Apolitikion of St. Romanos the Melodist

Allegretto \( j = 120 \)  Plagal Fourth Mode  arr. A. Gallos

In you O Father the image of God was verily maintained, for by taking up the Cross you did follow Christ, and by your deeds taught us to look beyond the transitory flesh, and to care for our immortal soul. Therefore, your spirit with the

Angels rejoices, O Holy Romanos.

English Translation by Rev. George P. Gallos

St. Romanos the Melodist

One of the best known hymnologists of our Church was St. Romanos the Melodist. Born in Syria in the 5th Century and a convert to Orthodoxy from Judaism, he was ordained a deacon and served as a deacon in the Church of Beirut. He was later assigned to the Church of the Blessed Virgin in Constantinople.

Romanos soon became recognized for his wonderful talent of composing church hymns, although he was not originally blessed with a melodious voice. The hymns he wrote were in simple language, expressed the great truths and dogmas of Orthodoxy, and they appealed to the hearts of the people. However, he longed to be able to praise God with his own voice.

Tradition tells us that on the eve of the Nativity of our Lord, Romanos had a vision of the Theotokos who blessed him and handed him a scroll. The next day, to the amazement of all, Romanos sang for the first time with a voice of unbridled sweetness. The faithful rejoiced, not only for this miracle, but for the words of the new hymn he had written: “Today the Virgin gives birth to the Highest Being, and the earth provides the Inaccessible One with a Cave. The angels with the shepherds glorify Him. The wise men journey with a star, because for our sake is born a little Child, the pre-eternal God” (I Parthenos Simeron).

Romanos died on October 1st in 510 AD. He was a productive genius and artist, writing thousands of kontakia celebrating the mystery of the Incarnation, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, and the living of a Christian life. He has been called “Sweet Singer” (Glykophonos), “Melodist” (Melodhos), and “Righteous Chanter” (Psaltis Dhikeostinis). He also has been called the patron saint of all who sing for the Church.

Dedicated to the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians
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ἈΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΟΝ
ΑΓΙΟΥ ΡΩΜΑΝΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΛΟΔΟΥ

Allegr.etto \( J = 120 \)

'Ἡχος πλ. 5' 
arr. A. Gallos

'Ἐν σοι Πάτερ ἀκριβῶς, διέσωθη τὸ κοτ' εἰκόνα; λαβὼν γὰρ τὸν σταυρὸν, ἡ κολούθησας τῷ Χριστῷ, καὶ πράττων ἐθυμας, ὕπεροράν μὲν σωρὸς, παρέρχεται γὰρ, ἐπιμελεῖ
λει̊σθαι δὲ γνῷ χής, πραγματος ἄθανάς του; διὸ καὶ μετὰ Ἀγέλων συν-γάλ-λε-ται, ὁ σι-ε Ἠρ-μα-


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