

The Byzantine Studies Program at the University of Notre Dame Presents A



GREEK CULTURAL EVENING

FEATURING TRIO LEVANTE
WITH KOSTAS CHALLOUMAS,
EIRINI TORNESAKI AND
PROFESSOR YONA STAMATIS

October 24, 2018, 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

CONCERT PROGRAM

OPENING REMARKS

Professor Thomas E. Burman, Director of the Medieval Institute and Professor of History

Professor Alexander Beihammer, Chair of the Byzantine Studies Committee, Fellow of the Medieval Institute, and Associate Professor and Heiden College Chair

LECTURE BY PROFESSOR YONA STAMATIS (UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, SPRINGFIELD): “TRADITIONAL MUSIC IN CONTEMPORARY GREECE: A PRECONCERT LECTURE”

Lecture Abstract

“Let me write the songs of a nation, and I care not who makes its laws.”—Andrew Fletcher (after Plato).

Which music best represents the Greek nation and how do you know? Is the urban popular song genre rebetika more or less Greek than Kleftiko song? This lecture introduces Greek music within the broader national identity debates that have shaped the modern Greek nation since its founding in 1832. Exploring the ways in which Greeks and foreigners alike have engaged music to advance diverse national ideologies, it examines the selective incorporation of ancient, Byzantine, Ottoman, and modern influences into longstanding debates about national Greek music. As an introduction to the evening concert by the renowned Cypriot ensemble “Trio Levante,” the lecture will place a special focus on the traditional Greek music that was popular during the late-19th and early-20th century, a time of intense national identity debate in Greece. The interactive lecture will be supplemented by a PowerPoint presentation and enhanced by relevant sound clips.

INTERMISSION

CONCERT BY TRIO LEVANTE WITH KOSTAS CHALLOUMAS AND EIRINI TORNESAKI

Collaborating with bassist Kostas Chaloumas and singer Eirini Tornesaki, Trio Levante presents here a tribute concert of Greek traditional songs from the Smyrna school, pre-war rebetiko, nisiotika and laiko. This musical journey will include some of the most beautiful songs and sounds of Asia Minor, the Greek mainland and the Greek islands, including Crete and Cyprus.

ΒΑΛΣ ΤΗΣ ΠΡΟΣΜΟΝΗΣ – WALTZ TIS PROSMONIS

Instrumental tune from Izmir

ΕΜΒΑΤΗΡΙΟ ΣΜΥΡΝΗΣ – ΕΜΒΑΤΙΡΙΟ SMIRNIS

Instrumental tune from Ismir

ΠΑΦΙΤΙΣΣΑ ΦΩΝΗ – PAPHITISSA PHONI

A love song from Paphos district (Cyprus). The composer is referring to his loved one as a beautiful pigeon. The song consists of 15-syllable and 8-syllable lyrics and is characterized by the improvisational dialogue between the singer and the violinist.

ΜΙΑΣ ΧΗΡΑΣ ΘΥΓΑΤΕΡΑ (ΣΤΟ ΠΑΝΩ ΜΑΝΑ ΤΟ ΧΩΡΙΟ) – MIAS HIRAS THIGATERA

Ussak makam, first recorded by the great violinist Dimitris Semsis, that can also be found in the cypriot musical tradition. This song talks about the love of the singer for the daughter of a widow, and the matchmaking he wants his mom to help him with.

ΜΗ ΜΕ ΣΤΕΛΝΕΙΣ ΜΑΝΑ ΣΤΗΝ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗ – ΜΙ ΜΕ STELNEIS MANA STIN AMERIKI

“Mum, don’t send me to America”. The title speaks for itself. Composed by Dimitris Semsis and first recorded by Rita Abatzi.

ΟΣΟ ΒΑΡΟΥΝ ΤΑ ΣΙΔΕΡΑ – OSO VAROUN TA SIDERA

A well-known traditional Tabahaniotiko song from Izmir region, recorded by Stelios Foustalieris. The song is performed in western Crete and talks about a lost love.

