



www.lamdaensemble.com

mail@lamdaensemble.com

λ-biographies

NATALIA GERAKIS | flutist

She is considered one of the most accomplished Greek flutists. Both Stuttgart- and Athens-based, she has performed as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral player at major halls and festivals in numerous European countries, in Asia, Africa and South America. She has been principal flute of the Thessaloniki State Symphony Orchestra and performed among others with the Athens State Orchestra, the Athens Camerata, the Wuerttemberg Chamber Orchestra Heilbronn, the Stuttgart State Opera House (Kammertheater). She has also been principal flute of the Mediterranean Youth Orchestra (Marseilles/FR) and scholar at the Ensemble Modern Frankfurt (Paxos Festival/GR). In addition to her musical activities as a performer, Natalia Gerakis has shown a remarkable educational activity. Commitment to her art and success in teaching makes her highly regarded and sought-after flutist among international courses (Adams European Flute Center Masterclasses/Holland, German Musicians Association Courses/GER, Camerata Europaea European Academy/GER-GR, National Music Library "Lilian Voudouri" Masterclasses/GR, International Forum for Flute and Piano/Luxembourg, Semaine de la Francophonie Lusaka/Zambia, Universidad Mayor Santiago Masterclasses/Chile). She is flute professor at the Athens Conservatoire and tutor for flute methodology at the State University of Music & Performing Arts Stuttgart/GER (Staatliche Hochschule für Musik & Darstellende Kunst Stuttgart). In addition she teaches the flute at the Musicology faculty of the National University of Athens. She studied with Geneviève Amar and Vicens Prats at the Nadia & Lili Boulanger Conservatoire in Paris and graduated with the '1er Prix de la Ville de Paris'. She obtained her post-graduate diploma at the State University of Music and Performing Arts Stuttgart, in Germany, under Prof. Jean-Claude Gérard, on a scholarship of the Greek State. • [website](#)

LEFKI KARPODINI | pianist

Pianist Lefki Karpodini has given concerts in most European countries, in Canada, Israel, Russia, USA, Barbados, as well as major festivals such as Schleswig Holstein, Banff, Cully Classique, Dresden, Brighton, Cheltenham, Mecklenburg Vorpommern, Heraklion Piano Festival, Aegean, Symi, Koroni and Paxos Festival. She has performed as a soloist with the Athens Symphony Orchestra, the Guildhall Symphony Orchestra, the Pan-European Orchestra. She has collaborated with many musicians and ensembles in Greece and abroad, and has been member of the "Trioskop" and "Fibonnaci" piano trios while based in Berlin. Since 2013 she performs in piano duo with pianist Michael Brownlee-Walker. She has recorded for the Greek Radio, the BBC and the Deutscher Musikrat (in collaboration with the Ensemble Modern Frankfurt). Awards include "Sir Henry Richardson Award", first prize at the "Schubert Competition" (GSMD) and first prize and gold medal at "Filon Music Competition". She has worked closely with composers in

Greece and abroad including Dai Fujikura, Anastazios, Dimitris Andrikopoulos, Christina Athinodorou, Jens Joneleit, Stathis Gyftakis and has premiered many compositions. She has been chosen twice to perform in the well-known contemporary music Series "Park Lane Group" at the Royal Festival Hall in London. Her concerts have received excellent reviews in the greek and international press. Lefki graduated (Piano Diploma with distinction) from the Athens Conservatoire, the Guildhall School of Music and the Drama in London (Bmus, Mmus) and the IEMA in Frankfurt. She is recipient of scholarships, from the Greek State Scholarship Institution, the IEMA Academy, the Belgais Centre in Portugal to study with Maria Joao Pires, among others. She is regularly invited to teach at international piano masterclasses in UK (Piano Course "Pianissimi"). Lefki holds a teaching position at the Athens Conservatoire. • [website](#)

PERIKLIS LIAKAKIS | composer

Periklis Liakakis has received prizes and scholarships for his work by the City of Vienna, the City of Graz, the University of Music and the Performing Arts in Vienna, the Austrian Office of the Federal Chancellor, the Greek Friends of Classical Music Society, the Thüringen Philharmonie etc. The growing interest for his "very unusual music language" (Thomas Daniel Schlee) that "has a very musical and distinctive sound" (Rodion Shchedrin) is revealed in his collaborations with renowned ensembles such as Ensemble Modern Frankfurt, Ensemble "die Reihe", the Greek National Orchestra, the Greek Radio Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble PHACE, Ensemble "Oktoplus", Dramagraz etc. He has been commissioned to compose works by the city of Trossingen in Germany, the Ensemble Modern International Academy, the Wiener Saxophonquartett, Sirene Operntheater etc. In 2017 his opera "Chodorkowski" was nominated as the best new production for music theatre in the Austrian Musiktheater awards. In his work he blends different musical styles such as orchestral, operatic, electronics and pop/rock. The mix of this polystylism together with his dedication and deep understanding of the art of sound design as used in film and/or on the stage has led him to a very personal musical style. In 2016 a triple CD with 3 of his chamber operas came out on "Einklang Records" and was financed by the "Österreichische Musikfonds". In 2017 his opera "Chodorkowski" was awarded with the prestigious Austrian "Music-Theatre Prize" (as the best independent production). Periklis Liakakis is Senior Lecturer at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna. • [website](#)

