



COURSE CATALOG

Standard 7-Week Course: \$275*

Course Cost: Registration includes access to pre-recorded instructional videos, repertoire scores, audio recordings, class forum, instructor assessments, and at least two ½-hour online live practice sessions each week. Students retain access to courses on the website after completion.

Live Practice Sessions: Students should plan to attend 1 - 2 live practice sessions a week after they have done some of the coursework for the week and have questions or are prepared to practice some of the skills learned in the coursework.

Class Transfer Policy: Students have 10 days from the start of each academic term to transfer into a lower or higher-level course, with no charge, at the permission of the instructor(s).

Withdrawal/Refund Policy: The cost of each course includes a \$25 deposit, which consists of a \$10 processing fee and a \$20 evaluation fee. If a student withdraws within 10 days of the beginning of the academic term and they have *not* been administered a placement evaluation by an instructor, they will receive a full refund, minus the \$10 processing fee. If a student *has* had a placement evaluation administered, the cost of that evaluation will also be subtracted. There will be no refunds after 10 days from the start of the academic term.

* You can find our Parish Discount Policy in the About section on the TSBM website.

2025 - 2026 Academic Program

Term 3: Sept 29 - November 16

----*Nativity Break*----

Term 1, 2026: Jan. 5 - Feb. 22

----*Lenten Break*----

Term 2, 2026: May 4 - June 21

----*Summer Break*----

Term 3, 2026: Sept. 28 - Nov. 14

Course Descriptions

Byzantine Beginnings

ByzB 101: Parallage, Scales and Basic Vocal Technique

Students will study two hymns and learn to chant them on the text of the hymn and on parallagi. Students will learn about the different modes and scales in Byzantine chant and study the intervals of the Diatonic and Hard Chromatic scales. They will also study the basics of good vocal technique. Students should plan to come to at least one half hour regular practice session and one half hour Vocal Technique Session each week.

Prerequisite(s): None.

Offered all terms.

ByzB 102: Introduction to Byzantine Notation

Students study the foundational symbols needed to read syllabic hymns in Byzantine notation and continue their study of modal theory. Students study intervallic symbols, qualitative symbols, rhythmic symbols, and symbols that indicate the mode and scale. Students study Heirmologic hymns on parallagi and melos in the Diatonic Modes: 1st, Plagal 1st, 4th, and Plagal 4th Modes. Students should plan to come to at least one half hour regular practice session and one half hour Vocal Technique Session each week.

Prerequisite(s): ByzB 101 or equivalent.

Offered all terms.

ByzB 103: Byzantine Notation - Basic Reading Fluency

This course focuses on developing reading fluency on parallagi in syllabic hymns and sticheraric hymns and goes much deeper into symbols indicating the mode and scale (martyries and fthores). Students study four Diatonic Sticheraric hymns as well as Heirmologic hymns in the Enharmonic and Chromatic Modes: 2nd, Plagal 2nd, 3rd, and Grave Mode. Students will continue to study vocal technique and should plan to come to at least one half hour regular practice session and one half hour Vocal Technique Session each week.

Prerequisite(s): ByzB 102 or equivalent.

Offered all terms.

Automela (Model Melodies)

The automela courses constitute a systematic study of the model melodies (automela) which serve as the musical and metrical basis for other hymns (prosomia). Students will learn one automelon per week, studying the hymns from musical scores, texts, and recordings, will then practice applying those melodies to other texts while taking into account small rhythmical or melodic changes that may be necessary. Over the course, students continue to review melodies from previous weeks with new prosomia texts. The automela covered in these classes constitute all of the melodies used for stichera, dismissal hymns (apolytikia), sessional hymns (kathismata), kontakia, and exapostilaria. Thus, upon completion, students will be able to perform the vast majority of hymns found in the liturgical books without the need for a musical score.

Prerequisite(s): ByzB 101

Cost: All Automela Classes are \$225.

Automela 110: Model Melodies, Part 1 (new in Term 1, 2026)

Automela 110 will teach the following short and simple melodies as an introduction to the concepts of *automela* and *prosomia*:

“Thou art the joy,” 1st Mode; “O house of Ephratha,” and “Thou soughtest the heights,” 2nd Mode; “Thou Who as God adornest,” 3rd Mode; “On this day Thou hast appeared,” 4th Mode; “As it is written,” Plagal 2nd Mode; and “What shall we now call you,” Plagal 4th Mode.

Automela 111: Model Melodies, Part 2

Automela 111 will teach the following melodies:

“O all-lauded Martyrs,” 1st Mode; “When he took Thee” and “Upon that mount in Galilee,” 2nd Mode; “Thy confession,” 3rd Mode; “As one valiant,” 4th Mode; “Let us worship the Word,” Plagal 1st Mode; and “O strange wonder,” Plagal 4th Mode.

