

Holy Cross Certificate in Byzantine Music

Section A: Overview

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, serving the pastoral and liturgical needs of the Orthodox Church in this country and abroad, considers as a part of its mission to be the ideal setting for an in-depth study of the sacred art of chanting and the formation of well-trained cantors. For this reason it offers a Certificate in Byzantine Music program that equips its prospective students with a mastery of the skills required for chanting the sacred hymns of the Church. The program provides thorough knowledge of the psaltic notational system, the theoretical framework of the modal system, the ability to sight-read musical scores at all levels of complexity and an extensive familiarity with the contents and usage of liturgical books and the rubrics of the Orthodox Church. Upon completion of its requirements, students will be able to perform all musical parts of the daily liturgical cycle and the sacraments of the Orthodox Church.

Enrollment in this program is open to candidates for the degree of Master of Divinity as well as other interested students. The core curriculum required for a successful completion of the program consists of the following courses: *History of Byzantine Music and Hymnography*, *Ecclesiastical Chant in English*, and *Byzantine Music I-X*. The curriculum is in accordance with the standards in conservatories and schools of Byzantine Music in Greece. Students enrolled in this program are required, in addition to their formal in-class training, to participate in choral work and apply their chanting skills daily in the Chapel.

For M.Div. candidates who wish to enroll in the Certificate program, *Byzantine Music VII-X* and *History of Byzantine Music and Hymnography* must be taken in addition to the elective courses required for the M.Div. program. Upon completion of the required coursework, students must also pass a comprehensive final oral examination before a designated committee of specialists.

Other interested persons not enrolled at Holy Cross may submit an application package with proof of psaltic knowledge and skills and apply for the examination that leads to certification.

Section B: Descriptions of Courses

History of Byzantine Music and Christian Hymnography

This course provides an overview of the history and development of the Psaltic Art of Greek Orthodox worship. Among the topics covered are: the beginnings of Christian hymnography and musical composition; the main hymnographic genres; the history of neume notation; the major landmarks in the development of the various genres of psaltic composition; the life and works of the great composers; and the current state of affairs in Greek Orthodox liturgical music in Constantinople, Greece, the United States and elsewhere.

Ecclesiastical Chant in English

This is an introductory study of the eight modes of Byzantine Music. Hymns from various services, including Vespers and the Divine Liturgy, are studied in English.

Byzantine Music I – Introduction

This course is a systematic introduction to the basic theory and notation of the Psaltic Art. It will provide a solid foundation for a further study of the liturgical repertoire of the Greek Orthodox Church. Topics to be covered include the history and function of the notation, a thorough examination of key musical concepts (e.g. note, interval, scale, tempo, rhythm, genus, mode, tetrachord, etc.), and a study of the role of music in Greek Orthodox worship. By the end of the semester students will be able to sight-read and perform simple hymns written in the New Method of Analytical Notation in both *parallage* (solmization) and *melos* (melody).

Byzantine Music II - Anastasimatarion (1st & Pl. 4th Modes)

This course is a systematic study of the theoretical and practical aspects of the First and Plagal Fourth Modes of the Psaltic Art within the context of the *Anastasimatarion*. We will study the resurrectional hymns of the liturgical book of *Octoechos or Parakletike* of the aforementioned modes in both *parallage* (solmization) and *melos* (melody). Additionally, we will examine the characteristics of the diatonic genus and the heirmologic and sticheraric styles of chant.

Byzantine Music III - Anastasimatarion (3rd, 4th & Pl. 1st Modes)

This course is a systematic study of the theoretical and practical aspects of the Third, Fourth and Plagal First Modes of the Psaltic Art within the context of the *Anastasimatarion*. By the end of the semester students will be able to perform the resurrectional hymns of the liturgical book of *Octoechos or Parakletike* of the aforementioned modes in both *parallage* (solmization) and *melos* (melody).

Byzantine Music IV - Anastasimatarion (Varys, 2nd & Pl. 2nd Modes)

This course is a systematic study of the theoretical and practical aspects of the Second, Plagal Second and Varys Modes of the Psaltic Art within the context of the *Anastasimatarion*. By the end of the semester students will be able to perform the resurrectional hymns of the liturgical book of *Octoechos or Parakletike* of the aforementioned modes in both *parallage* (solmization) and *melos* (melody).

