



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT
OFFICE OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Presents

DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT
PARATHOSI
A Celebration of Hellenic Heritage & Dance

January 20th, 2024

Director's Packet



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

OFFICE OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

PARATHOSI *A Celebration of Hellenic Heritage & Dance*

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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October 3rd, 2023

Dear Director,

On behalf of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, I want to thank you for your interest in PARATHOSI 2025. As in years past, PARATHOSI has strived to be more than just a celebration of Hellenic Heritage & Dance. This ministry is an offering and an opportunity for all the Youth and Young Adults of the Direct Archdiocesan District to come together to celebrate our faith, culture, and heritage in a spirit of Orthodox fellowship.

As a director, our youth will not only look to you for direction with regards to the history and style of Greek traditional dances, but to also serve as a guide in their faith, culture and in the realization there is far more that unites us than separates us. We must make every effort in making sure all participants feel welcome and proud they are a part of this very special event.

This director's packet will serve as your resource while you are getting your teams ready for the big weekend in January. In this packet you will find a tentative schedule of events, guidelines, the cost of participation, how our divisions are arranged, and other important information needed to help you accomplish your goals as a director. It is our hope that you will share this information with and promote PARATHOSI to your dance groups, their families, and all youth in your parish, that they may be encouraged to participate in this rewarding event. In addition, we strongly encourage all parents and friends to come spectate the event, free of charge, that they may support our youth with their presence.

Our PARATHOSI Board and I are extremely excited about this wonderful event in our District. Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to one of our board members at PARATHOSI@goarch.org.

Respectfully,

Constantine Pantelias
Director
Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries
Direct Archdiocesan District



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Schedule of Events

As of this year, PARATHOSI will take place on February 1st, at LaGuardia Marriott in Queens. The PARATHOSI Awards Glendi will be held the evening of the 1st, following the conclusion of the performances.

Sat. February 1st, 2025

7:00 a.m. **Participant Registration**

8:30 a.m. **Welcome & Opening Ceremonies**

9:00 – 12:00 a.m. **1ST Group of Performances**

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. **Break for Lunch** (*Food will be available throughout the day via Marriott's Restaurant*)

1:00 – 4:00 p.m. **2nd Group of Performances**

4:00 – 6:00 p.m. **Break/Dinner Preparations**

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. **Cocktail Hour**

7:00 – 11:30 p.m. **Dinner/Awards Glendi**



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Director's Responsibilities:

All Directors & Dance Instructors will have to be present for the Director's briefing that will take place on **January 5th, 2025 via video conference at 8:00 p.m.** At this meeting we will discuss the exact competition rules and answer any questions you might have. Director's from each team will be responsible to coordinate with our registration team and turn in all registration documents via email at PARATHOSI@goarch.org **no later than December 1st, 2024.**

Everyone will be performing on the same stage whose dimensions are listed below. They will have speakers directed towards the audience and a microphone, should it be needed, for the performance.

Directors are required to state what the dance is, which region it is from, what village(s) version they are dancing (if any, and if known), as well as any other information that they want us to know and consider when watching their performance. This should be written out in the form called: *PARATHOSI 2025 Performance Form & Dance History.*

Director's should know and tell us what costume(s) they are wearing, and whether or not they feel they are appropriate to the dances being performed. No group will be penalized for not wearing the "correct" costume for their suite of dances. However, they should know and understand what they are wearing and where it is from.

Please let us know if any of the dancers will be singing or playing instruments to accompany the suite. If so please let us know and explain what we will be seeing and hearing. This should be done on a separate page attached to the *PARATHOSI 2025 Performance Form & Dance History.*



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Dance Floor:

PARATHOSI 2025 will be entirely hosted by LeMarriott Hotel in There will be a stage set up within the main ballroom that is equivalent in size to the stage used at

Music:

We can only accept music in .mp3 or .wav format on either a USB memory stick or CD.

