



## *Byzantine Chant II*

September 2022–May 2023

### **ELIGIBLE STUDENTS:**

Students must have taken *Elements of Church Music*

**OR**

have an equivalent prerequisite knowledge of Byzantine music notation and the eight modes, as determined by an examination with the instructor.

**Class Dates:** Monday, September 12 – Monday, May 22

**Class Times:** Mondays 2:00–3:15 (Eastern Time)

**Instructor:** Nicholas Roumas

**E-mail:** [nicholasroumas@gmail.com](mailto:nicholasroumas@gmail.com)

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### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

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#### **CLASS SESSIONS DATES:**

Classes will take place on Mondays: 2:00 – 3:15am (ET) on the following dates\*:

**September** (3): 12, 19, 26

**October** (5): 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

**November** (3): 7, 14, 28

**December** (2): 5, 12

**January** (4): 9, 16, 23, 30

**February** (3): 6, 13, 27

**March** (4): 6, 13, 20, 27

**April** (2): 3, 24

**May** (4): 1, 8, 15, 22

*\*Please note the above dates and times are the anticipated class sessions for this course. However, all dates are subject to change as the instructor's circumstances might dictate (e.g. illness, family emergency). Any classes canceled by the instructor will be made up at an alternate time designated by the instructor.*

## COURSE MATERIALS

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**Required:** An audio recording device.

**Recommended:** A set of external speakers, and a binder for printing and collecting materials.

**Texts:**

1. *Introduction to the Theory and Practice of Ecclesiastical Music*, by Chrysanthos of Madytos.
2. *The Musical Ark*, by Nicholas Roumas.

Both of these texts will be provided electronically by the instructor – you do not need to buy anything!

Students should print any texts and pieces that we are learning for class, as this facilitates sound learning.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

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Students will learn to chant simple Byzantine-style hymns used in Orthodox liturgical services. Students will expand their knowledge of the theory of the eight modes, and will enter into the study of more complex hymns than those they encountered in Elements of Church Music, such as doxologies, prosomia, the Sunday Oktoechos, and hymns of the Divine Liturgy. Students will also continue to learn about the ancient and modern historical development of this sacred art. The hymns taught will be in English. This course will not enter into Western or Slavic-tradition music.

Students should be willing to sing in class.

## ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

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Students will be asked to record themselves performing assigned musical exercises and short hymns, and upload these recordings to Schoology. Students will also occasionally be asked to complete quizzes or written work.

Students will learn to perform musical exercises and hymns appropriate to their level of knowledge, memorize notation symbols, and study recordings of excellent chanters.

Grades will be based on effort, consistency, and improvement. Final grades will be assigned using the Saint Raphael grading system: *non satis*, *satis*, *cum laude*, and *magna cum laude*, with the last option reserved for only the most exceptional students.

## THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM:

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We will be using the free online “virtual classroom” software provided by Zoom. The virtual classroom will provide students with interactive audio and an interactive whiteboard in which texts, diagrams, video and other media can be displayed. We will provide families via email with a link that will enable students to join the virtual classroom.

Specific information regarding the technology used by Scholé Academy (including required technology) can be found by visiting the [Technology in the Classroom](#) section of the Student Parent Handbook.

Students will submit digital assignments by uploading the file to a designated place on the course’s Schoology website. Access to Schoology will be granted after enrollment.

## ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR:

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**Nicholas Roumas**, originally from rural Massachusetts, now lives in South Bend, Indiana. He holds a B.S. in Chemistry from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (2013), a certificate in Byzantine Music (2015) and Master’s degree in Theology from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (2016), and a Ph.D. in Theology from Marquette University (2021). Dr. Roumas has translated and composed numerous hymns for Orthodox services, including the book *The Musical Ark*.