

GREEK BYZANTINE CHOIR

P.O. BOX 4183, 102 10 ATHENS – GREECE

Fax. : 210 882 3523

Mobile : 6976 338 045

greekbyzanchoir@yahoo.gr

Press Release

The **Greek Byzantine Choir**, with 25 singers - soloists, will perform **unpublished works of the byzantine music foremost composer Ioannis Koukouzelis** under the artistic direction of Lykourgos Angelopoulos, on **Wednesday, November 21, 2012 at 20.30** at the auditorium of the **“Parnassos Literature Society”** (Karytsi Square, central Athens). The entrance will be free of charge.

This concert is the third one in a sequence of public performances of the Choir dedicated to the works of Ioannis Koukouzelis, a program sponsored by the Ministry of Education & Religious Affairs, Culture & Sports. The Ioannis Koukouzelis project is considered to be the epitome of the 35 years life of the Greek Byzantine Choir.

The music program of the concert consists of compositions which have been revealed after many years' research and study of byzantine manuscripts and their transcription in the contemporary applied music semantics by Hourmouzios Chartofylax (archivist) and Gregorious, the Principal Cantor of the Great Church of Christ.

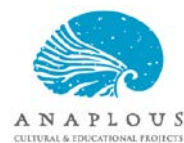
Since 1990 the Greek Byzantine Choir commenced the recording and the publication of the works of the famous byzantine maistor Ioannis Koukouzelis as an aftermath of the research and elucidation in the manuscripts which contain his compositions. The studies started in 1980 and were offered a three years support from the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation.

The aim of the Greek Byzantine Choir, through the research, the recordings and the rendering of the synolic works of Ioannis Koukouzelis, is to enrich the existing byzantine repertoire and to facilitate the approach of the great master's works by the scholars, the research students and the friends of byzantine music.

MEDIA SPONSORS:



COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS SUPPORT



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Concert Program

1. «*Ἦτω ἡ δόξα Κυρίου ...*» verse from major anoixantaria, Mode Plagal 4.
2. «*Ἀσπιλε, ἀμόλυντε, εὐλογημένη Θεοτόκε ...*» from the Doxastikon.
3. «*Μετὰ τὸ τεχθῆναι σε*» chanted at the Feast of Eisodia tis Theotokou, Mode Plagal 1.
4. «*Ἄγγελοι τὴν εἴσοδον τῆς Πανάγνου ...*» megalynarion for the Feast of Eisodia tis Theotokou, Mode 4.
5. Kratima «*ὁ μονόπνους*», Mode Plagal 2.

HISTORY OF THE GREEK BYZANTINE CHOIR

The Greek Byzantine Choir (a non-profit legal entity) was established in 1997 by Lykourgos Angelopoulos and his colleagues in order to study and present the byzantine music as it has been preserved till nowadays through the written and oral tradition.

The Choir today consists of 40 permanent members, who are fully trained in the theory and practice of Byzantine music. During the years the choir hosted more than 150 members, the majority of whom are professionally occupied with the teaching of the Byzantine music, conducting of vocal music ensembles and artistic performing of religious compositions in Greece and abroad.

Amongst the Choir performances are outstanding the concert with excerpts from ancient Greek music and the Old Roman Chant, the old service to “The Three Holy Children in the Fiery Furnace” which was transcribed and edited by the composer Michael Adamis (Ancient Theater of Epidaurus, Ancient Auditorium of Herodus Atticus), the old service of Asmatic Vespers (restored and transcribed by Alexander Lingas and Ioannis Arvanitis), the recording and performance of the “SUPPLIANT PRAYERS to our loving God and Savior Jesus Christ for the protection of the environment and stability of all creation” in presence of H.A.H. the Œcumenical Patriarch Bartholomew II (Megaron, The Athens Music Hall, 2010), the numerous artistic cooperations with Byzantine music choirs and other music ensembles (Ensemble Organum - France) in all the European Union countries and the world first performance of the works of Michael Adamis “Rodanon” (Athens 1983) and Sotiris Fotopoulos “Ode A” (Turin 2008).

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The Choir participated and chanted in a number of major ecclesiastical events; the Pan-Orthodox Christmas Mass in Bethlehem for the 2000 years anniversary from the Birth of the Savior (2000); in Liturgies and other Religious Services held in presence of H.A.H. the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew II in Saint Apolinarius in Classe (6th century) in Ravenna - Italy (June 2002), in Saint George of the Greeks in Venice (1998), in Bologna – Italy (2006), and in Kiev - Ukraine (2008), responding to the assignment of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Concerts: the Choir has in its records more than 1.100 performances in Greece and in 32 countries around the world, most of which were realized in major festivals, events at the Athens Music Hall, the Metropolitan Museum of Arts in New York – USA, Queen Elizabeth Hall in London and in the frame of International Congresses amongst which five ceremonial concerts on the occasion of the International Congress for Byzantine Studies.

Recordings: 40 (in approximation) publishing productions (CD & cassettes) in Greece and France.

Bibliography: publishing of research essays written by the artistic director and members of the Greek Byzantine Choir; works by the Maistor Ioannis Koukouzelis; and reprint of the “Anthologia” by Petros Manuel Ephesius.