

# The Arcadian Chorale

Membership in the Chorale is *free!*

**We'd love to have you sing with us!**

We meet  
every **Tuesday at 7:00 pm**

at the

**First Presbyterian Church of Matawan, NJ,**  
located at Rt. 34 and Franklin Street.

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and we will contact you about our upcoming season!

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**Marina Alexander**

**Musical & Artistic  
Director**

**25<sup>th</sup> CONCERT SEASON  
2017 – 2018**

## **GALA CONCERT**

marking the

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of**

**St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church**  
41 - 47 Wisteria Street  
Perth Amboy, NJ

**Friday, Oct. 27, 2017 – 8:00 PM**

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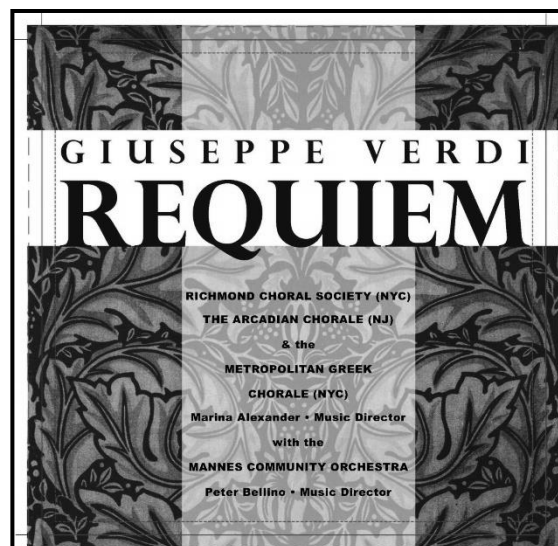
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# The Arcadian Choral

**Marina Alexander, Musical & Artistic Director**

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The **Arcadian Choral** is a member of the *NJ Choral Consortium*  
and of the *Monmouth County Arts Council*.

# The Arcadian Choral

**Marina Alexander, Musical & Artistic Director**

**Yannis Xylas, Guest Accompanist**

*present*

*a Musical Tribute to*

## GREAT MARTYR DEMETRIOS

*Defender of Thessalonika & Champion of the Faithful*

**Readings offered by Maria Mantoudakis & Dr. Andrew Moreianu**

**Reading #1 - "How precious are thy friends unto me, O God...."**

**Reading #2 - "From beginning to end he eagerly strove....."**

**St. Demetrios, A Worthy Champion**

World Premiere

**Marina Alexander**

**Christopher Lucier, tenor**

**Donald Boos, bass**

Based on the Apolytikion of St. Demetrios

Μεγαν ευρατο  
εν τοις κινδυνοις  
σε υπερμαχον  
η οικουμενη  
Αθλοφορε τα εθνη  
τροπουμενον.

Ως ουν Λυαιου καθειλες  
την επαρσιν  
εν τω σταδιω  
θαρρινας τον Νεστορα,  
ουτως, Αγιε  
μεγαλομαρτυς Δημητριε,  
Χριστον τον Θεον  
ικετευε,  
δωρησασθε ημιν  
το μεγα ελεος.

A worthy champion  
amidst great dangers,  
the whole world found in you  
a great defender;  
victorious, you vanquished  
the barbarian nations.

Thus as thou didst cut down  
Lyaeus' arrogance  
and in the stadium inspired  
Nestor with miraculous courage,  
Therefore, O Holy  
and great martyr Demetrios,  
for us to Christ our God  
make supplication,  
that He may grant unto us  
great mercy.

**Reading #3 - "Demetrios pours out an undiminishing stream of graces...."**

**Reading #4 - "Preserving undefiled the grace he received through baptism in Christ....."**

**Psalm 135**  
**arr.**

**Marina Alexander,**

**EphiGenia Kastanas, soprano**  
**Christopher Lucier, tenor**

**Reading #5 - "For Demetrios, words, combined with the Spirit's grace...."**

From *St. Demetrius*, Op. 28/34 (1962)

**IX. Nestor's aria**

**Nicolas Astrinidis**  
(1921 – 2010)

Text by George Themelis

English translation by Marina Alexander

**Christopher Lucier, tenor**

Τα ειδωλα παλι μας γυρευουν  
του Κυριου το σωμα το αιμα,  
το σωμα και το αιμα των πιστων  
τα ειδωλα παλι γυρευουν.

