

## THE BASICS OF BYZANTINE MUSIC NOTATION

### INTERVAL SIGNS

SIGNS	NAME	EXPLANATION
∩	Ison	Same pitch as preceding note
	Oligon	Ascending second
∪	Petasthé	Ascending second
=	Kentémata	Ascending second
˘	Kéntema	Ascending third
∪	Hypselé	Ascending fifth
∩	Apóstrophos	Descending second
/	Hyporrhóé	Two consecutive descending seconds
∪	Elaphrón	Descending third
∩	Khamelé	Descending fifth

### SIGNS THAT ADD DURATION

SIGNS	NAME	EXPLANATION
˘	Klásma	Adds one beat
.	Aplé	Adds one beat
..	Diplé	Adds two beats
...	Triplé	Adds three beats

## SIGNS THAT DIVIDE THE BEAT

SIGNS	NAME	EXPLANATION
┌	Gorgón	Divides the beat in two equal parts
┌┐	Dígorgon	Divides the beat in three equal parts
┌┐┐	Trígorgon	Divides the beat in four equal parts

## Martyríes

Martyríes show the starting note of the melody from which we begin to chant. They are not interval signs so they are not chanted. Martyríes are divided in three groups: diatonics, chromatics and enharmónics

### A. Diatonic Martyríes

Martyríes	Name
ν δϛ	Martyría of Ni
π ρ	Martyría of Pa
β χ	Martyría of Vou
Γ γγ	Martyría of Ga
Δ δϛ	Martyría of Di
κ ρ	Martyría of Ke

Martyrías	Name
ζ' ζ	Martyría of Zo
ν' ν	Martyría of Ni

### B. Chromatic Martyrías

Martyrías	Name
π π	Martyría of Pa
β β	Martyría of Vou
Γ Γ	Martyría of Ga
Δ Δ	Martyría of Di
κ κ	Martyría of Ke
ζ' ζ	Martyría of Zo
ν' ν	Martyría of Ni
π' π	Martyría of Pa

Martyrías	Name
ν̇ ν	Martyría of Ni
π̇ π	Martyría of Pa
β̇ β	Martyría of Vou
Γ̇ Γ	Martyría of Ga
Δ̇ Δ	Martyría of Di

Martyrías	Name
κ ♁	Martyría of Ke
ζ' ♁	Martyría of Zo
ν' ♁	Martyría of Ni

### C. Enharmonic Martyrías

Martyrías	Name
ν γγ	Martyría of Ni
π ♁	Martyría of Pa
β q	Martyría of Vou
Γ γγ	Martyría of Ga
Δ ♁	Martyría of Di
κ q	Martyría of Ke
ζ' γγ	Martyría of Zo
ν' ♁	Martyría of Ni
π' q	Martyría of Pa
β' γγ	Martyría of Vou

### SCALE

Scale, in music, declares a series of single notes progressing up or down stepwise.

Diatonic Ni scale is consisted of the following notes: Ni – Pa – Vou – Ga – Di – Ke – Zo – Ni' (Ni' is an octave higher from Ni). Diatonic Ni scale corresponds to C Major scale in Western Music. The notes of this scale are shown in the next acrostic.

**Π**άλαι ήμαρτεν Αδάμ, εμακρύνθη του Θεού  
**Β**ουληθείς δ' ο Πλαστουργός, δούλου δέχεται μορφήν,  
**Γ**άλα πίνει εκ μητρός εις μετάνοιαν καλεί,  
**Δ**ιδαχών σκορπίζει φως, θαύματα πολλά ποιεί  
**Κ**εφαλήν δ' εχθρού πατεί, νεκρωθείς και αναστάς,  
**Ζ**ωοδότης ων Θεός και εις μέλλουσιν ζωήν  
**Ν**ηπενθή πιστούς καλεί, όπου πρώτος εισελθών  
**Π**άσαν έλαβεν αρχήν παρά του Θεού Πατρός.

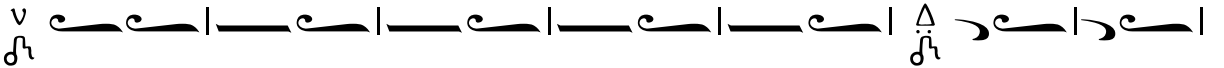

### Practice in Byzantine Musical Notation

At this part are included all the necessary exercises for the practice on Byzantine Musical Notation (parasemantic). I believe this will help all them that they would like to learn how to read Byzantine Music through the Internet. Exercises will be grouped in chapters so to be tested the progress of the “student”. In each lesson a short theory will be preceded and then the practice.

**Basic rule: the reading of Byzantine musical notation always takes place from left to right.**

### Chapter 1


Exercises on 

  
 Ni Ni Pa Pa Vou Vou Ga Ga Di Di Ga Ga Vou Vou  
  
 Pa Pa Ni Ni

The exercise begins with the diatonic martyria of Ni. We continue with ison, the sign that according to the table of the quantity signs has the same pitch as the preceding note: so we repeat Ni. The exercise goes on with another ison and again the repetition of note Ni. Next sign is oligon, which means an ascending second, so we read Pa until we reach martyria of Di (**martyria is not chanted**). After the martyria of Di, we see apóstrophes, the sign that according to the table of the quantity signs means descending second, so we read Ga. At the same way we end to the martyria of Ni.




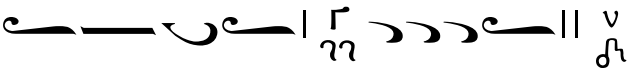
Exercise 3<sup>η</sup>

$\overset{\vee}{\delta\eta}$ 

  
 Ni Pa Pa Pa Vou Vou Vou Ga Ga Ga Di Di Di Ke Ke

After the exercise three, quantity characters wont be explained any more.

Ασκηση 4<sup>η</sup>

$\overset{\vee}{\delta\eta}$ 

  
 Ni Ga Di Vou Di


  
 $\overset{\vee}{\delta\eta}$