

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA

Ms. Mareena
Boosamra Ball



Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

Chairwoman,
Dept. of Sacred Music

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

Musician Appreciation Sunday, December 14, 2025

Dear friends, our church musicians across the Archdiocese: Christ is in our midst!

Let me begin with a huge THANK YOU! Your service and dedication to our God-protected churches and communities is truly a blessing.

As I reflect on this past year, it is just astonishing how quickly time has passed since the writing of my last letter!

At my church's recent choir rehearsal, I brought out all the beautiful hymns that we will be singing for the Nativity of our Lord's divine services in just a few short weeks. It was like greeting an old, special friend who you haven't seen in a long time.

The familiarity of the music with those who have been singing in the choir for decades, combined with the introduction of these beautiful melodies to new members, resonates with unending possibilities. This blend ensures that our musical traditions will not only continue to thrive within our own churches but will also spread across the Orthodox world.

There is an instant synergy in the choir that blends the voices of the individual singers to create a single, beautiful tapestry of sound. With the antiphonal song of prayer between our beloved clergy and singers, our combined goal is to aid the faithful of our churches in prayer and worship. As church musicians, we never lose sight of our true purpose of spreading the word of God through our beautiful melodies.

Your dedication to the sacred music of our blessed Archdiocese has enriched our liturgical life and deepened the spiritual experience for the faithful across North America. I encourage you to continue to expand your musical horizons and stay strong by attending classes being offered through our Antiochian Orthodox Ecclesiastical Online Music School, becoming a student at our biannual Sacred Music Institutes to recharge your batteries, but most of all, approaching your ministry with love, humility and prayerfulness.

May our incarnate Lord bless you always and give you strength. Please remember that your Department of Sacred Music is always here to help you in any way we can.

With deepest appreciation and admiration, your servant in Christ,

Mareena Boosamra Ball
Chairwoman, Department of Sacred Music
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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

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