Idols again are seeking  
the blood of the Lord's body,  
[and] the bodies and blood of the faithful  
the idols again are seeking.

Του Λυαιου η δηναμη σκοτωνει  
ποιος μπορεί να μετρηθη με τον κραταιο  
και αητητο Λυαιο?  
Η δηναμη του ολους φοβιζει,  
η δηναμη του και το μεγα σωμα του.

The power of Lyaeus is fatal;  
who can measure up with the mighty  
and unquenchable Lyaeus?  
His strength terrifies everyone,  
his strength and his enormous physique.

Μα εδω στη γη ποιος θα σταθη  
του Κυριου το κρατος της αγαπης  
χωπης σωμα, διχως σαρκα?

But here on earth who will stand up  
for the Lord's kingdom of love,  
without a body, without flesh?

Αφθαρτη στεκεται η ψυχη μας  
και προς τον Κυριον ανεβαινει.

Imperishable remains our soul,  
and it ascends to the Lord.

Βοηθα Θεε μου  
και Θεε του Δημητριου,  
κραταιωσε το χερι μου  
να καταβαλω του φοβερο Σου εχθρο  
και αντιπαλο μου.

Assist me, my God,  
and God of Demetrios,  
steady my hand  
that I may defeat your fearsome enemy  
and my adversary.

Η ψυχη μου με κινει να αγωνισθω.  
Η πιστη μου με δυναμωνει να νικησω.

My soul moves me to battle.  
My faith empowers me to win.

Αφθαρτη στεκεται η ψυχη μας  
και προς τον Κυριον ανεβαινει.

Imperishable remains our soul,  
and it ascends to the Lord.

Τα ειδωλα παλι μας γυρευουν  
το σωμα και το αιμα των πιστων.  
Μα η δηναμη μου ειναι στην ψυχη μου.  
Η ψυχη μου με κινει να αγωνισθω.

The idols again are seeking  
the body and the blood of the faithful.  
But my strength is in my soul.  
My soul moves me to battle.

**Reading #6 - "When Demetrios made war on Christ's opponents...."**

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## Alleluia

John Gentry Stephens

**Reading #7 - "I am aware that you all wish to know the way in which he was arrested...."**

**Great in Spirit, Small in Years**  
World Premiere

**Marina Alexander**

**EphiGenia Kastanas, soprano**

**Christopher Lucier, tenor**

**Donald Boos, bass**

based on the Apolytikion of St. Nestor

Αθλητης ευσεβειας ακαταγωνιστον,  
ως κοινωνος και συνηθης  
του Δημητριου οφθεις,  
ηγωνισω ανδρικως Νεστωρ μακαριε,  
τη θεικη γαρ αγωγη,  
τον Λυαιον καθελων,  
ως αμωμον ιερειον,  
σφαγιασθεις προσηνεχθης,  
τω Αθλοθετη και Θεω ημων.

An invincible athlete of piety,  
when you appeared as a companion  
and comrade of Demetrios,  
you contested bravely, Blessed Nestor,  
for, when with care and aivine  
Lyaioi you defeated  
As immaculate victim  
you were slain, sacrificed and offered  
to our God who grants the victor's prize.

**Ikos**

Having competed through the might of God, O All-Blessed One,  
you were shown to be triumphant.  
Having trampled the enemy underfoot,  
you have been glorified and you appeared, O Nestor,  
crowned in victory together with the companies of sacred Champions.  
You have surpassed Aaron, O Athlete of Christ,  
offering your sacred blood alongside Abel,  
taking your place at the divine throne of the Creator  
together with the angelic ranks; cease not to pray for us.



**Reading #8 - "When those appointed by Maximian Herculus...."**

**Reading #9 - "You know about the delay ordered by the tyrant....."**



From *St. Demetrius*, Op. 28/34 (1962)

### XIII. 2nd aria de Demetrius

Nicolas Astrinidis

(1921 – 2010)

Text by George Themelis

English translation by Marina Alexander

Donald Boos, baritone

Η ψυχή μου είναι περιλυτή,  
του μαρτυρίου ο στεφανός,  
του αιματος η θλίψη με πικραίνει,  
η θυσία του φίλου μου και αγαπημένου.

