

Why Are We Singing This Now?

What Orthodox Choirs
Should Know

All generalizations are false,
including this one.

--Mark Twain

Some things Orthodox musicians should know:

- Why the Church uses music in services.
- The role of the singer.
- Some knowledge of Church history, especially concerning music.
- The various books that contain the hymns and services of the Church.
- The basics of Byzantine chant and the eight-tone system.
- Order of the services.
- How to use the Typikon.

Why use music?

Unanimity. Singing aloud with one voice and one mind.

Memorability. Learning the lessons and prayers.

Expression of different emotions to touch the heart and remove complacency.

Keep the people focused on worship.

Role of the singers:

Lead the people in worship.

Proclaim prayers, hymns, histories, and lessons aloud using the musical element of melody.

Follow the example of the angels in heaven.

What the role of singers is not.

- Performing, as putting on a concert.
- Distracting worshipers from worship.
- Altering or deciding what to sing at the services.

**Q. What's the difference
between choirs
and chanters?**

**A. In regard to their roles in
the Church services, there is
no difference. There may be
differences in style.**