



ROOTS

*21st Century
Greek Music for Guitar*

KLAMPANIS

TSALAHOURIS

MAROULIS

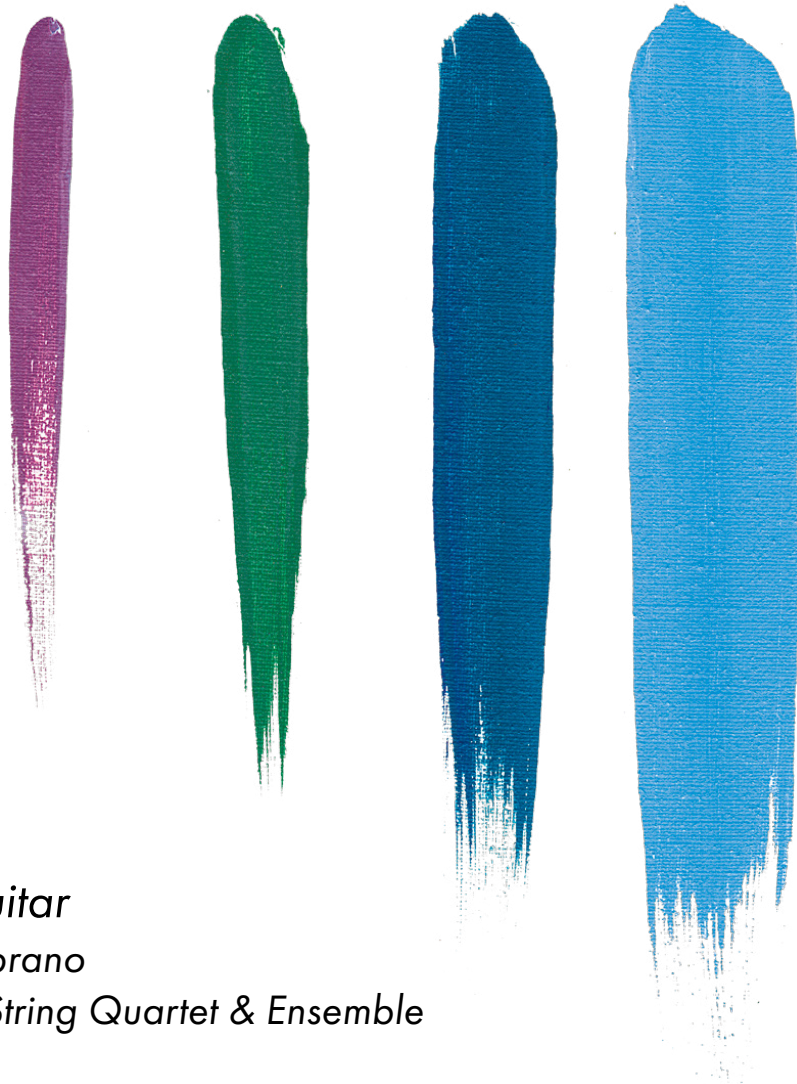
ANTONIOU

Dimitris SOUKARAS, *Guitar*

Lotte BETTS-DEAN, *Mezzo-soprano*

Audentia Ensemble • L'Anima String Quartet & Ensemble

Ryan BAIR, *Conductor*



ROOTS

21st Century Greek Music for Guitar

Petros KLAMPANIS (b. 1981)

1 **Ariadne's Duality** (2020) **5:40**

Texts by Philippos TSALAHOURIS (b. 1969)

HaiKu, Op. 109 (2019) **11:24**

- | | | |
|----|----------|------|
| 2 | No. 5. – | 1:15 |
| 3 | No. 2. – | 1:36 |
| 4 | No. 3. – | 0:36 |
| 5 | No. 4. – | 1:25 |
| 6 | No. 1. – | 1:12 |
| 7 | No. 6. – | 0:24 |
| 8 | No. 7. – | 1:30 |
| 9 | No. 8. – | 1:24 |
| 10 | No. 9. – | 2:01 |

Iason MAROULIS (b. 1999)

11 **Allegory of the Tragic Hero** (2020) **11:17**

Theodore ANTONIOU (1935–2018)