My soul is sorrowful,  
the martyrdom a crown,  
the blood of affliction embitters me,  
of the sacrifice of my beloved friend.

Δε θ'αντικρυσω πια το πρόσωπο του,  
μέσα στο φως το αγαπημένο.  
Το βλέμμα του δε θ' απαντά  
στο κοιτάγμα μου,  
κλειστό για μένα, τον Κύριο θ'ατενίψη.

I will never again see his face,  
see the great, beloved light.  
His glance will not respond  
to my gaze,  
closed to me, [yet] glowing for the Lord.

Δε θ'αντικρυσω πια το πρόσωπο του,  
το βλέμμα του, κλειστό για μένα.  
Η αγαπή κλαίει μες στην ψήλη και θρήνη,  
Μες στην καρδιά μου κλαίει η αγαπή  
και θρήνη,  
η ψυχή μου είναι περιλυτή.

I will never again see his face,  
His glance, closed off to me.  
My love weeps in my soul and mourns,  
in my heart love weeps  
and mourns,  
my soul is sorrowful.

Συγχωρεσε Κυριε  
την αδυναμία μου της αγαπης.  
Υπαρχουμε για να ετοιμαζουμε  
την οδο της βασιλειας Σου.  
Στεκοσμαστε για να στηθη  
το κρατος της Αγαπης.  
Συγχωρεσε, Κυριε, την αδυναμία μου,  
του ποτηριου πικρο,  
ναι, και ξεχειλο σαν το δικο Σου.

Forgive, Lord,  
my weakness of love.  
We exist to prepare  
the path to your kingdom.  
We stand to secure  
the kingdom of Love.  
Forgive, lord, my weakness,  
the bitterness of this cup,  
and yes, overflowing as was yours.

Του μαρτυρίου η δοξα θ'είναι η δοξα μας -  
του μαρτυρίου ο στεφανός,  
η αγαπή, και το φως.

Martyrdom's glory will be our glory;  
martyrdom's crown,  
love, and light.

Reading #10 – “So when the murderous spear-bearers arrived....”

Reading #11 – “He so desired to be killed and to shed his blood for  
Christ's glory.....

## WHO'S WHO

**YANNIS XYLAS (Guest Accompanist)** was born and raised in Thessaloniki, Greece. He studied piano with Nikos Astrinidis and received his Diploma with Honors from the Macedonian Conservatory of Music. He has performed extensively in Greece, mainly in concerts for Two Pianos, premiering W.Bolcom's *Recuerdos* in Greece, among other works, a concert that was televised. He was also rehearsal pianist and assistant chorus master for the Lyrical Opera Chorus of Thessaloniki for six years.



He currently resides in New York and has been associated with Mid-America Productions (American premiere of Theodorakis' s opera *Elektra*, Rossini's *Ermione*, *Medée* and Taneyev's opera *Agamemnon*) Opera Orchestra of New York, Miller Theatre (US Premiere of *Oresteia* by Xenakis) , New York Grand Opera and Lubo Opera (US premiere of Kalman's 1928 Operetta *Die Herzogin von Chicago*) as rehearsal pianist, chorus master and assistant conductor. In 1999 he made his Lincoln Center (Avery Fischer Hall) debut in New York in the triple capacity of performer, orchestrator and artistic director in a concert featuring Greek classical music. In 2002 he appeared at Washington's Kennedy Center in a similar concert, and in April 2010 made his Carnegie Hall debut in the two pianos, percussion and chorus version of *Carmina Burana*.

He has performed extensively in the USA, China, Czech Republic, Greece, Honduras India, Indonesia, Poland and Spain, collaborating with singers, instrumentalists and orchestras, mastering an extensive repertoire of opera, oratorio, operetta, lied and specializing in rarely performed music and Greek Classical music. As an organist he has played the great organs of St. Patrick's Cathedral and St. Bartholomew's.

Mr. Xylas has been the accompanist for the Metropolitan Greek Chorale (NYC) for many years, and is also Vice President of the Hellenic Music Foundation and the Artistic & Music Director of the Hellenic Music Foundation Symphony Orchestra, as well as a conductor and freelance orchestrator.

