



Hellenic Dance Festival And Byzantine Weekend

A MINISTRY OF THE
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

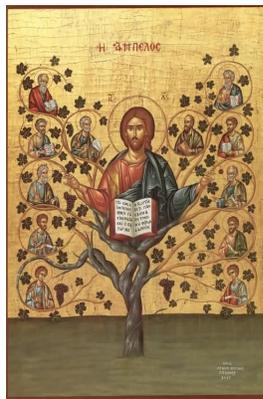
December 20, 2011

*"Let them praise His name with the dance; Let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp. For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation."
Psalm 149:3-4*

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **HDF 2012**
January
13-16.

"Abide in Me, and I in you." - Spiritual Workshops 2012



What are your hands, your feet and your mouth doing? In the Gospel of John we are told: **"Abide in Me, and I in you. The branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me."** (John 15:4)

are other "false" vines, and we must come to the ultimate realization that the heavenly reality transcends any earthly counterpart.

As the branches, we are the visible manifestation of the life of the vine. We are the instruments of fruit-bearing. The church is the body of Christ, and the world is to see Him in us— The Lord once ministered in His earthly body, but now ministers and reveals His life in His spiritual body. What Jesus began to do and teach upon the earth, His church now continues to do and say, through His hands, feet and mouth... US!

Why is this important to us hear today? Because, in the confusing and fast pace world that we face today, we must truly understand as young men and women, our Lord is the **ONE** genuine vine in whom we should abide. I say this because it is important that we understand that there

In Christ,
Rev. Fr. Constantine Simeonidis
HDF Spiritual Advisor

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Host an HDF Workshop in Your Community!

Hosting a workshop in your community can be a great educational experience for your troupe as well as the surrounding communities. The Hellenic Dance Festival executive committee can help your organize and promote the workshop as well as contact instructors! This is a great way to learn new dances, sing new songs and get advice about costumes. A

workshop open to surrounding communities is also a great fundraising tool that can help your troupe raise money for HDF and costumes.

Contact Kiki Papadimitriou at
404-803-6050
hkikitsa@yahoo.com



Odyssey Scholarship Program

One of the best well kept secrets in the Metropolis' youth programs is the Hellenic Dance Odyssey Trip. No other program gives the unique opportunity to our Greek American youth to experience Greece through immersion; learning the faith, culture, and finding their identity in a powerful life changing 15 days in Greece. I have been tasked to expose the secret to all of you, and I hope that you at the least come away better educated about the Odyssey Trip and are so stirred that you will consider becoming a donor.

In modern times, the young generation is constantly searching for their personal identity. We see in children and young adults that this search sometimes leads them to find a sense of



belonging in all the wrong places. From speaking with past participants of the Odyssey Trip, I see that they have

found belonging and acceptance in the arms of the Panagia in the Platithera, and in the sigouni of a young woman who celebrated the feastdays two, five even twenty hundred years ago. There are no better places for our young people to feel the embrace of our Orthodox faith and the comfort of Hellenic traditions than in the cradle of it all, in Greece.

The Hellenic Dance Festival (HDF) Committee is working very hard to continue to offer this amazing program. We face many challenges; the economy, the obscurity of the program, and the limited resources which to execute such a

program. For this reason we have developed the Odyssey Scholarship Program. How does Orthodoxy and its traditional celebrations of the feastdays, holidays, and sacraments survive in the modern world over 7000 miles away from its birthplace? We have to experience and learn about these celebrations in the place where they are still practiced today. We hope in this short moment you can understand the importance of this program, and you will consider giving to the Odyssey Scholarship.

Many believe the Odyssey Trip is just a Greek dance thing. I assure you it is much, much more than that. Greek Folk dance is the common thread that unites the participants on this pilgrimage which we call the Odyssey. We have ambitious dreams to offer the Odyssey Trip every year, but for now we are offering it every four years. We have restructured the Odyssey Scholarship Program to create a more stable system which to anchor the future growth of the program. The Odyssey Scholarship Program is an annual giving program. The steady flow of donations means we can begin to offer the scholarship every year and to more young people.

In 2005, a group of 25 dance students and 5 dance directors embarked on the maiden Odyssey voyage. Six years later, seven of those 25 students are now dance directors or otherwise involved with the Hellenic dance programs in their parishes. They are now inspiring and teaching the next generation the same customs and traditions that have been passed down for over 2000 years. These exceptional young people have been so moved by their experience on the Odyssey trip that they are passionate about giving their time and talent back to the church. Not only has the Odyssey become a stewardship building tool, it has become a tool to keep our youth close to the church through the difficult college years.

