



GREEK BYZANTINE CHOIR

# BYZANTINE HYMNS

Director: LYKOURGOS ANGELOPOULOS





Cover & back-cover: Domenikos Theotokopoulos, details of the icon  
*The Passion of Christ - Pietà with angels, Crete, 1566*

BENAKI  MUSEUM

The Velimezis Collection Project

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## The members of the Greek Byzantine Choir :

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Andreas Chronis,  
Panayotis Koutras (5/II, 14, 16),  
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Georgios Constantinou,  
Constantinos Angelides,  
Ilias Frangakis (5/III),  
Ioannis Tsiotsiopoulos (5/III),  
Daas Ibrahim (7,12,17,18,19),  
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Stephanos Souldatos,  
Haralambos Rimbass (5/IV),  
Anastassios Vassilopoulos (5/III),  
Georgios Fountas (5/X),  
Vassilios Georgaras (5/III),  
Evangelos Kotsonas,  
Vassilios Zaharis (5/IX),  
Omiros Koumbaroulis,  
Nikolaos Paganias,  
Vassilios Kolokythas,  
Emmanouel Perogiannis,  
Kyriakos Stantzos,  
Ioannis Panoussakis,  
Constantinos Zeppos,  
Christos Pahoglou.

The G.B. Choir at the Capella Palatina de Santa Àgata, Barcelona, 21/3/1999,  
during the Velimezis Exhibition at MNAC.

*Photo by N.Manginas*

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## CHRISTMAS HYMNS

1. Sticheron idiomelon of the First Great Hour. Plagal IV.
2. Sticheron prosomoion. Mode IV (legetos).
3. Sticheron idiomelon by Constantinos, Protopsalte of the Great Church (Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople), (19th c.). Mode III.
4. Ode 9 from the first and second kanons for the Nativity of the J.- Christ. Mode I.
5. (I-XI) Automelon and stichera prosomoia by Romanos the melodist, (5th - 6th c.). Plagal II (tetraphonos).
6. Apolytikion. Mode IV chromatic.
7. Apolytikion (in Arabic). Mode IV chromatic.

## EPIPHANY HYMNS

8. Heirmoi and troparia of the 9th ode from the first and second kanons of Epiphany. Mode II.
9. Sticheron idiomelon. Mode I.
10. Doxastikon of Laud. Plagal II.
11. Apolytikion. Mode I.
12. Apolytikion (in Arabic). Mode I.

## AKATHISTOS HYMN

13. Kontakion. Plagal IV.

## HOLY WEEK HYMNS

14. Verse and alleluia. Plagal IV (triphonos).
15. Hymn of the Orthros of the Holy Friday. Plagal IV (triphonos).
16. Doxastikon of the Lauds from the Orthros of the Holy Friday, by Constantinos Pringos, Protopsalte of the Great Church(†1964). Plagal II.
17. Lamentation of the Orthros of the Holy Saturday. First stanza. Plagal I.
18. Second stanza. Plagal I.
19. Third stanza. Mode III.

## EASTER HYMNS

20. Sticheron of the Resurrection. Plagal I.
21. Doxastikon. Plagal I.

## PENTECOST HYMNS

22. Sticheron idiomelon. Mode I.
23. Sticheron idiomelon of the lauds. Mode IV (legetos).
24. Doxastikon. Plagal I.
25. Kratima, by Georgios Cris (from Crete), (18th -19th c.). Mode I.
26. Polychronismos to the Ecumenical Patriarch. Mode II.

*The numbers 22, 23 and 24 are chanted from the book "Pentekostarion" by Georgios Redestinos, Protopsalte of the Great Church (19th c.).*

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# GLOSSARY

- Apolytikion:** A short festal hymn summarizing the theme of the feast and sung before the dismissal of Vespers and other Offices.
- Apostichoi:** Short hymns preceded by an intoned verse of the psalms.
- Automelon:** Autonome troparion, used as model for metrically and melodically identical prosomoia.
- Doxastikon:** A hymn with its own proper melody sung at the end of the hymns of Vespers and preceded by the verse :  
"Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit".
- Heirmologion:** Hymn book containing the model stanzas of the Odes, corresponding the Western hymnary.
- Heirmos:** The first stanza of an Ode serving as a model for the remaining stanzas.
- Idiomelon:** A text with a melody composed especially for it by the author of the words.
- Kanon:** Poem of several strophes (troparia) divided in odes.
- Kratema:** An elaboration of the melody without words at the end of a hymn.
- Orthros:** The day-break service of the Orthodox Church, corresponding to the Western Matins and Lauds.
- Plagal:** One of the four "oblique" modes of Byzantine chant, the difference between the four plagal modes and the four authentic modes, however, being theoretical rather than practical.
- Polychronismos:** An anthem wishing many years of life to the person in whose honour it is sung.
- Prosomoion:** A text adapted to an existing melody.
- Stanza:** A group of hymns.
- Sticheron:** A short chant corresponding to the Western antiphon.
- Stichos:** A verse.



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