**EPHIGENIA KASTANAS (Soprano)** hails from New England where her Greek Eastern Orthodox faith and cultural heritage were cultivated. With these solid religious and family roots, she embarked on her musical journey from church choir member to classical music opera performer, with pivotal roles in the United States, Europe and Canada. Her vocal educational credentials begin with her Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from the Hartt School of Music in Connecticut where she graduated *summa cum laude*. With a thirst for expanding her knowledge, craft skills and ability, she auditioned and received a sought-after conservatory position in the Masters program at the Manhattan School of Music in New York, where she distinguished herself and attained her Masters in Vocal Performance. EphiGenia continues her coaching and vocal instruction, respectively, under Joan Dornemann and Olga Makarina, both acclaimed affiliates of the Metropolitan Opera. She also has used her extensive musical background to give back with voice instruction and coaching to underprivileged children.



EphiGenia was selected and invited to perform three lead roles in Southern France: *Bagatelle* (Bagatelle), *Le Mariage aux Lanternes* (Catherine), and *La Périchole* (Brambilla). While in France, she was an understudy as Antonia in *Les Contes D'Hoffmann*. EphiGenia has performed in MSM productions of *l'Enfant et les Sortilèges* (l'Enfant understudy) and *Die Zauberflöte* (Papagena, Erster Knabe). Some other operatic endeavors include: *Carmen* (Frasquita), *Die Fledermaus* (Adele, Rosalinda), and *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Susanna). More recently, she has toured during the summers with the International Vocal Academy Institute (IVAI) throughout New York and Canada performing such arias as Bizet's *Carmen* and scenes from Menotti's, *Telephone*. She continues to seek opportunities and venues in both classical and cultural vocal performances.



**THE ARCADIAN CHORALE** was organized in the fall of 1992 with the aim of providing local residents in the Monmouth County, NJ area the opportunity to sing and perform choral music on an advanced level. Acclaimed for its innovative and musically accomplished productions, the group presents two full programs each season at sites throughout central NJ, and serves the community by participating in special events throughout the year.

In June 2001, the Chorale made its **Carnegie Hall debut** in a performance of Beethoven's *9<sup>th</sup> Symphony*, appeared there again in February 2002, singing Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, and made a third trip in November 2002, offering Dvorak's *Te Deum*. It returned there in June 2003, for the NY Premiere of *Ernani*, a recently rediscovered opera by Rossini. Reviews referred to the group as "uniformly solid" and singing "with passion and accuracy." In April 2007, it sang at that august hall once again, offering Poulenc's *Gloria*.

In May 2007, the Chorale sang two performances of the **Verdi Requiem** at sites in New York City, in collaboration with the Mannes Community Orchestra, the Richmond Choral Society, and the Metropolitan Greek Chorale. The group reprised that work in May 2008 at Carnegie Hall with the St. Cecelia Chorus and Maestro David Randolph. For Verdi's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration in Oct. 2013, the group sang his masterwork once again in Manhattan, with the NY Symphonic Arts Ensemble.

In May 2004, the ensemble made its debut at the **NJ Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)**, joining with its "sister chorus," the Richmond Choral Society of Staten Island singing the Mahler *Symphony #2*, the "Resurrection." The performance celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the "Carnation Revolution," when democracy was peacefully restored to Portugal.

Locally, the Chorale has sung at the **Count Basie Theater** in Red Bank several times, joining forces in 2004 with the Monmouth Symphony in a performance of Orff's *Carmina Burana* and Poulenc's *Gloria*, and again in October 2010, singing Beethoven's *9<sup>th</sup> Symphony*. The ensemble was honored to participate in both the 35<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala concerts of the Monmouth Conservatory of Music, collaborating with its director Vladislav Kovalsky as piano soloist in Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*. In April 2012, the Chorale provided the chorus for a standing ovation performance of **Video Games Live**.

In 2005 & 2006, the Chorale appeared at the **Two River Theater** in Red Bank, selling out the house for its holiday programs. In March 2007, it made its debut in Asbury Park, where it partnered with the Staten Island Philharmonic for "Mozart Plus One," an innovative presentation of Mozart's *Requiem*. The two groups joined forces again in April 2008 for a concert version of Verdi's *La Traviata* at the St. George Theater, Staten Island.

