

Alexandra Gravas was born and grew up in Germany. She had the opportunity to grow up in two very different cultures. At school, she learned German classical music, and at home Greek songs by Theodorakis, Hadjidakis and others. She feels her identity is that of a European with a Greek heart. Alexandra studied musicology, philosophy and German literature at the University of Frankfurt, voice with the London-based Miss Loh Siew Tuan and has taken masterclasses with Dame Vera Rosza and Sarah Walker.

Alexandra has performed in Germany, Austria, Great Britain, Greece, Belgium, Holland, Spain, Israel, Sweden, Cyprus, Hungary, Italy, Turkey, the United States, Malaysia, and Japan. She has also appeared on German, Austrian, British, Greek, Cypriot, Canadian, Swedish, Turkish and Israeli television and radio.

Her recordings include the symphonic work "Raven" by Mikis Theodorakis with the State Academic Cappella of St. Petersburg, conducted by the composer, "Opera" by Dante Borsetto, "Homage a C. Cavafy" and "The Dream of Icarus" by Alexandros Karozas, conducted by Richard Williams, "Das Wort alter Steine" and "Unstete Wege" by Achim Burg, "Bitter Tears by Demosthenis Stephanidis, which won the Tomos Contemporary Music award in the United States.

DR. PANTELIS POLYCHRONIDIS is a collaborative pianist, educator and scholar who performs regularly in both Europe and the United States. He is currently on the piano faculty at the Institute for the International Education of Students (IES), Vienna and a Visiting Scholar at the Modern Greek Program of the University of Michigan.

He received his bachelor's in musical studies from the University of Athens with emphasis on ethnomusicology and historical musicology. He obtained his M.A. in solo piano and collaborative piano from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. He went on to obtain a Doctorate of Musical Arts (D.M.A.) from the University of Michigan, where he studied with Martin Katz. During his studies in America, Polychronidis was supported by a Fulbright and an Onassis scholarship. He is completing two postdoctoral programs at the University for Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, in *Lied* accompanying and chamber music with Charles Spencer and Roswitha Heintze respectively.

He has participated in numerous masterclasses and workshops, with such renowned artists as Lazar Berman, Paul Badura Skoda, Nikolai Petrov, Helmut Deutsch, Graham Johnson, Wolfram Rieger, Rudolph Jansen, Margo Garrett, Erik Schneider, Roger Vignoles and others. He has been in demand as a collaborative pianist and coach and has performed in Austria, Germany, Greece, Holland and the United States. His current major project is an evening-long recital with settings of C. P. Cavafy poems by several composers, which will take place on six American campuses in April 2012.

VASSILIS LAMBROPOULOS is the C. P. Cavafy professor of Modern Greek at the University of Michigan, teaching in the departments of Classical Studies and Comparative Literature. His books are *Literature as National Institution: Studies in the Politics of Modern Greek Criticism* (1988), *The Rise of Eurocentrism: Anatomy of Inter-pretation* (1993) and *The Tragic Idea* (2006). He has co-edited the volumes *The Text and Its Margins: Post-Structuralist Approaches to Twentieth-Century Greek Literature* (1985) and *Twentieth-Century Literary Theory: An Introductory Anthology* (1987), and a special issue of the journal *October*, "The Humanities as Social Technology" (1990). He is currently writing a book on the idea of revolution in modern tragedy.

THE UNIVERSITY
OF IOWA

Center for New Music *Concert*

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, 2012

University Capitol Centre Recital Hall

Season 46 Concert XXI
David Gompper, CNM director

C.P. CAVAFY & MUSIC An Evening of Songs and Reflections

Alexandra Gravas, *mezzo soprano*
Dr. Pantelis Polychronidis, *pianist*
Dr. Vassilis Lambropoulos, *speaker*

CNM Concert

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PROGRAM

- Pedale a 3 Voci (I've Looked So Much)** (1925) Dimitri MITROPOULOS (1896-1960)
From the song cycle *14 Inventions* for voice and piano
- Days of 1903** (rec. 1972) Manos HADJIDAKIS (1925-94)
From the 11-song cycle *The Great Erotic*, op. 30
for string chamber orchestra, female and male voice, and mixed choir
- The Next Table** (2001) William BOLCOM (1938)
From the 7-song cycle *Old Addresses*
for baritone and piano (tr. Rae Dalven)
- Windows** (1985) Ron McFARLAND (1928)
The first movement of *String Quartet No. 2* for quartet and soprano
a suite of four songs/movements set to poems by Cavafy
(tr. Rae Dalven; red. RMF)
- Waiting for the Barbarians** (2000) Ned ROREM (1923)
(tr. by the composer) From the cycle *Another Sleep*, which
includes 19 songs for medium voice and piano on texts by 14 authors
- Alexandrie** (1997) Christian BOISSEL (1951)
From the 14-movement suite *Adieu Alexandrie*
- Voices** (1963) Antiochos EVANGELATOS (1903-81)
From the song cycle *4 Songs on Poems by C. P. Cavafy*
for voice and piano
- Murailles** (1997) Christian BOISSEL
From the 14-movement suite *Adieu Alexandrie*

INTERMISSION

- Shades of Love** (2003) David GOMPPER (1954)
Five poems within a cycle of three songs for voice and piano:
1) "To Call Up the Shades"
2) "I Went /One Night"
3) "Return/Far Off"
(tr. Keeley/Sherrard and Rae Dalven)
- Far Off** (1999) Calliope TSOUPAKI (1963)
From *The Face of Love*, a song cycle of nine Greek songs for alto
soprano and piano "on unrequited love" composed for singer
Nena Venetsanou and included in her Greek CD *The Face of Love* (2002)
- The City** (1981) Mikis THEODORAKIS (1925)
(red. P. Polychronidis) Based on a part of the third movement of
his *Symphony No. 3* for soprano, choir, and orchestra.
- Fortifications** Dimitris PAPANIMITRIOU (1959)
(red. P. Polychronidis) First song in the song cycle
An Alexandrian Writing on an Alexandrian
- Candles** (1970s) Mimis PLESSAS (1924)
For voice and piano
- When They Come Alive** (2011) Kostas REKLEITIS (1975)
for orchestra, soprano and female choir (red. composer).
From Part II of the cantata *Cavafy Cycle* which includes 27 Cavafy
poems set to music, 18 in Greek and 9 in English translations (Keeley/Sherrard)
- Ithaka** (premiere 2012) Demosthenes STEPHANIDIS (1957)
Improvisation for mezzo soprano and piano

BIOGRAPHIES

The Greek mezzo-soprano **ALEXANDRA GRAVAS** possesses the unique gift to make her recitals a deep, almost bodily experience for her listeners, as each composition is interpreted down to the finest nuances with a voice that changes effortlessly from one scale of musical expression to the next: tender, strong, dramatic, soft, with a fine sensitivity for the potential of each song. Louis de Bernieres (*Captain Corelli's Mandolin*) writes in his foreword to the "Coasts of Spirits" programme, Alte Oper Frankfurt: "Alexandra knows that it is about communication, and she dedicates herself to communicating with all of us, disdaining the barriers of language and culture that the world has unkindly strewn in our path... I have the feeling that music comes not from her, but through her from somewhere beyond. She is among those who have been picked out as one of life's messengers."

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For the consideration of our performers and guests, please take a moment to turn off your cell phone. Thank You.

This program is sponsored by the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation (USA) and supported in part by The Elizabeth M. Stanley Performing Arts Endowment.