

**ANDRAOS MOUAIKEL:  
THE FIRST CANTOR OF THE SAINT GEORGE  
CATHEDRAL IN BEIRUT  
(1890-1964)**

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**Abstract**

*Within the Byzantine music tradition in the Middle East, there have been several cantors who have left an impression on the musical tradition of the Orthodox Church. One of these was Andraos Mouaikel, the first cantor of the Cathedral of St. George in Beirut. After studying under several teachers in various places, including the first cantor of the Antiochian Patriarchate, Mitri Murr, he adopted the Ecumenical style of chanting, preferring to avoid the oriental style which was prevalent in the region at that time. He left a large corpus of music, which is still used today in the Antiochian Orthodox Church. He was an industrious student, a patient teacher, and an inspired composer.*

**Keywords:** Byzantine Music, Andraos Mouaikel, Antiochian Patriarchate, Ecumenical Patriarchate, Saint George Orthodox Cathedral in Beirut

**Introduction**

The Orthodox Church has always recognized and maintained that each nation must embrace the liturgical life of the Church in its native language, notwithstanding the fact that her liturgical corpus was originally written in Greek and Latin as they were the *linguae francae* of the Roman and Byzantine Empires<sup>1</sup>. This phenomenon began with the missionary translations of the Holy Scriptures into the mother tongues of each Christian people, such as Syriac, Aramaic, Slavonic etc. With the translation of the Psalter, a people could worship in their native tongue.

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<sup>1</sup> Ethérie, „Journal de Voyage“, in coll *Source Chrétienne XXI*, Cerf, Paris, pp. 261-263.