In September 2007, the Chorale performed at Ocean Grove, as part of the **NJ State Opera's "Destination: Opera!"** program. The Chorale has participated in the annual Freehold Holiday Festival, the Freehold/Taster's Choice Summer Concert Series, and "Tomorrow's Brightest Stars," an arts festival sponsored by the National Alliance for Excellence. In addition to its live performances, the group has made several appearances on cable television.

For the occasion of its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2003, the ensemble commissioned *Infanta Marina*, a new work from New York composer William Hawley. For its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2013, the Chorale premiered Seattle composer David Reznick's powerful *The New Jerusalem*. Committed to creating a permanent record of its work, the group has released 14 recordings, including its Spring 2007 performance of the Verdi *Requiem* and Spring 2010 offering, Beethoven's *9<sup>th</sup> Symphony*.

From *St. Demetrius*, Op. 28/34 (1962)

#### **XIV. Epilogue: Martyrdom & Deification of Demetrius**

Text by George Themelis

Music by **Nicolas Astrinidis**

English translation by Marina Alexander

Demetrius faces his martyrdom without fear or sorrow, and his soul ascends to heaven. The Angels praise the glory of God, and the Christians eulogize Saint Demetrius, patron of Thessalonika. As Demetrius' soul meets that of Nestor before they pass the gates of heaven, they both look down to earth and ask God to cleanse its evil and save the world.

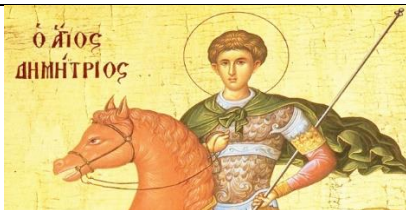
**Narrator: EphiGenia Kastanas, soprano**

**St. Nestor: Christopher Lucier, tenor**

**St. Demetrius: Donald Boos, bass**

<b>Chorus</b>	Του μαρτυρίου ήρθε η ώρα.	<i>The hour of martyrdom has arrived.</i>
<b>Nar.</b>	Λόγχη εκεντήθη επί σταυρού ο Υιός της Παρθένου. Λόγχη εκεντήθη ο Θεός.	With a spear was pierced on the cross the Son of the Virgin. With a spear was pierced the Lord.
<b>Chorus</b>	Του μαρτυρίου ήρθε η ώρα.	<i>The hour of martyrdom has arrived.</i>
<b>Nar.</b>	Λόγχη εκεντήθη ο εκλεκτός μιμητής του Κυρίου και μάρτυς Δημήτριος.	With a spear was pierced the chosen imitator of the Lord and martyr Demetrius.
<b>Chorus</b>	Της δόξας ήρθε η ώρα. Υμνείτε τον Κύριον!	The hour of glory has arrived. Praise the Lord!
<b>Nar.</b>	Φόβου σκιά δεν άγγιξε η θανάτου οδύνη την όψη του Αγίου.	The shadow of fear or the pain of death did not touch the saint's face.
<b>Chorus</b>	Υμνείτε το όνομα του Κυρίου!	Praise the name of the Lord!
<b>Nar.</b>	Ατρόμητη και φωτεινή Η αγία ψυχή του Στον Κύριον ανέβη.	Fearless and radiant his holy soul ascended to the Lord.
<b>Chorus</b>	Ότι άγιος εστί και κραταιός υπέρ πάντας, οτι ποιεί τους πιστούς Αυτού ισχυρούς μέχρι του θρόνου Αυτού και καθαγιαζει Την δόξαν των μαρτύρων Αυτού εις τον αιώνα.	That the saint is mighty for everyone, that he makes strong his believers until reaching his throne and consecrates the glory of his martyrs forever.
	Υμνείτε τον Κύριον της ζωής και του θανάτου! Υμνείτε το όνομα του Κυρίου εις τον αιώνα!	Praise the Lord of life and of death! Praise the name of the Lord forever!
	Μέγαν εύρατο έν τοίς κινδύνοις, Σε υπέρμαχον, ή οικουμένη, Αθλοφόρε τ α έθνη τροπούμενον. Ός ούν Λυαίου καθείλες την έπαρσιν, έν τώ σταδίω θαρρύνας τόν Νέστορα, ούτως, Άγιε Μεγαλομάρτυς Δημήτριε, Χριστόν τόν Θεόν ικέτευε, δωρήσασθαι ήμίν τó μέγα έλεος.	The world found in you, in the midst of dangers, a great champion, Victorious One, as you turned back the barbarians. Thus as thou didst cut down Lyaeus' arrogance and in the stadium gave courage to Nestor, therefore, O Holy and Great Martyr Demetrius, for us to Christ our God make supplication, that He may grant unto us great mercy.

