

Gregory S. Athnos
Emeritus Professor of Music, North Park University
Chicago, Illinois

Gregory S. Athnos served as Associate Professor of Music for 32 years on the North Park University faculty in Chicago. As director of choral organizations he conducted the university's ensembles in concerts across the United States, Canada, and Europe. In 1993 he was guest conductor for the Chamber Orchestra of Pushkin, Russia, and the State Symphony of Estonia, conducting their first performances of Handel's *Messiah* since the Bolshevik Revolution in 1918.

Mr. Athnos was one of the most respected teachers on the university campus. 'Innovative', 'enthusiastic', 'provocative', and 'challenging' were terms often used by his students. He also teaches in the national Elderhostel/Road Scholar program on two campuses, Wisconsin and New Hampshire, where his nearly 300 weeks of lectures on a variety of topics related to the arts and culture have garnered rave reviews from his participants. One adult learner wrote of him, "He is the Beethoven of lecturers". In 2005 he was honored by Elderhostel International as one of its most highly praised instructors.

Mr. Athnos received his degrees from Northwestern College in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the University of Michigan, where he was elected to the National Music Honors Society. He has also studied Norwegian folk music and its influence on Edvard Grieg at the University of Oslo, Norway. He has had 20 articles and poetry published in *Pro Musica*, the Music Journal of the former Yugoslavia, the *Mennonite Journal*, the *North Parker*, the *Covenant Companion*, and *Christianity and the Arts*. Mr. Athnos was recipient of the 1990 Sears Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership, and the 1992 Honorary Alumnus Award, conferred by the Alumni Association of North Park University.

He is the author of three books: "*The Easter Jesus and the Good Friday Church: Reclaiming the Centrality of the Resurrection*" (recipient of the 2014 Christian Writers Award First Place in Theology); "*The Art of the Roman Catacombs: Themes of Deliverance in the Age of Persecution*" (recipient of the Reader Views Literary Awards First Place in History/Science); and his autobiography, "*Eat in Harmony: A Feast of Life, the Arts, and Faith*".

Mr. Athnos retired from university teaching in 1998, and has kept a busy schedule of lectures and seminars for arts organizations, Elderhostel/Road Scholar, museums, conference centers, retirement communities, and churches. Mr. Athnos also organizes and leads foreign tours concentrating on the arts.

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