

Meeting the soul of Greece - with Stavros Anestopoulos and ensemble

HOMAGE to MIKIS THEODORAKIS

Concert evening with songs and Film music

An intercultural encounter between German and Greek musicians. On this evening, songs, film music and a short portrait of a great and passionate composer, musician, poet and fighter in a concert evening will be presented:

Mikis Theodorakis - He has strongly influenced and enriched Greek music, culture and politics through his works. Again and again it has moved him to be close to "his" people. So he oscillated between art and folk music. He was extremely proud of his origin from Crete. Mikis, through his settings of the most famous Greek poets, brought poetry to the common people. This popularity helped the poets Giorgos Seferis and Odysseas Elytis to be awarded the Nobel Prize.

From 1,000 songs you will hear a characteristic selection of the most beautiful and popular ones. In addition, there are also titles from the film music sector. In the evening the text contents will be partly explained or translated, and important historical events outlined. The entire life and work of Mikis Theodorakis can be dealt with political crises, wars and catastrophes of young Greek history. Many of these experiences are reflected in his songs. Especially in exile or imprisonment he was artistic active. He knew how to give people courage and hope again and again with his songs, even in exile during the period of deprivation of liberty by the Military junta.

In the summer of 2021, the ensemble came together in the Greek mountain village of Tseria-Mani. The musicians put into practice during Theodorakis' lifetime his work for to honor his work in a program and concert. His birthday was July 29, 1925. The sudden Death of the composer on September 2, 2021 has triggered deep emotions. Greece even ordered a three-day national mourning. "What remains are sounds", as the Documentary film by Asteris Kutoulas about Mikis Theodorakis was titled. Kutoulas is considered one of the artist's closest confidants and he has archived Mikis' life's work for years – biographically and bibliographically.

Two Greeks and two Germans

The program is dedicated to intercultural encounter and German-Greek friendship. On this evening, Greeks and Germans will embark on a journey to the homeland and the world of poetry of famous Greek poets, as well as to the music of the phenomenal artist and philanthropist MIKIS THEODORAKIS. His life and work are so comprehensive that it could hardly be summarized.

Stavros Anestopoulos (vocals) was born in Tseria-Mani. Since 1979 he has lived in Germany, where at the beginning of the 80s he worked intensively as a singer of the group "Orfeas" and could influence intensively Greek music scene and direction. His own ensemble

was formed in 1995, with songs by Hadjidakis, Theodorakis and Rembetiko and songs from the Greek islands. He was successful in the domestic and abroad with numerous concerts of Greek music with repeated performances in funk and television. For several years he has been commuting between Germany and Greece, where he has dedicated himself to new projects. He can draw on an amazingly large repertoire.

Elke Masino (piano) was born in Ettlingen near Karlsruhe and has lived in Wuppertal since 1982. She has been playing the piano since the age of six. Today she is a sought-after pianist and teacher. She studied at the Musikhochschule Köln with Prof. Harald Bojé and Sabine Roderburg and lied accompaniment with Rudolf Hänel.

She has worked with many artists. She produced a CD with Roswitha Dasch "Yiddish songs from the Shtetl". She was successful with several recordings on radio and television. Through the friendship and long-term cooperation with Stavros Anestopoulos she is familiar with Greek songs and culture.

Lazaros Zdoupas (Bouzouki, Baglama) comes from Leonberg near Stuttgart and grew up in Siatista in northern Greece. Together with Stavros Anestopoulos he played in "Orfeas". Lazaros is a sought-after bouzouki player nationwide. In the Landestheater Detmold, he had a commitment at the musical "Zorbas". He also played in the group "Prosechos" in Frankfurt am Main and in "Orfeo Greco", Darmstadt.

Harald Eller (guitar and bass) grew up in the Sauerland and has lived since the 80s in Wuppertal. He studied guitar with Prof. Dieter Kreidler. As Harald Eller he is, in addition to the Classical, active in various bands also in the genres rock, pop and jazz. His recent projects were "Two Bass and Vox" with Uli Wewelsiep and Michael Gustorff as well as the brand new project "Homage to Mikis Theodorakis" in the ensemble of Stavros Anestopoulos.