<b>Nar.</b>	Χαίρετε Νέστορ και Δημήτριο Άγιοι μαρτυρες, Χαίρετε Νέστορ και Δημήτριο, Αγάλλεσθε εν ουρανοίς.	Hail, Nestor and Demetrios, holy martyrs. Hail, Nestor and Demetrios, rejoice in heavens.
<b>Nar., Nestor, Dem.</b>	Μαζί σου στη γη, στη θλίψη και στο θάνατο, μαζί σου και στην άφθαρτή σου δόξα την ουράνια.	United with you on earth, in affliction, and in death, and united with you in your imperishable, heavenly glory.
	Ας ανοίξουν τώρα οι Άγγελοι τις πύλες της Αγάπης και να μας δεχτούνε.	Let the Angels open the gates of love, to receive us.
	Ανοίγουν οι πύλες, ας κοιτάξουμε κάτω τη γη των αιμάτων και ας παρακαλέσουμε τον Παντοκράτορα ν'αποπλύνει το ρύπο του κακού, να λυτρώσει τον κόσμο.	The gates open, let us look down on the earth of blood, and let us entreat the Maker of All to extinguish the pollution of evil, and to redeem the world.



<b>Chorus</b>	Άγιον Δημήτριον τον Μεγαλομάρτυρα, Άγιον Δημήτριον τον Μυροβλήτην, Τον υπερασπιστήν ημών και υπέρμαχον Ύμνοις τιμήσωμεν ευπρεπώς γεραίροντες.	Saint Demetrios the Great Martyr, Saint Demetrios the Myrrh-streamer, our defender and champion. let us honor with glorifying hymns
	Τα πλήθη των βαρβάρων τροπούμενος Σώζει την πόλιν Αυτού, Αόκνως γαρ μητέρα Θεσσαλονίκην σώζει.	By turning back the barbarian hordes, he saved his city, because he tirelessly saves mother Thessaloniki.
	Θεσσαλονίκης αγκαῖσμα και της Οικουμένης, Ὡς ἄστρον λαμπρόν την οδὸν τῆς πίστεως, θαυματοργεῖ, προφαίνων και της σωτηρίας.	Adornment of Thessaloniki and of the whole world, as a bright star, you show the path of faith, miracle worker, and of salvation.
	Αθλοφόρε ἱκετεύομεν σώσον ἡμᾶς, Αθλοφόρε, σώσον ἡμᾶς.	Victorious One, we beseech you, save us; Victorious One, save us.
	Άγιον Δημήτριον ὕμνοις τιμήσωμεν, Ἀλληλούϊα, ἀλληλούϊα!	Saint Demetrios with hymns let us honor Alleluia, alleluia!

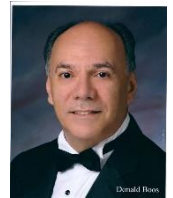
Praised as a "stand-out" by the New York Times, **CHRISTOPHER LUCIER (Tenor)** is in increasing demand as an operatic and concert artist. He has developed a reputation for his



"large and beautiful lyric voice" which has served him in his professional association with the roles of Giuseppe Verdi and Gaetano Donizetti. To his "wonderfully sung" assumption of Il Duca di Mantova in **Rigoletto** at Hubbard Hall, and his "commanding" turn as tenor soloist in Verdi's **Requiem** with the CT Virtuosi Orchestra, he has added the roles of Macduff in **Macbeth**, Alfredo in **La Traviata**, Nemorino in **l'elisir d'amore**, Ernesto in **Don Pasquale** and Fenton in **Falstaff**.