IRIS LOUKA | violist, violinist

Iris Louka is a permanent member of the Athens State Orchestra, in the violas section. She studied violin at the Athens Conservatoire with professors Ioannis Tzoumanis and Tatsis Apostolidis and earned her diploma in violin with honors. She participated in Igor Oistrakh's masterclass in Krems, Austria. As a scholar of the Onassis Foundation, she studied viola with H.Muller in Vienna Conservatory and later with S.Fuhrlinger in Vienna Academy. She has participated in the World Youth Orchestra, under the auspices of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, as principal viola and soloist in concerts and recordings in great venues in Europe, and with eminent conductors and soloists (Kurt Masur, Yuri Temirkanov, sir Neville Marriner, Martha Argerich, Evgeny Kissin, Mischa Maisky). She continued her studies and received her viola diploma from Athens Conservatoire (class of Ismini Carter) with the "Michalis Semsis" award. She has collaborated with the Greek Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Athens Camerata Orchestra, the Orchestra of Colours, the Greek National Opera Orchestra, the Patras String Orchestra, among others. In 2007 she graduated from the Department of Music Studies of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. Along with her professional activities, she pursued postgraduate studies in the Ionian University and earned a Master in "Music Interpretation-Viola" with professor Andreas Georgotas. In

addition, she completed her Doctoral Studies at the Ionian University, writing a thesis on J.S.Bach's complete solo sonatas and suites, analysing interpretational, technical, and editorial issues as well as past publications of the works, and transcribing all violin and cello sonatas and partitas for viola.

ALEXIS KARAIKAKIS-NASTOS | cellist

Alexis Karaiskakis-Nastos is one of the most dynamic cellists of a new generation of Greek musicians. He plays with the same enthusiasm the modern as well as the baroque cello, with a repertoire ranging from the early baroque to the contemporary compositions of the 21st century. His active appearance both as a chamber musician and a soloist feature performances in major concert venues in Greece and the rest of Europe (Megaron-Athens Concert Hall, Thessaloniki Concert Hall, Pavillon Musical de la Comtesse du Bary in Paris, Palazzo Ducale Vilnius, Onassis Cultural Center, Stavros Niarchos Cultural Center among others). In 2017 he made his USA debut, performing Tchaikovsky's "Rococo Variations". He has performed as a soloist with the B.S.O in Florida, as well as the City of Athens Symphony Orchestra. For his artistic presence Alexis was awarded the "Best young artist of the year" award in 2011 by the Hellenic Association of Theatre and Performing Arts Critics. In 2018 he was appointed artistic director of the "Samos Young Artists Festival", which was awarded as the "best musical organization in the periphery for the season 2018-2019" by the same association. He teaches cello and chamber music in Athens and has been invited to give masterclasses at the Frost School of Music in Miami. Alexis is a founding member of the piano trio "el Greco". Combining the performing arts, Alexis collaborates often with choreographers such as Christos Papadopoulos and Pierre Magendie, as well as with the theatrical troop VASISTAS and Argyro Chioti. He studied at the Conservatoire National de Région de Boulogne-Billancourt in Paris, where he graduated with distinction and two first prizes (cello and chamber music), and the Hochschule der Künste in Zurich, where he received a bachelor and a master degree. His teachers were Xavier Gagnepain, Raphaël Chrétien and Roel Dieltiens in cello, and Hortense Cartier-Bresson in chamber music. He was an active participant in masterclasses by Anner Bylsma, Philippe Müller and Jérôme Pernoo.

ARTEMIS VAVATSIKA | accordionist

Artemis Vavatsika was born in Thessaloniki. She started playing the accordion at a young age. Iraklis Vavatsikas, Jasmina Dimitrievic and Larysha Zhyhareva were her first teachers. She graduated from the Athenaeum Conservatory (Classical Accordion Diploma, with honors) and the Music Science and Art Department of the University of Macedonia (specialization Accordion, class of Konstantinos Raptis). She has performed in notable stages in Greece and abroad. She has collaborated with the Municipality of Athens Symphony Orchestra, Sofia Sinfonietta, Symphony Orchestra of the Dpt of MSA, the National Theatre of Northern Greece, the National Theatre of Greece, Ergon Ensemble and the National Opera of Greece. She has also collaborated with musicians and composers Georges Pilali, Nikos Kypourgos and Dimitris Papadimitriou. Alongside she performs with composer and oud player Thomas Meleteas, having recorded for his albums "Nestinari" and "Shapeshifting Wizards". She is participating in the Italian Accordion Academy series of masterclasses with Claudio Jacomucci and Kathleen Delaney, experimenting with the accordion, composition, transcription, improvisation and Alexander Technique. She has broadly performed contemporary classical works by Greek composers such as Kostas Tsougras, Philippos Tsalahouris, Tasos Rosopoulos, Periklis Liakakis. She is teaching the accordion to students of all ages.