

ROMEIKO ENSEMBLE AND LITURGICA B2B ANNOUNCE RE-RELEASE OF DIVINE LITURGY IN MODE 1 CD

Langhorne, PA and Aurora, OR, November 1, 2005. The Romeiko Ensemble under the direction of Dr. George Bilalis, and Liturgica B2B (an arm of Liturgica.com) announce the second printing of the ground-breaking recording “The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom—Mode 1.”

Romeikio Ensemble was formed in 1992 by Dr. Yorgos Bilalis with the specific purpose of performing authentic interpretations of Byzantine Chant from the Medieval and Ottoman eras. The ensemble is comprised of selected musicians skilled in historical and improvisational performance practice and trained to read the *parasemantiki* (Byzantine musical notation) and has recorded unpublished medieval compositions based on thorough research of the musical manuscripts.

Based on continuing demand for recordings of authentic Byzantine chant, Romeiko Ensemble has re-printed this recording in a new digipak format. “The first publication of *The Divine Liturgy* was very well received for it’s use of original medieval music composed by Ioannes Kladas, as well as for the quality of the performance.,” said George Bilalis, Founder and Director of Romeiko Ensemble.

The new publication includes two CDs and a full-color, hard-bound book with commentary on the Divine Liturgy by Maximos Lavriotes of Cambridge, U.K., as well as the complete service with rare miniatures of the medieval Greek text. Further, this new edition contains a unique composition of the Typika (Psalms 103 & 145) in Mode 1, unknown to the modern Greek audience. Also included is Kladas’ complete Cherubic hymn composition as it was performed in Hagia Sophia Cathedral during festive Liturgies in the presence of the Emperor. “Unlike many recordings of the Divine Liturgy which simply present the major hymns,” said Ben Williams of Liturgica.com, “this recording is of the entire service with celebrants and cantors. Thus it conveys the spiritual impact of the whole, and illustrates the complete integration of the musical composition with the liturgical text.”

This recording has received critical acclaim, being described recently as “perhaps the finest such recording yet produced. The Romeiko Ensemble’s dedication to their craft is apparent throughout...it provides the context of worship often lacking on other similar recordings. Both beautiful and prayerful, this recording is a must-have for any serious lover of Byzantine music,” states Fr. Apostolos Hill, Greek Orthodox priest and cantor who has recorded three liturgical chant CDs himself.

“This is not just a recording of traditional chant melodies as used in the Greek Orthodox Church, but the product of musicological research to define and transcribe actual medieval manuscripts, and perform them so we can begin to hear now what was chanted then,” said Dr. Bilalis.

Romeiko Ensemble recordings are exclusively distributed in North America by Liturgica.com

Additional information is available at: www.romeikoensemble.com