

# Communication Difficulties between Different Liturgical-Musical Paradigms: An Orthodox Perspective

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*Contemporary ecumenical efforts face considerable difficulties due to differences of liturgical and musical paradigm between different confessions. Therefore, in opposition to a vision that is of secular inspiration and often eclectically and syncretically built in ecumenical manifestation, the Orthodox Church presents a traditional liturgical-musical perspective, a cosmic and soteriological typology, whose cyclical arrangement and liturgical hymns share a sacramental connection with divine revelation.*

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The account presented in the following pages is mostly the result of the activities that I have pursued over the past decades as, for example, Professor of Orthodox Church Music and Ritual at the Faculty of Orthodox Theology in Sibiu,<sup>1</sup> and Artistic Consultant/Musical secretary of the State Philharmonic, Sibiu.<sup>2</sup> I have also been an organiser/participant with musical responsibilities within initiatives/activities and ecumenical undertakings such as the Third European Ecumenical Meeting in Sibiu<sup>3</sup>, and also within the International Association Fondacio-Chrétiens pour le Monde<sup>4</sup> or the Reconciliation in South-East-Europe Foundation in Sibiu<sup>5</sup> and others. These activities have also included a mass-media component, by which I mean the written press and other types of publication (books), radio, television, and the internet.

## 1. Ecumenical attitudes in the liturgical-musical field

For those who share an interest in music within the church, what immediately emerges as obvious in the cultural (lay/secular) and ecumenical areas

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<sup>1</sup> <http://teologie.ulbsibiu.ro/cadre-didactice/>, viewed 10.05.2015.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.filarmonicasibiu.ro/ro/administratia.htm>, viewed 10.05.2015.

<sup>3</sup> Luca M. Negro, Sabine Udodesku (eds.), *Songs, Gesänge, Chants, Canti*, (The Songbook for the) 3rd European Ecumenical Meeting, Sibiu, Romania, 4-9 September 2007, p. III.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.fondacio.org/spip.php?article78>, viewed 10.05.2015.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.healingofmemories.ro/offices-and-staff>, viewed 10.05.2015.