

ROMEIKO ENSEMBLE RELEASES *BYZANTINE CHRISTMAS CD AND BOOK*

Oct. 1, 2007

Romeiko Ensemble announced today the release of a ground-breaking recording and book product entitled: *Byzantine Christmas: The Celebration of the Nativity in the Christian East*

This CD is a first for the Athens-based ensemble, as it is their first mainly English recording. *Byzantine Christmas* provides an overview of how Christmas (i.e. the Feast of the Nativity) was celebrated in the medieval Byzantine Empire. This production includes a description of the history and development of the celebration of the Feast of the Nativity, a summary of the theology, a complete description of the Icon of the Nativity, extensive quotations from the Fathers of the Church on the Nativity, and an explanation of the role of Christmas carols in the celebration. This full-color production is richly illustrated with icons, and contains a CD of hymnology for the Feast chanted by Romeiko Ensemble in English, and also includes a selection of Christmas carols from various parts of Greece.

The CD includes Byzantine hymns for Christmas (sung in English and Greek), a never before recorded *Prokypsis Hymn* (sung in the Byzantine court in front of the Emperor), and regional Greek carols.

Byzantine Christmas is exclusively distributed in North America by Liturgica.com (www.liturgica.com)