Greek language.

As pope, Gregory restricted the singing of deacons during the liturgy, on the grounds that men were being ordained because of their fine singing voices instead of more spiritual qualities. In spite of this apparent hostility to music, Gregory came to be credited, as early as the ninth century, with creating Gregorian chant: the songs of the Roman liturgy and the earliest surviving body of music from Western Europe. How this came about, and what Gregory really knew and thought about the music of his time, are questions that will be explored in Professor Jeffery’s lecture.

Practicum Byzantine chant workshops by master chanters

Photios Ketsetzis and Athanasios J. Paivanas
### 2017 Mostly Orthros Conference Tentative Schedule

For most up to date timeline of presentations visit axionestin.org

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am – 9 am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 am – 10:45 am</td>
<td>George E. Demacopoulos: Gregory the Great: Ascetic, Pastor, and First Man of Rome.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 am – 12:00 pm</td>
<td>Peter Jeffery: Saint Gregory the Great and Gregorian Chant: Does Western Music Have Eastern Origins?</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 pm – 2 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 pm – 3:30 pm</td>
<td>Photios Ketsetzis: &quot;Θεοτόκε Παρθένε&quot; in eight modes by Petros Bereketis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:45 pm – 5:15 pm</td>
<td>Athanasios Paivanas: &quot;Προσόμοια&quot; (contrafacta) from the Feast of Saint Gregory the Great.</td>
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</tbody>
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Saint Gregory the Great, inspired by the Holy Spirit, dictating Gregorian chant to a scribe.

Hartker Antiphoner manuscript, 10th-century.
The Panegyris

The Axion Estin Foundation proudly presents two concerts dedicated to the musical traditions of the institution of panegyris. Panegyreis (i.e., plural of panegyris,) were principal commercial fairs of various Greek provinces. A panegyris would have been held on the day of the celebration of the local patron saint. We will feature the folk musical traditions represented in a typical panegyris, including Byzantine hymns dedicated to the patron saint of the village, local folk music expressions, as well as the “guest” folk musical traditions that the non-Greek people following the seasonal trade routes brought with them from across the Balkans. The overall goal is to introduce New York audiences to the multi-layered folk musical traditions that have co-existed and co-evolved for centuries in the Balkan peninsula and parts of Asia Minor. We start our journey this first year with an exploration of the Cretan traditional musical traditions as manifested in Church chanting and folk music singing in the island of Crete.

The two concerts are scheduled for two consecutive days on December 16 and 17, 2017, in two major Hellenic communities of Queens, New York. The concerts will be 75 to 90 minutes long and they will start at 7:30 pm. Please find location information below. Both concerts are free and open to the public.

**Panegyris Day One**
7:30 pm, Saturday, December 16, 2017
Michelis Hellenic Cultural Center
196-10 Northern Boulevard
Flushing, Queens, New York 11358
Cosponsored by
Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
Flushing, New York

**Panegyris Day Two**
7:30 pm, Sunday, December 17, 2017
Cretan House
32-33 31st Street
Astoria, Queens, New York 11106
Cosponsored by
CULTURAL CRETE USA

The two panegyris concerts of December 16-17, 2017 are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.
SAVE THE DATE

1 pm & 3 pm, Sunday, March 11, 2018: Two Concerts dedicated to Saint Gregory the Great
The Fuentidueña Chapel, The Met Cloisters featuring The Axion Estin Chanters & Pomerium
MOSTLY ORTHROS HONOREE

Photios Ketsetzis
Professor of Byzantine Music Emeritus
Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology
Archon Protosaltis of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

The Axion Estin Foundation is honoring this year Photios Ketsetzis for his life-long contributions to Byzantine music education. The foundation will issue a commemorative journal in honor of Mr. Ketsetzis, who will be present and actively involved in Axion Estin Foundation's 2017 Mostly Orthos festival. Indicative of Mr. Ketsetzis' caliber is the fact that he served as Protosaltis from 1977 to 1983 at the National Shrine of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary (Panagia Megalochari) of Tinos, Greece. From 1992 to 2010 he served at Hellenic College and Holy Cross as Professor, Protosaltis of the Holy Cross Chapel, and Director of the St. Romanos the Melodist Byzantine Choir. He was trained under renowned master cantors Dimitrios Sourlantzis and Thrasyvoulos Stanitsas.