Hommage (2007) **28:26**

- | | | |
|----|---|------|
| 12 | I. Captain Michalis: There was no island | 2:38 |
| 13 | II. Dream of the neighbourhood youngsters | 3:30 |
| 14 | III. The ballad of Uri | 2:46 |
| 15 | IV. The train has left | 3:46 |
| 16 | V. Waltz of lost dreams | 2:20 |
| 17 | VI. Folk couplets | 3:46 |
| 18 | VII. Eagle without wings | 3:55 |
| 19 | VIII. Kemal | 5:45 |

WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS

Dimitris Soukaras, Guitar
Lotte Betts-Dean, Mezzo-soprano 2–10

L'Anima String Quartet & Ensemble 11
Audentia Ensemble 12–19
Ryan Bair, Conductor 12–19

Artist foreword

The impetus behind this project came from my aspiration for new guitar repertoire that would reflect elements of Greek history and musical culture, such as the language, rhythm and melodies. I wanted to record an album that would be a reference to the many musical genres of Greece that have influenced me so far in my life. It was also a great opportunity to invite some of Greece's leading composers to write for the guitar for the first time.

This music on this album covers a spectrum of genres that have flourished in Greece in recent times, from jazz to avant-garde, and that have had a strong impact on my development as an artist. The guitar is an integral part of folk, jazz, classical and contemporary music in my country, and as a performer I found it intriguing coming across different musical styles and adapting my playing to each; to communicate the ideas of a composer whose roots are based in jazz and then delve into the sound world of a composer writing in a contemporary style. The collaborative process was key to my understanding each composer's music and aesthetics.

The 'colourful' programme inspired the album cover art, which was executed by my dear uncle Panagiotis Soukaras. I asked each composer to choose a colour they thought best represented the character of their composition, and the finished image reflects this palette of sounds. The size of each brushstroke illustrates the duration of each work; the thickness represents the orchestrations. For Theodore Antoniou's *Hommage* I chose light blue because I believe this colour represents the music of Manos Hadjidakis on whose music *Hommage* is based. The piece is written for Costas Cotsiolis and was commissioned by the Athens Guitar Festival.

This album was recorded in London and Athens and produced at the Sierra Studios in Athens with the help of producer and conductor Miltos Logiadis. That it was completed during the Covid-19 pandemic is something truly remarkable and the project was my way of navigating my creativity during this time.

I would like to express my gratitude to the composers, performers, and sound engineers as well as the producer and conductor Miltos Logiadis who took this journey with me. We managed to create something with honesty and hard work: one hour of new music. Finally, I wish to offer my deepest thanks to Costas Cotsiolis and William Antoniou for granting me the opportunity to make the premiere recording of Antoniou's *Hommage*. This recording is dedicated to his memory.

Dimitris Soukaras

Producer foreword

This polystylistic album features music by Greek composers and clearly shows the different routes that contemporary Greek music has taken. The different aesthetic elements of each composition have one thing in common: Dimitris and his guitar. Dimitris has managed to absorb every single detail of the scores and has found a way to bring – with vividness and honesty – the composers' indications to life in his recording.

Miltos Logiadis

Petros KLAMPANIS (b. 1981)

Ariadne's Duality (2020)

Commissioned by the Worshipful Company of Musicians 'Ivor Mairants' Guitar Award

Dedicated to Dimitris Soukaras

This piece is based on the myth of Ariadne, who fell in love with Theseus, an ancient hero who symbolises social justice, culture and generosity. After helping him escape the labyrinth, she leaves with him for Athens. On the way they stop at the island of Naxos, where Ariadne meets Dionysus, the Greek god of fertility and wine and a symbol of insanity and hyperbole. She leaves Theseus and marries Dionysus.

Can the guitar, with its vast capacity of expression, express these two antithetic characters? In my compositions I find purpose by combining elements from Greek folk music, jazz and classical music. In *Ariadne's Duality* I have used the guitar as both a percussive and a polyphonic instrument.

