

## The spark that led to freedom – ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑ

The Molyvos International Music Festival 2021 celebrates the 200th anniversary of the Greek War of Independence



The seventh iteration of the **Molyvos International Music Festival (MIMF)** is sure to be an immense source of joy this year. The festival, founded by pianists **Danae and Kiveli Dörken**, was called to life seven years ago on the Greek island of Lesbos, the home island of their mother. From the 16th to the 19th of August the coastal town will provide the backdrop for the five open-air chamber music concerts organised by the Dörken sisters in accordance with local health guidelines and a strict hygiene concept. The theme of this year's festival revolves around the topic of

**“ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑ - LIBERTY”**. 200 years ago the Greek Revolution of 1821 led to independence from the reign of the Ottoman Empire and paved the way for the birth of the Hellenic Republic. The Dörken sisters have chosen this struggle as a starting point for a musical interpretation of the concept of freedom.

Artists performing at the **Molyvos International Music Festival 2021** beside the Dörken sisters include violinists Hyeyoon Park and Marc Bouchkov, cellist Benedikt Klöckner, bassoonist Theo Plath and clarinetists Sebastian Manz and Pablo Barrágan.

History, art, science and philosophy intertwine and merge in new constellations throughout the thematic course of the festival. Danae and Kiveli Dörken, of both Greek and German descent, have decided to lay a strong focus on the support lent by individuals from German-speaking countries to the Greek struggle during the revolution. The German poet Wilhelm Müller, for example, became the literary figurehead of philhellenism, having written over 50 poems about the Greek struggle for freedom between 1821 and 1826. The evening programme on the **18th of August** features the centrepiece of this year's festival: a **world premiere of a song cycle for tenor and piano** by Konstantia Gourzi based on the texts of Wilhelm Müller. ***Songs for Hellas*** was commissioned specially for the Molyvos International Music Festival 2021 and is dedicated to the artists performing the premiere, Danae and Kiveli Dörken, as well as Julian Pégardien. “The Greco-German connection is very apparent in these songs that date back over 200 years. To musically bridge the 200 years through crafting a new piece of music around these songs is a task that was to me both delightful and exhilarating at the same time. The relationship between Greece and Germany has always been characterised by an intense exchange of inspiration - a trend that this composition seeks to continue. The merging of tradition and modernity in art has a way of demonstrating new ways to coexist peacefully”, says composer Konstantia Gourzi about her new composition.

With regard to the origin of the text and its setting to music, the composition takes inspiration from Franz Schubert's *Winter Journey*, which is also based on the writings of Wilhelm Müller. Maurice Ravel's adaptation of Greek folk melodies and performances of further folk songs will precede the world premiere of the new song cycle in a programme with a homonymous name to the festival - **“ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑ - LIBERTY”**.

In search of the origins of “ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑ - Liberty” the opening concert on the 16th of August, titled **“ΦΛΟΓΑ ΤΗΣ ΓΝΩΣΗΣ – SPARK OF KNOWLEDGE”**, ventures into the world of Ludwig van Beethoven's compositions for ballet. *The Creatures of Prometheus* tells the story of a disobedient titan who introduces humans to fire, thus literally

bestowing upon them the gift of enlightenment for their future development. The programme also features one of the *6 Concert Duos for Clarinet and Bassoon* by François René Gebauer as well as Antonín Dvořák's *Piano Quintet No. 2*.

The sentiment of the Greek struggle for freedom furthermore permeates the afternoon concert programme on the 18th of August. The concert, which will take place in Molyvos' congress centre is titled **"ΕΠΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΗ - REVOLUTION"** and features two movements of Beethoven's *The Ruins of Athens* as well as a movement from Nicolas Astrinidis' *Symphony "1821"* that was inspired by the Greek revolution. The programme will also feature a piece for a string duo that has yet to be determined.

On the 17th of August, under the motto **"ΕΓΚΛΕΙΣΜΟΣ - CAPTIVITY"**, listeners will experience a German-Austrian programme featuring Schubert's *Trout Quintet* as well as works for clarinet, bassett horn and piano by Mendelssohn and various scenes from Mozart's *Don Giovanni* arranged for two clarinets.

The theme of the closing concert on the **19th of August** is **"ΑΝΘΡΩΠΙΣΜΟΣ - HUMANISM"** and also features a work by Schubert. His *Fantasia in F minor* for piano four-hands will be performed by Danae and Kiveli Dörken, who will both be seated at a single grand piano. The evening will open with a piece for solo piano by Fazil Say that reflects on and mirrors the contemporary meaning of freedom. The final composition on the programme of the festival is yet another highlight that takes the form of George Enescus famous *String Octet in C-Major*.

