



Educational – Music Program
“Getting to Know Music and Musicians”
Art Direction and Design
George Koumendakis

Short Bio - GIORGOS KOUMENDAKIS – COMPOSER

Giorgos Koumendakis (b.1959) is regarded as one of the most influential Greek composers of his generation. His work encompasses a wide range of musical idioms and is constantly evolving in new directions.

Currently, Koumendakis’s oeuvre counts more than 100 works, including orchestral, chamber, solo and operatic music as well as music for dance, theatre and the Ancient Greek Drama. More recently, he has also collaborated with other artists in various multi-and new media projects (video art/animation, installations etc.).

In 1992 Koumendakis was awarded the “Prix de Rome” and subsequently spent the following year as the resident composer in Villa Medici. In 1994 he was awarded the Nikos Kazantzakis Prize. From 1998 to 2000 he was "Composer in Residence" for the Hellenic Concert Series in London, Clio Gould and the BT Scottish Ensemble, receiving support by the Michael Marks Charitable Trust.

The piece 'Pedal Tone for a Child' was commissioned by the Thessaloniki Concert Hall to celebrate its 10th anniversary and was performed by the Thessaloniki State Orchestra on October 25th 2010.

He was the first guest composer in the 'In White' series at the Athens Concert Hall where on February 10th 2011, his 4th piano concerto 'Pedal Tone for a Middle-Aged Man' was performed by George-Emmanouel Lazaridis and The Camerata Orchestra (Athens Megaron-Friends of Music Orchestra).

The Onassis Cultural Centre is devoting its 'Composer's Portrait' series to Giorgos Koumendakis for the 2012 season.

His works have been performed worldwide in more than 400 concerts so far in notable venues such as Salle Olivier Messiaen, Théâtre de l’Archevêché, Teatro la Fenice, Alte Oper, Benesse Museum in Naoshima, Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Purcell Room, Wigmore Hall, Carnegie Hall, Forbidden City Concert Hall-(Beijing), Auditorio Nacional de Musica (Madrid), Muziekgebouw aan't IJ (Amsterdam), Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center (Maryland), Piccolo Teatro (Milano), Guarnerius Art Center (Belgrade), Odeon of Herodes Atticus, Megaron-The Athens Concert Hall, Megaron-The Thessaloniki Concert Hall and in many festivals including Biennale di Venezia, Epidaurus Festival, 1985 European Year of Music, Semaines Musicales Internationales d' Orleans, Athens Festival (2005, 2006, 2009, 2010), World Music Days Festival: 1987 (Germany), 1988 (Hong Kong), 1990 (Oslo), Frankfurt Feste,

Conferenza Musicale Mediterranea, Nieuwe Muziek Middelburg Festival, Lecce Festival, Tage für Neue Musik (Zürich), New Musica, Aix en Provence Festival, Présences 92 and 2004 (Radio France), Ypres Guitar Festival 2002 (Belgium), Luigi Legnani Festival 2002 (Italy), 11o Festival Internazionale della Chitarra Citta di Mottola 2002 , Dundee Guitar Festival 2002, 2007 Demetria Festival, Cultural Year of Greece in China 2007-2008, 2008 XIX Festival Forfest Czech Republic, 2008 Electromedia Works Festival, 2009 Milano Incontra La Grecia, etc.

Koumendakis's music has also been broadcast several times by various radio stations such as BBC 3, Classic FM, Radio France, RAI and performed by ensembles such as Accentus/Axe 21 chamber choir, Arraymusik Ensemble, Beijing Symphony Orchestra, Prism Quartet, BT Scottish Ensemble, Composers Ensemble, Dissonart Ensemble, Nederlands Blazers Ensemble, Divertimento Ensemble, Ensemble Intercontemporain, European Community Youth Orchestra, Hong Kong Ensemble, Kronos Quartet, Leonardo Quartet, Nash Ensemble, New Greek Quartet, Greek National Opera's Orchestra, Odessa Camerata, Orchestra of Colours, Macedonian Saxophone Quartet, Orchestre des Jeunes de la Méditerranée, Oslo Sinfonietta, Pálmós, Russian State Symphony Orchestra Young Russia, Sentieri Selvaggi Ensemble, Orchestra of Patras, Tangos a Cuatro, The City of Oxford Orchestra, The Camerata (Athens Megaron-Friends of Music Orchestra), Thessaloniki State Symphony Orchestra, Athens State Symphony Orchestra.

Among others, his music has also been conducted by Mathias Bamert, Martin Brabbins, Gaetano Colajanni, Olivier Cuendet, Christian Eggen, Henri Gallois, Sandro Gorli, Christopher Warren-Green, Paul Chiang, James Judd, Henry Kucharzyk, Tan Lihua, Miltos Logiadis, Diego Masson, Ingo Metzmacher, Myron Michailidis, Alexandros Myrat, Marios Papadopoulos Igor Savrouk, Gunther Schuller, Stefan Skold, Alkis Baltas, Arturo Tamayo, Nikos Tsouchlos, Giorgos Kountouris and Peter Wiegold.

Giorgos Koumendakis was Artistic Director of the Skalkottas Ensemble from 1999 to 2001.

He undertook the musical direction and created the music concept for the Opening & Closing Ceremonies of the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.