- We will need to have all music in our possession no later than December 1st, 2024.
- If a CD will be submitted, we will need 2 copies in the event one is damaged.
- You must record all music in their correct order.
 - Please be careful with your music! Music should be tested beforehand, to make sure it plays and that the music is loud enough. Make extra copies.
- Every memory stick or CD must have the following information attached to it:
 - Dance Group Community or Syllogo Name.
 - Dance Director Name.
 - Number of Songs/Name of Dances on memory stick or both CD's.
- DJ will be playing the music files straight through without stopping or starting again. Please make sure that your music is in the correct order with the proper pause(s) times between songs.
- The PARATHOSI Board cannot be held responsible for the quality of your performance if you do not follow these guidelines.
- Live or Recorded Music will be permitted. If there will be live music, we will need to know what the configuration of the band will be so that we can make sure to position them correctly for your performance. Also, directors must let us know what equipment or instruments will be used. **Please note:** Live music will need to conduct their sound tests on Fri. January 10, 2025, while setup is in process.
- The USB stick or CD's will not be returned to their respective groups after the competition is complete.



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Dressing Rooms:

There will be dressing rooms made available to all teams for up to a 30-minute period before your respective performance. The room assignments will be given to you along with your welcome packet the weekend of the competition.

Please be mindful that you are in the correct dressing room at your designated times. There will be schedules posted with team names and times. The schedule coordinators will be there to assist you as you are preparing to dance. **PLEASE NOTE:** All teams should be prepared to perform up to 30 minutes before and after their scheduled time, depending on how fast or slow the event is running on February 1st, 2025.

You will need to follow the instruction of the schedule coordinators that will be posted at the dressing room areas.

Judging:

OUR VISION: *To present authentic Greek Dance in as “natural” a setting as possible.*

We strive to learn, and present, authentic Greek dances that represent what was, or what is, being danced in the villages and regions we present, by the people who live or lived in those villages and regions. We shy away from overly choreographed dances that are not based on and grounded in the tradition. Our best teachers and styles to emulate are those of the older people in the villages and towns, as they perform these dances for themselves at their own festivals and gatherings.

Scoring:

Each suite will be judged and scored based on 4 categories as described below. Each category can be awarded 0 – 10 points, or 0 – 5 points, as indicated. “Half-points” (ie. ‘7.5’, ‘8.5’...) can be used to give more flexibility in scoring. A score of 10 would be “perfect” in that category and is therefore a rare occurrence to be awarded.



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Your final score will be the sum of the scores of the individual 4 categories below, with a maximum score of 35 points:

- Correctness of dance steps (worth 10 points)
 - Are they dancing the correct dance and dance steps?
- Correctness of style (worth 10 points)
 - Are they dancing with correct/appropriate style for what they say they are presenting?
 - How comfortable do the dancer seem with the dance, how natural do they look?
 - Are the dances and music presented traditional, or modern interpretations?
- How the group looks as a whole and how it works together (worth 5 points)
 - As a performance itself, how is the whole look and feel of the performance?
 - Do the children look and seem like they are working with each other?
 - Are they aware of each other (with eye contact, calling out to each other or the leader)? Are they dancing for each other or themselves?
 - Do they look interested and present; smiling or intense; or just bored and unexcited?
- Preparation of group and dance instructor (worth 10 points)
 - Is it clear that they are taught and dancing the dances as stated?
 - Are they and their costumes neat? Complete?
 - Problems with the music? (Appropriate choices? CDs working and tested, etc.)
 - Problems with the costumes (ie. Falling off, missing or mismatched pieces) This does not reflect whether they are wearing the correct costumes for the dances they are performing, but whether or not the costumes are worn correctly, enhancing or interfering with the dancing and performance, etc.
 - Were the judges given all the information asked for?

There will be 3 judges per performance and one timekeeper for all performances. We will also include a sample of a judge's sheet so that teams can see how they will be scored.



