

Comparative Musical Analysis of a Sunday Hymn, Voice VIII

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Abstract

The presence in Romania of a significant cult dedicated to the Virgin Mary, illustrated in iconography, music, hymnography, has made the Romanian writers and composers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries to focus on the Axion hymn with much love and mastery, composing various melodies, all the voices, bestowing great value upon this hymn among the liturgical cult songs along with the Trisagions, Cherub Songs and the Chinonics.

In composing the song based on the text of this beautiful prayer dedicated to the Mother of God, "*It is truly right*", the composers used at the beginning Greek psaltic music very much, first translating the variants of Greek precentors literally, and then, they themselves were those who composed beautiful songs in the new way, thus having a contribution to and increasing the feeling of worship for the Mother of God among believers.

This hymn is one of Gregory Protopsaltis', as Amfilohie Iordanescu notes in his *Musical bouquet* on page 339. Although, we do not have the original version of this Greek hymn in order to draw a comparison, we do believe that the song is composed by Gregory Protopsaltis since this aspect is also mentioned in the 4342 manuscript of L.R.A. on page 50r tab; Amfilohie being the one who states the fact that the hymn is composed by *Gregory the First Cantor*.

In the bibliographical notes I have also mentioned the circulation of the hymn analyzed in the manuscript sources, as it follows: the Library of the Romanian Academy (L.R.A.) and the Library of the Holy Synod (LHS), the Library of Stavropoleos Monastery (LSM), the Romanian National Library (RNL), the Library of Lainici Monastery, (LLM), the Library of One Wood Monastery (LOWM), the Library of the Seminary of Craiova (LSC), as well as in the published works.