

# Integrating Greek Musical Heritage into a Digital Greek Music Archive (DIGMA) at the Music Library of Greece

Marianna  
Anastasiou  
Greece

The entrance of the Library, situated at Megaron, the Athens Concert Hall.



## History and profile of the Library

The Music Library of Greece *Lilian Voudouri* was created under an initiative of the Friends of Music Society. Their vision was that the Library would act as a pool of information for music and the arts, capable of supporting a full programme of research and education. The Library opened to the public in February 1997, and since then has functioned as an important centre of study.

The Library's collection (150 000 titles) is constantly expanding and has a principal focus on western music, alongside with all types of Greek music (ancient, Byzantine, traditional and contemporary). The collection is completed with material on world music and jazz, ancient Greek art, theatre, dance, literature,

philosophy and fine art. The Library's holdings encompass books, audio recordings, musical scores, microforms, journals, concert programmes, CD-ROMs and online databases.

The Library also conducts several educational and research programmes, such as conferences, public lectures and orientation programmes. It also offers to its visitors access to online databases, online communication tools and a children's library with specially adapted educational programmes for young children.

The Library has participated in several European Projects, such as Harmonica, Michael and DISMARC. It is a partner of the Europeana v.1 project, a member of the Council of Content Providers and Aggregators (CCPA) and has contributed to Europeana (through ATHENA and EUROPEANA LOCAL) with unique uncopyrighted material from the Digital Greek Music Archive (DIGMA) described below.

In 2012 the Library was awarded the **Gibson Award for Music Education** for its educational programme *Mel/Odyssey: A musical story for the young* (<http://melodisia.mmb.org.gr/>)

## The Greek Music Archive the physical collection.

The Greek Music Archive, which is a part of the Library's collection, was created in order to fulfil the need for an official body specializing in the collection, processing and documentation of all material relevant to Greek music, with an eventual goal of creating a centre for the preservation and study of this material. The collection contains rare documents, manuscripts, archives and both current and historical publications, all related to ancient, byzantine, traditional and contemporary Greek



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Spyridon Samaras,  
*Hymne Olympique*,  
Athens:  
Deanworth & Cavadis,  
1896.



posers Mikis Theodorakis, Amilios Riadis, George Poniridis, Frank Choisy and Dimitrios Lialios, the Nileas Kamarados archive, the collections of manuscripts, periodicals and programmes, the collections of printed Greek songs, and Byzantine music books as well as the Domna Samiou Archive, which belongs to the “Domna Samiou Cultural Society of Folk Music”.

This significant thematic documentation of Greek music includes approximately 300 000 digitised documents of unique cultural value; they constitute a source for the study of Greek music. These documents can be utilized for the interdisciplinary creation of cultural services. Certain categories of documents are not available online; i.e. documents related to public organizations, corporations and private documents. All material that falls into the above-mentioned categories is accessible only within the Library premises. The descriptions are given in Greek.

music. The archives of Greek composers and artists and the Rare Collections Department constitute a particularly significant part of this collection. Since 2000 several collections of the Greek Music Archive have been digitised and are now offered online through the following portals.

### From physical to digital

#### Digital Greek Music Archive (DIGMA)

<http://digma.mmb.org.gr>

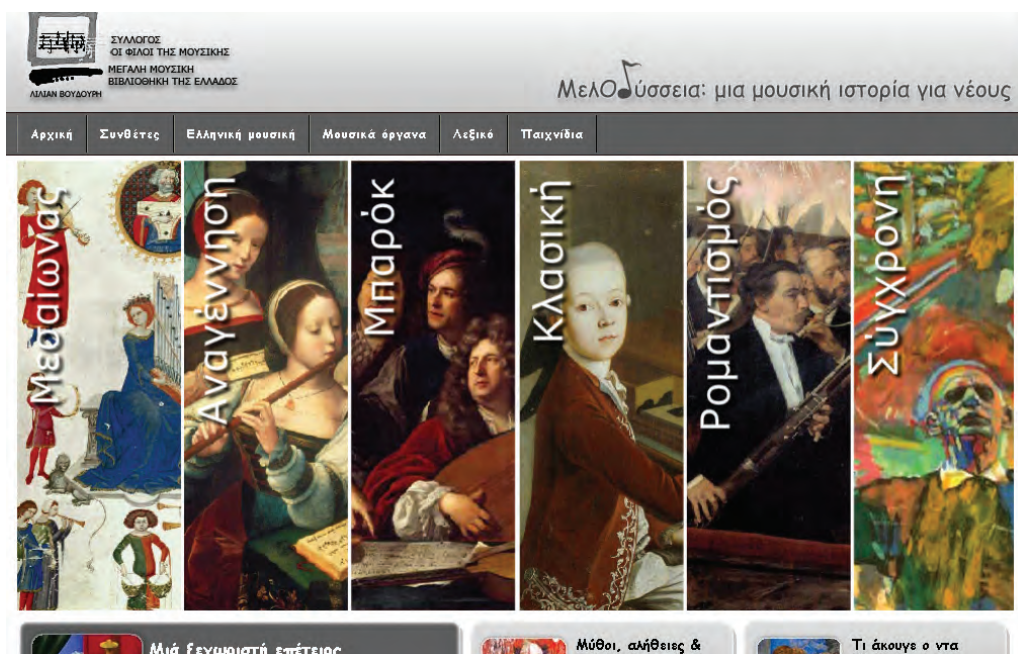
A thematic site about Greek music was created within the boundaries of the programme “Creation of a complete unit of documentation and promotion of Greek music”, funded by the “Information Society” (3rd European Community Support Framework, 2000-2006). It includes the digitised archives of the com-

