

# inside

this issue...

Festival of Greek Music & Dance	2-3
Hellenic Dance Festival	4
Spotlight	4-5
Photo Gallery	5-6
Youth Group	7
Personals	7
Future performances	8



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The Newsletter for friends and members of OHFS  
Vol. 8, Issue No. 2, Spring 2002

## Concert of Greek Music & Dance, A Unique Experience

The auditorium of Niles West High School was filled with the sounds of songs and music from the Greek Islands as Nikos Economides and the Keros Music Group from Greece entertained an audience of over 750 guests.

The event, entitled "Festival of Greek Music & Dance," was sponsored by the Orpheus Hellenic Folklore Society and SAE of America for the second consecutive year. The material presented at the concert included traditional songs and dances from the islands of the Aegean sea, the Dodecanese, the Cyclades and the island of Kythera. The Orpheus Dance Troupe performed dances from these island groups accompanied by the visiting musicians. It was a rare opportunity for audience members to experience this material outside of Greece. The talented musicians demonstrated an array of unique instruments. Chicago was the last stop for the Keros Group whose U.S. tour included performances in Boston and New York.

SAE congratulated the Orpheus Hellenic Folklore Society for its excellent performance. Chris Tomaras, SAE vice president and an enthusiastic supporter of Orpheus, said, "The work of these young people is a significant contribution to our effort for the preservation of Hellenic culture and the values derived from it."

"It was a fantastic event from start to finish and you should all be proud of this accomplishment," said Michael Orlove, coordinator of World Music Festival of the Department of Cultural Affairs in Chicago, as he addressed the Orpheus Hellenic Folklore Society. He added, "Clearly, your organization went through great efforts in putting the event together. I thought it was smashing success. I look forward to seeing you soon."

Cultural exchange events with artists from Greece allow the Greek American youth in Chicago to research, learn and perform Hellenic folk traditions on a large scale and in depth. For more pictures and short video clips of the concert, visit the web site of the Orpheus Hellenic Folklore Society at [www.ohfs.org](http://www.ohfs.org). ☐



Marianna Gudmundsson performs the "Ballos" dance accompanied by the sounds of "tsabouna" and "tubaki"

The Festival of Greek Music and Dance 2002 was made possible through the generous contributions of the following sponsors:

#### Platinum

Harvest Foods & Edgewater Produce  
William, George, John and Frank Touloumis – Olympia Development  
*(In memory of our mother Athena)*

#### Gold

Vasilios Giannopoulos Family  
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Dr. Dimitris Zikos, Southwest Nephrology Associates  
Jim Stoyhoff

#### Silver

9 Muses Bar & Grill, Chicago  
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#### Sponsoring Organizations

Chicago-Athens Friendship Committee, Sister Cities of Chicago  
Hellenic Link, Chicago  
Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center  
Hellenic Professional Society of Illinois

We would also like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their assistance with this event:

Michael Adam - World Music Institute  
George Alexopoulos - Hellenic Link  
George Bravos - Niles West High School  
Hara Deligiannis - Lyceum of Greek Women, Athens, Greece  
Alexa Gianakos - Greek Circle Magazine  
Alvaro Gualdron - Event Photographer  
Allison Heller - Hellenic Museum & Cultural Center  
Dr. Michael Kontos - Apollo Dance Troupe, Aurora  
Dimitri Kozonis - Chicago-Athens Friendship Committee  
Antigone Lambros - Antigone's Corner TV program

Diane Lymberopoulos-Adam - Greek Star Newspaper  
Charalambos Mylonas - WHPK (88.5 FM), University of Chicago  
Marta Nicholas - WHPK (88.5 FM), University of Chicago  
Michael Orlove - Dept. of Cultural Affairs, City of Chicago  
Mitaton Kythiron MIRTIA Cultural Society, Athens, Greece  
Helen Papagiannopoulos - Niles West High School  
Zafiro Papastratakos - Event Photographer

Dina Pappas - Hellenic Professional Society of Illinois  
John Parish - Folk Culture Enthusiast  
Sotiris Rekoumis - Omogeneia Newspaper and Chicago Greek Hours Radio  
Eleni Sotos - SAE of America  
Chris P. Tomaras - SAE of America  
Kevin Wall - Niles West High School

Our deepest gratitude goes out to the Festival's Master of Ceremonies, James N. Stoyhoff.



