

## PROGRAMME



### **Debussy:** Trio Sonata, L. 137

Pastorale. Lento, dolce rubato  
Interlude. Tempo di minuetto  
Final. Allegro moderato ma risoluto

### **William Matthias:** Zodiac Trio

Pisces - Allegro Vivo  
Aries - Andante  
Taurus - Allegro alla danza, sempre ritmico

### **Beethoven** (arr. by Ami Mayaani): Serenade, op. 25

Selected movements

### **Chaminade** (arr. by Skaila Kanga): Concertino Op 107

## BIOGS

**Ersilia Mikrou** was born in Athens. She began her music studies with the piano and later started studying the harp at the Athenaeum Conservatory at the age of nine. Since then, she continued her studies under the tutelage of Maria Bildea at the Athens Conservatoire until 2018. At the same time, she finished her piano and theory studies with distinction.

She has attended several harp masterclasses around Europe, and was accepted at the HarpMasters Academy in Switzerland for three consecutive years. In 2018 she was accepted at the Royal Academy of Music in London under the tutelage of celebrated harpists such as Skaila Kanga and Suzanne Willison-Kawalec. She has been awarded the Athena Trust Scholarship for the duration of her studies.

She has received first prizes in the 51th and 54th "Jugend Musiziert" Competition for her performances in solo harp. She was also awarded the Special Prize by the Association of Harpists in Germany (VDH) for the best performance of Spohr's Fantaisie in C Minor. At the Academy, she was commended at the Skaila Kanga Harp Prize in 2020.

Ersilia has performed several concerts as a soloist, in chamber music ensembles and as an orchestral musician around Europe with orchestras such as the Royal Academy Symphony Orchestra, the El Systema Symphony Orchestra and the Underground Youth Orchestra. In 2018, she was one of the youngest artists selected to perform at the first Young Greek Classics platform of the Athens Festival as tribute to Claude Debussy. She performed the Sonata for Flute, Viola and Harp at the age of 18.

**Stathis Karapanos** Born in Athens in September 1996, son to a ballet dancer, a banker and future brother to a then unborn sister, at the age of 5, I declared my love for the flute, practised and performed in all the places I have lived and in the airplane in between. When I realised my love for music and after a long year of trying to persuade both of my parents, I enrolled at the National Conservatory in Athens and received my first lessons from Ms. Myrto Tsakiri.

In June of 2013, at the age of 16, I was accepted to study at the Music University of Karlsruhe and graduated in July of 2018 with distinctions. In February 2016, I was selected to be the only student representative in the committee that would select the new flute professor in our university, Prof. Pirmin Grehl. During my studies, I regularly premiered different pieces from the composition class of Prof. W. Rihm and was often invited to perform as a member of both youth and professional orchestras like the State Theater of Karlsruhe, Kölner Kammerorchester, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France among others.

Searching for inspiration is a never-ending and vitally crucial journey in one's life. In my case some of the most inspiring figures have been Maestro Zubin Mehta whom I saw for the first time on stage in 2005 conducting "Carmen", Maestro Christoph Eschenbach whose recordings I grew up with,

and Maestro Yutaka Sado conducting one of the most impressive performances of the "Requiem" by G. Verdi. I consider myself extraordinarily lucky and privileged to have had the opportunity to learn from and be invited to collaborate with them as a soloist, chamber and orchestra musician. As a chamber musician I have collaborated with artists such as Vilde Frang, Matthias Goerne, Nicolas Altstaedt, Daniel Hope, Lang Lang and Marisol Montalvo among others, and have had teachers and mentors like Mathieu Dufour, Vangelis Papathanassiou, Petra Müllejans, Henrick Wiese, Peter Lukas Graf.

As a soloist I have been honoured with the "Bernstein Award" from the Schleswig Holstein Music Festival (2020), the "Lotto Prize" from the Rheingau Festival (2019) and have been awarded with numerous prizes from International Competitions. Past and upcoming performances and recordings include: the World Premiere of "für Inge" of Leonard Bernstein and "Lamentation" of Craig Urquhart, the World Premiere of the "Zorbas Suite" by M. Theodorakis and A. Wastor which I commissioned together with the Young Euro Classic Festival, the NCPA Orchestra (Beijing), Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra, Athens State Symphony Orchestra , HR Symphony Orchestra (Frankfurt), Bamberg Symphony Orchestra, NHK Symphony Orchestra (Tokyo), and Munich Symphony Orchestra among many others.

My ultimate dream is to understand and serve music to its fullest extent, which has led me to explore all possible variations of my instrument, from the Shakuhachi and the Traverse flutes to the Contrabass flute. Keen on musical experimentation, I have often joined different bands, groups and world renowned artists on stage like Richard Smith, Tico Pierhagen, Vassilis Rakopoulos with whom we meander through musical forms ranging from free jazz to hard rock.

In 2016 I assisted in organizing the 3rd edition of the "Santorini Arts Factory" festival and the following year I was appointed "Music Director". Shortly after, I was appointed First Principal Flute of the Athens State Symphony Orchestra, a post that I left in July of 2018 to continue my studies with Prof. Bernold at the Conservatoire National Superieur in Paris and to further pursue my career.

**Erik Fauss** is an award-winning violist, songwriter, and artistic director currently freelancing in London. He studied music in California, Vienna, and recently finished his Masters at the Royal Academy of Music. Active in his faith, he works as a worship minister with East Sheen Baptist Church and performs regularly with the Kings Chamber Orchestra (a professional Christian ensemble). He recently formed an indie-folk band with Audrey Tambudzai, and the two will be releasing their first E.P this summer. Having finished a research project on audience-performer dynamics, he is now launching a chamber concert series called Hygge Sessions that seeks to break down the barrier between performer and audience through informal settings, facilitated discussion, and improvisation. Fauss hopes to continue creating and collaborating with other artists.