The Tone 1 Bolhar melody

The Tone 1 Bolhar (Bulgarian) melody is used at the funeral service, and in singing the hymns of the solemn Vespers procession called the litija.

Here is the first of the Hymns of Saint John Damascene, commemorating the faithful departed. It is sung at Vespers on Friday evenings in Tone 1, and at the funeral service.

The form of the melody

This melody consists of two phrases, A and B, sung in alternation, and a concluding phrase (F).

The A phrase begins quite low, and concludes on the tonic (do):

The A phrase is long enough to that it usually doesn’t require a reciting tone. The next-to-last note may be either split into two quarter notes, or slurred with the preceding half note, in order to place the accent correctly.
The B phrase is a very typical prostopinije melody, with an intonation, reciting tone, preparatory note, and cadence:

When the A melody is repeated, the first two notes are not sung:

Since the B melody phrase ends on la and the shortened A melody begins on ti, you must be careful to step up to the start of the repeated A phrase:

The F phrase is the same as the concluding phrase of the Tone 1 samohlasen melody: