

## Ecclesiastical music and folklore research: the revival of an old relation

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Greek ecclesiastical music has been the object of Greek folklore during the first postwar decades of the 20th century, through the presence of the late Spyros Peristeris, a musical researcher in the then Folklore Archive (nowadays Hellenic Folklore Research Centre) of the Academy of Athens. Peristeris roamed many regions of the Hellenic countryside while recording hundreds of ecclesiastical melodies next to folk songs in the context of his commissioned musical folklore missions. This effort was left behind after his retirement but the demand for the recording and transcription of ecclesiastical music from folklorists returned with new intension in the past few years at the instigation of the last director of the Centre Dr. Aikaterini Polymerou-Kamilaki, under the supervision of the academician professor Stefanos Immelos. This author has already recorded a large number of cantors from various parts of continental and islander Greece, who belong both to educated and self-taught (empirical) cantors. Indeed, in his recent commissioned mission to Skiathos, he located a lot of charismatic cantors who preserve the so-called kollyvadic tradition that began from the monastic community of Mount Athos and passed through local intellectuals, such as Alexander Papadiamantis, Alexander Moraitidis and father Georgios Rigas. In this paper, the author attempts a) to offer a retrospection of the relation between ecclesiastical music and Greek folklore, b) to prove the value and necessity of studying ecclesiastical music from the perspective of folklore and c) to offer certain characteristic examples from older and recent missions by researchers of the Centre. He also throws light on certain aspects of this relation, such as the type of musical notation that can be used for the transcription of ecclesiastical melodies gathered from folklore missions, the contribution of self-taught cantors of the countryside to the creation and development of the ecclesiastical repertoire, and the methodology that should be followed during the process of collecting the material.

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- *Academic Titles and Awards: Bachelor in Musicology, University of Athens Diploma in Byzantine Music, "Nikos Skalkotas" Conservatoire, Athens Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Ethnomusicology, University of Cambridge, Thesis: "The Music of the Greek Refugees of Asia Minor: The Case of the Meliots, Megara" Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Ethnomusicology, University of Cambridge, Thesis: "Micromusics of the Ottoman Empire: The Music of the Greek Phanariots of Istanbul" (St Edmund's College) Scholarship from the British Academy, London. Teaching Experience: Lecturer in Music, University of the Aegean, Department of Education, Rhodes Visiting Scholar, University of Crete, School of Philosophy, Department of Philology, Rethymnon Lecturer in Ethnomusicology, Ionian University, Department of Musical Studies, Corfu Visiting Scholar, University of Peloponnese, School of Philosophy, Kalamata Research Fellow of the Hellenic Folklore Research Centre, Academy of Athens. With Principal English Publications and Principal Greek Publications. Other Activities: Contributor to Broadcast Series "Spirit of the Earth", BBC Radio 3, Host: Dr Christopher Page (1995). Recordings of the English Compositions by Eva Palmer-Sikelianou, ERA, Radio 3 (1997). Member of the "Greek Byzantine Choir", Director: Lykourgos Angelopoulos (1987-1997). Member of the Advisory Board in the Journal of Interdisciplinary Music Studies.*