ΚΡΥΦΑ ΓΙΑ ΣΕΝΑ ΘΑ ΠΟΝΩ – KRIFA GIA SENA NA PONO

One more traditional Tabahaniotiko song first recorded from Stelios Foustalieris, in hicaz makam. The song is also named “Sirtos Protos” in Crete and refers to the emotional pain of two people, where love is not mutual.

ΜΗΛΟ ΜΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΜΑΝΤΑΡΙΝΙ – MILO MOU KAI MANTARINI

This is a slow tempo traditional cifteteli (typical dance rhythm) of Minor Asia. The singer calls his loved one “a sweet apple and mandarin”, saying that “I’ll do whatever you say” trying to show his devotion to her.

ΑΕΡΟΠΛΑΝΟ ΘΑ ΠΑΡΩ – AEROPLANO THA PARO

A famous composition of Panagiotis Tountas, that also talks about life in foreign lands. In this song, the wife threatens her husband that she will abandon him and head to America to live her life with a rich man.

ΜΕΝΕΞΕΔΕΣ ΚΑΙ ΖΟΥΜΠΟΥΛΙΑ – MENEXEDES & ZOUMPOULIA

A traditional western-style love waltz coming from Constantinople, which we also find in the Ionian Islands.

ΚΡΑΣΟΠΙΝΩ – KRASOPINO

This is a great aptaliko tune (type of zeibekiko rhythm), that describes a man’s passion for wine drinking.

ΤΡΑΒΑ ΡΕ ΜΑΓΚΑ ΚΑΙ ΑΛΑΝΙ – TRAVA RE MANGA KAI ALANI

A composition of the great rebetis Kostas Skarvelis. The lady in the song warns her loved on not to pass by again from her neighborhood, because she just found out that he is cheating on her with another women.

ΠΟΥ ΝΑ ΒΡΩ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΑ ΝΑ ΣΟΥ ΜΟΙΑΖΕΙ – ΠΟΥ ΝΑ ΒΡΩ ΓΙΝΕΚΑ ΝΑ ΣΟΥ ΜΙΑΖΕΙ

One more rebetiko tune, this one written by Antonis Diamantidis (Ntalkas), where the composer expresses his admiration for the woman he loves.

ΜΑΝΑ ΜΟΥ ΕΛΛΑΣ – ΜΑΝΑ ΜΟΥ HELLAS

The lyrics of Nikos Gatsos (along with the music of living legend Stavros Xarhakos) describe vividly Minor Asia's distraction. This is a modern song with elements from Izmir and the rebetiko of 1920's, that talks about the fate of modern Greece, the expectations of greek people for a great nation and the big political lies.

ΤΙ ΣΕ ΜΕΛΕΙ ΕΣΕΝΑΝΕ / ΚΑΝΑΡΙΝΙ ΜΟΥ ΓΛΥΚΟ – ΤΙ ΣΕ ΜΕΛΙ ΕΣΕΝΑΝΕ / ΚΑΝΑΡΙΝΙ ΜΟΥ ΓΛΙΚΟ

Two more well-known traditional tunes. The former speaks about a refugee from Izmir, who is now in Athens looking for his/her true love. The latter compares his love with a sweet singing canary and calls her to his hug.

ΧΑΝΟΥΜΑΚΙΑ – ΗΑΝΟΥΜΑΚΙ

A melody from eastern Thrace and Constantinople, where the singer wanders in the streets of Istanbul and keeps falling in love with young beautiful girls.

ΔΟΛΟΦΟΝΙΣΣΑ – DOLOFONISSA

This is a great – yet not so well known - song of Panayiotis Tountas that is included in Trio Levante's debut album. It talks about the pain of abandonment from a loved one, expressed with an “amane”, a typical improvisational technique.

