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THE SYRIAC MUSICAL TRADITION AN EASTERN HERITAGE

EXCHANGES & INFLUENCES

17-21 MARCH 2021

LIVE FROM GENEVA, SALLE DE LA BOURSE & AROUND THE GLOBE

FREE ACCESS IN STREAMING - WWW.SYRIACMUSIC2021.ORG

Conference

Conference sessions will be held on

Wednesday 17 March 2021, Thursday 18 and Friday 19, from 12h00 to 1500 (GMT+1).

This conference aims at being an opportunity for exchange and discussion among 18 specialists of the Syriac Musical Tradition or specialists of its influences and exchanges with other traditions. The intention is to review the existing status of works and to revitalize the current research about it. The conference is public and largely open to representatives of the Syriac communities, to HEM and partner Universities students, and to any interested person. Presentations given during the conference will be published. Several concerts are offered to illustrate the conference.

The topics to be discussed develop four streams of analysis:

1. Sources and development of Syriac Music

We will focus on researches made about the sources and about the historical and geographical development phases of the Music of the Eastern and Indian Syriac Churches, taking into account both the recent philological discoveries and the footprints that can still be found in the oral traditions that are alive.

2. Characteristics: Syriac octoechos, modes, tetrachords, composition principles of Syriac melodies

A common conceptual legacy of the various Syriac musical traditions and of other Christian traditions, the Octoechos appears to have obtained its shared recognition in Jerusalem between the 5th and the 9th centuries, presumably drawing from preexisting elements. Many questions remain open about its relation to Arabic and Turkish makams, Persian systems, as well as about its role in the Byzantine, Gregorian, Georgian and Armenian repertoire. The role of the Syriac tradition in the birth of the Octoechos, as well as the building principles of Syriac melodies, will be given particular focus.

3. Exchanges and influences between traditions

How did the acculturation of Syriac musical traditions operate during their displacement into other linguistic and cultural areas? Which other Christian and non-Christian musical traditions were influenced by, or have influenced the Syriac Music traditions during their migration? How are these musical traditions preserved or transformed in the diasporas that emerged due to the contemporary migrations?

4. Preservation and heritage status

The political conflicts of the last decades and the related immigration have considerably weakened the Eastern Churches' Syriac musical heritage. By which means, such as recordings, transcriptions, etc., and by which methodologies can the conservation of the Syriac musical heritage and its transmission be ensured ?

Concerts

WEDNESDAY 17 MARCH, 17h00-18h30*

A Panorama of Syriac Traditions

Introductory concert from Geneva

By the HEM Syriac Choir directed by Jalal Polus Gajo

THURSDAY 18 MARCH, 16h00-17h30*

Syriac Orthodox Traditions

Concert from Mardin, Tur Abdin (Turkey, UTC + 3) and The Netherlands

Monastic Choirs and Diocese choir

FRIDAY 19 MARCH, 16h00-17h00*

Syriac Catholic Traditions and Traditions from Iraq

Concert from Qaraqosh (Iraq , UTC + 3)

Choir directed by Fr. Duraid Barbar

SATURDAY 20 MARCH, 16h00-17h00*

Maronite Tradition

Concert from Byblos (Jbeil) (Lebanon, UTC + 2)

Qolo Atiq School of Music Choir

SUNDAY 21 MARCH, 14h00-14h30*

Syriac & other influences in the Coptic Tradition

Recorded concerts by the Kyrel Trust Choir directed by Michael Henein



SUNDAY 21 MARCH, 15h00 – 16h00*

Syro-Malankar Orthodox Tradition

Concert from Kottayam (Kerala, India, UTC + 5:30)

By the Sruti Liturgical Music School Choir

*Time given in Central European Time (UTC+1)

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