



AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES AT ATHENS

COTSEN HALL (*Gennadius Library*)

Friday 1 April 2016, 19:00

*9 Anapiron Polemou, 106 76 Athens, www.ascsa.edu.gr, phone 213 0002400
free admission (program duration 70')*

Acclaimed soloists

Natalia Gerakis - flute & **Apostolos Palios** - piano
present the program

“Connections”

an interchange of music

a Flute & Piano Recital in the Greek & American Spirit

inspired by the cultural connections between Greece and USA

with works by Antoniou, Barber, Giftakis, Glass, Kritsotakis, Koumendakis, Liebermann

www.ascsa.edu.gr/index.php/News/eventDetails/connections-a-flute-piano-recital-in-the-greek-american-spirit



LOWELL LIEBERMANN (1961, New York)

Sonata op.23 for flute & piano, 1987

I. Lento con rubato, II. Presto energico

Liebermann is one of America's most frequently performed and commissioned composers. He has written over one hundred works in all genres. His musical style is explained as a continuation of Classical and Romantic traditions, though he was called by the *New York Times* "as much of a traditionalist as an innovator". His music combines elements of traditional tonality and structure with more "adventurous" harmonies, is often highly polytonal and is known for its technical command and audience appeal. The expressive abilities of the flute are drawn upon in Liebermann's approach to melody. The long, sustained lines of the lyrical sections are colored with a wide range of dynamics and therefore demand a high level of musical maturity from the performers. This is contrasted with fast, intensely rhythmical sections or movements which showcase technical virtuosity. His compositions are well-constructed, sophisticated works of art, yet they are accessible to any audience. Liebermann's *Sonata for Flute and Piano* has already made its way into the standard flute repertoire.

SAMUEL BARBER (1910, West Chester/Pennsylvania - 1981, New York)

Canzone op.38a for flute & piano, 1959

Barber was an American composer of orchestral, opera, choral, chamber and piano music. He is one of the most celebrated composers of the 20th century. His *Adagio for Strings* (1936) has earned a permanent place in the concert repertory of orchestras. Barber's music, masterfully crafted and built on romantic structures and sensibilities, is at once lyrical, rhythmically complex, and harmonically rich. Originally titled *Elegy*, Barber's piece *Canzone* was composed for Manfred Ibel, a young German amateur flutist and architecture student, whom Barber befriended and with whom he played flute and piano duets. Barber made a music-minus-one recording of the work as a Christmas present so that Ibel would be able to play the duet for his family in Germany. In 1962, Barber added material and orchestrated the work as the second movement of his *Piano Concerto*. Retitled *Canzone*, the work was published in 1962.

STATHIS GIFTAKIS (1967, Kalamata)

3 Imaginary Dances for flute & piano, 2011

Giftakis' works have been successfully performed and awarded in Greece (Greek National Opera, Orchestra of Colors, Athens Concert Hall, Greek Composers Union, National Hellenic Research Foundation) and abroad (France, Germany, Italy, Turkey, Canada, USA). He is the Artistic Director of the Kalamata Municipal Conservatory, as well as piano and composition professor at the same Conservatory. He is also member of the administrative board of the Greek Composers Union. His music is mostly new impressionist and - as Liebermann's- it combines elements of traditional tonality and structure with more "adventurous" harmonies. The piece *Imaginary dances* consists of three movements. The first dance is elegiac composed in a free form and based on the interval of a second; the second dance is an "Aria", the flute exposes a twelve tone series both at the original and inverted form, while the piano keeps a "tonal" background; the third dance is a "typical" finale, a fast movement in a ternary form.

GIORGOS KOUMENDAKIS (1959, Rethymno/Crete)

Excerpts from the work **Mediterranean Desert** for piano

- **3 Mediterranean Herbs**: Thyme, Mint, Sage, 2000

- **3 Mediterranean Fishes**: Rainbow Wrasse, Grouper, Gar-Fish, 1998

Koumendakis is an internationally distinguished Greek composer (Prix de Rome, commission by György Ligeti for the European Community Youth Orchestra, participation at Venice Biennale, collaboration with the Ensemble Intercontemporain, Oslo Sinfonietta, Divertimento Ensemble, Xenakis Ensemble, Hong Kong Ensemble, BT Scottish Ensemble, Kronos Quartet, Nash Ensemble, Beijing Symphony Orchestra), whose writing is characterized by a variety of musical idioms and a constant search for new directions. He is perhaps best known internationally as the composer for the opening and closing ceremonies of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. *Mediterranean Desert* includes 24 piano pieces, all inspired by the animals and plants of the Mediterranean sea. The relationship between nature and man was the starting point for this composition. *3 Herbs* are all based on the same thematic material and they sound like variations on their particular and characteristic aromas (in Crete people say "I hear a scent"). Each of the *3 Fishes* is a musical commentary on the programmatic variety of their special -and above all physical and spiritual- characteristics.

THEODORE ANTONIOU (1935, Athens)

Lament for Michelle for flute, 1988

Antoniou, one of the most eminent and prolific contemporary artists, leads a distinguished career as composer, conductor, professor (Stanford University, University of Utah, Philadelphia Musical Academy, Boston University). He is founder of various contemporary music ensembles (ALEA II Stanford, ALEA III Boston, Philadelphia New Music Group, Hellenic Group of Contemporary Music) and president of the Greek Composers' Union. Antoniou's works are numerous and varied in nature, ranging from operas and choral works to chamber music, from film and theater music to solo instrumental pieces. His earlier works hesitated at first between a simple atonality and Bartókian folklorism. He later developed serial techniques and applied them in various refined forms. About his *Lament for Michelle* Antoniou quotes: "The piece is based on an original Lament of Peloponnese in Southern Greece, a place Michelle had visited. I wish she could be with us for ever. We have a lot to learn from her kindness, her musicianship and her positive attitude toward life. What a beautiful person. I could not know, that I would be so deeply affected by her loss".

PHILIP GLASS (1937, Baltimore)

Façades for flute and piano, 1981

In the past decades, composer Philip Glass has become a prominent and unique figure in the international music world. He is considered one of the most influential music makers of the late 20th century. His music is also often controversially described as "minimal music". Glass has distanced himself from the "minimalist" label, describing himself instead as a composer of "music with repetitive structures". Writing operas, orchestral and choral works and music for film, theatre, dance and *The Philip Glass Ensemble* Glass has brought his creative vision to a diverse and

ever growing audience. The piece *Façades* was originally written as part of the score for Godfrey Reggio's film *Koyannisqatsi*. It was finally not used for the film and ended up on his album for CBS *Glassworks*. It also has become a staple of the live performances of the *Philip Glass Ensemble* and was included in *Glasspieces*, the production put on at the New York City Ballet, choreographed by Jerome Robbins.

KOSTIS KRITSOTAKIS (1973, Athens)

Ionic Dances for flute & piano, 1995

Although he draws inspiration from various sources, Kostis Kritsotakis remains independent as a composer, while his music cannot fall easily within any particular musical idiom or category. His works have been commissioned and performed in Greece and abroad by ensembles such as the Greek National Radio Choir, the Athens Municipality Choir, the New Hellenic Quartet, the Greek National Opera, the Skalkotas Ensemble, the Orchestra of Colors (Athens), the Camerata/Armonia Atenea, the Patra Soloists, the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra, the Portuguese Symphony Orchestra, the 'Dogs of Desire' Ensemble, the New Paths in Music Festival Ensemble of New York, the Albany (New York) Symphony Orchestra, the Concertante Orchestra of Chicago, the Alhambra Orchestra of Miami and the State Opera of Karlsruhe. *Ionic Dances* is a ballet miniature based on the poem '*Ionic*' by Constantine P. Cavafy. The piece was composed in London, during a collaboration with choreographers of the London Contemporary Dance School.