Odyssey Scholarship Program, Continued

This one small, yet growing, program has proven to be a win-win-win situation; The church wins by keeping the youth close in difficult years, our parishes win by having a well educated team of Hellenic Dance instructors, and most importantly our youth wins by having a healthy avenue of which to find their faith, their background and themselves. To find more information about the Odyssey Trip to Greece and the Odyssey Program, please visit our website.

Please help us put the wind in the Odyssey sails; make a commitment to the Odyssey Scholarship Program by becoming an Annual Donor.



If you have any questions about the Odyssey Trip and/or the scholarship, please contact the Odyssey Scholarship Chairperson, Paulina Kaltsounis-Vastakis at hdfodyssey@att.net or 770-792-1090, 678-294-4262.

Annual Giving/Sponsorship Levels

- **\$3000** – Full scholarship for one child - “**St. Constantine**” (*The saint that is the guardian of the Byzantium, and patron saint of the Anastenarides dance*)
- **\$1500** – Half scholarship – “**St. John, The dancer of Megara**” (*the patron saint of Dance in Greece*)
- **\$750** – Quarter scholarship – “**St. Romanos**” (*the patron saint of Church Musicians*)
- **\$500** – “**St. Cecilia**” (*patron saint of musicians*)
- **\$250** – “**St Vitus**” (*Serbian Orthodox patron saint of dance*)
- **\$100** – **Hellenines**
- **\$50** – **Friend**

Benefits

- **Friends level** – Listed as a donor in the HDF program book
- **Hellenines level** – listed as a donor in the HDF program book, and receive 2 discounted HDF banquet tickets
- **St. Vitus level** – two free tickets to the closing banquet
- **St. Cecilia level** – two free tickets to closing banquet and free quarter page ad in the program book
- **St. Romanos level** – two free tickets to closing banquet, free quarter page ad in the program book, business or family sponsor recognition on signage at HDF events
- **St. John The dancer level** - two free tickets to closing banquet, free half page ad in the program book, business or family sponsor recognition on signage at HDF events
- **St. Constantine level** - four free tickets to closing banquet, free full page ad in the program book, business or family sponsor recognition on signage at every HDF event

First Ever HDF Director’s Award

Attention dancers, parents, and priests! Do you love your director? Here’s an opportunity to acknowledge them in our very first HDF Director’s award! Simply fill out the form found at the end of this newsletter! Attach no more than a page essay detailing how your director has

impacted your life and your dance group. Mail the form and essay to the address listed on the form, or turn them in at HDF in January. Let your director know how much you appreciate him/her by nominating them for this award!



THE HELLENIC DANCE FESTIVAL

DIRECTOR'S AWARD

NOMINATION FORM

Qualifications:

- The nominated director should be a current director and a participant at this year's Hellenic Dance Festival in Atlanta, Georgia.
- The nominated director must be nominated by someone other than his or herself.
- Nominations can be made by anyone (dancer, parent, priest, etc.)
- The nominated director may only receive this award once.

Form:		
Name of Director:		
Parish:	City/State of Parish:	
Group of Director:		
Number of Years Directing:		
Person Nominating Director:	Relationship to Director:	Signature:

In addition to the completion of this form, a person nominating a specific director must submit and explanation of up to one page as to why the nominated director should receive this award. We want to hear how a director in your area has impacted your life and/or why they should receive this honor.

Selection of the Hellenic Dance Festival Director's Award will be done by the Hellenic Dance Festival Directors of Competition. All nomination forms that are completed prior to the event are to be sent to the following address:

**Stavros Karagiorgis
3969 Huddington Court
Winston-Salem, NC 27106**

nominations due by

January 14, 2012 at HDF

Contact Info

Education and Research

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Please distribute this publication to all teachers, dancers, prospective dancers, and parents.

Please submit any information that you would like to appear in future editions of the Hellenic Dancer to:

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Or

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Find Us Online!



For news, updates and pictures, "like" the Hellenic Dance Festival page on Facebook!



RSVP on our Facebook event "HDF 2012 Atlanta" and see which of your friends are attending, too!



For forms, events, updates and resources, visit our website:
http://atlanta.goarch.org/index.php?pr=Hellenic_Dance