

2025 SOWBC FEATURED PRESENTER

## **Father Eleftherios Constantine**

Rev. Fr. Eleftherios Constantine is a clergyman of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh. He studied theology in the U.S. and Greece, completing his undergraduate studies at Hellenic College in 2008 and his graduate studies at Holy Cross in 2011. During his studies at Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, he completed a specialized program in Byzantine Music, earning a teaching license from the Central Music Conservatory of Thessaloniki.



Fr. Eleftherios was ordained to the diaconate by Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh on June 16, 2013, and moved to New York City, where he served as a deacon to Archbishop Demetrios for six years. On December 15, 2019, he was elevated to the rank of Archdeacon by the newly enthroned Archbishop Elpidophoros of America. On August 8, 2020, he was ordained to the priesthood and appointed to serve as both the Director of the Archbishop's Office and the presiding priest of St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Manhattan.

On June 6, 2023, Archbishop Elpidophoros elevated him to the rank of Ekonomos of the Sacred Archdiocese of America. Alongside this significant honor, he was simultaneously appointed as the Dean of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Pittsburgh, where he has been serving since July 1, 2023.

**WORKSHOP INSTRUCTOR – Youth (ages 12-17) Track**

## **Amy Hogg, Byz. Mus. Cert.**

Amy Hogg serves as the Protopsaltria at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Pittsburgh after chanting in the Antiochian archdiocese for over a decade. She is the co-host of the Byzantine Chant podcast, A Sacrifice of Praise, and serves on the board of the St. John of Damascus Society. She received her Byzantine chant certificate from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (Brookline, MA) in 2017 and the Figure Proficiency certification from Estill Voice International in 2021. She is the developer of the multi-modal Byzantine Beginnings materials and games. With fellow cantors Gabriel Cremeens and Samuel Herron, Amy co-founded the Trisagion School of Byzantine Music ([trisagionschool.org](http://trisagionschool.org)) and is currently an instructor of the Voice Lab 100 and ByzB 100 classes. This is her third year as an instructor at the SOWBC.



## WORKSHOP INSTRUCTOR – Beginner Track

### **Irene Bullock, Byz. Mus. Cert.**

**Presbytera Irene Bullock** is a graduate of Hellenic College (2014) and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (2016) in Brookline, MA. During these studies, she was an active member of the Saint Romanos the Melodist Byzantine Choir and the Saint Kassia Byzantine Women's Choir. One of her greatest achievements was receiving her Byzantine Chant Certificate in the Spring of 2015. After receiving her certificate, Presbytera Irene worked for three years as an adjunct instructor in Byzantine Chant and assistant to Rev. Fr. Romanos Karanos, [Director of the Byzantine Music Program at HCHC](#). In 2017, she was tonsured a cantor by His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios. Presbytera and her husband Fr. John moved to Baltimore, Maryland in the summer of 2018, where she continued teaching chant privately until 2021. Presbytera Irene and Fr. John currently serve the parish of Sts. Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church in Frederick, MD along with their three children Panayiotis, Phanourios, and Ioanna. This is her first year instructing the Beginner workshop at the SOWBC.



**WORKSHOP INSTRUCTOR – Intermediate Track**  
**Sarah Roumas, PhD., Byz. Mus. Cert.**

**Dr. Sarah Roumas** received her Ph.D. in Liturgical Theology from the University of Notre Dame (Notre Dame, IN, 2021). She learned to chant from Fr. Romanos Karanos at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (Brookline, MA) where she received her Master of Theological Studies (MTS, 2014), the Certificate in Byzantine Music (2015), and her Master of Theology (ThM, 2016). Since then, she has served and chanted in several capacities and parishes, and taught at the Archdiocesan School of Byzantine Music. When she is not caring for her two sons, Anthony and Theodore, she chants at her parish of Saints Anargyroi Greek Orthodox Church in Marlborough, MA. This is her second year instructing the Intermediate workshop at the SOWBC.





**WORKSHOP INSTRUCTOR – Advanced Track**

**Photini Downie Robinson,  
Byz. Mus. Cert.**

**Photini Downie Robinson** is an active cantor, ensemble artist, teacher, writer, speaker, and workshop leader. She serves as Protopsaltria at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Portland, Oregon, and is one of the core artists in the internationally acclaimed vocal ensemble Cappella Romana. She holds degrees in Vocal Performance and Computer Science from DePauw University and a Certificate in Byzantine Music from the Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. Photini is the Founding Director of Yphos Studio and has taught at the Liturgical Arts Academy, the Trisagion School of Byzantine Music, the Koukouzelis Institute, and the Artefact Institute. Her work has been featured by Axia Women, Ancient Faith Radio, and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Photini is passionate about the intersection of liturgical music and pastoral theology, and she strives to incorporate spiritual care and theological education into her music ministry. She especially loves working with older adults and families affected by memory loss. Photini is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity at Holy Cross Seminary in Boston with the goal of becoming a board certified Chaplain. This is her third year instructing the Advanced workshop at the SOWBC.



## **SOWBC CO-FOUNDER, DIRECTOR**

**Christina T. Stavros Kidonakis, MDiv., Byz. Mus. Cert.**

**Christina T. Stavros Kidonakis** earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion from Hope College (Holland, MI) in 2001, a Master of Divinity degree from Regent College (Vancouver, BC CANADA) in 2005, the Certificate in Byzantine Music from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (Brookline, MA) in 2014, and 4 units of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at Loyola University Medical Center (Chicago Area) where she worked as a Resident Chaplain until 2018.



In 2012, Christina's desire to formally study the Psaltic Art encountered a need at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, where she was invited to be the pilot student for the, then new, Certificate in Byzantine Music program. That fall she began studies with her beloved teacher, Dr. Grammenos Karanos. While at the seminary, she was a constant presence at the analogion (chant stand), initiated and directed the St. Kassia Women's Byzantine Choir, and gained the invaluable practical experience of chanting next to her master teacher at feast day celebrations, sacraments, and special events at the school and throughout the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston. Additionally, she came to a deep understanding of the central and profound theological role that the hymnology of the Church and its liturgical function has on the spiritual formation and identity of its members.

Since her graduation from Holy Cross in 2014, Christina's fervent desire for effective, Christ-centered ministry, discipleship, and education in the Church – both generally and at the analogion specifically – has continued to grow. She has served in ministry in many capacities, parishes, jurisdictions, and services among all ages of people. Since 2017, she has served as Protopsaltria (Lead Cantor) at All Saints Greek Orthodox Church in Joliet, Illinois. In 2022, she sought the blessing and partnership of His Eminence Metropolitan NATHANAEL of Chicago to found the Synaxis of Orthodox Women Byzantine Cantors (SOWBC) – a new ministry of education, fellowship, and spiritual nourishment to the growing number of Orthodox Christian women (and men) who have put forth their efforts to the study of the Psaltic Art. The first Annual SOWBC took place in 2023 at Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church in Elgin, Illinois with over 80 participants hailing from every area of the country and multiple jurisdictions and is now in its third year. Christina is married to Anthony and has one son, Georgios (5), and one daughter, Aikaterina (18 months). This is her third year as Director of the SOWBC.