Petros Klampanis

Philippos TSALAHOURIS (b. 1969)

HaiKu, Op. 109 (2019)

Dedicated to Dimitris Soukaras

As a composer I am interested in music set to poetry, and correspondingly in the voice as a musical instrument. When composing music that is to be accompanied by a sung poem, I try to find a way of expressing the meaning of the words through my music. The relationship between the guitar and the voice can be extremely intimate, and in *HaiKu, Op. 109*,

I have created two independent, parallel monologues that, when they come together, create a very special poetic moment. Because I wanted to create an entirely original work through which I could express the unique connection between the two instruments, I wrote the *HaiKu* poems myself.

Philippos Tsalahouris

Iason MAROULIS (b. 1999)

Allegory of the Tragic Hero (2020)

Dedicated to Dimitris Soukaras

The allegory of the tragic hero presents an alternative way of responding to characters or heroes which share some traits with the heroes of ancient Greek tragedies. In *Allegory of the Tragic Hero*, we hear a solo guitar trying to establish itself as the protagonist of the piece while 'struggling' against the rest of the ensemble, which has the greater dynamic range and richness

of sound. This conflict between the soloist and the ensemble is used to create a connection to ancient Greek tragic heroes whose struggles are the result of a conflict with the divine laws or of fate.

Iason Maroulis

Theodore ANTONIOU (1935–2018)

Hommage (2007)

Commissioned by the Athens Guitar Festival

Dedicated to Manos Hadjidakis, written for Costas Cotsiolis

Manos Hadjidakis was a wonderful human being. He was the most imaginative and talented musician I ever knew, and he was free-minded and generous in his support of young musicians and colleagues. Though very famous, he was modest and, above all, faithful to his friends. I miss him more and more every day. Since his death I have composed several works to his memory and *Hommage* is the result of a commission

from the great soloist Costas Cotsiolis to mark the 30th anniversary of the Athens Guitar Festival. The piece is based on some of the many wonderful songs composed by Manos, music of such brilliance that all I can offer are my feelings, my soul and my sincerity as a homage to his creativity.

Theodore Antoniou

HaiKu, Op. 109

- 2 **No. 5**
Στην αυλή βρέχει
Τρέχει νερό φωτεινό
Ποτίζει τις λύπες
Ποτίζει τις λύπες
- Rain in the garden
Luminous water running
Waters the sorrows
Waters the sorrows
- 3 **No. 2**
Αυγή της κραυγής
Αυγή της κραυγής
Ελπίδα της σαγίνης
Σπαθί στην πληγή
Αυγή της κραυγής
- Dawn of the cry
Dawn of the cry
Hope for the enchantment
Sword in the wound
Dawn of the cry
- 4 **No. 3**
Σκοτάδι βαθύ
Μονότονο τραγούδι
Τη γη σκεπάζει
- Darkness falling deep
Monotonous melody
Is filling the earth
- 5 **No. 4**
Μηδέν στο μηδέν
Αθροίζω τους φόβους μου
Άνεμος πνέει
- Zero the number
Of my fears when I count them
The wind is blowing
- 6 **No. 1**
Μακρινά μάτια
Σιωπές που βλέπουν στάχια
Στην άκρη το φως
Στην άκρη το φως
- Eyes in distance
Silences meeting straws
Alongside the light
Alongside the light
- 7 **No. 6**
Βλέπω ουρανούς
Αστέρια πέφτουν αργά
Λιώνουν τα χάδια
- I see skies
Stars are falling slowly
Strokes melting
- 8 **No. 7**
Πνοή μου ζωή
Άφησε τα σύννεφα
Τρέξε στην πηγή
- My breath life – my breath, my life
Let go of the clouds
Run to the spring
- 9 **No. 8**
Τριαντάφυλλα άσπρα
Μαβιά λουλούδια
Φιλιά που κρύβουν φιλιά
Άσπρα μαβιά λουλούδια
Τριαντάφυλλα
- White roses
Maive flowers
Kisses within kisses
White mauve flowers
Roses
- 10 **No. 9**
Άγγελος στέκει
Λευκό σεντόνι πνέει
Κερι που σβήνει
Άγγελος στέκει
- Angel is standing
Shining white sheet wafting
Candle blowing out
Angel is standing

Ryan Bair

Ryan Bair is an American-born conductor and classical guitarist. He studies guitar with Michael Lewin and conducting with Dominic Grier at the Royal Academy of Music in London, and conducting with professor Colin Metters in Belgrade and London. He co-founded the Audentia Ensemble and has premiered over four hours of music with the group. An advocate of modern and neglected music, he aims to bring rarely performed repertoire to student-based orchestras. Recent engagements include the world premieres of Marino Arcaro's *Concerto Apinayé* for guitar and orchestra and Geoff King's *Cantata Superba* for five singers and large ensemble.



