

Axion Estin

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Abstract

One of the most important chants classes of Byzantine music is the Axion Estin, where Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God is magnified. Together with the Trisagion, Cherubic and Quinones, The Axion is part of the musical-liturgical series species that confer beauty to the most important Mass of the Orthodox Church - St. Mass.

The specific dates of the Sunday Axion tradition are little known. Its origin starts with the second part of the hymn, i.e. „Thou the more honorable...”, which is a melodic composition of the melodist Cosmas of Maiuma and is a part of the Irmos of the ninth chant sang of the Denise Mass on Maundy Thursday Triode.

The musical tradition of Axion shows that we are dealing with, especially in the moment when we refer to the Hrisantic period, with a song composed in Sticherarion tact without many vocal runs, as we find in other hymns such as the Cherubics and Chinonics, thus enjoying of th the love and sympathy of the Romanian believers.

Of the over 350 manuscripts researched I have found 295 Romanian Sunday Axions, written in Hrisantic style on all theeight Byzantine types. Some of these creations are of great melodic beauty, real artistic masterpieces that many people of our times love and sang them during the liturgical Mass of St. John Chrysostom.

The rediscovery and illustration of the liturgical chants class called Axion, the way they were arranged in manuscripts and prints, and the large number of composers who have worked hard for this kind of creation, shows the importance of the Byzantine tradition musical culture in the XIX - XX century, when Axion Estin revealed its true character and personality.