Chris has also come to be associated with new American works, from playing Dickon in the premiere of Nolan Gasser's **Secret Garden** to the central role of Paul in Nancy Van De Vate's **All Quiet on the Western Front**. The Albany Records recording of Lee Hobby's **Summer and Smoke** (in which Chris sang the role of Roger Doremus) was named by Opera News as one of the 10 best Opera Recordings of 2011. He also was featured as Gherardo in **Gianni Schicchi** with Salt Marsh Opera, Sam and Elder Hayes in **Susannah** with Ash Lawn Opera and Pong in Puccini's **Turandot** with Metro Chamber Orchestra. During his long association with Connecticut Lyric Opera Chris has performed Ottavio in **Don Giovanni**, Remendado in **Carmen** and Harlekin in **Der Kaiser von Atlantis**. Chris has also prioritized education, bringing his original, exciting hour of comedy and opera to thousands of students in over 100 performances in his association with Salt Marsh Opera preparing students for their encounters with **The Magic Flute**, **Gianni Schicchi** and **La Cenerentola**.

**DONALD BOOS (Baritone)** has appeared as a featured artist with many New York and New Jersey music and opera groups including Columbia University Glee Club, Sacred Heart Cathedral Orchestra of Newark, Coro Lirico, Central Jersey Symphony Orchestra, the Choral Arts Society of New Jersey, New Jersey State Opera, Bel Canto Opera, and Dell'Arte Opera Ensemble. He has sung with New Jersey State Opera in a special performance of **La Boheme** as Schaunard, and as Scarpia in **Tosca** and Masetto in **Don Giovanni** for the New Jersey State Opera Guild. Last year he sang the role of Sharpless in two concert performances of **Madama Butterfly**. In December 2016 he was bass soloist for Handel's **Messiah** with the Civic Chorale of Greater Miami, and in May for Mozart's **Requiem** and Haydn's **Theresienmesse** with the Summit Chorale.



Mr. Boos has appeared in concert (**Carmina Burana**, Bernstein's **Mass**) at Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center, at Merkin Concert Hall in New York, and on Robert Sherman's "Listening Room" program on radio station WQXR. He has presented programs at Miami-Dade College, Drew University, and the Graduate Center of the City College of New York. While still a student, he appeared in recital at The New York Cultural Center as a finalist in the New York Singing Teachers Association Young Artist Competition.

Mr. Boos has several musical theater roles to his credit, including Tony in **The Most Happy Fella**, Mr. Peachum in **The Threepenny Opera**, El Gallo in **The Fantastiks**, J. D. Sheldrake in **Promises, Promises**, and Phil Arkin in **Milk & Honey**.

In addition to performing, Mr. Boos has directed **Tosca**, **Hansel & Gretel**, **Mademoiselle Modiste**, **Trial by Jury**, **Riders to the Sea**, **Street Scene** and **Down in the Valley**, and served as music director/conductor for several musical comedies including: **Carousel**, **The Music Man**, **Li'l Abner**, **The Boy Friend**, and **The Pajama Game**. His extensive concert soloist experience ranges from Bach's **Saint Matthew Passion** and Beethoven's **9th Symphony** to Prokofiev's **Ivan the Terrible** and Schönberg's **A Survivor from Warsaw**.

Mr Boos will sing the role of Germont in Verdi's **La Traviata** later this month with the Hawthorne Symphony. He will sing the role of Don Carlo in **La Forza del Destino** in concert later this spring, and in June he will be Fiorello in New Jersey State Opera's production of **Il Barbiere di Siviglia**.





## **MARINA ALEXANDER** **Musical & Artistic Director**

Highly regarded for her innovative approach to programming, **Marina Alexander** founded The Arcadian Chorale in 1992, and has since guided its musical and organizational development. Under her leadership, the Chorale has established a reputation for innovative programming and artistic excellence.

In the Spring of 1995, Ms. Alexander was also named Musical Director of the **Richmond Choral Society** in New York City, and presently serves as conductor of that 70 voice ensemble. Leading both choruses, she made her **Carnegie Hall debut** in

November 2002, conducting Dvorak's *Te Deum*. At that same performance, she led the choruses and orchestra in the **World Premiere** of her **orchestration** of Bainton's *And I Saw A New Heaven*. Her ensembles joined forces again in May 2004, making their debut performance at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) singing Mahler's *Resurrection Symphony*.

In 2004, Ms. Alexander was named Music Director of the **Metropolitan Greek Chorale** in Manhattan, and has performed works from both the Eastern and Western traditions with that ensemble, including premieres of works in the Byzantine style and several of her own compositions.

Known as a scholar and translator, Marina produces many new editions of choral music, including the world premiere of an English singing version of a lost "Ode to Joy" by Tchaikovsky, the 2<sup>nd</sup> ever performance of that piece in the US. For presentations of Mozart's unfinished *Requiem*, she composed a completion of the "Lacrymosa" in the style of Mozart.

Ms. Alexander is also **Adjunct Assistant Professor of Choral Music** at the **College of Staten Island-CUNY**, where she also teaches Conducting and Music History. She leads open sings for her own ensembles, as well as The New York Choral Society, and has appeared at Lincoln Center for the National Choral Council's annual *Messiah Sing*.

Ms. Alexander holds a Masters Degree in Conducting from the **Oberlin Conservatory of Music**, where she studied with Dr. Daniel Moe, and was subsequently invited to teach there as Interim Director of the Department of Choral Music. She also earned a BFA in Stage Directing for Opera, and then worked with opera companies and festivals both here and abroad. These include the Santa Fe Opera, New Jersey State Opera, Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia, Lake George Opera, and the Corfu International Music Festival.

An advocate of arts education, Ms. Alexander has served as an adjudicator for the New Jersey Teen Opera Festival, the Monmouth County Arts Council's Teen Arts Festival, and the Sights & Sounds Arts Festival of the Greek Orthodox Churches of NJ. She teaches conducting privately, and often appears as a clinician and guest speaker at choral workshops and music festivals. She is also a founding Board Member and current President of the **NJ Choral Consortium**.

Ms. Alexander has been nominated by Fleet Bank for its **Small Business Leadership Awards**, and been honored by the Business and Professional Women of Staten Island as a **"Woman of Achievement."** She was also chosen by the Daughters of Penelope as their **"2011 Honoree for the Salute to Women,"** as "a woman who is Greek or a Philhellene that has achieved a high level within her profession and is an excellent role model and an inspiration to all, men and women alike."

Keep up with all Marina's activities at [www.MarinaAlexander.com](http://www.MarinaAlexander.com)

## **The Story of** **ST. DEMETRIOS**



Born sometime between 260 and 280 AD, Demetrius came from a noble family secretly practicing Christianity, in the then Roman province of Macedonia, in northern Greece. Through his ancestry and own ability and virtue, he rose to a high military position under Galerius Maximian, Caesar of the Eastern part of the Roman Empire. Despite this position in the still-pagan empire, Demetrius remained fervent in faith and works for Christ, encouraging many Christians to endure persecution and even bringing many pagans to the faith.

When Maximian returned from one of his campaigns to Thessaloniki, which he had made his capital, he had pagan games and sacrifices celebrated for his triumph. Demetrius was denounced by pagans who were envious of his success, and he was imprisoned. While there, he was visited by a young Christian named Nestor, who asked Demetrius for a blessing to engage in single combat with the giant Lyaeus, who was posing as the champion of paganism. Demetrius gave his blessing and Nestor, against all odds, slew his opponent in the arena, as David had once defeated Goliath.

Maximian, enraged and learning that this had occurred with Demetrius's aid, first had Nestor beheaded outside the city, and then had Demetrius run through with spears in prison, in 306 AD. Later Demetrius's servant Lupus was beheaded after using his master's blood-stained tunic and signet ring to work many miracles. The Christians buried Demetrius and Nestor together in the bath house where Demetrius had been confined.

During the seventh century, a miraculous flow of fragrant myrrh was found emanating from his tomb, giving rise to the appellation *Mirovlitis*, the Myrrh-Streamer. The tomb containing his relics is now in the crypt of the Church of St. Demetrius in Thessaloniki. Demetrius is revered as the patron saint of that city, believed as having intervened to save the city over the years from invading foreigners, and subsequently worked many miracles. Demetrius' feast day is October 26, the date of his martyrdom.