

Ioannis Anagnostis Kontopoulos: a Pelion Music Teacher and Byzantine Hymnographer - his Life and Works

Charilaos K. Karagounis*

harilaos2009@hotmail.com

Ioannis Anagnostis Kontopoulos was a Pelion representative of the Psaltic Art and hymnographer from the second half of the 19th until the first quarter of the 20th century. Kontopoulos learned the art of chanting on Mount Athos from a monk named Dionysius. He taught and transmitted the art of chanting to many excellent students, who in turn continued the work of their teacher. He never held the position of chanter in any specific church because he did not have a particularly good voice. However, this did not prevent him from cultivating other skills, and thus becoming an excellent hymnographer, calligrapher of elegant manuscripts, and teacher of the Psaltic Art. Thanks to these talents, he made an impact on future generations of the students of the Psaltic Art and budding chanters, and also left a rich legacy of excellent hymns, Doxastika, Cheruvika, Anoixantaria in the Second Mode, Troparia of Psalm 50 in Mode Plagal of First, and more.

-
- *Charilaos Kon. Karagounis was born in Volos on August 20, 1992. He graduated from the renowned Music School of Volos. In October 2010, he was admitted to the Faculty of Arts and specifically the Department of Traditional Music of the ATEI Epeirus, located in Arta. He has completed his course work and is currently writing his thesis. He learned Byzantine church music from his father Constantinos Karagounis, with whom he served as Domestikos at the chanter's stand. In February 2014, he received his licentiate in Byzantine Music. He also plays the traditional musical instruments Tampoura, Kanonaki, and Traditional Percussion.*