

Demotic folk music: spread and practical application of new discoveries in the field of demotic Tradition

A n d r e a s G i a k o u m a k i s *

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Since July 2011 I have been honoured to research the collection of Pavlos G. Vlastos kept in the Historical Archives of Crete in Hania. A part of this collection concerns the Demotic song, which is documented through Byzantine music notation by P. Vlastos during the second half of the 19th century. A small part of this research has reached the students of the course on religious hymns of the Supreme Ecclesiastic Academy of Heraklion Crete attending the class on "Folk Greek Music" available in the 5th and 6th semester. The topic of my proposition concerns exactly this educational process which I followed up to the final recording in compact disk and its presentation in a musical event by a choir and orchestra comprising the students of the S.E.A.H.C. My desire and aim is to illustrate how the transition from research and theory to practice took place by the students themselves equipping them with new qualifications, special expertise and-hopefully!-new visions and ambitions.

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- *Andreas Giakoumakis of Athanasios was born in Crete in 1962. He studied in the Rizarios Ecclesiastic School of Athens. He is a graduate of the Supreme Ecclesiastic School of Athens and the Theological School of the National Kapodistriac University of Athens. He is a holder of a Degree on Religious Chanting from the Auditorium of Athens and a Diploma of Byzantine music from the Auditorium "N. Skalkotas". In addition, he is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Musical Studies of the Ionian University. Since the school year 1990-91 he has taught music in the music high schools of Pallini and Rethimnon, while since the academic year of 1997-98 he has been teaching music in the Supreme Ecclesiastic Academy of Heraklion Crete and is an elected member of its Special Faculty. He can exhibit significant educational work and abundant artistic activity as the conductor of Byzantine and Traditional Choirs and has also recorded some of their works always keeping close at heart the documenting, researching and salvaging of the said musical styles. He is also the author of: "Systematic Teaching of Byzantine Music" (2002, Domos Publications), "Akathistos Imnos" (2011, published by the Company of the Greek Language and Music) and "Battle Hymns in Crete in the 19th century from the collection of Pavlos Vlastos" (2013, published by the Historical Archive of Crete). He has published articles and studies in scientific magazines and has taken part in international and other music forums. He has been chanting religious hymns since 1981, initially in Athens churches and since 1993 in the Church of Saint Titos in Heraklion crete. He is married and the father of three children.*