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Summary:

In addition to scoring, comments will be made as time and circumstance permits. These notes and comments are solely intended to be used as constructive advice on how to improve, based on the experience of the individual judges..

Please be aware that judging dance such as this is subjective and is not a scientific examination. Some judges will see and/or be moved by certain aspects that another judge might not even see, let alone consider. It is most important that we all cherish our traditions, and enjoy each other's companionship as we learn from and support each other as we share our common and beloved PARATHOSI.

PARATHOSI means tradition. Literally, the "passing on" to the next generation. Our hope and goal is that we learn the old dances and music as has been passed down to us from our grandparents, and by their grandparents before them. Each generation can add to, and build upon what has gone on before them. We choose to believe that we can do this with both taste and utmost respect for what has gone on before us. Our success will lead us to show and pass on to our children a living, vibrant, unique tradition that they can be proud of for all their lives, and one that they will gladly pass on to their children.

Competition Format:

- 1 suite per team or 1 collection of dances per team
- Time frame for each division will be as follows:
 - **Division 1 & Seniors:** 10 – 12 minutes
 - **Division 2 & 3:** 8-10 minutes
 - **Division 4:** 5-7 minutes
- Staging – Entrance, exit, coordination, transitioning from one dance to another
- There will be a weighted point system:
 - Correctness of Dance – 10 points
 - Correctness of Style – 10 points
 - Group Synergy – 5 points
 - Preparation – 10 points
- Points will be awarded on the respective scale in each category
- Total number of points that can be awarded is 35
- The judges will also have the ability to award half points when necessary



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Exceeding Time Limits:

Any dance group that exceeds the maximum time allotted for each round of competition will be penalized as follows:

- Less than one minute over maximum time allotted: penalty of 1.5 points subtracted from total cumulative score.
- One minute or more over maximum time allotted: penalty of 3 points subtracted from total cumulative score.

PARATHOSI Dance Performance Guidelines:

- Each group will present 1 dance performance suite
- Groups are encouraged to center their performances around a specific region, village or island in Greece.
- Each performance suite must be within the allotted time based upon the specific division. Senior Division & Division 1: 10-12 minutes, Division 2 & 3: 8-10 minutes, Division 4: 5-7 minutes.
- The group will have 90 seconds or less to enter stage from the “on deck” area. This time includes any positioning on stage before the performance begins. The music will begin when the group leader gives the start signal OR the 90 second mark.
- Once the performance is complete, the group will have another 90 seconds or less to exit the stage before the next group enters.
- Directors will not be permitted to be on or around the stage during the performance or direct their team while it’s dancing.
- Audience members may not interfere with the judges and/or dancers during the performance sessions.
- Dancers may wear costumes of their choosing. Traditional costumes are encouraged.
- Groups must provide a group name, roster, and performance information to PARATHOSI prior to the event (**Deadline of December 1st, 2024**).
- Groups must provide their own music to PARATHOSI prior to the event in the form of a memory stick or 2 copies of the CD in accordance with our guidelines. Please be careful with your music! Music should be tested beforehand, to make sure it plays and that the music is loud enough. Make extra copies. We cannot guarantee that the music will be returned to you.



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- Performance suites may not include additional props, special lighting/staging or additional time without explicit approval from the PARATHOSI Board.
- Groups will be allotted a specific schedule and time slot for their individual performances and will be expected to follow this schedule. **NOTE: Please be prepared up to 30 minutes before/after your specific time-slot in the event we are ahead of/behind schedule.**
- Audience members may not take photographs/video from the aisles or on the performance stage. This must take place from the seating area only.
- We require that chaperones accompany a group to the performance for the entire day. For Divisions 1 & 2 there must be 1 chaperon for up to 10 participants. For Divisions 3 & 4 there must be 1 chaperone for up to 5 participants.
- Please bring to our attention if any of the performers have any special needs or anything else about the performers that we should know about.