Byzantine Music V – Prosomoia & Sacraments

This course is a systematic study of (i) the model melodies (*prologoi-prosomoia*) commonly used in musical settings of Byzantine hymns, and (ii) the hymns chanted in sacraments and other services of the Greek Orthodox Church (baptism, wedding, funeral, sanctification of water, etc.). By the end of the semester students will be able to perform the majority of hymns found in the liturgical books without relying on a musical score.

Byzantine Music VI – Holy Week

This course is a systematic study of the hymns chanted during the Great and Holy Week and the Feast of Pascha in the Greek Orthodox Church. The repertoire includes hymns in all eight modes and in all three melodic styles (heirmologic, sticheraric and papadic). Additionally, we will study the structure and rubrics of Holy Week and Pascha services.

Byzantine Music VII – Doxastarion & Heirmologion

This course is a systematic study of Byzantine hymns chanted during major feast days of the ecclesiastical year of the Greek Orthodox Church within the context of the *Doxastarion*. A great emphasis will be placed on studying the *idiomela* and *doxastika* for the feasts of Christmas, Theophany, Annunciation, Dormition of the Virgin Mary, as well as the *idiomela* and *doxastika* for the periods of Triodion and Pentecostarion. Additionally, we will study the slow *katavasii* of the most important periods of the liturgical year.

Byzantine Music VIII – Papadic Genus

This course is a systematic study of the papadic genus of the Psaltic Art in all eight modes with a great emphasis on hymns for the Divine Liturgy (trisagion, cherubic hymn, communion hymn, etc.). We will also briefly study slow doxologies, Triodion hymns and kalophonic heirmoi.

Byzantine Music IX – Papadike & Old Sticherarion

The material taught in this course is equivalent to the material taught in the 4th year of Greek conservatories and provides comprehensive preparation for the final examination required for a Holy Cross Certificate in Byzantine Music. Students are expected to become competent in performing more technically demanding repertoire, including Gregory Protopsaltis' cherubic hymns, Petros the Peloponnesian's communion hymns, Petros the Peloponnesian's *Kyrie i en pollais amartiais*, Ioannis Koukouzelis' *Anothen oi profitai*, the ancient hymn *Ton despotin kai archierea*, and the anaphora hymns for the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil.

Byzantine Music X – Papadike, Old Sticherarion & Kalophonic Heirmologion

The material taught in this course is equivalent to the material taught in the 5th year of Greek conservatories and provides comprehensive preparation for the final examination required for a Holy Cross Certificate in Byzantine Music. Students are expected to become competent in performing more technically demanding repertoire, including Petros Bereketis' eight-mode composition *Theotoke Parthene*, the Athenian funeral Trisagion, kalophonic heirmoi and kratimata in all eight modes, and a selection of verses from Ioannis Koukouzelis' *Anoixantaria*.

Section C: Description of Program

Individuals who are not enrolled in one of the theological programs (henceforth referred to as Psaltic Art students) are required to follow a specialized, rigorous 2-year course of studies, which consists of 19.5 credits. They are also encouraged, but not required, to take electives in theological courses, New Testament Greek, Modern Greek, service rubrics and liturgics. Psaltic Art students are also required to participate in the Holy Cross Byzantine choral groups and expected to join the cantors' choirs during liturgical services. Additionally, in their second year they may be asked to lead chant labs and may be considered for a chant group leader position.

Fall Semester

Year 1

History of Byzantine Music	3 cr.
Byzantine Music I	1.5 cr.
Byzantine Music V	1.5 cr.
(Directed Study in Rubrics	3 cr.)*

Spring Semester

Year 1

Byzantine Music II	1.5 cr.
Byzantine Music IV	1.5 cr.
Byzantine Music VI	1.5 cr.
Eccl. Chant in English	1.5 cr.
Holy Week Seminar	N/A

Fall Semester

Year 2

Byzantine Music III	1.5 cr.
Byzantine Music VII	1.5 cr.
Byzantine Music IX	1.5 cr.
(Directed Study in Rubrics	3 cr.)*

Spring Semester

Year 2

Byzantine Music VIII	1.5 cr.
Byzantine Music X	1.5 cr.

