

Female Writing for Guitar - Nikos Zarkos

Recital - CD Presentation

Guitarist Nikos Zarkos in collaboration with the Philippos Nakas Conservatory and Irida Classical present the new CD *Female Writing for Guitar*.

Press Release

Nikos Zarkos' second album *Female Writing for Guitar* follows in the footsteps of his successful debut album *Greek Guitar Music of the 21st Century*. The guitarist presents an interesting and original programme, the theme of which is works from the 20th and 21st century by women composers, namely Elsa Respighi, Matilde Salvador, Fernande Peyrot, Sofia Gubaidulina, Lina Tonia, Jana Obrovská and Franghiz Ali-Zadeh. Through this selection of uncharted guitar repertoire we are given the opportunity to appreciate the contribution of women composers to contemporary guitar music throughout the 20th and 21st centuries, as the oldest work on the CD was written in 1930 and the newest in 2010.

The compositions are demanding of the performer in different ways; some have elegiac, hypnotic or mystical qualities which must be brought out, others make use of specialist techniques to produce certain sounds, while others are influenced by Baroque music. Nikos Zarkos, professor at the Philippos Nakas Conservatory and Hellenic American University, is an ideal candidate to perform these works, as he is widely experienced in performing contemporary works for guitar, through his regular collaboration with the Greek Composers' Union and the many first performances in his resume.

The interesting and wide ranging choice of music, the excellent recording quality and the unique abilities of the guitarist make *Female Writing for Guitar* a compelling listen for lovers of contemporary classical music, the classical guitar or both!

The production was generously sponsored by the Hellenic American University, the Greek Composers Union and the Athens Youth Symphony Orchestra - ASON.

The concert will take place on **Friday 6th of December 2013**, at 20.30, at the **Philippos Nakas Concert Hall** (Ippokratous 41, 10680, Athens. Tel.: 2103634000). **Admission is free.**

The concert is prefaced by the composer and conductor **Theodore Antoniou**.

"Nikos Zarkos... performs wonderful pieces by world renowned female composers . . . his playing is fresh, with youthful warmth and love for his chosen repertoire. I wholeheartedly recommend this CD. . . . The new generation of Greek musicians has dreams and ambitions. It has vision, courage and romantic ideals, but also knows what the real world requirements for making quality music are."
-Efi Agrafioti - TaR.gr, September 2013

"The excitingly original programme's title read "Female Writing for Guitar" and guitarist Nikos Zarkos (b. 1981) proved himself to be an important proponent of Greek classical music, whose work will surely receive the recognition it deserves in due course. His technical ability was not swayed even by the most difficult passages, his tone robust, bright and clear. Most importantly however, he displayed a unique ingenuity in combining and juxtaposing contrasting styles."
-Giorgos Leotsakos, Express Newspaper 2/4/2011

"GREEK GUITAR MUSIC OF THE 21ST CENTURY . . . is certainly wonderfully played and recorded, so if the style appeals then this recital might go down a treat with you."
- Classical Guitar Magazine (June 2012, Chris Dumigan)