Miltos Logiadis

Miltos Logiadis (b. 1965) is former artistic director of The Athens Concert Hall (Megaron) and professor of conducting at the Ionian University. He studied with a scholarship from the Alexander S. Onassis Foundation at the Munich Academy of Music, where he was awarded diplomas for choral and orchestral conducting, as well as a Meisterklasse Diploma, with the highest grade ever granted by the Academy. In 1992, he returned to Greece and became the permanent conductor of the Orchestra of Colours, following an invitation by its founder Manos Hadjidakis, a position he held until 2011. His over 30 recordings, including discs for Naxos, feature music by Nikos Skalkottas, Giannis Christou, Iannis Xenakis, and by many other composers.



Petros Klampanis

Petros Klampanis (b. 1981) is an award-winning bassist, composer, arranger, producer and educator. Named a 'BASS ACE' by *Bass Player* magazine, Klampanis grew up in Greece, surrounded by the confluence of Mediterranean and Balkan folk music. Now based in New York City, he creates music that draws on multiple genres ranging from classical music to pop. He has collaborated with world acclaimed artists such as Snarky Puppy, Greg Osby, Jaques Morelenbaum, Shai Maestro, Gilad Hekselman, Ari Hoenig, Jean-Michel Pilc, Antonio Sánchez. In addition to his appearances in the US, he has performed at the JazzAhead Festival in Bremen, XJazz Festival in Berlin, and others.

www.petrosklampanis.com



Philippos Tsalahouris

Philippos Tsalahouris (b. 1969) is principal of Athens Conservatoire and a member of the Greek Composers' Union since 1997. He is one of the most prolific Greek composers of his generation. His music has been performed by all the major symphonic and choral groups of Greece and at the main festivals in Greece and internationally. His work has been performed in concert in Germany, France, Italy, Russia, the UK, Spain, Bulgaria and many other countries. A career highlight was composing the music that accompanied the arrival of the Olympic flame at the Beijing Olympics in 2008. He has been awarded by the Academy of Athens and since 2015 he has been part of the artistic committee of the Benaki Museum and National Opera House of Greece.



Iason Maroulis

Iason Maroulis (b. 1999) is a Greek composer and trumpet player based in London. He is interested in using acoustic instruments and electronics to create compound sounds, the individual parts of which, by losing their identities, become segments of unique sonorities. A basis for his work is understanding the sound capabilities of acoustic instruments and their playing techniques. He is currently an undergraduate student of composition at the Royal Academy of Music where his teacher is Rubens Askenar. He has collaborated with ensembles such as the Barcelona Modern Ensemble and Clova Quartet. He is supported by the Athena Scholarship Fund and the Royal Academy of Music.



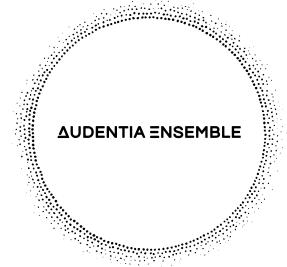
Theodore Antoniou

Theodore Antoniou (1935–2018) was a composer, conductor and academic and is considered one of Greece's most established composers. He was a member of the board of the Academy of Athens and president of the Greek Musicians' Union. Antoniou held teaching positions at Stanford University, the University of Utah, the Philadelphia Musical Academy and Boston University. Many of his compositions were commissioned by major orchestras and festivals around the world. His music has been published by Bärenreiter Verlag, G. Schirmer and Ph. Nakas. He was one of the closest friends of Manos Hadjidakis and he considered him to be one his teachers. As a conductor, Antoniou worked with orchestras, small and large ensembles, and musical organisations all over the globe.



