

THE ARMENIAN HOLY TRINITY CHURCH CHOIR OF
GREATER BOSTON

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

For the Year

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I. INTRODUCTION

The year 1967 will be a memorable one in the annals of the Armenian Holy Trinity Church Choir. During this period a new foundation was annexed to and will operate hand in hand with the "old and traditional" one, to rise and comply with the demands of the future of the Armenian Church and Nationality in this ever-changing world. This new movement has uplifted the Choir both spiritually and culturally and won acclaim for our Church and Greater Boston Parish, throughout the Armenian Communities here and in other parts of the world, wherever Armenian Language newsprint has circulated and this includes the literary circles of Erevan, where hopes and interests are concentrated on the cultural progress of the Armenian Communities outside the motherland, and these the aforesaid, are true facts. A great deal of this must be attributed to the organization of the choral group, known as the Erevan Choral Society of the Armenian Holy Trinity Church Choir of Greater Boston, which is in itself a mission in the field of education and preservation of our Divine Liturgy, music, culture and last, but not least, our mother tongue. What greater purpose or incentive can be expected or asked for at this time.

It has always been the incentive of the Choir to create a closeness with the other Church organizations by recognizing the role and specific position of each in the life of our Church. These facts and items will be illucidated in their turn in the progress of this report.

The sources nurturing these upward strides and ideals, spring from the heart and soul, hopes and dreams of one who is known to all as the Choirmaster, the Very Reverend Oshagan Vartabed Minassian. Also, the inspiration and capable guiding hands of our Pastor, Reverend Papken Maksoudian and the generous cooperation of our stalwart Parish Council, have supported us in materializing our plans and ideas, thus far.

II. MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICERS

The Choir has an active membership of thirty-eight (38), plus six (6) Junior Choir members between the ages of eleven and seventeen years of age, who were introduced into the program the previous year and will be on hand for the services during the summer months, as well as three (3) junior acolytes who participate in all of the masses.

The Executive Committee consists of the following officers:

Helen Donabedian	-	Chairman
Araxi M. Aghajanian	-	Secretary
Joseph Haroutunian	-	Treasurer
Grace Boyajian	-	Advisor
Pauline Terzian	-	Advisor
Zabel Odabashian	-	Publicity

The Choirmaster is the Very Reverend Oshagan Vartabed Minassian.

III. FINANCIAL

At the conclusion of the fiscal year of 1967, there was a balance in

the amount of \$606.17 in the Treasury, acquired through membership dues, social functions, donations and receipts from the sale of "Praying-hand" ball point pens.

A contribution of \$500.00 was made to the Church Building Fund.

Our expenditures for this period covered the purchase of music books of the Gomidas Version of the Divine Liturgy, materials for new robes and veils for the Choir members, drapes and dressing screens for the Choir Room and other numerous and sundry expenses. Much of this is due to the increase of the membership.

IV. OPERATIONS AND FUNCTIONS - CHURCH SERVICES, REHEARSALS AND BUSINESS MEETINGS

There has been a decided increase in the membership and attendance at the services, choir rehearsals and business meetings. The Choral Group which is an extension of the Choir has a membership of approximately thirty-eight (38) members, though still in dire need of more voices, both male and female. The Choral Group, which we have named the Erevan Choral Society of the Armenian Holy Trinity Church Choir, has taken tremendous paces in the religious, cultural and educational areas of the Armenian Community, by participating in community programs commemorating numerous historic and traditional occasions as ordered by the Primate of the North American Diocese, which included the 300th anniversary of the printing of the Bible in the Armenian Language, the Celebration of Vartanantz and Cultural Month. It was also invited to sing for the Annual Banquet of the Arlington Women's Educational Society and has future expectations in this respect.

The Choir was requested on two occasions this year to sing the Badarak for the Lynn-Salem-Peabody Parish, following our regular services.

Membership and Executive meetings are held regularly each month and rehearsals every Tuesday evening in the Cultural Hall, except for the second Tuesday, which is held in the sanctuary of the Church. The meetings are usually followed by films and other cultural and religious features.

V. SOCIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

In the month of February, we presented the musical portion of the program dedicated to the Battle of Vartanantz, in conjunction with the St. James Church of Watertown, under the direction of Father Oshagan, which included the works of well-known Armenian Composers, written for this occasion in our history. Also, a solo and recitation were contributed to the occasion by choir members.

