



## THE GREEK BYZANTINE CHOIR

**The Greek Byzantine Choir** was founded in 1977 by Lycourgos Angelopoulos with the aim of presenting to the public traditional Byzantine Music as it has been transmitted by both oral and written tradition to the present day. The Choir also aims at preserving genuine Byzantine tradition by distinguishing it from the influences of western European classical music, which are extraneous to it. The appearance of this Choir marks an important step in Lycourgos Angelopoulos's effort to protect Byzantine musical heritage and preserve a unique Byzantine musical identity.

During its 20 years of existence, the Greek Byzantine Choir has taken part in more than 600 concerts, liturgies, and other events in Greece and in 22 other countries in Europe, Asia, America and Africa. Among them, particular highlights were the All-Night Vigils at Mount Sinai Monastery, at Cologne, at the Mega Spilaion Monastery, at the Monastery of Vatopedi on Mount Athos, and at the Cathedral of Saint Demetrios in Thessaloniki. The Choir has participated in the Athens Festival, and numerous international festivals abroad. Beginning in 1989, it performed once a year for three years at the ancient theater of Epidavros. It also participated in the premiere of the contemporary work *Rodanon* by Michael Adamis and has presented, in concerts and recordings, fragments of ancient Greek music and Old Roman Chant. The choir has appeared regularly in the Athens Concert Hall (Megaro Mousikis).

The Greek Byzantine Choir has made several recordings of Byzantine Music including six CDs published in France on the Jade label. From 1990, it initiated the recording of the works of the great Byzantine “Maistor” (Maestro) John Koukouzelis and, in 1995, published a volume of music, *Ioannis Koukouzelis: Selected Works*.

## LYCOURGOS ANGELOPOULOS

**Lycourgos A. Angelopoulos** was born in Pyrgos, Peloponesus in 1941. He studied Byzantine Music at the School of National Music, under the tutelage of the great musician and musicologist, Simon Karas, and Law at the University of Athens. He has been the *Protopsaltis* (first chanter) at the Church of Saint Irene in Athens (first Cathedral). He is the founder and director of the Greek Byzantine Choir and professor of Byzantine Music at the Nikos Skalkotas Conservatory and at the Philippos Nakas Conservatory in Athens. He is the director of the Children's Byzantine Choir of the Archdiocese of Athens since its foundation and the director of the School of Byzantine Music at the Diocese of Helias.

He has collaborated with the Athens Radio Broadcast on programs related to Byzantine Music and has performed contemporary music composed by M. Adamis, D. Terzakis and K. Sfetsas. He is a member of the research team—headed by Marcel Peres in France—which studies the ancient Western chants and their relationship to their Byzantine counterparts. He has performed Byzantine, Old Roman, Ambrosian, and other Old Western chants in recordings with the Ensemble Organum in France.

In 1994, he was honored by his All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I with the Patriarchal Offikion and was named Archon Protopsaltis (First Chanter) of the Holy Archdiocese of Constantinople. Also, he has been honored by his Beatitude the Patriarch of Jerusalem Diodoros, by the Orthodox Church of Finland and by the Diocese of Patras in Greece.