

## Mikis Theodorakis – Manos Hatzidakis: Musical Dialogues. Anniversary conference (1925-2025)

Call for papers

On the occasion of the centenary from the birth of Mikis Theodorakis (1925-2021) and Manos Hatzidakis (1925-1994), the Department of Music Studies of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens is organizing a two-day conference titled “Mikis Theodorakis – Manos Hatzidakis: Musical Dialogues. Anniversary conference (1925-2025)”. The conference will take place on **Thursday 23 and Friday 24 October 2025** at the central building of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

As two iconic figures of Greek music, with an international appeal, Mikis Theodorakis and Manos Hatzidakis defined the nature of post-war music in Greece, on the one hand by contributing to the aesthetic and ideological acceptance by the broader urban strata and intellectuals of urban popular music, primarily the *rebetiko*, and, on the other hand, by creating the so-called “art popular music”, in which learned poetry encounters forms and idioms deriving from popular music, and in which popular music meets genres and forms associated with Western art music (in the case of Theodorakis). Their works managed to unify (to a great extent) the fragmented, in prewar times, musical space, through the phenomenal – by Greek standards – appeal it had on Greek society in its entirety, and under intense political conditions and social fermentations and turbulence. At the same time, it functioned as a means of symbolic representation (in unified artistic terms) of competing social groups and ideologies.

Given that existing scholarship dedicated to the work of Theodorakis and Hatzidakis is disproportionately small in relation to their resonance and their historical significance, and at the same time disproportionately small compared to biographical and journalistic research on these figures, the conference aims to remedy this lacuna by engaging scholars from the disciplines of Music Studies, aesthetics, literary theory, dance and cinema, sociology, political theory, anthropology, cultural studies and gender studies. To this end, papers may address (but should not necessarily be limited to) the following topics:

- Theodorakis, Hatzidakis and:
  - *rebetiko* song
  - Greek traditional music
  - *Laiko* (popular) and *elafrolaiko* (“light” popular) song
  - *elafro* (“light song”)
  - Byzantine music (especially in relation to Theodorakis)
  - the National School of Music
  - Western art (classical) music in its entirety
- *Entechno laiko* (“art popular” song): issues of definition, terminology, music analysis, aesthetics, ideology
- Theodorakis, Hatzidakis and the music industry (radio, cinema)
- The aesthetic views of Theodorakis and Hatzidakis
- The political views of Theodorakis and Hatzidakis
- Political activity and institutional involvement of Theodorakis and Hatzidakis

- Theodorakis, Hatzidakis and Greek society, its structure and historical transformation (the Civil War, the dictatorship, the Metapolitefsi)
- The songs and instrumental music of Theodorakis and Hatzidakis: issues of musical analysis, aesthetics and reception
- The film, theatre and dance music (ballets) of Theodorakis and Hatzidakis
- Theodorakis and Hatzidakis from the perspective of their colleagues and collaborators (composers, artists, writers and poets, film makers, choreographers)
- Theodorakis and Hatzidakis from the perspective of music criticism

Where possible, the comparative study of both composers is encouraged.

The conference's official languages are Greek and English.

The conference is open to University academic staff, PhD holders, doctoral candidates and distinguished scholars. Abstracts of no more than 300 words and short biographical notes (200 words maximum) should be sent to the following e-mail address: [centenaryconf.uoatms@gmail.com](mailto:centenaryconf.uoatms@gmail.com).

Deadline for submission of proposals: 16 May 2025.

The results of the reviewing process will be announced by 16 June 2025.

Conference website: <https://mikismanos100.music.uoa.gr>

There is no conference fee.

Organizing and scientific committee

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