

Serbian Singing Federation Festival 2011

Steubenville OH—Weirton WV

May 27-28-29, 2011

The SSS Petar Krstich Choir and Holy Resurrection Serbian Orthodox Church of Steubenville, Ohio are excited to be hosting the 2011 Serbian Singing Federation Annual Choral Festival over Memorial Day weekend, May 27-29. This is the 70th annual Choral Festival, and this year's Festival theme will also mark the 70th anniversary of the Ravna Gora Chetnik uprising of World War II.

This Festival is one of the great annual events of the Serbian-American community, bringing Serbian Choirs together from all over the United States and Canada for three days of music, faith and fellowship. We are pleased to announce that to date 17 choirs have confirmed their plans to participate!

Concerts Highlight Choirs

The participating member Choirs of the Serbian Singing Federation each present a short program during the two concerts, to share their accomplishments and repertoire. This year's concerts will be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 28 and 29 at the recently renovated Steubenville High School Auditorium, just a block from the Church and one of the best venues in the area. Hearing Serbian national, folk and religious music from so many groups from so many places is an uplifting experience not to be missed. The concert each day will begin at 2:00 PM.

Sunday Liturgy

On Sunday, May 29 all are invited to participate in the Divine Liturgy at Holy Resurrection Church at 10:00 AM, concelebrated by local and visiting clergy. Singing responses that day will be the Festival Honored Guest Choir, the Stevan Hristich Serbian Choir from St. Sava Church, Phoenix, Arizona, under the direction of Lazo Mihajlovich. This will be the last Sunday of the Paschal season, before Ascension, and we are looking forward to sharing the joy of the Resurrection with many, many guests and visitors.

Social Events provide fun, food, music

Of course, the social activities are a very important part of the weekend. Singers come back to the Festival year after year to see old friends and meet new ones from other choirs and from the host community, as well as visitors from all over. A **Welcome Dance** will be held at the Serbian American Cultural Center in Weirton on Friday evening, May 27, beginning at 7:00 PM, with music by Drustvo. The Center's famous Fish Fry-day will be available from 11:00 AM on into the evening.

The **Festival Banquet** will take place on Saturday evening at the Serbian American Cultural Center Grand Ballroom following the day's concert, with cocktails at 6:00 and dinner at 6:30 PM. The Banquet gives everyone a chance to dress up a bit and enjoy some great food and company. Banquet tickets are \$25 and should be purchased in advance (call the Center at 304-723-7372 to place your reservation). A **Gala Dance** will follow the Banquet at 8:00 PM with two bands: Srpski Sinovi playing in the Ballroom, and Junaci playing in the Garden Room.

A Sunday **Farewell Dance** and social will follow the concert that day, again at the Cultural Center. Music for the dance will be provided by Sudbina.

A popular event accompanying the socials is the silent auction. Browse through the items available and place your bid for whatever strikes your fancy. Check back often to see if you need to up your bid to make sure you get that special something!

Hotels

Festival hotels include the headquarters Holiday Inn, the Baymont Inn and the Fairfield Inn, all in Weirton near the Cultural Center, and the Hampton Inn near the Church and concert venue in Steubenville.

Details and more information on the weekend's events are available on the church's web site: www.hrsoc-steuben.org.

This will be a three-day event long to be remembered. The last Festival held in Steubenville-Weirton in 2000, was a great success and is fondly remembered by many who attended. The Serbian community of the Upper Ohio Valley is eager to welcome singers, guests and visitors from near and far to our American "Tromedja" of Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, and to extend true Serbian *gostoprinstvo* (hospitality) to all. *Dobro nam dosli!*