

Byzantine Music for Warrior Saints

Maria Alexandrou- Study Group for Byzantine
Musical Paleography

malexand@mus.auth.gr

Abstract. Taking Christopher Walter's monography about Warrior Saints in Byzantine Art and Tradition (2003) as a point of departure, we will present St George, St Theodoroi, St Menas and other saints as to the way they are worshipped through Byzantine hymnography and chant. The material is investigated through interdisciplinary and interarts approaches, aiming to obtain a general view about the extant repertoires, the diachronic development of chosen pieces and the process of shaping 'aural icons' (E. Williams) for this category of saints, during the centuries.

Περίληψη. Με αφετηρία το βιβλίο του Christopher Walter «Warrior Saints in Byzantine Art and Tradition» (2003), θα παρουσιαστούν μορφές μεγάλων αγίων όπως ο Άγιος Δημήτριος, ο Άγιος Γεώργιος, οι Άγιοι Θεόδωροι, ο Άγιος Μηνάς κ.ά., ως προς τον τρόπο με τον οποίο αυτοί εξυμνούνται στη βυζαντινή μελουργία και υμνογραφία. Το υλικό προσεγγίζεται διεπιστημονικά και διακαλλιτεχνικά, με σκοπό την ανάδειξη του σχετικού ρεπερτορίου, την διαχρονική εξέλιξη επιλεγμένων κομματιών και, γενικότερα, τη διαδικασία διαμόρφωσης ακροαματικών εικόνων ('aural icons': E. Williams) για τη συγκεκριμένη κατηγορία αγίων, σε βάθος αιώνων.

*The **Study Group for Byzantine Musical Paleography** has been founded in 2006 and functions as a workshop, complementary to the course "Paleography of Byzantine Music" at the School of Music Studies of the Aristotle University in Thessaloniki. Its character is didactic and experimental. It aims at the broadening and deepening of knowledge concerning the old Byzantine notation, at developing new didactic approaches in the field of Byzantine Musical Paleography and at the formation of young scholars in this field. At the same time, the Study Group is opened to a broader public, in order to share the beauty of the Byzantine musical treasures with all those interested in it. The Study Group collaborates with traditional singers and different other musical groups. Until today it gave scientific and artistic presentations and workshops at international congresses in Greece and abroad, it participated in masterclasses, as well as in concerts, made recordings and organized different other artistic activities.*