

VASSILIKI PAPAGEORGIU

Vassiliki Papageorgiou was born in Athens to a family originating from Smyrna and Lesbos. She studied biology but soon she devoted herself to her love for music and song. Tracing her musical roots she studied the oral folksinging tradition of Greece by accompanying Vangelis Soukas's clarinet in "panigyria" (traditional musical festivities) throughout the countryside. Finally Vassiliki developed a deep sensitivity for the traditional instruments and sounds of Asia Minor, the Aegean and the Mediterranean Sea while singing in Greek, Spanish and Italian with various groups throughout Greece.

In 1993 she arrived for the first time in Istanbul with Thesia Panagiotou and Kostas Ferris's "Kompania Rebetiko" group, where she interpreted songs of the Rebetiko tradition. She has been living in Istanbul ever since.

Her knowledge of Greek music and her voice rich with Aegean intonations have been the catalyst and inspiration for fusing the younger Turkish musicians of the Classical Bosphorus orchestra and Greek musicians into forming the experimental ensemble of Contemporary Bosphorus.

Since 1994, Vassiliki has been accompanied in recordings and in concerts by three instruments, the ney, the kemenche (lyre of Istanbul) and the cello whose relationship to the human voice lies within the heart of the mystical sphere of Turkey. This association has enriched her voice endowing it with unique textures and harmonics.

Furthermore, her experience into the mystical world of Turkey through the sounds of the Bağlama (saz- long-necked lute), kemenche and the ney have given her an insight into the Turkish reality where her hold of the Turkish language alone would not have sufficed.

Eventually Vassiliki entered the realm of poetic writing . The turning point occurred in 1996 when she wrote the poems for her first solo album "Last Boat From Halki" for which Hasan Esen composed the music.

More recordings and albums were released with her singing her lyrics on compositions by Turkish and Greek composers such as "The Silk Road" (1998) and "Beyond the Bosphorus" (2003). In 2004 she cooperated with

the Turkish group "Gündoğarken" both interpreting and writing Greek lyrics for their songs to produce an album called "Evening Sky Over The City" which was released simultaneously in Greece and in Turkey. In 2010 Vassiliki recorded the album "Ellinotourkika" composed of a combination of beloved songs of both countries in which she lives and works. The album was released in Greece by LYRA Music and then in Turkey in 2013 by KALAN Music.

Furthermore, Vassiliki apart from writing she also translates poetry. The "Indictus" publishing house released in 2008 her translation into Greek from the French text of Rainer Maria Rilke's poem "The Book of Poverty and Death". The same year some of her poems were included in a literature anthology issued by the "Metaihmio" publishers under the title "Constantinople, A City in Literature".

In May 2010 she was invited to take part in the International Poetry Festival of Istanbul - within the events of "Istanbul 2010, European Capital of Culture" - with her poems about Istanbul.

Since 2008 amidst concerts and recordings, Vassiliki had been working with the founder of the group "Bosphorus" Nikiphoros Metaxas and their NGO "Bosphorus Cultural Alliance", for the restoration of the former Greek primary school building on the island of Heybeli in Istanbul. The restored building would house the "Heybeliada International Sound Centre", a centre for research, education and artistic production focusing on the musical traditions of Anatolia and the Mediterranean Region, with an emphasis on creativity and an approach open to contemporary genres of artistic expression. The project is still in progress.

In 2014 she created the group "Burgaz'dan sonra Heybeli" ("After Burgaz Heybeli") referring to the Princess Islands of Istanbul where she had lived for several years. The group consists of young talented Turkish musicians who also live on the islands and who eagerly learned the traditional Greek repertoire of Istanbul and Smyrna. They accompany Vassiliki with their shantour, tanbur, violin, oud and percussion in numerous stages reviving this old musical tradition of Turkey. She also performs with young Greek Istanbul-based musicians and together they pay tribute the multi-cultural songs of the renowned Istanbul-born singer Roza Eskenazy, singing them in Greek, Turkish and Armenian.

Since 2014 she also collaborates with the Greek ancient lyre composer and performer Alikí Markantonatou, accompanying her with her mandolin and lyrical singing in a musical journey from Antiquity to the traditional songs of the Aegean sea and the coasts of Asia Minor, up to their own genuine compositions on her poetry and the poetry of Turkish poet Hasan Erkek. In July 2016 Vassiliki and Alikí recorded the album “The Chelys Songs”, a greek-turkish collaboration with distinguished Turkish musicians Derya Türkan and Oğuz Büyükberber released by ADA Music in Turkey in June 2017.

Vassiliki has toured around Greece, Turkey, Holland, France, Belgium and Germany. Placing great importance on the wealth and subtleties of the lyrics, Vassiliki has sung in Greek and Turkish at renowned cultural centres making her own contribution to an insightful exchange between the two cultures.

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www.vassilikipapageorgiou.net

YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/afrothiti1>

FaceBook:

<https://www.facebook.com/VassilikiPapageorgiou>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/vassimusic>

Itunes:

<https://itunes.apple.com/gr/artist/vasiliki-papageorgiou/id379947054>

Spotify:

<https://play.spotify.com/artist/3o46drPnsQmsJB9iBM19Bb>