ΤΑ ΠΑΙΔΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΓΕΙΤΟΝΙΑΣ ΣΟΥ – ΤΑ ΠΕΔΙΑ ΤΙΣ ΓΙΤΟΝΙΑΣ ΣΟΥ

A great traditional “argilamas” (typical slow tempo karsilamas) of Minor Asia, in ussak makam music scale. One of the most recorded songs in modern Greek discography.

ΚΑΪΞΗΣ – ΚΑΙΚΣΙΣ

Here is a beautiful bolero of Apostolos Hadjichristos. The composer wants to hire a boat with a boatman to help him steel a beautiful lady that is locked in a harem-jail. It talks about the “harem lake” a neighborhood in Constantinople.



ABOUT THE PRESENTERS



The musical group **Trio Levante** was formed in Cyprus in November 2014 by musicians Petros Kouloumis (vocals, lute, guitar), Pavlos Michaelides (violin and vocals) and Pantelis Ionas (banjo, guitar, oud, vocals). Collaborating with bassist Kostas Challoumas, they present here a tribute concert of Greek traditional songs from the Smyrna school, pre-war rebetiko, nisiotika and laiko. The four musicians have a rich collaboration history with famous singers and musicians in Cyprus and Greece and have participated in many concerts all around the world. Their first album, *Astika Laika Tragoudia*, was released in December 2017.

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Pantelis Ionas was born in Cyprus and from his very early years had a love for music. At the age of 10 he began to learn classical guitar and from there became most interested in Greek traditional music. He started his musical career parallel to his studies, playing in music bands, concerts and festivals all over Greece. After finishing his studies, he continued further into the Middle East traditional music and learned how to play bouzouki and oud next to the great teachers Nicos Nicolaides and Ross Daly. He has collaborated and played with many great musicians including the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra playing Michalis Christodoulides's compositions. For the last fifteen years, he has performed in concerts all over Cyprus and is a founding member of the Trio Levante ensemble.



Petros Kouloumis was born in Cyprus and comes from a traditional musician family. Raised and educated with music from a young age, his future ambitions were no other than dedicating his life to music and singing—his passion. He decided to study at the Department of Traditional Music at the School of Arts of TEI of Epirus, located in Arta, Greece. From there he graduated with excellence in the vocal-phonetic specialty and had as a mentor the great traditional singer Mano Koutsangelidis. He continued his studies at Istanbul Teknik Üniversitesi Istanbul Conservatory, where he held theoretical courses of Turkish music and Ottoman songs with distinguished professors and singers of Turkish music. He has since collaborated with a number of other musicians; performed, written and released his own songs; and is a founding member of the Trio Levante ensemble.



Pavlos Michaelides was born in Nicosia, Cyprus where he began violin studies at the age of 8. During his studies, he was a member of the Cyprus State Youth Orchestra and attended the master classes of Prof. Theo Olof as a selected member of the Mediterranean Youth Orchestra in Aix en Provence, France. He moved to Tucson in 2000, at the University of Arizona, where he pursued and acquired his BSc in Business Administration, emphasizing in Management Information Systems. During that period, studying with Prof. Mark Rush, he served as a member and rotating concertmaster of the Symphony and Philharmonic Orchestra of the University of Arizona and a member of the Bay Area Classical Harmonies (California). He then moved to Flagstaff, at the Northern Arizona University, where he acquired a Master in Business Administration. He has performed and recorded with well-established music artists, composers and singers and is a founding member of the Iristho en Parodo and Trio Levante ensembles.



