



## PRESS RELEASE

30-6-2020

The extremely consequential collection of old Byzantine ecclesiastical music chanting manuscripts (13rd - 19th century), arduously gathered, saved and studied by the late Simon Karas, is the single most significant private collection of such valuable evidence, as it comprises 197 codices. This collection started to take shape back in 1925 and, already since the 1930's and 1940's, it had grown significantly and had been used by S. Karas in extremely interesting musicological studies. This activity was to be continued at a great productivity rate up to the end of his life in 1999. Nevertheless, no one else had ever seen or studied systematically and fully these manuscripts from a musical, liturgical and paleographic point of view, despite the fact that many experts had been discussing about the manuscripts for decades.

This Press Release announces the publication of an analytical descriptive catalogue of these manuscripts, which is the work of the assistant professor of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Dr. Emmanouil Giannopoulos, under the title:

***Simon Karas' collection of old Psaltic manuscripts.***

*Analytical Descriptive Catalogue,*

***by Emmanouil St. Giannopoulos***

[Center for Research and Promotion of Greek Music Tradition.

Music, Folklore and Literature Archives of Simon and Angeliki Karas]

Athens 2020.

In the extensive Introduction of the 890-page long volume, several subjects that have concerned the researchers for years are presented analytically, while 175 colored photographs have been incorporated in the edition to better validate the descriptions of the codices.

The edition is published both **electronically and in the form of a free archive** on the webpages of [CRPGMT](#) and the [author's](#) (@ Scientific work), as an offer by CRPGMT to the musicological and Byzantine ecclesiastical music chanting community. It will be followed by the printing form of the edition in a limited number of copies, which are addressed to selected Libraries both in Greece and abroad.

Numerous remarkable elements of the chanting tradition of the Orthodox Church are coming to light through the pages of this work: Ecclesiastical title holders, melodists and chanters, along with their diverse work (in many cases presented for the first time), codex writers, new melodies, apprenticeship relations, locally unknown chanting traditions, autographs by great servants of the lectern and much more, which have surfaced during the research process.

###

The Center for Research and Promotion of Greek Music Tradition - Music, Folklore and Literature Archives of Simon and Angeliki Karas, was founded in 2009 with the intention to promote and disseminate the Hellenic ethnic music and the Hellenic traditional culture and, more specifically, the work of Simon Karas. [Further Info.](#)