

Neuromusicology and the Science of Byzantine Chant: An interdisciplinary approach with multiple benefits

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Neuromusicology is a rapidly developing scientific branch of Musicology and Neurology. It explores, among many others, the neuropsychological impact of music, the potential treatment of human diseases through music and the perceptual brain mechanisms in auditory stimulation. In this presentation we approach the trend of Neuromusicological research at global level. We comment on the main goals, the methods (questionnaire, use of high technology fMRI [Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging] e.t.c.) and some important findings of the current research. We emphasize the reasons why the science dealing with Byzantine Chant has a special position in this discipline and we underline the Neuromusicological approach of it since the first Christian centuries by Holy Church Fathers such as Saint Basil the Great, Saint John Chrysostom and others. Finally, we highlight the multiple benefits that can be gained through a systematic and multifaceted approach of the Chanting Science and Neuromusicology.

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- *Dimosthenis Spanoudakis was born in Thessaloniki and started his musical studies with tzoura (traditional-folk music instrument) in 1989. He graduated from the Music High School of Thessaloniki (2001) while he also studied Byzantine music (certificate 2006 & diploma 2009 with Petros Papaemmanouil) and classical harmony-counterpoint (2007 with Vasileios Kitsos). He studied Musicology in Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (2008, School of Musical Studies, Faculty of Fine Arts). He continued his post-graduate studies in "Byzantine Musicology and Chanting Art" with Prof. Fr. Spyridon Antoniou (School of Theology, Department of Pastoral Theology, A.U.Th). Now he is continuing his PhD studies in Byzantine Music with Prof. Maria Alexandru (School of Music Studies, A.U.Th.). He is a member of the Study Group for Byzantine Musical Palaeography from the School of Musical Studies of the A.U.Th (scient. supervisor Maria Alexandru) since 2006. He had presentations in International Musicological Conferences in Athens, Thessaloniki, Belgrade and Iasi. Interests: Analysis and Palaeography of Byzantine Music. Neuromusicology and Cognitive Sciences of Music, Traditional singing and Chanting Art.*