Jimmy Thanopoulos and Christina Pagones perform the dance "Ta Xila" from the island of Lesbos.



Mr. Nikos Karatasos, considered one of the most notable "Santouri" (dulcimer) players in Greece, performs during the Festival Of Music & Dance



The Orpheus Dance Troupe performs the song/dance "Ái Pantelemonas" from the island of Tilos during the Festival of Greek Music & Dance.



The "Keros" music group from Greece lead by violinist Níkos Eonomídes.



Orpheus members perform the dance "Karsilamas" from the island of Lesbos.



Fragískos Tziotakis (left) playing the "tsabouna" (island bagpipe) accompanied by "tubaki" player Giórgos Vasilopoulos.

# Hellenic Traditions in South Carolina

Two of our Orpheus instructors, Yannis and Kostas Economou were invited to serve as judges at the Second Annual Hellenic Dance Festival (HDF). The Greek Orthodox Diocese of Atlanta sponsors this annual event where dance groups from parishes within its jurisdiction showcase their dance abilities.

The host parish was St. George of Greenville, South Carolina, which consists of a vibrant Greek American community of over 400 families. It was interesting to learn that many of the parishioners have very strong ties with the Chicago area. The panel of judges also included Spiros Spirou, a member of the Greek American Folklore Society in New York. The list of participating dance groups was impressive and included dance groups from Wilmington, North Carolina, Charleston, North Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina, Atlanta, Georgia, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Birmingham, Alabama, Marietta, Georgia and many others. It was truly moving to witness the effort that these communities are putting towards maintaining their identity and traditions in areas where the Greek American population consist of a handful of families.

Even though this was only the second year that the HDF was held, all groups have made great progress and their potential is very promising. Instructors are getting



*Pictured from left, Kostas Economou, Spiros Spirou, His Grace Bishop Alexios of Atlanta, Yannis Economou and Kiki Papadimitriou.*

more involved in researching and learning about Greek folk dance culture.

In addition to the dance component of the festival, all three judges were able to meet with group instructors and their members to address their many questions. Information was shared regarding instruction techniques, availability of dance material, Greek folk music resources, costumes, motivating group members and generally anything that had to do with the organization of a successful dance group.

We would like to thank Kiki Papadimitriou of Troupe Hellas of Atlanta and John Lulias of Tarpon Springs, Florida for this opportunity to meet representatives from all the participating communities and assist them in their efforts. Our gratitude also goes out to the community in Greenville, South Carolina for their hospitality and friendship during our stay.

We hope to see our new friends again in the future. ☐

## spotlight on Orpheus youth dancer...

*María Karras*



**Name:**

Maria Karras

**Home Town:**

Lincolnwood Illinois

**Parents/Family from:**

My father is from Sparti, Laconia  
My mother is from Tripoli, Arcadia.

**Occupation:**

I'm a seventh grader at Socrates  
Greek American School.



Orpheus members with members of the Nordic dancers during a joint presentation at the Swedish Museum.



Mundelein High School teacher and Orpheus member Alex Kapotas shows MHS faculty and staff the basics of Greek folk dance.



Noted violinist Nikos Economides, center, leader of the Keros Music group, with future violin virtuosos, Katerina Economou and Paul Grosso.



Orpheus members participate in a jam session with musicians of the Keros Music Group at a party following the concert.

**Time dancing with Orpheus:**

This is my third year.

**Thoughts on dancing:**

It's a lot of fun, and I enjoy learning dances from all over Greece.

**Favorite dance:**

I love *Pentozalis* From Crete because of the fast pace.

**Most vivid Orpheus memory:**

The "Festival of Greek Music and Dance". It was really cool dancing to music from a live band from Greece.

**Favorite Greek dish:**

*Avgolemono* (egg-lemon soup), *dolmades* (stuffed grape leaves), and *kalamarakia* (squid).

**Favorite place in Greece:**

I really enjoyed going to Knossos in Crete, ancient Olympia, and the Acropolis in Athens.

**Hobbies/Sports/other interests:**

I love playing basketball and swimming; I like reading books, and I play the piano.

**Where I heard about Orpheus:**

Mrs. Grosso told my mom about it and I saw them perform at our annual church festival a few years ago. ☐

# photo gallery



Greek American Parade 2002: Marching with pride down Halsted street in Chicago's Greek Town.



Manning the float of SAE of America.



Getting pumped up before the start of the parade.



Kicking symmetry in motion during Chicago's Greek American Parade.



Orpheus dancers pictured with General Consul Gabriel Kopsidis and Paul Valas during the General Consul's reception for Greek Independence Day.



Orpheus dancers pictured with State Treasurer Judy Topinka at the Kalavrita Society Annual Dinner Dance

## Youth Group News

The 2001-2002 year for the Orpheus Youth Group will culminate with an "End of the Year" event, which will take place on Saturday, May 19, 2002. The youth members will present material that was taught throughout the year. The event will take place at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Des Plaines, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. All family members and friends are welcome to attend. Refreshments and sweets will be served and admission is free.

After a short break, the Youth Summer Session will begin on Thursday, June 6. Eight instructional sessions have been scheduled between June 6 and August 1. Practices will be held every Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church, 3020 Milwaukee in Northbrook. Participants in the summer session will perform with the adult group at one of this summer's church festivals. More details will become available at the start of the summer session. The fee is \$60. All levels are welcome, so new members are invited to join.

Lessons for the 2002-2003 year will resume on Thursday, September 12 at the Northbrook branch and on Saturday, September 14 at the Glenview branch.

This year has been an extraordinary one as the youth group is growing not only in numbers but also in dedication and enthusiasm. The presentations at the



Members of the Orpheus Youth Group perform during the Festival of Greek Music & Dance accompanied by the "Keros" music group

Museum of Science and Industry as well as the March 16 concert at Niles West were truly special and memorable. Their enthusiastic participation at the Greek parade under unfavorable weather conditions demonstrated strong feelings of camaraderie and pride. They are not only the future of the Orpheus Dance Troupe but also the future of the Greek American community. We hope that they continue to be involved in quality efforts towards the preservation of our Hellenic identity and heritage.

Our gratitude goes out to all the parents for their support and sincere words of encouragement. We deeply appreciate it. Last, but not least, not enough can be said about the efforts of all the instructors who gave their hearts during the entire year. They exhibited a great sense of professionalism, responsibility, passion and enthusiasm.

Let's all keep up the good work! Have a nice summer, wherever you are. ☐

## personals

Welcome aboard new Orpheus members **Pheobos Bolaris** (Youth), **Vaggelis Giorgas**, **Vickey Kazamias**, **Stefanie Lialios**, **Kostantinos Liolios**, **Pinelopi Logotheti**, **Eleni Maheras**, **Petros Petridis**, **Elpida Rallis**, **Vivian Theriopoulos**, **Panagiota Trakas**, and **Vicky Tsangos**.

Congratulations to **Kostas Dovas** and **Vicky Karabelas** on their first performance with Orpheus.

Birthday greetings to **Christina Economou** and **George Karahalios** on April 4, **Paul Grosso** on April 7, **Alex Pavlos** on April 12, **Elizabeth Economou** on April 16, **Eftychia Gouvas** on April 21, **Christos Gikkas** on May 17, **Phaedra Bounas** on April 29, **Christine Minakakis** on May 3, **Barbara Siargos** on May 6, **Katerina Economou** on May 11, **Patricia Minakakis** on May 12, **Pat Tomaras** on May 19, **Antigone Matsakis** on May 21, **Irene Chiotis** on May 29, **Tom Mihalopoulos** on June 4, **Ariana Koshavari** on June 6, **Dimitra Bounas** on June 16, **Tommy Minetos** on June 24, and **Catherine Grosso** on June 26.

