Notes on Psaltic teaching, Organology and Interval Theory using K. Psahos's "Panarmonion" as a basis

Thomas Apostolopoulos*

athom@sch.gr

Among the many attempts to construct musical instruments which would assist intervals teaching in Byzantine Music, the most profound is the "Panarmonion instrument", made in the early 20th century to K. Psahos's order. This is an aerophone keyboard instrument that uses the organ as a model. K. Psahos published a detailed description of its intervals. It is possible to make some interesting observations about its organological characteristics, appropriacy and pedagogical value, provided not only by Psahos but also a close examination of the instrument itself. Psahos's specific choices regarding the intervals offer the opportunity to investigate the trends of that era in order to elucidate issues about the Greek Harmonic Theory, an area still to be explored.

^{*} Thomas Apostolopoulos was born in 1963 in Rizomata, Imathia, Greece. He studied Law at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTh 1985) and he has an postgraduate title in the field of History, Philosophy and Sociology of Law (AUTh 1990). He got a degree (1984) and a diploma (1992) of Byzantine music. He was nominated a Doctor at Music Studies Department of Athens University (1997). He was elected as assistant professor at Music Studies Department of Athens University (April 2009), where he has been teaching since 2011. He has taught: At music middle schools, at the traditional music school "En chordais", at University of Macedonia (department of music art and science), and at many Conservatory seminars, Byzantine Music Schools. He teaches Theory of Psaltic art as well as issues about the relations between the Byzantine Music and the secular music of East Mediterranean traditions at the University of Athens. He chants and sings with the choir of "En chordais" Music school which performs in Greece as well as abroad. He has published the books: "Apostolos Konstas from Chios island and his contribution to the Theory of music art" (dissertation, Athens 2002) and "The ecclesiastic music in the ecclesiastic law" (Thessaloniki 1999). He has surveyed discographic editions ("En chordais, University of Aegaeon etc.). Other publications concern the Byzantine music, the exegesis and transcription from Old Byzantine Music stenographic Method, the Greek traditional folk music, the Learned Music of Constantinople in historical, theoretical, morphological and instrumental issues.