



The European Academy of Coptic Heritage (TEACH)

Course Title: Introduction to Syriac Music - A Panorama of Syriac Musical Traditions

Level: Certificate

Course Objective

This course offers a broad introduction to the Syriac musical traditions of the Middle East, exploring their historical, geographical, and ecclesiastical backgrounds, their principal musical characteristics and forms, and their role in the liturgical, spiritual, and cultural life of Syriac communities.

The course also examines some key relationships among the different Syriac traditions, their interaction with local and neighboring ecclesiastical musical traditions; It will also evidence the close relationship between melody, text, and liturgy.

Through listening, analysis, and vocal practice, students will be confronted to selected examples from these traditions and explore the ways in which this musical heritage has been transmitted, preserved, and can continue to be practiced.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recognise the fundamental characteristics of Syriac music and identify a number of its principal forms and traditions.
2. Understand the general historical, geographical, and ecclesiastical backgrounds that contributed to the development and diversity of Syriac musical traditions.
3. Understand the key relationship between melody, text, and liturgy, and analyse selected Syriac melodies within their liturgical context.
4. Compare selected Syriac musical traditions and recognise aspects of their interaction with local and neighbouring ecclesiastical musical traditions.

5. Develop attentive listening skills and gain practical experience in singing selected Syriac musical forms, while understanding the importance of transmitting, preserving, and practising this heritage.

Course Structure

1. General historical, geographical, and ecclesiastical background of the Syriac traditions.
2. Principal musical characteristics and forms of Syriac music.
3. Music, text, and liturgy in the Syriac traditions.
4. Syriac musical traditions and schools: similarities, diversity, and interaction.
5. Syriac music and interaction with neighbouring local and ecclesiastical musical traditions.
6. Transmission, preservation, and practice of the Syriac musical heritage.
7. Throughout the course, students will exercise listening, analysis, and vocal practice skills, with examples of chants of the different Syriac traditions.

Assessment

Assessment will be based on regular attendance and active participation throughout the course, together with a final assessment in which students may choose between a **practical project** and an **oral examination**.

Prerequisites

No previous knowledge of Syriac music or specialised musical training is required.

Delivery Method

The course will be delivered entirely online through **TEACH's Learning Management System (LMS)**.

- Lectures conducted via **Zoom**.
- Students will have access to recorded lectures, reading materials, and discussion forums.

Duration

25 teaching hours, one hour per week, from **October 2026 to June 2027**.

Certificate

Upon successful completion of the course and fulfilment of the assessment requirements, participants will receive a **Certificate of Completion in Introduction to Syriac Music** from **The European Academy of Coptic Heritage (TEACH)**.