**Course offered periodically. Even though it is not required for a successful completion of the Psaltic Art program, students are strongly advised to take it when offered.*

Section D: Description of Examination Process

In order to be awarded a Holy Cross Certificate in Byzantine Music, eligible M.Div. candidates and Psaltic Art students must successfully pass a comprehensive oral examination before a designated committee consisting of:

- a Holy Cross full-time faculty member specializing in Byzantine Music who also serves as the Committee Chairperson,
- a representative of the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, and
- three specialists who are appointed by the Committee Chairperson and hold (i) the office of Protopsaltis of one of the Metropolises of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and/or (ii) a doctoral or Master's degree in Byzantine Musicology and/or (iii) a Diploma in Byzantine Music, and/or (iv) a faculty position in an accredited conservatory with a specialty in Byzantine Music, Ethnomusicology, Classical Ottoman Music or a related field.

The examination will last approximately one hour and include sections on:

- theory and notation,
- service rubrics,
- sight reading,
- performance of prepared repertoire from the following musical collections: Anastasimatarion, Slow Heirmologion, Old Sticherarion, Papadike, Kalophonic Heirmologion.

At the end of the examination, the committee will convene privately to decide upon the examination result and grade. A 4-to-1 majority vote is required for a passing examination result. The grade will be determined by the majority vote of those committee members who voted favorably in the initial vote. The three possible grades are (i) Excellent, (ii) Very Good, and (iii) Satisfactory. The Holy Cross Certificate in Byzantine Music will be signed by the Archbishop of America, the President of Hellenic College, Inc., the Dean of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and the five members of the examining committee. The conferral of the Certificate will take place during the annual Hellenic College / Holy Cross commencement ceremonies.

The examining committee will convene annually on the campus of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology during the month of May to administer a separate examination for each candidate. Individuals who have not followed the above referenced course of studies at Holy Cross, but wish to take the examination that leads to certification, must submit an application package no later than February 1 of the year in which they wish to take the examination. The package must include:

- an analytical description of their musical background, courses taken and chanting experience (if applicable, copies of transcripts and/or certificates by music instructors must be provided);
- a recording of themselves performing:
 - (i) a set of slow katavasiai from Petros the Peloponnesian's *Heirmologion* (*Είρμολόγιον τῶν Καταβασιῶν Πέτρου τοῦ Πελοποννησίου*, Constantinople 1825)

- or Ioannis Vyzantios' *Heirmologion (Εἱρμολόγιον Καταβασιῶν Ἰωάννου Πρωτοψάλτου*, Constantinople 1903)*;
- (ii) a doxastikon from Petros the Peloponnesian's *Doxastarion (Σύντομον Δοξαστάριον Πέτρου Λαμπαδαρίου*, Bucharest 1820)*,
- (iii) a cherubic hymn from Ioannis Vyzantios and Stephanos Lampadarios' *Musical Pandekte (Πανδέκτη Ἰωάννου Λαμπαδαρίου & Στεφάνου Α' Δομεστίκου, Τόμος Δ', Constantinople 1851)*;*
- one recommendation letter from a specialist in Byzantine Music (as defined in the initial paragraph of Section D above)
 - a non-refundable qualification fee of \$300.

Each application package will be reviewed by a Holy Cross faculty member specializing in Byzantine Music who will contact the candidate in writing by February 15, informing him/her:

- whether he/she is eligible to take the examination;
- what repertoire he/she must prepare.

If the candidate is deemed eligible to take the examination, he/she must mail a check for \$1,500 payable to Hellenic College, Inc by March 15. After the check has been received, the candidate will be informed of the date and time on which the examination will be administered. If a candidate cancels his/her plan to take the examination with at least 14-day notice, he/she will receive a full refund.

**Similar settings found in other 19th-century Greek publications as well as English versions available at <http://www.stanthonysmonastery.org/music/Index.html>, <http://www.ematins.org> or www.psaltologion.com are also acceptable.*