

## Chant Class May 18 2016

- **Antiphon/ Antiphonal Singing.**
  - Dates back to the earliest forms of Christian Worship.
  - Consists in the execution of Chant by two choirs, singing alternately.
  - In Churches where it is possible Psalm is chanted antiphonally by the right and left choirs. (right sings verse one, left sings verse two, right sings verse three...)
  - The Eight Hymns of the praises during Orthros, (following Let everything that has breath praise the Lord...) may be sung antiphonally.
- **A typical Byzantine Choir:**
  - There are two, one on the right, one on the left.
  - Each choir has:
    - A chief Cantor
    - An assistant Cantor
    - Isocrats (those who sing ison, "In old Byzantine manuscripts they are referred to as *vastaktai*, literally 'holders,' because they hold the ison.
    - A Canonarch (One who intones verses, or in some cases the words of the hymn itself, before the hymn is sung.)
    - A Reader
- **Isocratema (Ison)**
  - "The isocratema, too, has been traced back to the early Christian period. It consists in holding a drone on the basic tone of the mode in which a melody is being sung, and is executed by one or more voices, usually in the lower finalis or keynote. Sometimes it is sung in the higher finalis by boys. It commences at the same time as the melody, or a little before it, as soon as the chief cantor gives the keynote, called the *ison* (whence the term 'isocratema')." )"
  - It's purpose:
    - *Emphasizes* the mode in which a verse, psalm, or hymn is chanted.
    - *Helps* those who chant the melody to stay in the proper mode.
    - *Enriches and Augments* the chanting.