

The Byzantine abbess Kassiani is the earliest woman composer whose works survive. Her *Troparion* is still sung during Holy Week in Eastern Orthodox Churches across the world. The tradition of Byzantine chant of the Orthodox Church's early years has been enriched in more recent centuries by new choral settings, elaborating the original chant. This recording offers five very contrasting compositions inspired by the beauty of Kassiani's own words and melodies, together with fresh performances of her original works.

CHORAL SETTINGS OF KASSIANI

Hatzis • Theodorakis • Moody • Mantzaros

KASSIANI (9th Century)

1 Troparion for Holy Wednesday

(Byzantine chant)

5:49

Christos HATZIS (b. 1953)

2 The Troparion of Kassiani

27:07

Mikis THEODORAKIS (b. 1925)

3 The Troparion of Kassiani

14:01

Ivan MOODY (b. 1964)

4 The Troparion of Kassiani

6:49

Nikolaos MANTZAROS (1795–1872)

5 The Troparion of Kassiani

5:45

Ivan MOODY

6 When Augustus reigned

8:17

KASSIANI

7 When Augustus reigned

(Byzantine chant)

4:25

Sung in Byzantine Greek; track 6 also in English

English Chamber Choir • Guy Protheroe ^{2–6}

Members of Cappella Romana ^{1, 7}

(Alexander Lingas, Director)

Patricia Rozario, Soprano ²

Ann Manly & Miriam Ahamat, Sopranos; Naomi Warman, Alto;

Alexander Lingas, Tenor; Andrew Trinick, Baritone ³ • **Ann Manly, Soprano** ⁶



Recorded at the Church of St Alban the Martyr, Holborn, London, UK, 9–11 May 2006 & 5–6 March, 8 May, 15 December 2007 • Producer: Simon Weir, The Classical Recording Company Ltd

Engineer: Morgan Roberts • Editors: Simon Weir, Guy Protheroe • Booklet notes: Guy Protheroe

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Cover icon of Kassiani by Euripides Kastaris (www.petrafineart.com)

NAXOS
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DDD

Playing Time
72:34



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Booklet notes in English
Texts and translations included