Natalia Gerakis

www.nataliagerakis.com

She is considered one of the most accomplished greek flutists. Both Stuttgart- and Athens-based, she has performed as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestra player at major halls and festivals in Europe, Asia, Africa and South America. With full blooded expression and fine dynamic shades, she demonstrates a firm musical knowledge and understanding. She has been performing as principal flutist with the Thessaloniki State Symphony Orchestra and has collaborated among others with the Athens State Orchestra, the Wuerttembergisches Kammerorchester Heilbronn, the Stuttgart State Opera House, the Camerata/Armonia Atenea. She has also been principal flutist of the Mediterranean Youth Orchestra (Marseille) and member of the scholarship program of the Ensemble Modern Frankfurt (Paxos Festival). As a soloist she has performed works by J.S.Bach, C.Ph.E.Bach, Vivaldi, Mozart, Born, Arnold, Ginastera, Marquez, among others with the Bosch Sinfonieorchester, the Thessaloniki State Symphony Orchestra, the Sinfonietta-Chamber Orchestra of Chania/Crete and the Athens Youth Symphony Orchestra. She has recorded two CD: "Terra e Aria" with works for flute & piano, released by Spektral Records/Germany and "CLAUDE DEBUSSY la musique à moi" by Utopia Records and the editions "Mikri Arktos"/GR. Natalia Gerakis studied with Geneviève Amar and Vicens Prats at the Nadia & Lili Boulanger Conservatoire in Paris, from where she graduated with the "1er Prix de la Ville de Paris". She obtained her post-graduate diploma from the State University of Music & Performing Arts Stuttgart under Prof. Jean-Claude Gérard, on scholarship of the Greek State and has also gained a scholarship of the Alexander S.Onassis Foundation. Currently, she is a sought-after tutor of international music courses (Deutscher Tonkünstlerverband Instrumentenkurse/Germany, Springiersbacher Sommerkurse/Germany, Adams Flute Festival Master Classes/Holland, International Forum for Flute and Piano/Luxembourg, Semaine de la Francophonie Lusaka/Zambia, Universidad Mayor Santiago/Chile). In addition she is teaching Flute Methodology at the State University of Music & Performing Arts Stuttgart/Germany.

Apostolos Palios

www.apostolos-palios.com

Apostolos Palios has been described as "a marvelous pianist" (Cyprien Katsaris), "an extremely gifted, communicative and dedicated musician of great finesse, artistry and charismatic projection, who possesses excellent international potential" (Yonty Solomon). Born in Carditsa/Greece, Palios graduated with master- and soloist diploma with distinction from the Berlin Music Academy *Hanns Eisler* with Prof. Georg Sava and the Leipzig Music Academy *Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy* with Prof. Markus Tomas. He also studied musicology at the University of Athens, where he received his Ph.D. and received lessons from distinguished artists Ciccolini, Perahia, Katsaris, Solomon, Szidon and Hadjinikos. He has won several scholarships (Costopoulos Foundation, World in Harmony Foundation) and he is prizewinner of several National and International Piano, Chamber Music and Composition Competitions in Greece, Germany, Spain and Italy. He has received a special award from the Academy of Athens and has won the prestigious prizes "Best Greek Young Artist of the Year 2007" and "Best Recording by Greek Artist" from the Association of Greek Critics for Drama and Music. He has performed at the most important concert halls in the world, like Berlin Philharmonic Hall, Vienna Konzerthaus, New York Carnegie Hall. He is a frequent guest at many International Festivals in United Kingdom, France, Spain, Germany, Austria, Turkey, Cyprus, Russia, Norway, Romania and Greece and has been presented on television and music magazines. As a soloist he has appeared with all Greek orchestras and abroad (Berlin Symphony Orchestra, Orquesta Ciudad de Granada). He has also recorded for *Naxos* Label and has given the first world performances of piano works. He has been a member of the well-known *Aurora* (Piano) Quartet of Germany, as well as piano lecturer at the Music Science and Art Department of the Macedonia University in Thessaloniki and artistic director of *Young Classical Series*.