Nameday greetings to **George Kakis**, **Georgia Limberopoulos** on April 23, **Tom Mihalopoulos** on May 5, **Irene Chiotis** on May 5, **Elena Antonakos**, **Kostas Dovas**, **Dean Economos**, **Kosta Economou**, **Kosta Giannopoulos**, **Eleni Gouvas**, **Eleni Limberis**, **Konstantinos Liolios**, **Eleni Maheras**, and **Eleni Poulakis** on May 21.

**Anthi Georgakopoulos** received her Bachelors Degree in Forensic Anthropology from University of Illinois, Urbana and she joined the Northwest Community Hospital as a Lab Representative. **Giota Trakas** will receive her Master's Degree in Special Education from Northeastern Illinois University this May. Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Catherine Grosso** for winning the first prize at St. George Church for her Icon that will be represented at the Oratorical Feast. Catherine also graduated this year from Plato Academy and plans to attend Regina High School in Wilmette. Good Luck!

Congratulations to **Christina Grosso** for being invited to the Chicago City Wide All Star Soccer team! ☐

# performance schedule

## Hellenic Museum 10th Anniversary Gala

Intercontinental Hotel  
Chicago, IL  
Friday, May 17  
8:00 p.m.

## Skokie Festival of Cultures

Oakton Park (Oakton and Skokie Blvd)  
Skokie, IL  
Saturday, May 18  
4:00 p.m.

## Orpheus Youth Group End of the Year Celebration

St. John The Baptist Greek Orthodox Church  
2350 Dempster, Des Plaines, IL  
Sunday, May 19  
3:30 p.m.

## Assumption Church Greek Festival

Assumption Church  
St. Louis, Missouri  
Saturday & Sunday, May 25-26  
5:00, 7:00 p.m.

## Pan-Arcadian Association Dinner Dance

Chateau Ritz Banquet Hall  
Niles, IL  
Sunday, June 9  
8:00 p.m.

## St. Demetrios Greek Festival

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church  
Saginaw, Michigan  
Friday & Saturday, June 14-16  
7:00, 9:00 p.m.

## Holy Cross Greek Festival

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church  
Justice, IL  
Sunday, June 30  
8:00 p.m.

## Annunciation Greek Festival

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church  
Chicago, IL  
Sunday, July 21  
8:00 p.m.

*Performance schedule and times are subject to change. For the latest information visit <http://www.ohfs.org>.*

# practice schedule

## Orpheus Adult Group

### Beginner/Intermediate:

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

### Intermediate/Advanced:

7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

### Every Thursday at:

St. John Lutheran Church  
3020 Milwaukee Ave.  
Northbrook, IL  
*(one mile north from the  
intersection of Lake/Euclid  
and Milwaukee Ave.)*

## Orpheus Youth Group:

### Every Thursday at:

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
St. John Lutheran Church  
3020 Milwaukee Ave.  
Northbrook, IL

### Every Saturday at:

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
New Church  
Multipurpose Room  
74 Park Dr., Glenview, IL  
*(one block west of Shermer/Glenview Rds)*

**Youth Group:** Dancers ages 10-14 (Chicago and Glenview locations).

**Beginners:** Members with little or no previous dance experience.

**Intermediate:** Dancers who have shown progress in the beginners' class attend the last hour of practice. At the discretion of the instructors, the intermediate level dancers will be practicing in a separate line.

All dancers, especially beginners, are encouraged to obtain a personal tape of the music used for performances, in order to practice on one's own and become accustomed to the music. Please provide John or Kostas Economou with a blank cassette tape.

Submissions for the Summer issue of *Lyra* will be accepted until July 15, 2002. We are always interested in educational essays/articles dealing with the subjects of Greek folk dance, folk music, and folk traditions. We continue to accept personal announcements and all other submissions pertinent to the dance troupe and its membership. If an individual wishes to contribute material on a continuous basis, please inform the Editor.

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