

The Melkite Liturgical Chant, forms and musical structures: Oral and Written tradition

Bachir Fouad Osta*

bachirosta@hotmail.com

The Melchite liturgical Chant is the byzantine liturgical chant of the Church of Antioch, used in most byzantine churches in both orthodox and catholic section. In This Study, we will see a review, beginning from the unity of the musical tradition in Antioch before 17 -18th century, passing by the schism in the Antiochian church in 1724, and later in the 20 century. Studying the characteristics and the differences between Antiochian Melchites orthodox and catholics, by analyzing the oral and the written tradition, we will take partitions of the manuscripts and vocal records to try to recognize the aspects of this tradition.

-
- *Bachir Osta started taking interest in the Byzantine music at his early adolescence where he joined the Beirut Orthodox School of Church Music, led by Father Romanos Gebran. He moved to Greece to pursue advanced courses in Byzantine Music. He obtained a "Diploma" from the Yorgos Foudoulis Conservatory under the supervision of Konstandinos Karagounis, in addition pursuing a post-graduate program in the conservatory of Athens under the supervision of Yorgos Constandinou. Bachir currently teaches the Byzantine Music at the National Conservatory and the St Anne Seminary in Rabweh, and is the Protopsaltis (Leading Chanter and Trainer) of the St. Joachim and Anne Parish. In 2007, Bachir took in charge the Saint Stefanos The Melode School which was initially inaugurated by his brother Alain (Protopsalt of the Eparchy of Beirut and Jbail). The School Choir was later founded and it presented many recitals in Lebanon (including Beirut chants festival 2011 and 2012 amongst others...) and abroad (2012 Summer tour in France). Mr. Osta also obtained the first prize in the InterArtia International Festival of Music in 2009 and 2011 for the Byzantine Music. In 2013, he featured as main speaker at the seminar: "Musical Structures and Forms of the Liturgical Melkite Chanting", within the "Voice and Sound Prayer" Annual Seminars, organized by the Intercultural Institute of Comparative Music Studies established by the Giorgio Cini Foundation (Italy). In 2013, he presented a workshop on the Byzantine Music within the "Voices in Harmony International Workshop" held at the Holy Spirit University – Kaslik (USEK – Lebanon).*