This only goes through 2002. The ministry is still going, but I left in 2003 and it hasn't been updated.

HISTORY OF DETROIT PAN-ORTHODOX MUSIC MINISTRY

1987
First COCC (Council of Orthodox Christian Churches – Detroit Metropolitan Area) Nativity Choir Festival, individual parish choirs participated.

1988
Second COCC Nativity Choir Festival, combined choir conducted by guest conductor, Fr. Igor Soroka.

1989
In response to the need for English language responses at the COCC pan-Orthodox Vespers during Great Lent, a pan-Orthodox choir was formed and rehearsed by Pauline Costianes.

1991
Pan-Orthodox choir continued to sing responses for Lenten Vespers each year, with conducting responsibilities rotating among the local choir directors.

1992
Winter: Lenten Vesper Choir rehearsals and services.
Spring: COCC gave approval to provide seed money for a choral recording project.
May: Choir directors contacted about the formation of a music ministry and the recording project. Steering committee: Michelle Jannakos, Valerie Yova, Janet Damian, Pauline Costianes.
July: Auditions for chorale members.
August: Rehearsals for recording project.
November: first recording session at Sts. Peter and Paul OCA Church in Detroit, conducted by Michelle Jannakos and Valerie Yova.
December: An octet was formed from within the Chorale to perform Orthodox Nativity hymns and ethnic carols on a season concert of the Lyric Chamber Ensemble, and at several other venues.

1993
January: Pan-Orthodox octet recorded liturgical hymns for use by the local "Orthodox Radio Hour."
February: "Let Us Sing Unto the Lord" recording completed, 500 cassettes produced.
February: Chorale performed excerpts from recording at Orthodox Radio Hour fundraising banquet.
March: Chorale sang Presanctified Liturgy at St. George Romanian Cathedral.
Winter: Lenten Vesper Choir rehearsals and services.
April: 500 cassette tapes sold, 300 more ordered. Seed money returned to COCC.
May: Presented first formal proposal to COCC regarding establishment of a Music
Committee. Decided not to accept their terms. Tabled the idea. Continued informal music ministry!

June: Chorale octet sang excerpts from the recording at Dearborn Music Store (a local music store which sold the recording on consignment.)

Summer: Held auditions to recruit additional singers for second recording.

September: Chorale sang responses for Pan-Orthodox Liturgy celebrating Bicentennial of Orthodoxy at Sts. Peter & Paul OCA parish in Detroit.

Fall: "Let Us Sing Unto the Lord II": recorded and released; conducted by Valerie Yova and Pauline Costianes. Recording costs paid with profit from the first recording.

December: Nativity concert hosted by Assumption Greek Church.

1994

Winter: Lenten Vesper Choir rehearsals and services.
June: Concert celebrating Bicentennial of Orthodoxy. Chorale's first extensive coverage in local press.
December: Chorale invited to sing alone and with combined choir at "Detroit A-glow" holiday concert at Cobo Arena in downtown Detroit. The combined, all-city choir was conducted by Valerie Yova.

1995

Winter: Lenten Vesper Choir rehearsals and services.
June: Concert and Vespers at Dormition Monastery, Rives Junction, Michigan.
October: Invited to sing at Orthodox Education Day (St. Vladimir's Seminary). Sang antiphonally with the St. Vladimir's choir at the Saturday morning Liturgy, and presented a concert on Saturday afternoon. The concert was a tribute to Fr. Sergei Glagolev.

November: Chorale members sang at Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at St. Regis Catholic Church, Birmingham, Michigan.
December: Nativity Concert - "Light One Candle" with guest soloist, Phil Marcus Esser, hosted by St. George Romanian Cathedral.

1996

Winter: Lenten Vesper Choir rehearsals and services.

1997

Winter: Lenten Vesper Choir rehearsals and services.

1998

Winter: Lenten Vesper Choir rehearsals and services.

1999

Winter: Lenten Vesper Choir rehearsals and services.
Summer: Developed Music Ministry database of parishes, clergy, and individuals.
November; Workshop: "Let Us Lift Up Our Hearts" held at Sts. Peter & Paul Romanian parish in Dearborn. Presenters were James Meena,
Archimandrite Roman Braga, and Dr. Thomas Sheets.

**2000**
Winter: Lenten Vesper Choir rehearsals and services.
November: Workshop: "Enlivening the Orthodox Worship Experience" held at St. Andrew's Center. Presenters were Fr. Chris Holwey, Dr. Thomas Sheets, Valerie Yova Sheets.
December Nativity Concert: "Magnify, O My Soul" hosted by St. George Romanian Cathedral, conducted by Dr. Thomas Sheets and Mat. Vickie Kopistianski. Acquired first major sponsor.

**2001**
August: Published and mailed first Music Committee brochure listing all Music Ministry activities for the 2001-2002 Liturgical year.
Winter: Lenten Vesper Choir rehearsals and services.
February: Mini-workshop: half-day workshop for conductors, taught by Dr. Thomas Sheets.
Fall: Six-week session of classes in Music Theory and Voice offered on Saturday mornings at St. Andrew's Center.
December: Nativity concert: "Sing, Earth and Heaven" hosted by St. Clement Ohridski Macedono-Bulgarian parish in Dearborn, conducted by Valerie Yova Sheets. Acquired four event sponsors. Concert was dedicated to the victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

**2002**
March 23: Workshop -- "Solving the Musical Puzzle" held at St. Andrew's Center. Guest presenter was Mark Bailey -- professor of Liturgical Music at St. Vladimir's Seminary and conductor of the Yale Russian Male Chorus.
March 24: Sunday of Orthodoxy/Annunciation Pan-Orthodox Vespers, choir conducted by Mark Bailey. Troparion of Annunciation composed by Mark Bailey especially for this service.
Winter: Lenten Vesper Choir rehearsals and services.
Summer: Set up Music Ministry office at St. Andrew's Center in Detroit.