The Liturgical Arts in the Orthodox Church are the product of two thousand years of liturgical worship in an unbroken continuity; they serve to lift up the worshiper from the earthly plane to the heavenly realm. Because we see a loss of the Church's traditional worship in America, we hope to implement a project that will revitalize the traditional liturgical arts in order to restore the proper power to, and transformative nature of, our worship. Each generation must acquire the skills and knowledge of the tradition and carry it forward as their own living and vital expression of our faith in God.

Our Mission

The Liturgical Arts Academy teaches church leaders and artists the traditional skills and knowledge of Byzantine chant, iconography and other liturgical arts amidst a new culture, a new language and to a new generation of Orthodox Christians in the United States. The Academy strives to revitalize the Orthodox tradition of the liturgical arts in order to restore the proper power and transformative nature of worship of the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for the salvation of all.

TLAA Objectives and Purpose

Our objective is to provide high-caliber instruction in the liturgical arts of Chant and Iconography to everyone that wants to learn. Our aim is to immerse the students in 1-week of intensive instruction coupled with enough practical experience that can propel them along a path of lifelong learning. Our strategy is to gather students, from all over the United States, to be with highly-qualified instructors, who they otherwise would not have an opportunity to work with, and create an environment for deep learning based on face-to-face training and critique. This experience is then to become a foundation for continued learning through online classes and with local chanters when available. Our purpose is to raise up the level of the liturgical arts of chanting and iconography in church communities across the country and to enrich the worshipping experience of the faithful. A further purpose is to return to literacy in Byzantine musical notation and expand the number of chanters who can read Byzantine music and chant the services well.
TLAA & OCAA
With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios, The Liturgical Arts Academy began in May of 2018 with 30 students. In 2019, the program grew to 48 students, and added an instructional track for Liturgical Textiles. Our students came from all over the United States. In 2020 we had 53 students registered before the Covid-19 epidemic forced us to cancel, so our instructors produced several digital educational resources for them and our directors built a new website and strategized for growth. In August 2021, still under the COVID threat, we held a small program with 10 “socially distancing” iconography students. We endured these difficult years and returned in 2022 with 43 students, and currently have 53 students registered for our 2023 Academy. Although the textiles program did not continue due to instructor availability, there are ideas to eventually expand training to other disciplines.

The Liturgical Arts Academy began as an outreach of St. Philothea Greek Orthodox Church in Athens/Watkinsville GA, where Fr. Anthony is the priest. We established a Board of Directors and hired 2 co-executive directors. As the Academy grew in national prestige, Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta invited us to come under the Orthodox Christian Academy of Atlanta. OCAA was founded in 2019 in order to bring the achievements of academic scholasticism into an Orthodox ethos. Their objective is to hold collective conferences, symposia, panels, and lectures at the Metropolis’s Diakonia Retreat Center, hosting local and international scholars and experts. We feel that this is where we belong and are grateful for His Eminence’s blessing on our efforts. You may read more about OCAA here: https://ocaaatl.com/

TLAA Program
TLAA features an expert staff with 75+ years of combined experience in pedagogy of the arts. The Academy includes 5-6 hours of daily classroom instruction, that begin with full 90-minute matins (orthros) services and end with full vespers in the beautiful Panagia Chapel, allowing the chant students to serve and sing alongside their teachers, put their classroom learning into practice, and learn liturgical rubrics. This rhythm of worship creates an atmosphere of retreat, fellowship, and communion for our students who are all dedicated church members. While previous participants have always noted the high quality of the instruction they receive, they value the fellowship and prayer just as highly. Relationships begun at the Academy become resources for further learning and encouragement. The Liturgical Arts Academy is open to all persons regardless of faith tradition; the majority of our students are Orthodox Christians and occasionally we get one or two from other Christian confessions, such as Catholic or Lutheran.
1-Week Intensive Instruction includes:

3-4 Levels of CHANT WORKSHOPS: Beginner, Intermediate (1 & 2), and Advanced. Program includes daily “practice” in the beautiful Panagia Chapel with phenomenal acoustics. Topics covered are Byzantine notation proficiency, time and meter, modes, automela and idiomela, ornamentation, order of services and more.

2 Levels of ICON WORKSHOPS: Beginner and Intermediate with a lecture on the history, theology and use of iconography. Students complete a gold gilded icon on a gessoed board, varnished and ready to hang. Topics covered are drawing and tone study, color theory, flesh tones & hair, garments, gold gilding, drawing the halo, lettering, border finishing, varnishing and critique.

TLAA Staff

**Fr. Anthony Salzman, M.Div.,** is a priest and iconographer, guest lecturer, workshop leader and retreat leader. He has degrees in Art and Industrial Design, a Masters of Divinity from HCHC. Fr. Anthony lived and studied in Thessaloniki, Greece for six years where he apprenticed under master iconographer Kostas Photeiadis, and audited Byzantine Art History classes at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Fr. Anthony has painted and restored churches and portable icons for over 30 years. Through his and Presvytera Christine’s business, Image and Likeness Iconography, their custom designed Nativity Triptychs, bring beautiful icons from contemporary iconographers from around the world into the homes of thousands of American Orthodox Christians every Christmas for over 25 years.

*The 3 Chant Instructors are dedicated to the renewal of Byzantine notation for chanter in the United States and actively chant, compose and teach full-time.*

- **John Michael Boyer**, Protopsaltis at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in New Orleans, LA, founder of Cappella Romana, renowned composer of liturgical texts, founder of the Koukouzelis Institute, author of the comprehensive lesson book, “Byzantine Chant: The Received Tradition”.

- **Gabriel Cremeens**, Protopsaltis at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico, composer and contributor to www/englishmenaion.com and The Digital Chant Stand, co-founder and instructor of The Trisagion School of Byzantine Music.

- **Samuel Herron**, Protopsaltis at St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church in Charlotte, NC. composer and contributor to www/englishmenaion.com and The Digital Chant Stand, member of Cappella

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Romana, leader of Dynamis Byzantine Ensemble, co-founder and instructor of The Trisagion School of Byzantine Music.

All three are integrally involved in these well-respected institutes of Byzantine Chant:

- **Cappella Romana** - world-renowned choral ensemble.
- **GOAA Digital Chant Stand**: official ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.
- **Dynamis Byzantine Ensemble**: initiative that produces high-quality English language translations, musical settings, and recordings of Byzantine chant.

**Fr. Andreas G. Houpos** is a Protopresbyter serving as pastor of St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church in Charlotte, NC. He holds a Master of Divinity from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, as well as a Certificate in Byzantine Music (2014). He has performed nationally and internationally with the Archdiocesan Byzantine Choir and other ensembles since 2012, and participated in three professionally produced recording projects of liturgical music. Fr. Andreas has translated several liturgical, liturgiological, and biographical texts from Greek into English, both for publication and for private use. He has served The Liturgical Arts Academy as its chaplain since 2018.

**Pr. Christine Salzman, M.T.S. and Jamie Tarasidis**: Our Executive Co-Directors are a dedicated team that report to the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. Their work includes establishing the website, resource library, online registration, event promotion, social media, scheduling, planning, budgeting, purchasing, arranging travel, and communicating with students. They are responsible for the daily oversight of the weeklong program.

We invite you to visit our website for more details and to view the photo gallery over the years.

[www.TheLiturgicalArts.org](http://www.TheLiturgicalArts.org)
GOVERNING BOARDS

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