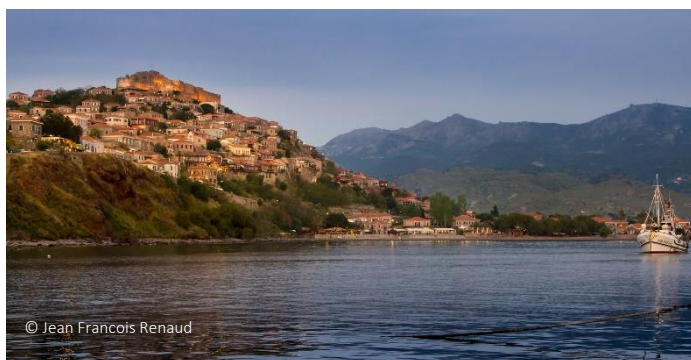


## Virtuosic calls for a new approach to nature

This year's Molyvos International Music Festival (MIMF) bears the title "Symbiosis". From 11 to 19 August 2023, on the Greek island of Lesbos, the pianist sisters Danae and Kiveli Dörken, along with selected chamber-music partners, will be highlighting the urgent necessity for humankind to treat nature in a new, harmonious and respectful way in four main concerts (alongside "Opening Acts").



With every passing day, we are all increasingly sensing how reliant we are on nature and its properly functioning cycles. **Human existence has its basis in a symbiosis with nature**, "symbiosis" being generally defined as "a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship between individuals of two different groups." This equilibrium has now very evidently been lost at a frightening rate. Whether climate, food or diversity: what is needed is a collective call to change our treatment of and relationship with nature. The

sisters **Danae and Kiveli Dörken** are now among those issuing such a call with their Molyvos International Music Festival (MIMF), to which they have given the title "**Symbiosis**" in 2023: *"With its derivation from the Ancient Greek words 'syn' for 'together' and 'vios' for 'life', we want to remind people how important it is to work with and not against each other."*

And it is hard to think of a better place than an island like Lesbos to make tangible not only the power and beauty of nature, but also the threats to it, and to highlight the necessity of both social and ecological cooperation. Or, as the violin virtuoso Antje Weithaas, who will take part again this year, said in 2022: *"There is barely any more beautiful place in the world. An unbelievably good dynamic atmosphere prevails among everyone, relaxed, yet concentrated and professional. You really do have the feeling here of being close to the gods."* It was in 2015 that the pianists Danae and Kiveli Dörken first gathered young musician friends of different origins, nationalities and cultural backgrounds on Lesbos for a chamber-music festival. Since then, they have established themselves as a presence on this Greek island in the North Aegean, notably engaging with social and political themes as well – for what will be the ninth time in 2023.

The **four central evening concerts** have been given meaningful titles related to the festival's guiding concept. At the beginning (16 Aug.) is **Alienation (ΑΠΟΞΕΝΩΣΗ)** – a kind of description of how things currently stand. Here, Franz Schubert's late String Quintet in C Major D 956 takes centre stage. In this work, the Romantic composer, who was to die shortly after finishing it, gives profound expression to his "awful recognition of a miserable reality" (as he wrote in a letter to his brother). The performers are the internationally acclaimed Antje Weithaas, Tobias Feldmann, one of the youngest professors of violin in Germany, the Iranian-American violist Muriel Razavi, and Isang Enders and Benedict Kloeckner on the two cellos. The programme is rounded out with David Orlowsky's "Lyra" and Maurice Ravel's "Kaddish", both products of the Jewish melancholic musical tradition. The composer Orlowsky in person (clarinet in "Lyra") and the soprano Danae Kontora (vocal part in "Kaddish") will perform alongside a string quartet (Noé Inui and Kirill Troussov, vn.; Lech Uszynski, va.; Benedict Kloeckner, vc.).

The title of the second evening concert (17 Aug.), **Coexistence (ΣΥΝΥΠΑΡΞΗ)**, describes a model that was already very successfully lived by in the past. First up, the concert reflects the beauty and fascination of the world of birds in mostly Romantic piano miniatures played by one of the festival's founders, Kiveli Dörken. The other co-founder, Danae, will then join Tobias Feldmann (vn.) and Isang Enders (vc.) in Beethoven's "Ghost" Trio in D Major, op. 70 No. 1. The work owes its nickname to the eerie tremolo effects and surprising dynamic contrasts in the slow movement – in the context of the festival, this can perhaps be seen as a reference to the sometimes deceptive idyllic view of nature. This programme also includes the **world premiere of a work by Dimitris Papadimitriou**, a veteran Athens-based professor of composition and director at the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation (ERT).

The title of the third evening concert (18 Aug.) is something we all have to work towards: **Survival (ΕΠΙΒΙΩΣΗ)**. Here, Peter Tchaikovsky's Piano Trio in A Minor, op. 50, will be performed, a work with just two movements that lasts around 45 minutes. It is one of the pinnacles of elegiac mood painting in Romantic chamber music. Its subtitle, "À la mémoire d'un grand artiste", refers to the motivation behind its composition: the death of Tchaikovsky's friend and mentor Nikolai Rubinstein. The melancholy first subject in the opening movement becomes the emotional and compositional fulcrum of the entire trio. This work will be accompanied by a brand-new one that had its premiere just a few weeks ago in Hamburg, "The Clockmaker" for clarinet and string quartet by (and with) David Orlowsky, and by Sergei Rachmaninov's "Vocalise", with the soprano (Danae Kontora) singing here of the yearning for the far-off homeland and a beloved person.

