

Rebetiko Festival “Syra of Markos Vamvakaris” raise the curtain for the fifth consecutive year, being an established statute of cultural events on the island that aims to **preserve and promote local folk music tradition** “rebetiko”, as a key element of our **cultural heritage**. Rebetiko was born in harsh times and is an expression of these tough time and difficulties, with very specific aesthetics and style, along with the strength, hope and anticipation of better times. Today, despite the difficulties and unprecedented situations we experience, our folk music remains more relevant and more alive than ever.



Symbolic but also of substantial importance, is the participation of Cyprus that performs on the first day of the Festival with **Petros Kouloumis**, a performer and musician with a special route of study and experience in Folk and Traditional Music, with great collaborations and partnerships with renowned artists. Together with **3 soloists and excellent musicians**, he presents songs of some of the most important delegates of the “Smyrnaean School”, like Panagiotis Tountas, Dimitris Semsi (Salonikiou) Giannis Dragatsis, among others.

The co-capital city of Greece, Thessaloniki is honoured, participating with two bands, “**Yarem**” and “**Cherchez la femme**”, while on the second day, Cyprus and Karditsa join with the duet of **Despina Psatha** and **Vangelis Petriniotis**. These three bands, consisting of young members, will give with their performance, a fresh air of optimism that we so much need. A particularly pleasant surprise for the friends of the Festival and folk music, will be the participation of **Stelios Galanos** and his collaborators. A performer with solid voice and a distinctive expression, he is particularly beloved and known for his recording activity and his collaborations with well-known composers. Finally, on the fourth day of the Festival, the skilful “bouzouki” master **Giannis Papavassiliou** along with **Giannis Niarchos**, one of the most important performers of the genre, **Semeli Papavassiliou** and their band, will close the Festival with a genuine folk night in Tarsana, Syros.

Of particular interest is the lecture/seminar on “Scales, Sound & Makam in Rebetiko - Relationships and Differences”, by **Kyriakos Gouventas**, with live examples of rebetiko songs.

After a long time/decades, Rebetiko steadily gains the recognition it so deserves, having been registered in the National Index of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2015, in the representative list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in UNESCO in 2017, while the Festival “Syra of Markos Vamvakaris” has been Indexed in the **European Festivals directory** festivalfinder.eu and has received the EFEE LABEL. The Festival is co-organized by the **Municipality of Syros-Ermoupolis** and the **Cycladic Development Company (KETAN)** AMKE of the **Cyclades Chamber**.

The festival's program is being adorned with illustrations by Konstantinos Sklavenitis and D. Kerasidis, from the Graphic Novel “**The Famous Quartet of Piraeus**” [G. Skabardonis - D. Kerasidis, **Mikros Iros Publications** (November 2020)]



rebetiko
festival

SYROS OF MARKOS
VAMVAKARIS
2021



WEDNESDAY AUGUST 23TH

TSIROPINA MANSION - POSIDONIA

21:00

PETROS KOULOUMIS

Together with 3 soloists and excellent musicians, he sings songs of some of the most important representatives of the "Smyrnaean School" Panagiotis Tountas, Dimitris Semsis (Salonikiou) Giannis Dragatsis, etc.

Petros Kouloumis, voice, lute
Andreas Andreou, oud
Giorgos Stogiorgis, kanonaki
Pavlos Michailidis, violin

Petros Kouloumis has a special route of study and experience in Greek and east Mediterranean Folk and Traditional Music, with great collaborations with other renowned artists and a wide range in his musical pursuits. Co-creator with other Cypriot musicians of the ensemble "Makam", with reference to the musical idioms of the Mediterranean, and founding member of the "Trio Levante" have performed in Cyprus and abroad. The theme of their performances is based on the composers of Smyrna. His high musical skills and his vocal abilities, unquestionably rank him among the most important contributors to our contemporary music capital.



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THURSDAY AUGUST 26TH

KORNILAKI BUILDING

(98,Iroon Politechniou st. - Hermoupolis)

12:00

KYRIAKOS GOUVENTAS

Lecture - Seminar on

"Scales, Sound & Makam in Rebetiko - Relationships and Differences"

The terminology used in rebetiko, comparisons with the sounds of Byzantine music, the influences from the system of Arab-Persian and Ottoman music, presentation of examples from rebetiko songs.

20:45

DESPINA PSATHA AND VAGELIS PETRINIOTIS

The on-stage collaboration between Vangelis Petriniotis and Despina Psatha, is a continuation of the research interests of the two musicians and focuses on the rebetiko song of the period 1920-1950. Their live performances are based on assimilated knowledge of the history of rebetiko that is expressed to particular song selections.

Despina Psatha, guitar, voice
Vaggelis Petriniotis, bouzouki

21:45

YAREM

Yarem are four young artists from Thessaloniki who are inspired, by the urban folk music and discography before the 50's.

Stella Patsioura, accordion, baglama,
zilies, voice

Dionysis Gonatas, bouzouki, voice
Theodosios Bakalis, guitar, voice
Orestis Patsinakidis, double bass

FRIDAY AUGUST 27TH

KINI AQUARIUM - KINI

20:45

CHERCHEZ LA FEMME

Women in Rebetiko

"Cherchez la femme" is a female band formed in the spring of 2018 in Thessaloniki, with a repertoire based on rebetiko and Smyrnaean song. Guided by their first performances and their love for the crystal clear sound of rebetiko, they appear in music venues inside and outside of the city.

Andelina Papadopoulou, voice, percussion
Nadia Pavlidou, guitar, vocals
Olga Papadopoulou, bouzouki

21:50

STELIOS GALANOS

A pure folk voice with a distinctive expression of high potentials, is widely known for his collaborations with well-known composers, both in the discography and in live performances. Having a unique personal style, he has left his own mark in the field of folk song, with great performances and collaborations with remarkable musical groups.

Stelios Galanos, voice
Thanasis Adamopoulos, bouzouki
Thanasis Theodoropoulos, bouzouki
Dimitris Triantafyllidis, guitar

SATURDAY AUGUST 28TH

TARSANAS - HERMOUPOLIS

21:00

GIANNIS PAPAVASILIOU, GIANNIS NIARHOS AND SEMELI PAPAVASILIOU

Giannis Papavasiliou is definitely a very special case among bouzouki players of his generation. Explosive, inventful with aggressive elegance, has affected many of his contemporary and later musicians.

Alongside him, Giannis Niarchos, a great performer and musician with a wide range in his voice, and also in his musical research, one of the few people who brought back vocal improvisation (the so-called amane) in modern musical reality.

Semeli Papavasiliou, who studied cello and Byzantine music, is one of the most talented young women of her generation who is distinguished as a performer in folk song.

Giannis Niarchos, voice, baglamas
Giannis Papavasiliou, bouzouki
Semeli Papavasiliou, voice
Costas Diavatis, guitar, vocals
Giorgos Zografos, accordion
Rania Gikopoulou, guitar



Admission to all events is free. The use of a protective mask is mandatory throughout the events. All spectators must be seated and follow the instructions given at the entrance of all the event venues for their safety.