On April 12th, a colorful Italian Dinner was given in honor of the Parish Council, who had so honored the Choir on a previous occasion.

On May 14th, a Mother's Day Reception was given to honor the mothers of Choir members.

On May 21st, the Choir went to the Lynn-Salem-Peabody Parish to sing the Badarak and Hokehankist, which was followed by a banquet, at which the choir members sang and gave recitations.

On June 4th, the season was crowned by an outstanding event called the Spring-Dinner Concert. This was a combination of a banquet and concert. This event deserves special mention and acclaim, since it was one of the first/^{of} such functions in the history of the Choir and many another organization in this community. It was a great cultural achievement and gained fame and pride for our Church as a whole and will not be forgotten for a long time, since its harmonics circulated to other parts of the world through the Armenian news media and reflected back to us from Erevan.

This was not only a social success, but prolonged our strides into the future toward similar events. This was accomplished only through the selfless efforts of the committee members and their assistants. But, above all, this was Father Oshagan's chef-d'ouvres for the year, by which he brought to life the works of our greatest composers of music and poetry, written by Gomidas Vartabed, Krikor Suni and many others of the modern period. Father Oshagan's capacities and ability, compounded by his sincerity and sacrifices for this successful concert, cannot be justifiably appraised verbally at this time.

In the month of August, the choir participated in the workshop program devised by His Grace Torkom Bishop Manougian to benefit choir activities, in Worcester, Massachusetts.

On October 1st, the occasion of the Sixth Anniversary of the Church, the Choral Group took part in the program with folk and classic songs.

On November 8th, an invitation was extended to sing at the Arlington Women's Educational Society's Annual Banquet to benefit the Armenian School, whence a donation of \$25.00 was given to the Choir.

On November 12th, we again sang the Badarak in the Lynn-Salem-Peabody area on the tenth anniversary of their parish committee.

On the weekend of November 10th - 12th, our delegate Zabel Odabashian represented us at the 21st Annual Assembly and Convention of the Choir Associations of America in Washington, D. C.

November 13th was the observance of Cultural Month at the Watertown Cultural and Youth Center, whence the choral group sang a repertoire of songs selected for the occasion.

On November 19th, Choir day was observed by receiving the Holy Sacrament of Eucharist by each member and the new veils were blessed during the services, which was followed by a Brunch to which the Clergy and Parish Council were invited.

The final event of the year was the Annual Christmas Party and Dinner on December 15th, to which Choral Group member past and present were invited, together with the acolytes, deacons and clergy. This turned^{out}/to be a beautiful affair, which started with a chicken dinner, highlighted by the traditional Christmas decor, carol singing, Santa Claus and dancing and last but not least, a comedy play enacted by choir members.

On December 27th a film describing a trip to Armenia and Eastern Europe was shown by Miss Anna Yeshilian, after a brief business meeting.

VIII. SUMMARIZATION AND FUTURE GOALS

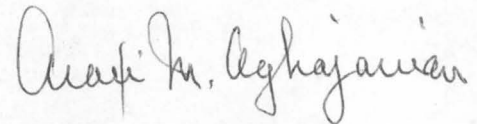
In conclusion, we bear witness that the past year was one of success and fulfillment with respect to the goals set forth at the commencement of the year, during which the status and position of the choir was uplifted within the Church and community, spiritually, culturally. However, it has a long way to go in order to comply with the size and future expansion of our Church; therefore, it is imperative that we request the collective cooperation and response from the church and community to assist us morally, financially and otherwise to help us keep in line with the demands of progress. At this time we are in dire need for singers and members for the choir and choral group to enable us to live up to the expectations of the Armenian Community and to our motto taken from the Psalm 100:2, which states: "Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing". We are in the midst of making preparations for

the arrival of His Holiness, Vasken I, Catholicos of All Armenians, whose itinerary will include Boston. We are also preparing to give a concert in the spring and need all the good will and assistance we can get.

Therefore, under His Divine will and guidance, the Armenian Holy Trinity Church Choir will continue to do its utmost for the sacred cause of our ancestors, our Church and Nationality, for which our prayers rise through our Sharagans as we glorify the Lord during the Holy Badarak each week.

Faithfully and devotedly submitted under Christ our Lord and in the realms of the Holy Armenian ~~Holy~~ Apostolic Church, this 10th day of January, 1968.

Helen Donabedian
Chairman



Araxi M. Aghajanian
Secretary