



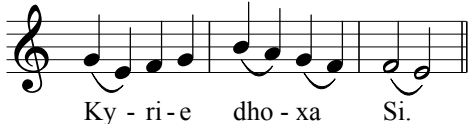




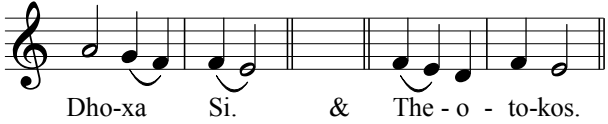





Identifying the Byzantine Tones (or Modes) by Sight in Staff Notation















These visual and aural cues are meant only for beginners trying to understand some of the nuances of identifying the TONES or MODES of Byzantine Chant. This schematic is by no means complete, comprehensive, or definitive, but merely a simplification of some key things to look for when trying to name that tone!

REMEMBER: Eirmological = mostly one beat per syllable hymns
 Sticheric = mostly two or more beats per syllable hymns

TONES WITH A SIGNATURE OF NO SHARPS OR FLATS

Key Signature, Ison	Mode	Comments
 <i>Ison</i>	Tone 2 Heirmological	<i>Common melodic patterns:</i> 
 <i>Ison</i>	Tone 4 Heirmological	<i>Common phrase ending notes:</i>  <p style="text-align: center;">(Ison)</p> <i>Common final ending:</i> 
 <i>Ison</i>	Tone 5 (pl.1) Heirmological	<i>Common phrase ending notes:</i> 
 <i>Ison</i>	Tone 6 (pl. 2) Heirmological	<i>Common phrase ending notes:</i>  <p><i>Similar to Tone 2, except final endings are on E</i></p> <i>Common final ending:</i>  <i>Sometimes transcribed with A-flat:</i> 
 <i>Ison</i>	Tone 8 (pl. 4) Sticheraric	<i>Common phrase ending notes:</i>  <p><i>NOTE: You may see this Tone with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and B-naturals depicted as accidentals.</i></p>

TONES WITH A SIGNATURE OF ONE FLAT (Bb)

 <p><i>Ison</i></p>	<p>Tone 1 Heirmological</p>	<p><i>Common phrase ending notes:</i></p> 
 <p><i>Ison</i></p>	<p>Tone 8 (pl. 4) Heirmological</p>	<p><i>Common phrase ending notes:</i></p>  <p><i>Distinctive cadence:</i></p>  <p>Ky-ri - e dho - xa Si.</p>
 <p><i>Ison</i></p>	<p>Tone 7 (grave) Heirmological</p>	<p><i>Common phrase ending notes:</i></p>  <p><i>Distinctive cadence:</i></p> 
 <p><i>Ison</i></p>	<p>Tone 3 Heirmological</p>	<p><i>Common phrase ending notes:</i></p>  <p><i>Easily recognizable melodic patterns:</i></p>  
 <p><i>Ison</i></p>	<p>Tone 6 (pl. 2) Sticheraric</p>	<p><i>You got this one! The only Tone with an unusual key signature using two sharps and two flats. The one with the Oriental sound. You may also see Tone 6 sticheraric notated this way:</i></p>  <p>Dho - xa Si.</p>