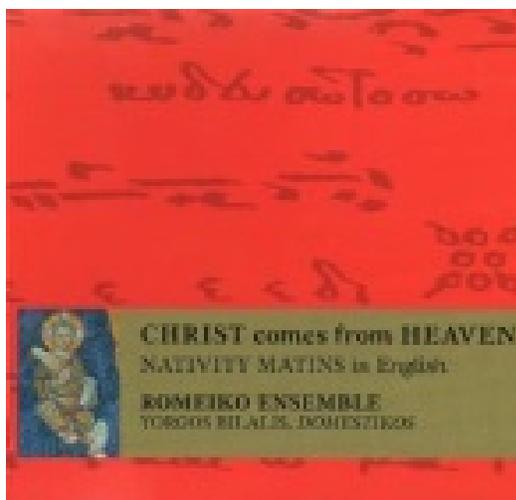


**NOV. 22, 2013. BENASALEM, PA & AURORA, OR. ROMEIKO ENSEMBLE
RELEASES "CHRIST COMES FROM HEAVEN: NATIVITY MATINS IN ENGLISH."**



Following the highly successful production of *Byzantine Christmas*, Romeiko Ensemble returned to the recording studio in the summer of 2013 to take a selection of the major hymns of the Matins service for the Feast of Nativity, and make it a complete recording of all the hymns of the service (including the entire Canon, the three Polyeleos and all the Praises), producing a ground breaking recording in English based on medieval Byzantine chant manuscripts! The CD contains over 75 minutes of chant and is available for MP3 download through Liturgica.com's Download store. Detailed information on the recording is available at Liturgica.com.

Early Review:

Byzantine music forms the backbone of hymnology in the Greek Orthodox Church. It is the traditional tool for the performance of the multitude of hymns with the purpose to provide the necessary atmosphere for prayer. Its form and style developed and flourished from the early days of Christianity through the middle ages, in the spiritual centers of Roman Empire derived from the musical foundations of ancient Greece and expanded with eastern mystagogical influences that make it unique. It is thus very difficult to grasp this music fully in the West and especially to perform it correctly without the proper acoustical experiences from past top Istanbul chanters. After this short historical background it must be emphasized that the performance of a hymn written with a meter in one language is rarely successful in translation. I am really impressed, however, with the quality of the CD "Christ Comes From Heaven" as is performed by the Romeiko Ensemble and recommend it to all Americans Orthodox faithful and non-Orthodox music lovers as a true and authentic example of Byzantine musical interpretation rendered in the English language. Having heard many renditions to date from other groups in the States, I reiterate that the translated text was interpreted as close to the traditional Greek as is probably possible. This was a real challenge that cannot be easily accomplished, but Dr. George Bilalis and his Romeiko Ensemble managed to set a new standard.

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