Automela 112: Model Melodies, Part 3

Automela 112 will teach the following melodies:

“While Gabriel was saying,” 1st Mode; “Hearken, ye women,” 2nd Mode; “Awed by the beauty” and “From the heights our Saviour, Christ,” 3rd Mode; “Unto them that fear Thee,” 4th Mode; “Joseph was amazed,” 4th Mode; “To thee, the Champion Leader,” Plagal 4th Mode.

Automela 113: Model Melodies, Part 4 (new in Term 3, 2025)

Automela 113 will teach the following melodies:

“O strange wonder,” 1st Mode; “The power of Thy Cross” and “O ye Apostles from afar,” 3rd Mode; “Be quick to anticipate,” 4th Mode; “Rejoice,” Plagal 1st Mode; “Having laid up all their hope,” Plagal 2nd Mode; and “By conceiving the Wisdom,” Plagal 4th Mode.

Automela 114: Model Melodies, Part 5 (coming soon)

Automela 114 will teach the following melodies:

“The soldiers standing guard,” 1st Mode; “On this day the Virgin” and “While standing in the Temple’s courts,” 3rd Mode; “Thou Who wast raised up,” 4th Mode; “Ye angelic hosts,” Plagal 2nd Mode; “O Lord, though Thou didst stand” and “When the bodiless one,” Plagal 4th Mode.

Automela 115: Model Melodies, Part 6 (coming soon)

Automela 115 will teach the following melodies:

“While Thy disciples looked on Thee,” 2nd Mode; “O Changeless Light,” 3rd Mode, “O Lord, although I desired to blot out,” and “Thou who wast called from on high,” 4th Mode, “Ere the morning star,” Pl. 2nd Mode, “Thou, as the Life of all” and “O Lord, Thy holy Martyrs,” Pl. 4th Mode.

Automela 211: Model Melodies, Part 7 (coming soon)

Automela 211 will teach the following melodies, which are rarer, more unusual, or only used in specific liturgical circumstances. Completion of at least half of the Octoechos-level course is highly recommended before taking Automela 211, as both fluency in the notational system and knowledge of most of the modes is a prerequisite.

“With what fair crowns,” 2nd Mode; “O righteous Father,” Pl. 1st Mode, “On this day Thou hast appeared,” 4th Mode legetos, “Joseph was amazed,” 4th Mode soft chromatic, “The soldiers standing guard,” 1st Mode diatonic, “As first-fruits of our nature,” Pl. 4th Mode.

This course will also provide scores for prosomia to the following melodies: “The Paradise of Eden,” Pl. 4th Mode, “When Thou hadst fallen asleep,” 2nd Mode, “Angels in the heavens,” Pl. 2nd Mode, “Lord, when Thou didst ascend,” 4th Mode; “The three most great luminaries,” 1st Mode, and “We the faithful bless thee,” Pl. 1st Mode.

Octoëchos (The 8 Modes)

The eight Octoëchos courses serve as a systematic primer in the theoretical and practical aspects of the eight modes of Byzantine Chant. Each mode is studied within the context of the Anastasimatarion, that is, the Resurrectional hymns of Saturday night Vespers and Sunday morning Orthros. Upon completing all of the Octoëchos courses, a student will be proficient in all eight modes in their heirmologic and sticheraric forms.

Prerequisite(s): All of the Octoëchos courses require ByzB103 (Basic Reading Fluency) or an equivalent course of study. Also, while it may be helpful for a student to take the Octoëchos courses sequentially, one Octoëchos course is not a prerequisite to another. For example, a student may study Plagal of the 1st Mode before 1st Mode.

Octoëchos 208: Plagal of the 4th Mode

Offered all terms; Students should take this class as their first 200 level class.

Octoëchos 201: 1st Mode

Octoëchos 205: Plagal of the 1st Mode

Octoëchos 203: 3rd Mode

Octoëchos 207: Grave Mode

-----Try to take the classes above before the classes below-----

Octoëchos 204: 4th Mode

Octoëchos 206: Plagal of the 2nd Mode

Octoëchos 202: 2nd Mode

Festal Menaion

The Festal Menaion courses constitute a systematic study of the hymnography of Vespers, Orthros, and Divine Liturgy for the major feasts of Christ and the Theotokos.

Prerequisite(s): Octoëchos 201 through 208 or equivalent.

Festal Menaion 301: Introduction to Interpretation

This class will provide introductory principles to interpretation through the lens of a variety of repertoire found throughout the great feasts of Christ and the Theotokos. It will focus on the different ornaments, how to incorporate ornaments heard in recordings found publicly by master chanters, and how to build up some basic principles that will allow the student to build their own style of ornamentation.

Festal Menaion 302: Modulations

The focus of this class will be on modulations - the changing of scales and modes, both common and uncommon - found in the sticheraric repertoire.

The Papadic Genre

The five Papadic courses constitute a systematic study of the slow melismatic ("papadic") genre of Byzantine Chant repertoire and will focus entirely on Cherubic Hymns and Communion Hymns - the most common and essential representatives of this melodic style.

