Grant Report 2023 – Individual Grant

Vaitsa Giannouli, PhD – Research funding report

During 12 weeks from October – December 2023, I was able to start preparing the pilot study of my research project entitled ‘Sight-reading of the written sources of byzantine music: Rethinking byzantine music notation past, present and future’. This project that combines the art of music and cognitive science would not have been possible if it were not for the generous contribution from the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies (SPHS). A contribution I am very grateful for as it gave me the chance to apply what I have learned during my visit to UK (Cambridge) via a series of in-person discussions with several faculty members at the University of Cambridge who are world experts in the field as well as my research in the affiliated libraries.

The aim of my research trip was two-fold: network with an existing group doing experimental research in sight-reading and to prepare my own new research project (by selecting the stimuli and the procedures of the experiment).

Not only was I able to gain invaluable skill and knowledge, but I could also socialise with scholars doing research in the same field as I do. I am pleased to have gained invaluable resources and connections through this visit. This has provided me with several new ideas I plan to pursue in the near future.

The skills, knowledge and connections I made from this trip would not have been possible without the generosity of the SPHS. I sincerely thank SPHS for their generosity in helping organise this project!