

# Some Questions Facing Greek Orthodox Church Musicians

- What are the responsibilities of the Choir?
  - Be regular and prompt church attendees
  - Have all the music thoroughly prepared
  - Know order of the services and proper hymns
  - Communicate with the priest regularly
  - Sing in “symphonia” with priest and deacon  
(each on the same pitch and mode)
  - Be attentive and cause no distractions
  - Respect the musical traditions of the Church  
(don’t be overly worldly or theatrical)

- Choir Loft and Psalterion
  - We find two different styles of music, Byzantine chant and Western polyphony.
  - Choir is composed of mostly Western-trained musicians singing in harmony. Chanters trained in Byzantine, chanting a single melodic line grounded by ison.
  - Not all priests have the same attitudes or preferences towards chanters and choirs.
  - Chanters can do all services, choirs are mostly limited to the Divine Liturgy.

- Choirs sing same hymns with full house at the liturgy. Chanters chant to a handful of the faithful at Orthros, and all other services. Choirs and chanters often have different concepts of musical spirituality and beauty.
- Perceptions of choirs and chanters differ and sometimes there are many misconceptions and misunderstandings about why they do things.
- Essentially they have the same function in church services, so mutual respect is needed.
- What are the answers? Let's start with the questions.

# Other Questions Facing Greek Orthodox Church Musicians to be Addressed Later in the Presentation

- What about the use of English?
- What about the use of Westernized, harmonized music versus Byzantine music including the question of musical notation?
- What about the use of musical instruments like organs, pianos, winds, and strings.