

FAIDROS KAVALLARIS

Cypriot musician, composer, musicologist, conductor and performer in concerts of his own music, with 50 years of musical presence and concert presentations.

He was born in Lapithos, Cyprus, in 1950 and there he grew up. He was a member of the wind band of the Gymnasium of Lapithos and later on of the Music Band of the National Guard playing the clarinet.

He studied architecture in London beginning in parallel to study and explore music in many countries and different continents. He holds Diplome de Composition from the École Normal de Musique in Paris (1992) and the title of Doctor of Musical Arts from Columbia University in New York (1997). He has carried out music research in India (1984-85), in China (1987-90) and Japan (1990-91 and 2010-2011). He is strongly influenced by his native musical traditions, with particular interest in Ancient Drama and Ancient Greek Music.

He taught and gave special lectures in symposia, at universities and music schools both in Cyprus and abroad: about the music of Cyprus, contemporary music (Jani Christou and Yiannis Xenakis) and the cultures of the East. He has also served as a professor at the Federal University of Bahia in Brazil (2000-01) teaching composition and studies in ethnomusicology.

Beginning from his teenage years, essentially self-taught, to date he has composed works for voice (most prominent are the song-cycles on poetry by Cypriot poets concerning the 1974 drama of Cyprus), works for solo instruments, for small and big music ensembles (some of them for traditional Cypriot, Chinese and Japanese instruments) as well as music for film, dance and theatre.

Faidros Kavallaris has compositely presented his music in many concerts, mostly under his own direction, both in Cyprus and abroad (in England 1973-80, in China 1989 and 2011, in Japan 1991, in Italy 1997), probably most important being the presentation of «APHRODITE KYPROGENIA – a musical praxis on the poetry of Sappho» at Aphrodite's ancient temple at Palaipafos in Cyprus and with two further performances in Paris (UNESCO Grande Salle and Saint Cloud Park) in September 2008. In April 2021 he has presented in Cyprus the world premiere of the work «EXOCHRONO OF SAPPHO or the <palintonos harmonia> of the Universe». It is noted that his 1989 concert in Beijing was the first ever concert in China by a foreign composer.

Quite a few of his works have also been selected and presented in other concerts and at international contemporary music festivals in Cyprus, Greece and other European countries like England, Germany (Darmstadt 1984 and 1992), Hungary, France, Italy, Holland, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Sweden and Russia, in Mexico (World Music Days-1993 and Manuel Enriquez Festival-1998) in the United States (Columbia composers concerts 1994-5-6) and the Far East including China, Japan, Thailand, the Philippines and Korea (mostly at the Asian Composers League Festival in 1995, 1997 and 2002).

He has already published some of his works on CD: «KYPRIAKA EROTIKA – 15 traditional songs of Cyprus», a double album with Cypriot guitarist Dimitris Regginos on the solo guitar compositions and himself singing the traditional “phonés” (a set of two CDs with trilingual booklet in Greek, Turkish and English), and «FAIDROS KAVALLARIS CONCERTS volumes 1-6, 1989-2003», live recordings of concerts in

China, Japan and Cyprus (7 CDs of 7 hours and 40 minutes containing 37 works). Some of his music is also available in print mainly published by himself, most recently the works «ANAKYKLIA» for solist and 22 musicians, and «EXOCHRONO OF SAPPHO or the <palintonos harmonia> of the Universe» – a musico-poetic journey for daring and venturesome musicians (Nicosia, 2019). He also published the book “ECHOS and ETHOS – Publications, Interviews, Letters” (Nicosia, 2014).