

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

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“Nothing so arouses the soul, gives it wing, sets it free from the earth, releases it from the prison of the body, teaches it to love wisdom and to despise all the things of this life, as concordant melody and sacred song composed in rhythm.” +St. John Chrysostom (On Psalm 41)

Beloved Brother Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, and Christ-Loving Faithful,

Every year we set aside the second Sunday of December to remember and pray for our faithful church musicians. With God’s help and inspiration, they are always praying for us by chanting the sacred hymns of our Church. On this day we, in turn, say thank you and pray for them.

The hymnography of our Orthodox faith is an expression of theology. One could never pick up an academic or dogmatic book about the faith his entire life, but could still become a theologian by simply listening to and internalizing the words of these hymns.

At the same time, the richness of our hymns becomes even richer when they are chanted and sung correctly and with beauty. It is not by chance that countless numbers of people over the centuries were first attracted to the faith by the beauty of our services.

On the Sunday of Musician Appreciation Day, we extend heartfelt thanks to Ms. Mareena Boosamra-Ball and all the members of our archdiocesan Department of Sacred Music for their commitment in supporting this sacred ministry. They continue to expend the possibilities for people to learn how to chant and sing praises to our Lord through various means. We are especially grateful that, for the first time this year, we have started our Antiochian Orthodox Online Ecclesiastical Music School that trains people in both Western and Byzantine Music, according to their preferences and interests. This, in addition to the various Sacred Music Institutes, and youth and parish workshops sponsored by the Department, helps us to further develop and train our current and future musicians.

We also gratefully honor all of our choir directors, singers and chanters, the vast majority of whom dedicate themselves to this sacred ministry for little or no compensation. For them, it is indeed a labor of love. Wishing you God’s every blessing, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

✠ SABA

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“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

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