#### Other online research and educational programmes produced by the Library

##### MelOdyssey: A musical story for the young

<http://melodisia.mmb.org.gr>

The Library has recently offered an educational programme aiming at the introduction of classical music to Greek high school and conservatory students and music lovers who are in the early stages of their acquaintance with music. The main idea was to create a History of Music Timeline through the examination of important composers, works, and forms that are considered cornerstones of Western art music. The outcome of this project is an interactive portal. Within the framework of this educational project the Library has proceeded to the digitization and processing of



images, scores, articles, recordings and videos deriving from its own collection and Megaron, the Athens Concert Hall, recording archives. The programme was awarded the Gibson Award for Music Education 2012.

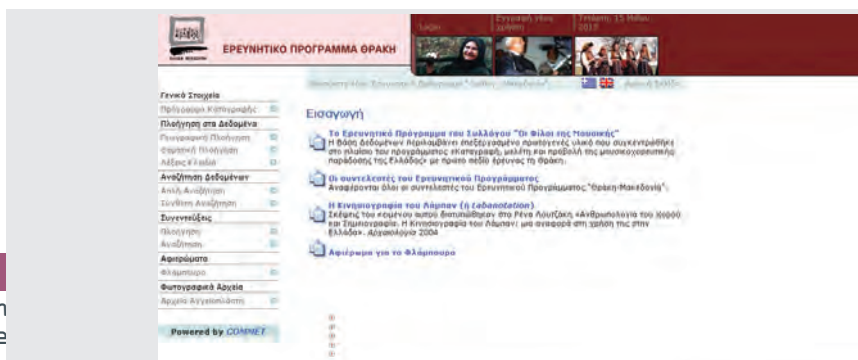
**Recording, study and promotion of the music of Greek heritage in music and dance**

<http://epth.sfm.gr>

By including the support and promotion of Greek musical creation among its goals, 'The Friends of Music Society' broadened its basic

artistic pursuits to encompass research and educational aims. In particular, the Society decided to include in its activities the recording and study of Greek traditional music, and its dissemination by means of modern information networks and products. The research programme on the 'Recording, study and promotion of Greek traditional music' began in 1995, starting with Thrace (Prefectures of Evros, Rodopi, Xanthi) and expanding to Eastern Macedonia in 2000.

The research team, which was formed for this purpose, aimed to study song, music and dance within a historical and cultural







perspective. The team was assisted by social anthropologists, ethnomusicologists and collaborators with an expertise in the field, as well as young researchers and students, who were thus given the opportunity to make direct and practical use of the material.

A large part of the raw material has been processed and is available in this database, which is aimed at scientists, musicians, teachers, students or music-lovers who wish to examine systematically a precious archive or simply want to explore and be inspired by the Greek musical heritage. Access to the material not included in the database is only possible with a relevant permit.

#### A course in modern Greek history through the archive of Mikis Theodorakis

<http://mikis.mmb.org.gr>

Among the archives the Library digitized is the personal archive of Mikis Theodorakis, which the composer donated to the Library in 1997.

The Library developed a separate programme especially for this archive, entitled “A course in modern Greek history through the archive of Mikis Theodorakis”. This programme is an interactive application aiming at the presentation of the developments in music and political life in Greece through the life and work of the composer.