Lesbos' prominent position in the Mediterranean Sea has seen it become a hopelessly overcrowded first point of contact with Europe for many seeking asylum. The local community, which usually lives off its flourishing tourism industry, has been faced with a huge challenge in recent years and has redirected vast amounts of resources to care for and look after those less fortunate than themselves. It is important to the festival to get to know and cooperate with the local islanders and refugee families, furthermore forging beautiful experiences and moments especially for the younger generations. Due to the pandemic it has been difficult to work together with the permanent and temporary inhabitants of the island like in the past, but this change will not persist and will be reverted in the upcoming years.



All concert venues in and around Molyvos are incredibly picturesque and provide the perfect backdrop for the series of performances. For all these reasons the seventh edition of the festival promises to be an enlivening and inspiring musical event combining nature and art, history and the present.

The Molyvos International Music Festival is supported by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany Athens.



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### Dates and Musicians 2021 - ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑ / LIBERTY / FREIHEIT

August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 9pm \*

**EVENING CONCERT**

**ΦΛΟΓΑ ΤΗΣ ΓΝΩΣΗΣ / SPARK OF KNOWLEDGE**

Wilhelm Friedemann Bach: Viola Duet F 61 in G major - 8 min

L. v. Beethoven: "Creatures of Prometheus" op. 43: Overture - 8 min  
Francois-René Gebauer: Duo for Clarinet and Bassoon op. 8 no. 1 - 10 min  
L. v. Beethoven: "Creatures of Prometheus" op. 43: Finale - 6 min  
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Dvorak: Piano Quintet No. 2, op. 81 A major - 40 min

**August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 9pm \***

**EVENING CONCERT**

**ΕΓΚΛΕΙΣΜΟΣ / CAPTIVITY**

F. Mendelssohn: Concert Piece for Clarinet, Bassoon and Piano op. 113 - 8 min  
W. A. Mozart / Rainer Schottstädt: Divertimento "Don Giovanni" for 2 clarinets and bassoon - 18 min  
F. Mendelssohn: Concert Piece for Clarinet, Bassoon and Piano op. 114 - 8 min  
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F. Schubert: Piano Quintet A major "Trout" - 40 min

**August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 12pm, CONFERENCE CENTER**

**ΕΠΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΗ / REVOLUTION**

L. v. Beethoven: "The Ruins of Athens" op. 113 (Overture, Turkish march) for 2 violins, viola, cello, bassoon and clarinet - 7 min  
M. Ravel: Sonata for violin and cello - 22 min  
N. Astrinidis: "IV. Revolution" from "Symphony 1821" - 22 min

**August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 9pm \***

**EVENING CONCERT**

**ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑ / LIBERTY / FREIHEIT**

M. Ravel: Cinq mélodies populaires grecques - 10 min  
F. Busoni: Finnländische Volksweisen op. 27 Nr. 1 - 6 min  
F. Schubert: Lieder - 25 min  
An die Leier D737  
Strophe aus Die Götter Griechenlands D677  
Sehnsucht D516  
Lied eines Schiffes an die Dioskuren D 360  
Der zürnenden Diana D707  
Prometheus D 674  
\*\*\*  
F. Schubert: Ganymed D 544 - 5 min  
K. Gourzi: "Songs for Hellas" (with texts by Wilhelm Müller) for piano and voice - 18 min  
F. Schubert: Der Hirt auf dem Felsen D. 965 - 13 min

**August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 9pm \***

**EVENING CONCERT**

**ΑΝΘΡΩΠΙΣΜΟΣ / HUMANISM**

F. Say: Black Earth (Kara Toprak) for solo piano - 6 min  
B. Bartók: 3 Burlesques op. 8 - 8 min  
F. Schubert: Fantasy in F minor - 20 min  
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G. Enescu: String Octet C major op. 7 - 40 min

Weitere Informationen: [www.molyvosfestival.com](http://www.molyvosfestival.com)

\* Venue to be announced

**Musicians 2021:**

Alissa Margulis, violin  
Marc Bouchkov, violin  
Hyeyoon Park, violin  
Rosanne Philippens, violin

Lech Uszynski, viola  
Eivind Ringstad, viola  
Benedict Klöckner, cello  
Tim Posner, cello  
Marco Behtash, double bass

Theo Plath, bassoon  
Sebastian Manz, clarinette  
Pablo Barragán, clarinette  
Julian Prégardien, tenor  
Danae Dörken, piano  
Kiveli Dörken, piano