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Introduction

The first issue of the *Series Musicologica Balcanica* (SMB) is on display. We are happy to announce that our dedicated work on it, which has lasted for almost five years so far, has taken the form necessary for our Regional Association for the Study of Music of the Balkans (RASMB) to complement its regular conference activities with an accompanying publication as an important dimension of the process of affirmation of (ethno)musicological and analytical/theoretical endeavours and achievements in the field of Balkan music research.

So, thematically, the SMB is based on the RASMB biennial conferences, and is rather like their conference proceedings, which actually means that two issues of the journal would deal with the same topic. Hence, the aim of the journal corresponds to the general idea of those conferences: to promote and disseminate musicological research from and of the Balkans, by covering various aspects of the music culture of this region, and supporting the diversity of musicological approaches and methodologies.

The first two issues of SMB include a selection of papers presented at the *Modus–Modi–Modality* conference which was held in Nicosia, in 2017. So, the first issue to come out consists of eighteen papers arranged in the following sections, according to their textual/research genres: *Studies, Analysis/Theory, On the Sources*. As for the thematic areas within the sections, they are: Iconography, Byzantine Sphere/Connections, 19th Century Topics, Contemporary Issues, Educational and Pedagogical Endeavours, Ethnomusicological Field, and various, analytical-theoretical aspects from a historically wide range of artistic and folk music.

The journal is conceived as a one-to two-issue per year online publication. For example, also Issue No. 2 concerning the selection of papers from the conference in Nicosia is planned to be published by the end of this year.

On this occasion, we extend our most collegial thanks to everyone for her/his contribution to the realization of this edition, with special gratitude to the School of Music Studies, Faculty of Fine Arts, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (ATh), where the journal's administration is seated, and the ATh Library – Prothiki, where our journal is hosted.

On behalf of the Editorial Board of the *Series Musicologica Balcanica*,
Mirjana Veselinović-Hofman, Ph.D.
Editor-in-chief

Katy Romanou

Our dear friend and colleague, the distinguished musicologist, Katy Romanou died in May 2020. She was a prominent figure with international recognition, who renewed the Greek musicological research, contributing to the creation of new methodological approaches and views, especially in the History of Modern Greek Music. Her manifold research and educational activity emerged through the academic positions at the Department of Music Studies of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, at the Hellenic Open University, at the European University of Cyprus, where she was distinguished for her devotion to music, the exemplary teaching and the genuine love for the new generation of musicologists, to whom she took care to transmit her deep musical knowledge. She focused her efforts on promoting Greek music creation abroad and its connection with the artistic circles of the Greek Diaspora, but also its comparison with the parallel international compositional trends. She was the oldest Greek member of the International Musicological Society. Strongly believing in the strengthening of the institutional framework of the science of Musicology, she actively participated as a founding member in the activities of the Hellenic Musicological Society, contributing warmly from her position on the Board, to its consolidation in the Greek academic space. With the same unceasing warmth and dedication, she coordinated international study groups and edited important musicological publications in English, in an effort to place Greek music creation in a wider international context.



I will never forget her enthusiasm and admirable energy to participate in musicological trips and conferences as a distinguished member of the Regional Association for the Study of Balkan Music of the IMS (RASMB - IMS), struggling for the dissemination and expansion of musicological studies in the Balkan countries. Regarding this, she has encouraged the collaboration with musicologists of the Balkans and of Eastern European countries. She was responsible for a joint research project between Greece (University of Athens) and Serbia (Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts), entitled "A Comparative Study of Serbian and Greek Art Music" (Katy Romanou ed., *Aspects of Greek and Serbian Music*. Athens, 2007) - a trilingual publication by members of the project's two teams. In her studies she has always focused on the influence of politics on musical life and creativity which was constantly a main issue of her research interests.

Her absence from the editorial board and the scientific committee in Musicology Journals and Editions will be dearly missed; the colleagues in the Editorial Board of the new journal *Series Musicologica Balcanica* will really miss her experience and her immediate and lightning response to all issues. Therefore, we gratefully dedicate the first volume of the *Series Musicologica Balcanica* to her memory.

In addition, the annual Interdepartmental Musicological Conference, which will be held in Thessaloniki in November 2020 under the auspices of the Hellenic Musicological Society, will also be dedicated to her memory. She will always be present through her numerous writings and our memories of her unique personality.

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