Papadic 401

This course functions as an introduction to the slow melismatic ("papadic") genre of Byzantine Chant. Students will study the characteristics of each mode's papadic form and will focus on one representative composition of each mode in this genre. Repertoire will be analyzed in terms of modal theory/intervals, melodic structure/morphology, liturgical execution, and other related topics.

Prerequisite(s): Octoëchos 201 through 208 or equivalent.

Papadic 402

This course functions as an in-depth study of papadic repertoire in the 1st and Plagal of the 1st Modes. Students will study one Cherubic Hymn and one Communion Hymn in each of the aforementioned modes, along with one festal Communion hymn, analyzing each selection in terms of modal theory/intervals, melodic structure/morphology, liturgical execution, and other related topics.

Prerequisite(s): Papadic 401 or equivalent.

Papadic 403

This course functions as an in-depth study of papadic repertoire in the 4th and Plagal 4th Modes. Students will study one Cherubic Hymn and one Communion Hymn in each of the aforementioned modes along with a festal Communion hymn, analyzing each selection in terms of modal theory/intervals, melodic structure/morphology, liturgical execution, and other related topics.

Prerequisite(s): Papadic 401 or equivalent.

Papadic 404

This course functions as an in-depth study of papadic repertoire in the 2nd and Plagal 2nd Modes. Students will study one Cherubic Hymn and one Communion Hymn in each of the aforementioned

modes along with a festal Communion hymn, analyzing each selection in terms of modal theory/intervals, melodic structure/morphology, liturgical execution, and other related topics.

Prerequisite(s): Papadic 401 or equivalent.

Papadic 405

This course functions as an in-depth study of papadic repertoire in the 3rd and Grave Modes. Students will study one Cherubic Hymn and one Communion Hymn in each of the aforementioned modes, along with one festal Communion hymn, analyzing each selection in terms of modal theory/intervals, melodic structure/morphology, liturgical execution, and other related topics.

Prerequisite(s): Papadic 401 or equivalent.

Papadic 411

This course covers 8 settings in English of Long Doxologies and will focus on the theory and performance of the unique style of long doxologies, which in general are some of the most creative and unique musical pieces in the classical Byzantine psaltic repertoire.

Prerequisite(s): Papadic 401 or equivalent.

Typikon (Order of Services)

Cost: All Typikon Classes are \$225.

Typikon 100: Fixed Portions of Vespers, Orthros & Liturgy

Typikon 100 is a course designed for beginners, who would like to learn the order of the Divine Services. In Typikon 100, we will learn the basic outlines of the major services of the Orthodox Church: Vespers, Matins and the Divine Liturgy, focusing on the fixed portions of the services rather than the variable elements. We will also learn how to use the major church books, such as the Great Horologion, the Octoechos, the Menaion, the Triodion, the Pentecostarion, and the Psalter.

Typikon 101: Sunday and Festal Services

In this course, students will learn how to build services for every day using the Great Horologion, Octoechos, Menaion, and - when appropriate - the Triodion or Pentecostarion, using the Typikon of Protopsaltis Georgios Violakis as a guide. Students will also learn the history of various other Typika (the plural of Typikon) and the differences between these Typika. Typikon 101 will focus on the Sunday and Festal Cycle of services, as those are the most commonly chanted in parishes.

Prerequisite: Typikon 100.

Typikon 102: Daily and Lenten Services

In this course, students will go over the structure of the Daily and Lenten Services throughout the year, using the Typikon of Violakis and others to help. By the end of this course, students will be able to build the following services “from scratch,” using the Liturgical Books of the Orthodox Church: Daily Vespers, Daily Orthros (Matins), Daily Divine Liturgy, Lenten Vespers, Presanctified Liturgy, and Lenten Orthros (Matins). Students will also be able to determine the ranking of each service in the Menaion and be able to differentiate daily services from festal and Sunday services.

Prerequisite: Typikon 101.

Voice Lab

Voice Lab 100

This class is meant to be repeated because students experience the most success when they have continued vocal training and support. During students' first pass they learn how to modify their current vocal recipe for better vocal health and stamina. Then as they repeat the class they explore changes to their recipe that furthers the initial goals of greater health but also bring them more in line with the traditional vocal recipe used in Byzantine chant (beginner students may come to these sessions as well if interested). Two practice sessions a week cover the foundational vocal health content and two sessions a week cover the more advanced content. All students enrolled in classes during the term get access to Voice Lab 100 course material and practice sessions (access is removed at the start of the next term). ByzB 100 level students are required to come to one vocal technique session each week while students in Automela, Octoechos, Festal Menaion, Papadic, and Typikon classes are encouraged to come to sessions that they find interesting and/or needful.

Prerequisite(s): None.

Cost: \$150 as Stand Alone Course, \$75 to retake the Course (email info@trisagionschool.org)