Record your wishes to Photios Ketsetzis in the Axion Estin 2017 Commemorative Journal
Celebrating over half a century of educational contributions
Sponsoring Commitment Form

Please complete this Sponsorship Commitment Form and return to:
Axion Estin Foundation
10 Mill Road, New Rochelle, NY 10804
Phone: (914) 565-9687 | Email: axionestinorg@gmail.com

Sponsorship
You are invited to become a 2017 Mostly Orthros Festival benefactor and receive recognition as a sponsor of one of our inspirational events! Each sponsorship level will receive multiple forms of recognition. We appreciate your consideration and would like to welcome you to the Axion Estin Foundation circle of supporters.

☐ I (we) will proudly sponsor the 2017 Mostly Orthros Festival by committing to the below level of sponsorship.

Select your 2017 Mostly Orthros Festival Sponsorship Level
☐ $15,000
   The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Byzantine Pop-Up Concerts
☐ $5,000 - limited to one sponsor
   Columbia University, Department of Music Conference
☐ $5,000 - limited to one sponsor
   Panegyris Concert Day One, Michelis Hellenic Cultural and Educational Center
☐ $5,000 - limited to one sponsor
   Panegyris Concert Day Two, Cretan House, Astoria

Donation
☐ Suggested: $150   Name listing in Axion Estin 2017 Commemorative Journal as Sponsor
☐ Other: $____   Name listing in Axion Estin 2017 Commemorative Journal as Sponsor

Axion Estin 2017 Commemorative Journal

Tribute to Photios Ketsetzis and advertising opportunities
☐ Quarter Page $75   ☐ Half Page $150   ☐ Full Page $300
☐ Inside Back Cover $750 - limited to one sponsor
☐ Back Cover $1,000 - limited to one sponsor

Advertising must be paid and artwork received by November 30, 2017, for guaranteed inclusion in the Axion Estin 2017 Commemorative Journal. Send artwork to axionestinorg@gmail.com. The Axion Estin Foundation Tax ID is # 59-3826128. Tax deductible receipts will be mailed upon receipt of payment.

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Submitted by ____________________________ Email ____________________________
Print Name | Signature of Individual/Authorized Company Representative ____________________________
(Print Name) (Signature) (Date)

Signed sponsorship agreements are considered final and committed and paid funds are non-refundable. The Axion Estin Foundation reserves the right to change/modify all sponsorship opportunities.
Support the Byzantine Pop-Ups at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and DOUBLE YOUR CONTRIBUTION!

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation will match up to $15,000 in donations, dollar for dollar, made to the Axion Estin Foundation for the Byzantine Pop-Ups through December 31, 2017. Help us meet the Stavros Niarchos Foundation challenge in order to maintain the artistic excellence that our Axion Estin Chanters have achieved over the last three consecutive years.

The kind support of both individual donors and the business community are welcome!

Checks should be issued to “Axion Estin Foundation” and earmarked specifically for the “Byzantine Pop-Ups.” Please mail your check today to Axion Estin Foundation, 10 Mill Road, New Rochelle, NY 10804. Tax-deductible receipts will be provided and all donations will be acknowledged in the Axion Estin Foundation Mostly Orthros Program website and printed materials.

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation [[SNF] (www.SNF.org)] is one of the world's leading private, international philanthropic organizations, making grants in the areas of arts and culture, education, health and sports, and social welfare. Since 1996, SNF has committed $2.1 billion, through 3,091 grants to nonprofit organizations in 113 nations around the world. The Foundation funds organizations and projects that are expected to achieve a broad, lasting and positive impact for society at large, and exhibit strong leadership and sound management. The Foundation also supports projects that facilitate the formation of public-private partnerships as an effective means for serving public welfare.

In addition to its standard grants, the SNF has continued to respond to the urgent needs of Greek society, by providing relief against the severe effects of the socioeconomic crisis through three major grant initiatives of $378 million.

The Foundation’s largest single gift is the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center (SNFCC), in Athens. The project’s total cost is $861 million. The SNFCC is designed by the renowned architectural firm Renzo Piano Building Workshop, and includes the new facilities of the National Library of Greece, and Greek National Opera, as well as the Stavros Niarchos Park. The Center was delivered to the Greek Society on February 23rd, 2017. Following the handover, the SNF announced its commitment to continue supporting the SNFCC for the next five years, through grants totaling up to $53 million. The grants support the implementation of public programming and help cover part of SNFCC's operational costs. All events funded with SNF support are free to the public.