Kostas Challoumas was born and raised in Larnaca, Cyprus, and studied pedagogy at the University of Cyprus, where he graduated in 1999. He studied double bass and music theory with Nikos Ioannou and continued his studies at The Collective School of Music in New York with Sean Conly and Joe Fitzgerald. For twenty years he has been a member of various musical ensembles, including traditional, jazz, and Latin; he has also been a member of music and theater performance groups, including the musical ensemble of ancient instruments, “Terandros”; the original Cuban band “Havana Noche”; and “Turnaround Jazz Quartet,” while in the last few years he has been the artistic director of “Makam Ensemble.” He has collaborated in concerts and theatrical performances in Cyprus and abroad with important Greek composers and singers such as Stavros Xarchakos, Glykeria, Giorgos Dalaras, Pantelis Thalassinos, Vasilis Lekkas, Dimitris Basis, Eleonora Zouganeli, Nena Venetsanou, Sofia Papazoglou and others. In recent years he has been working as a teacher in Primary Education. There, besides teaching music, he organizes and directs major contemporary orchestras with students who experiment and create through electronic and traditional instruments.



Eirini Tornesaki (aka Erini) is a vocalist, born and raised in Heraklion, Crete, Greece. Erini was the original singer for the Cirque Du Soleil show “Kurios,” touring for three years in Canada and the U.S. She completed 1,074 shows and performed on the soundtrack, DVD and Daytime Emmy Award-winning VR short film. She has collaborated with Luciana Souza, Barry Manilow, James Bay, Nick Piterra, Christos Zotos, and Mario Frangoulis, amongst others, and has performed in venues such as Carnegie Hall, TD Garden, Ronnie Scotts Jazz Club, Abbey Road Studios, and more. As a child Erini studied piano and cello and performed in a string orchestra and a choir. In 2012, she completed a Bachelor’s Degree at the British & Irish Modern Music Institute (BIMM) in Brighton, England. She has performed the U.S. National Anthem for the Boston Celtics, the Chicago Cubs and the Washington Nationals. She also performs Greek Folk music with the Pharos Ensemble.



Dr. Yona Stamatis is Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology at the University of Illinois—Springfield where she teaches courses in world music and directs the UIS Orchestra. Her recent scholarly publications appear in various journals including the *Journal of Interdisciplinary Voice Studies*, *Echo: A Music-Centered Journal*, and the *Journal of World Popular Music*. Dr. Stamatis is a member of the College Music Society Ethnomusicology Advisory Board and is co-chair of the Society for Ethnomusicology Anatolian Ecumene Special Interest Group. She received her doctorate in Ethnomusicology from the University of Michigan in 2011 with a focus on rebetika music in contemporary Greece. As a violinist and bouzouki player, she performs regularly with the Athens-based Rebetiki Istoría ensemble.



ABOUT THE BYZANTINE STUDIES PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Byzantine Studies at Notre Dame is a research-oriented field of inquiry devoted to the interdisciplinary study of the history and legacy of the Byzantine Empire (324–1453). It investigates the long-lived and influential Byzantine Empire, whose territory stood between the Islamic Middle East and Catholic Europe. As the Greek continuation of the Eastern Roman Empire, its story spans the period from the ancient world to the early modern era.

In fashioning orthodox Christianity, in preserving and developing the intellectual and literary traditions of the Greco-Roman world, and in defining the notion of a Christian Empire, Byzantium became one of the great formative cultures in European history. Its legacy remains powerful to this day in Greece, the Balkans, Russia, the Black Sea, the Eastern Mediterranean, and among Orthodox communities throughout the world.

The Anastos Collection is the heart of Byzantine Studies at Notre Dame. This superb research library, gathered by the renowned Byzantinist Milton V. Anastos, came to Notre Dame in 1997. Located beside the collections of the University's renowned Medieval Institute, this library allows scholars to pursue their research in a setting that encourages them to think of Byzantium in relation to the other societies and cultures prevalent in the ancient, medieval, and early modern worlds. Faculty and student researchers also benefit from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Reading Room for Byzantine Studies, located on the seventh floor of the University's Hesburgh Libraries.

The Byzantine Studies Program is part of the Medieval Institute and offers programming throughout the year. You can keep up with its events as well as Byzantine Studies news on the Medieval Institute's News & Events page online at medieval.nd.edu.

AUTOGRAPHS

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