

IN.TUNE – Innovative Universities in Music and Arts in Europe

Cross-Traditional Perspectives on Byzantine and Gregorian Chant

**Joint online course, offered by the National University of Music Bucharest
and the University of the Arts The Hague**

Title	Cross-Traditional Perspectives on Byzantine and Gregorian Chant
Short description	This joint online course invites first-year master's students on an intercultural journey through Europe's Byzantine and Gregorian sacred-music traditions, from the 13th to the 19th centuries. Rather than studying them separately, students explore the threads connecting them through lectures, manuscript study, vocal-ensemble practice and creative composition. Co-taught by the National University of Music Bucharest and the University of the Arts The Hague, the course culminates in synchronised cross-institutional ensemble experiments on a low-latency platform, treating composition as a natural extension of intercultural research and performance.
Number of ECTS	5
Number of hours (synchronous)	28 synchronous hours (delivered across the Spring semester)
Type of format	JOC – Joint Online Course
Planned timeline	Second semester (Spring), academic year 2026/2027 – February–June 2027
Level	Master (MA), Year 1
Learning outcomes	Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes: Knowledge: Describe the historical and cultural development of Gregorian and Byzantine sacred-music traditions between the 13th and 19th centuries; recognise their main notational systems (square and neumatic notation, Byzantine signs and modal frameworks); identify the principal stylistic features of representative repertoires; explain how these two traditions interact within a shared European liturgical and cultural space. Skills: Read and transcribe selected Gregorian and Byzantine sources from facsimile or critical edition; perform stylistically informed monophonic and polyphonic chant in small ensembles, both in standard online sessions (Microsoft Teams) and in the cross-institutional joint experiments on a low-latency platform (MVTP); compose short,

	original monophonic or polyphonic works inspired by the studied models, justifying the main compositional and notational choices in writing. Autonomy and responsibility: Plan and carry out an independent research, performance and creative project; present the results in writing and orally to a specialized audience using appropriate digital and presentation tools; reflect critically on their own artistic and academic choices within an intercultural framework; engage with traditions other than their own with intercultural awareness and respect; take an active role in joint online activities; give and receive constructive feedback in mixed cohorts of performers, theorists and composers.
Period for enrolment	Enrolment is completed at each home institution in October 2026 (Bucharest) and in the later part of 2026 (The Hague); applications are submitted via a shared online form (Google Forms) hosted by UNMB. As the course begins in the second semester (Spring 2027), there is no separate autumn enrolment round.
Type of course	Elective (optional)
Prerequisites	Analytical skills: capacity to engage with historical sources and apply critical thinking. Transcription familiarity: basic understanding of music transcription and early notation (e.g. neumes, mensural notation) is helpful but not compulsory. Performance experience: vocal or instrumental practice, preferably in ensemble settings. Language skills: reading proficiency in English; familiarity with Latin or other liturgical languages is a plus. Intercultural openness: interest in exploring diverse sacred-music traditions and interdisciplinary approaches.
Technical prerequisites	Personal: a laptop or desktop computer with camera and microphone, and a stable internet connection for interactive sessions and online collaboration. Institutional: access to the MVTP system (Multimedia Virtual Teaching Platform) for delivery, resource sharing and remote ensemble coordination; institutional licences and onboarding for Moodle, Microsoft Teams and Wordwall as the joint LMS, communication and interactive-learning environment.