

The Business of Orthodox Church Music

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Antiochian Village

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How my voice feels at a church choir convention



when I get there



at the first evening service



at rehearsal, day 2



what I'm hoping for
when I suck on a
lozenge and drink some
tea



at the end of the
second day



when it's time to go
home

Historical Precedent

Paid staff of Hagia Sophia and adjoining churches, 6th century:

- 60 priests
- 100 deacons
- 40 deaconesses
- 90 subdeacons
- 110 readers
- 25 cantors



Historical Precedent

10th c. Typikon of the Great Church (Constantinople):

[On the two Saturdays before Christmas, a]fter the cantor who will sing the hypakoe says 'Master, Bless,' the patriarch proclaims 'Blessed be the kingdom' from inside the door. After the conclusion of the hypakoe, the cantor enters, bows before the patriarch, and receives a coin from the treasury. The presbyters also give the cantor gifts, and then receive their customary coin from the patriarch.

Current Examples

Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George, Constantinople

Six paid musicians:

- Full-time *protopsaltis*
- Full-time *lampadarios* (director of the left choir)
- 2 part-time *domestikoi* (high-ranking assistant)
- 2 part-time canonarchs (lower-ranking assistants)

Current Examples

American Conference of Cantors (Jewish)

- Ordained full-time cantor:
 - \$80,000-90,000 average salary range, \$150,000 upper range

Association of Anglican Musicians

- Full-time organist/choirmaster with a doctorate:
 - \$84,000-\$108,000

Current Examples

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. Louis Salary Guidelines

- Full-time pastoral musician with a Masters + 30 credit hours
 - \$43,000-\$57,000
- Full-time organist with a doctorate
 - \$76,000-\$102,000

National Association of Pastoral Musicians Salary Guidelines (Roman Catholic)

- Full-time pastoral musician with a doctorate + certification
 - \$62,000-\$82,000

How Do Others Do It?

- Structures
 - Professional organizations
- Qualifications
 - Graduate and terminal degrees, certifications, compensation graded accordingly, education starting young
- Resources
 - Donors, endowments, trusts, grants, etc.
- Ecclesiastical signoff
 - Salary guidelines
- Creative/musical economy
 - Publishing, recording, performing, teaching, etc.

Concrete Suggestions

- Log your time and your expenses
- Use the log to start a conversation with priest/parish council
- Come up with a vision for your parish's music program
- Start *somewhere*
- Donors
 - Structured giving, part to stipend, part to an endowment
- Be proactive about qualifications and musical training
- Let us support each other!

Thank you!

Tell me how I can help you!

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