Delphic Paean by Athenaios Athenaiou

Composed for the Athenian Pythaiides festival in 138/7 or 128/7 BCE. Athenaios 'son of Athenaios' is listed as a director of the great chorus in the 128/7 BCE festival. His paean to Apollo survives on two marble slabs carved in 128/7 or 106/5 BCE, originally positioned along the Sacred Way of Delphi on the exterior south face of the Treasury of the Athenians.

Notes in green reconstructed by Stefan Hagel (2017)
Words in green supplemented by scholars 1893–2001, principally Martin West (2001)
Notes in black (with an emendation in red, bar 83) from the edition by Egert Pöhlmann and Martin West (2001)

A liturgical dance summoning Apollo
Breathing staggered throughout: no audible gaps, rhythmically tight for dancing

CHORUS

1. Pro-mo-leth' He-li-kō-na ba-thy-den-dron hai la-che-te Di-o-s
e-ri-bro-mou thy-ga-tres eu-ō-le-noi; mo-le-te syn-hom-hai mon hi-na Phoi-bon ō-dai-si mel-psē-te chry-se-o-ko-mān, hos a-na di-korym-ba Par-nās-si-dos tāz-de pе-te-
rās he-drān ham-a-ga-kly-taiz_ Del-phi-sin_ Ka-sta-li-dos eu-hy-drou nā-mat'e-pi-
nī-se-tai, Del-phon a-na prō-na mān-tei-on e-phe-pōn pagon.

2. Ėn,kly-ta me-ga-lo-po-lis Ath-this, eu-chai-si pher-ho-ploi-o nai-ou-sa Trī-tō-ni-doz
da-pe-don ath-rau-ston; ha-gi-oiz de bō-moi-sin Hā-phai-stos ai-thī ne-ōn mē-ra tau-

SH Version 1.4, low pitch, 28 April 2018
Published for the European Music Archaeology Project by Barnaby Brown
Gās, Eōron, invaded this land

rōn, homou de nin A-raps atmos es O-lym-pon a-na-kid-na-tai, ligy de lö-

pipe, sounding with shimmering tunes, its song weaves; and the golden sweet-voiced

toz_bre-mōn ai_o-loiz_me-le-sin ōi_dān_kre-kì, chry-se-ā’d hā-dy-throws

ki-tha-ris hym-noi-sin a-na-mel-pe-tai. 3. Ho de tech-nī-tōn_prop-pās hez-mos Ath-

thi-da la-chōn a-gla-i-zī kly-tom pai-da me-ga-lou Di-os, soi gar e-por’ a-kro-ni-phē

crag where undying, unlying

ton-de pagon, am-brot’ ap-seu-de’ hou pā-sī thnā-tois_pro-phai-nīs_lo-gī-a;

oracles are revealed to all;

you grasped the tripod which the great serpent was gauring,

tripo-da mān-tei-on hōs le-s hon me-gas e-phrou-rī dra-kōn, ho-te te-koz

you slew that glittering, coiled creature and the beast many hisses emitting

Gās_a-pes-tē-sas ai-o-lon he-lik-tām phy-ān, esth’ho thēr py-kna sy-ring-math’ hī-

strident expired at last; [F] thus the barbarous army of Gauls who

is a-thō-peut’a-pe pneus’ ho-mōs; hōz de Ga-la-tān_a-rēz bar-baros, tānd’hos e-pi

invaded this land impiously ✓ of snow perished in liquid streams.