

The Psaltic Art as an Autonomous Science: Scientific branches – Related Scientific fields – Interdisciplinary Collaborations and Interaction

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In Greece over the last several decades, the science of musicology has developed in accordance with the spirit and attitudes of its proponents, namely that there is a music, so-called “European” music, with a noble character, and all other musical expressions are lesser arts, unworthy of mention let alone study and academic research. This is why Byzantine music, as well as more generally any traditional musical expression, is seen even today, both by the Greek state and the academic musicological community, as a minor, immaterial art, about which perhaps a few Greek musicians have some encyclopedic knowledge. The 1st International Interdisciplinary Musicological Conference of the Department of the Psaltic Art and Musicology of the Volos Academy for Theological Studies aims to highlight the Ecclesiastical Music as an important autonomous musical culture, and further to recognize and showcase the superhuman efforts made toward this end by teachers of contemporary musicologists of the Psaltic Art, and finally to formally identify the disciplines and areas of so-called Byzantine Musicology and encourage interdisciplinary collaborations, so that this emerging field can acquire new research tools from other academic areas, and the other sciences can discover chanting as a new field or as a valuable new tool in promoting their own research. As for the interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary, about which there has been much talk in the last decade, it should be noted that this was always implicit among the circle of teachers and scholars of Ecclesiastical Music, to whom it never would have even occurred to consider Ecclesiastical Music independent of other ecclesiastical arts and liturgical sciences, or even of Western Music.

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