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Online Byzantine Chant training program

founded in 2020

7-week courses offered in the
fall, winter, and spring

Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced Classes



TRISAGION SCHOOL OF BYZANTINE MUSIC

TSBM was founded in 2020 by Samuel Herron, Amy Hogg, and Gabriel Cremeens. Its mission is to offer Byzantine Chant instruction in English with a focus on the ever-growing English-language repertoire available in Byzantine notation. Trisagion School offers a comprehensive, online curriculum with flipped-classroom courses to train students in all the necessary skills to become a competent chanter. Courses are available and appropriate for students 14 & up.

Courses in:

Vocal Technique	Byzantine notation
Resurrectional Octoëchos	Typikon
Model Melodies	Festal hymns
	Papadic hymns

In addition to regular courses, Trisagion also offers a Youth Catalog open to students ages 12 to 16. Youth courses last 9 weeks (10 weeks long with a 1 week break in the middle) and are limited to 12 students per class section. At the age of 14, students may transfer into our adult classes if they desire a faster pace.

both their choirs and congregations in corporate worship, and to do so with theological awareness and pastoral sensitivity. Furthermore, they will also be fully equipped to teach students of their own, ensuring the future of Church music in this country for generations to come.

The liturgical services of the Church are a source of spiritual hope and consolation for the Orthodox faithful around the world. Now, more than ever, chanters are called to be leaders in their parishes – not just musical and liturgical leaders, but spiritual ones. Trisagion School was founded to equip them for all these aspects of ministry – the ministry of helping to lead their fellow Orthodox Christians in worship in these difficult, and yet, paradoxically, spiritually ripe times in which the Church currently finds herself.

The investment of time necessary for a student to learn the art of Byzantine Chant is not insignificant. And yet this investment of time and effort is “seed planted in good soil,” which will “yield fruit a hundredfold,” (Matthew 13:8) as it brings increasingly greater joy and spiritual consolation to the Orthodox faithful, through the oldest sacred musical tradition of the Orthodox Church.

The time is ripe for this effort. Will you join us?

Church. Tragically, many of those enthusiastic students are unable to find an experienced teacher, due to the great geographical qualified instructor. And so, in the vast majority of Orthodox parishes, no one stands able to carry on a musical tradition that has been used in prayer and corporate worship for over 1,500 years.

To combat this problem, Samuel Herron, Amy Hogg, and Gabriel Cremeens founded the Trisagion School of Byzantine Music – an online academy to provide comprehensive training in the oldest form of liturgical music in the Orthodox Church. Their vision: to train full-fledged Church musicians capable of leading their parishes' music ministries, but without the student ever having to leave their home for instruction.

The courses offered through the Trisagion School follow the flipped-classroom model. Pre-recorded instructional materials and musical scores are made available to students, who study the materials on their own. Subsequently, group sessions of live class time offered via Zoom allow students to pose questions and receive feedback in real time from the instructors, while also interacting with and learning from their fellow students.

Upon successful completion of the school's curriculum, a student with no prior musical background will have completed the necessary training to execute all the sung portions of every liturgical service of the ecclesiastical year, and to do so with a deep understanding of the theological significance of musical ministry in the Orthodox Church, a strong appreciation for the 1,500-year history and tradition of Byzantine Chant, and a comprehensive knowledge of the rubrics and structure of the Church's liturgical services. In short, they will possess all the necessary tools to lead

Our Instructors

Samuel Herron began studying Byzantine Music under Leonidas Kotsiris in 2002. In 2006, he spent three months studying under Lycourgos Angelopoulos, Archon Protopsaltis of the Archdiocese of Constantinople, Protopsaltis of Hagia Eirini in Athens, and director of the Greek Byzantine Choir, which Samuel performed with as an iskrites while living in Athens. From 2015-2017, he studied under Fr. Romanos Karanos while attending Hellenic College. He currently serves as Protopsaltis of St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church in Charlotte, NC and is director of the Dynamis Byzantine Ensemble.

Amy Hogg serves as the Protopsaltis at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Pittsburgh after chanting in the Antiochian archdiocese for over a decade. She is the co-host of the Byzantine Chant podcast, A Sacrifice of Praise, and serves on the board of the St. John of Damascus Society. She received her Byzantine chant certificate from Holy Cross Hellenic College in 2017 and the Figure Proficiency certification from Estill Voice International in 2021. She is the developer of the multi-modal Byzantine Beginnings materials and games. Amy is a co-founder and teacher at Trisagion School.

Gabriel Cremeens works as the full-time Music Director at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He received his Certificate in Byzantine Music from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Boston in 2014 and subsequently lived in Athens, Greece, where he pursued private studies in Byzantine chant performance and composition. He has been contracted to compose scores, teach classes, and prepare musical publications for Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of

Theology, AGES Initiatives, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, the Saint Raphael School, and the Liturgical Arts Academy. His compositions can be found on his website, englishanalogion.com.

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Peter George has served as lampadarios (leader of the left choir) of St. Mark's Cathedral in Westwood, MA since 2009. In 2014, he earned his certificate in Byzantine Chant from Holy Cross Seminary as part of the program's first graduating class under Fr. Dr. Romanos Karanos. In addition to his chanting responsibilities at the Cathedral, Peter chants with the medieval Byzantine chant group Psaltikon, under the leadership of Protopsaltis and Musicologist Dr. Spyridon Antonopoulos, and the English-language Dynamis Ensemble, under the leadership of Protopsaltis Samuel Herron. As a Latin teacher in public schools since 2008, Peter is very excited to put his educational experience into teaching chant students at Trisagion School.

Konstantina Marinakos was born and currently resides in Charlotte, NC with her husband and son. She has served as director of the left (women's) choir at St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church since 2011. Ms. Marinakos has studied Byzantine chant under Gerontissa Foteini (Brandenburg) and Samuel Herron. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro (2004), and through the years has taught hundreds of piano students of all ages. In 2023, she earned a Certificate of Byzantine Music from Holy Cross with a grade of excellent on the exam.

Kamal Hourani was born and raised in Massachusetts as the youngest child of two Lebanese immigrants. He grew up attending St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Boston,

MA where he learned to be an altar boy and began to read and chant under the tutelage of Fr. John El-Massih. He was also an avid musician in public school as a flutist in concert band and a bass singer in several school choirs. Kamal completed his Certificate in Byzantine Music in May of 2018 from Hellenic College Holy Cross under Fr. Romanos Karanos. He graduated from Hellenic College in May of 2019 with a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Human Development and received a Master of Divinity from Holy Cross in May of 2023. In his time at school, he has served as a chant group leader at Holy Cross chapel as well as chapel typikaris.

LORD, I HAVE CRIED
AT VESPERS
Mode $\frac{4}{9}$ Pa 9

(II)
L ord, I have cried un - to Thee.
Heark - en un - to me. Heark -
-en un - to me, O Lord.

The Trisagion School Story

In many Orthodox parishes, the sacred musical tradition of Byzantine Chant is in danger of being lost. Nearly every parish struggles to find a chanter to lead their liturgical services – yet oftentimes, even when they do find someone, the candidate may be enthusiastic, but lacking the necessary training and resources