Audentia Ensemble

Audentia Ensemble is a London-based student orchestra founded by Royal Academy of Music students Ryan Bair and Luca Gliozzi. The Orchestra is made up of students from London's top conservatoires and its current members come from North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Australia. Audentia aims to create fresh interpretations of core classical and contemporary repertoire.



L'Anima String Quartet

L'Anima String Quartet (Stella Tsani, violin, Brunilda-Eugenia Maio, violin, Elias Sdoukos, viola and Lefki Kolovou, cello) was formed in April 1996 after several years of collaboration in the chamber music class of Tatsis Apostolides at Athens Conservatoire. All four members of L'Anima have worked for several years with the most famous musical ensembles of Greece, including Athens State Orchestra, Municipality of Athens Symphonic Orchestra, National Symphonic Orchestra of ERT, Orchestra of Colours, Camerata and Greek Contemporary Music Ensemble. They have had success both in Greece and abroad, recorded several albums and worked with important conductors and composers from all over the world.



Dimitris Soukaras

Dimitris Soukaras is a classical guitarist based in the UK. He is committed to expanding the repertoire for the guitar and has commissioned a number of leading non-guitarist composers to compose for his instrument. Through his imaginative programming and chamber music collaborations he seeks to redefine the relationship between the guitar and the audience.

Dimitris is a D'Addario Artist, a Yeoman of the Worshipful Company of Musicians, a beneficiary of the Stradivari Trust, winner of the International Guitar Foundation's Young Artist Platform, and a Eurostring Artist. A laureate of 20 guitar and music competitions, he has received the David Russell Prize, the Mottola International Competition, the Ivor Mairants Guitar Award and the Academy of Athens Award. He is the founder and the artistic director of MUΣA Concert Series.

He is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Surrey. Dimitris studied with Michael Lewin at the Royal Academy of Music where he completed the Advanced Diploma and the Master of Arts with Distinction. He also holds a DipRAM and a LRAM. His studies have been supported by the Athena Scholarship, Academy of Athens, and the Royal Academy of Music. He graduated with Distinction from the Bachelor of Music course at the Ionian University under the guidance of his teachers Costas Cotsiolis and Korina Vougiouka.

www.dimitriosoukaras.com



Lotte Betts-Dean

Australian mezzo-soprano Lotte Betts-Dean's wide-ranging repertoire encompasses contemporary music, art song, chamber music, opera and early music. She is particularly passionate about collaborating with guitar across a range of genres. Performing predominantly in the UK and Australia, recent highlights include recitals and concerts at Wigmore Hall, Barbican, Sydney Opera House and Melbourne Recital Centre. She has performed as soloist with Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, Manchester Collective and Australian Chamber Orchestra, among others. Lotte is a Young Artist with the Musicians Company and City Music Foundation, as well as with Oxford Lieder after winning the 2019 Young Artist Platform.

www.lottebettsdean.com



The music in this programme covers a spectrum of genres that have flourished in Greece in recent years, from jazz to contemporary avant-garde. These have all had a strong impact on guitarist Dimitris Soukaras's development as an artist, and in making this recording he took the opportunity to invite some of Greece's leading composers to write for his instrument for the first time. All works are world premiere recordings.

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Dimitris Soukaras, Guitar

Lotte Betts-Dean, Mezzo-soprano **2-10**

L'Anima String Quartet & Ensemble **11** • **Audentia Ensemble** **12-19**

Ryan Bair, Conductor **12-19**

A detailed track list can be found inside the booklet.

Recorded: 28 October **1** **11**, 2 October **2-10**, 3 October **12-19** 2020

at Sierra Studios, Athens, Greece **1** **11**, St Mark's Church, London, UK **2-10** **12-19**

Producers: Miltos Logiadis, Dimitris Soukaras • Engineers: George Kariotis **1**, Leonard Loock **2-10** **12-19**,

Iason Maroulis **11** • Mastering engineer: Christos Zormpas • Digital editor: Panos Andrianos

Cover painting by Panagiotis Soukaras

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