(Available in Greek only)

#### Professions in the wider field of culture

<http://ekpedeftiko.sfm.gr>

The Library's site hosts the educational programme called “Professions in the wider field of culture”, which was carried out by the Friends of Music Society and the Lambrakis Foundation. This application consists of a series of 30 videos. In each video, a well known professional from a specific field of culture describes through an interview his day to day job, while the user has the opportunity to watch scenes from the professional's work

ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ  
ΟΙ ΦΙΛΟΙ ΤΗΣ ΜΟΥΣΙΚΗΣ  
ΜΕΣΑΝ ΜΟΥΣΙΚΗ  
ΒΙΒΛΙΟΘΗΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ  
ΑΙΣΙΑΝ ΒΟΥΛΟΥΡΗ

Μια διαδρομή στη σύγχρονη  
ελληνική ιστορία μέσα από την πορεία  
και το αρχείο του Μίκη Θεοδωράκη

**Μίκης Θεοδωράκης**

## 1940-1944

Ο πόλεμος βρίσκει τον Μίκη Θεοδωράκη μαθητή στην Τρίπολη, όπου μελετά ελληνική ποίηση και έχει τα πρώτα ακούσματα έντεχνης μουσικής. Αποφασίζει να ασχοληθεί με τη σύνθεση και γράφει κυρίως τραγούδια και χορωδιακά έργα.

Σύντομα, παίρνει μέρος στην Αντίσταση (ΕΠΟΝ, ΕΑΜ), τραυματίζεται και φυγαδεύεται στην Αθήνα. Εκεί, βιώνει τις συνέπειες της Κατοχής, την Απελευθέρωση αλλά και τα Δεκεμβριανά.

Παράλληλα, γίνεται δεκτός στο Ωδείο Αθηνών και μαθητεύει δίπλα στον Φιλοκτήτη Οικονομίδη.

1940-1944 1945-1949 1950-1959 1960-1967 1967-1974 1974-1980 1981-1989 1990-2000



environment. Professions that are being explored vary significantly; one can find interesting information about the work of a musicologist, editor, arts critic, producer, director, photographer, choreographer, sound engineer, etc. (Available in Greek only)

### Final remarks - thoughts for the future

The major concern for all of us at the Music Library of Greece has been not only to collect and research but also to ensure that the past and present of Greek music will be rescued from oblivion. That was the reason for the establishment of the Archive for Greek Music.

By digitising a large part of the available material and creating these portals we aimed to trigger and enhance research on Greek music delivered by musicologists and scientists not only in Greece but globally. Another major concern also is to preserve the archival material.

Participating in relevant educational and research programmes and applying new technologies will enable us to utilize the unique, fast-growing collection that the Library possesses. This will promote and present aspects of the Greek Musical heritage that are being preserved in our collections.

[www.mmb.org.gr](http://www.mmb.org.gr)  
[library@megaron.gr](mailto:library@megaron.gr)  
[twitter @mmbililian](https://twitter.com/mmbililian)

**ΕΠΑΓΓΕΛΜΑΤΑ**  
 από τον ευρύτερο χώρο του πολιτισμού

Αρχική Σελίδα | Βιντεοθήκη Συνεντεύσεων | Credits | Επικοινωνία

**μουσικολόγος / μουσικός βιβλιοθηκονόμος**

Συνέντευξη | Σχετικές Σπουδές | Στοιχεία Αποσκόλησης

**Στεφανία Μεράκου**  
 Μουσικολόγος – Μουσικός Βιβλιοθηκονόμος

**Δείτε ολόκληρη τη συνέντευξη**  
 (Διάρκεια: 00:12:40 – FLV; 46 MB – Πατήστε το Play)

**Δείτε τη συνέντευξη τμηματικά**  
 Για να δείτε τμηματικά τη συνέντευξη επιλέξτε ανάμεσα από τις παρακάτω ερωτήσεις για να ξεκινήσει το video με την απάντησή.

**ΕΡΩΤΗΣΕΙΣ**

- 1. Πώς ορίζεται το επάγγελμά σας, και ποιες είναι οι παραλλαγές του;
- 2. Εσείς ποια παραλλαγή υπηρετείτε, και γιατί;
- 3. Πώς είναι το εργασιακό σας περιβάλλον;
- 4. Ποιες δεξιότητες θεωρείτε χρήσιμες για αυτό το επάγγελμα;
- 5. Ποια στοιχεία προσωπικότητας θεωρείτε χρήσιμα για αυτό το επάγγελμα;
- 6. Ποια είναι η αναλογία επιστημονικής κατάρτισης και καλλιτεχνικής έμπνευσης που χρειάζεται αυτό το επάγγελμα;

Κατεβάστε το video ολόκληρης της συνέντευξης σε υψηλότερη ανάλυση (MPEG: 125 MB)

Κατεβάστε την απομαγνητοφωνημένη συνέντευξη (PDF: 130 KB)



