

Tone 6, Kievan Stichera Chant

Stichera melodies are used for "Lord I have cried", the Aposticha, and Praises in Matins. They are characterized as hymns that are sung alternating with Psalm verses. Tone 6, Stichera chant is composed of 3 phrases plus an ending phrase. The phrases are sung in a repeating pattern 1,2,3,1,2,3... until the final phrase. The ending phrase may follow any of the three phrases such as: 1,2,3,1 // Ending -or- 1,2,3,1,2,3,1,2 // Ending -or- 1,2,3,1,2,3 // Ending.

Special rule for when the Penultimate phrase (second to last) is Phrase 2: If the Penultimate is Phrase 2 of the melody, then it is sung differently, it borrows the ending of Phrase 3 (*). This can be seen in the "Lord I have cried". Notice, the first occurrence of Phrase 2 (measure 2) is different from the next occurrence of Phrase 2 (measure 5). This special use of the penultimate phrase is very effective to highlight an important phrase of the text, and to bring the hymn to a climactic conclusion. See example below, (measure 7). Note: This rule concerning the penultimate phrase is a characteristic of **Tone 6 only** and does not occur in any of the other Stichera tones.

Phrase 1

Lord I have cried unto Thee, hear - en un - to me,

2 Phrase 2

hear - en un - to me, O Lord,

3 Phrase 3

Lord I have cried unto Thee, hear - en un - to me.

4 Phrase 1

At - tend to the voice of my sup - pli - ca - tion,

5 Phrase 2 (penultimate)

when I cry un - to Thee.

6 // Ending

Heark - en un - to me, O Lord.

7 Example of Penultimate #2

...for hav - ing en - dured cru - ci - fix - ion, He hath de - stroyed death by death.