The festival concludes with a concert (19 Aug.) that more or less defines the goal: **Harmony (ΑΡΜΟΝΙΑ)**. Arvo Pärt's "Spiegel im Spiegel" and John Cage's "4'33" will prepare the scene for the musical ode to nature par excellence: Ludwig van Beethoven's "Pastoral" in a fascinating arrangement for string sextet by Michael Gotthard Fischer. *"We all immediately feel at one with nature when we enjoy the majestic view from the top of a mountain or look humbly towards the horizon of the seemingly endless ocean,"* say the two festival founders. *"That is why this year we want to concentrate on honouring the magic of nature, connecting with it again and finding a way to live with it in harmony once more."*



Visitors to the festival in 2023 will, of course, once more be able to enjoy the so-called "Molyvos Musical Moments": when the participating musicians spontaneously give small musical performances at various sites in this picturesque location – at the beach or harbour or simply on the streets –, making their artistry easily accessible to all. In addition, this year's Children's Concert (18 Aug.) will be attended by refugee children and children with disabilities.

The Molyvos International Music Festival takes place with the support of the *Embassy* of the Federal Republic of Germany in Athens.



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Athens

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## Concerts 2023 Symbiosis – ΣΥΜΒΙΩΣΗ

[August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | 9pm | Delfinia Hotel/ Seafont Park](#)

ΑΠΟΞΕΝΩΣΗ / ALIENATION

**Ravel** Kaddisch, from *Deux Mélodies Hébraïques*, for Soprano and String Quartet  
(Kaddisch, from *Two Hebrew Songs*)

Danae Kontora *soprano*

Noé Inui *violin*

Kirill Troussov *violin*  
Lech Antonio Uszynski *viola*  
Benedict Klöckner *cello*

**Schubert** String Quintet in C Major, D. 956

Antje Weithaas *violin*  
Tobias Feldmann *violin*  
Muriel Razavi *viola*  
Benedict Klöckner *cello*  
Isang Enders *cello*

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[August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | 9pm | Delfinia Hotel/ Seafront Park](#)

**ΣΥΝΥΠΑΡΞΗ / COEXISTENCE**

**Schumann** Vogel als Prophet, from *Waldszenen, Op. 82*, for Solo Piano

(Bird as Prophet, from *Forest Scenes*)

Danae Dörken *piano*

**Saint-Saëns** Le Rossignol et la Rose, from *Parysatis*, for Soprano and Piano

(The Nightingale and the Rose, from *Parysatis*)

Danae Kontora *soprano*

Kiveli Dörken *piano*

**Messiaen** Abîme des Oiseaux, from *Quatuor pour la Fin du Temps*, for Solo Clarinet

(Abyss of the Birds, from *Quartet for the End of Time*)

David Orłowsky *clarinet*

**Schubert** An die Nachtigall, D. 497

(To the Nightingale) Text by Matthias Claudius

Danae Kontora *soprano*

Kiveli Dörken *piano*

**Berg** Die Nachtigall, from *Sieben frühe Lieder*

(The Nightingale, from *Seven Early Songs*)

Text by Theodor Storm

Danae Kontora *soprano*

Kiveli Dörken *piano*

**Dimitris Papadimitriou, World Premiere**

"Endogenesis-Ontogenesis"

"The Flight of the Eagle"

**Beethoven** Klaviertrio D-Dur op. 70,1 „Geistertrio“

(„Ghost“)

Tobias Feldmann *violin*

Isang Enders *cello*

Danae Dörken *piano*

[August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | 9pm | Delfinia Hotel/ Seafront Park](#)

**ΕΠΙΒΙΩΣΗ / SURVIVAL**

**Rachmaninoff** Vocalise, Op. 34, No. 14 for Soprano and Piano

Danae Kontora *soprano*

Danae Dörken *piano*

**David Orłowsky** Clockmaker for Clarinet, Two Violins, Viola and Cello

David Orłowsky *clarinet*

Noé Inui *violin*

Kirill Trousov *violin*  
Lech Antonio Uszynski *viola*  
Isang Enders *cello*

**Tchaikovsky** Piano Trio in A Minor, Op. 50 *In memory of a great artist*

Kirill Trousov *violin*  
Benedict Klöckner *cello*  
Kiveli Dörken *piano*

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[August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | 9pm | Delfinia Hotel/ Seafront Park](#)

**APMONIA / HARMONY**

**Pärt** Spiegel im Spiegel for Clarinet and Piano

(Mirror in the Mirror)  
David Orłowski *clarinet*  
Danae Dörken *piano*

**Cage** 4'33''

Antje Weithaas *violin*  
Noé Inui *violin*  
Lech Antonio Uszynski *viola*  
Muriel Razavi *viola*  
Isang Enders *cello*  
Benedict Klöckner *cello*

**Beethoven** Symphony No. 6 in F Major, Op. 68, "Pastoral"

Arrangement for string sextet by Michael Gotthard Fischer  
Antje Weithaas *violin*  
Noé Inui *violin*  
Lech Antonio Uszynski *viola*  
Muriel Razavi *viola*  
Isang Enders *cello*  
Benedict Klöckner *cello*

**Overview of participating artists in 2023:**

Antje Weithaas *violin*  
Kirill Trousov *violin*  
Noé Inui *violin*  
Tobias Feldmann *violin*

Lech Uszynski *viola*  
Muriel Razavi *viola*  
Isang Enders *cello*  
Benedict Klöckner *cello*

David Orłowski *clarinet*  
Danae Kontora *soprano*  
Danae Dörken *piano*  
Kiveli Dörken *piano*

[Dimitris Papadimitriou](#) *composer*

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

