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Panayiotis Demopoulos, Pianist



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Biography

Panayiotis Demopoulos was born in Athens, Greece in 1977 and grew up in the provincial northern town of Kozani. Raised in a musically enthusiastic family (his four elder siblings are all musicians) he took music lessons at the age of 5 with P. Kourou at the piano and P. Papistas at the violin and gave his first public performance at the Parnassus Hall, Athens, in 1984. For a number of years he learned music privately and independently and developed an interest in most popular styles of music, performing on the piano and keyboard synthesizers, percussion, guitars and the saxophone with various local groups ranging in style from folk to jazz-fusion and contemporary popular idioms. Meanwhile he took part in and worked for the International Summer Music Courses of Kozani from 1989 to 1998 where he was taught the piano by Anna Prabucka-Firlej. In 1992 he enrolled in the music theory classes of the Kozani State Conservatoire where he continued to study for the next four years.

In 1996 Panos decided to study music full-time and went to Edinburgh where he joined the piano class of Margaret Murray-McLeod. For the next five years, he completed aBmus with honours in music at the Ian Tomlin School of Music, Napier University, whilst also studying mathematics and obtaining a philosophy title from the University of Edinburgh. Upon graduating, Mr. Demopoulos was awarded a scholarship to study with Murray McLachlan at the Royal Northern College of Music. In 2002 he obtained a post graduate Diploma in piano performance and won an RNCM scholarship to continue with

his keyboard studies whilst completing an MMus in composition with Dr. Anthony Gilbert. A prestigious scholarship from the Greek State Scholarship Fund (I.K.Y.) in 2003, enabled him to continue with research in composition first at Cambridge where he obtained an Mphil, the highest qualification that the University awards to composers. From 2004 he is a full time doctoral student at the University of York where he works under the supervision of Dr. William Brooks on scholarships from I.K.Y. and the Holy Synod of the Greek Orthodox Church.

During his studies in the U.K. Panos has taken every opportunity to attend extra-curricular courses, to perform in masterclasses and to discuss his work with established composers. In 1998 and 2000 he was a scholar at the Edinburgh Course for Piano teachers where he had lessons with Ruth Gerald and Philip Jenkins. In 2000 he also received a stipendium to study at the Krakow International Summer School with Prof. Andrzej Pikul (piano) and Marek Stachowski (composition). During his studies at the RNCM he took part in master-classes with Chris Rowland, Ian Brown and Zvi Zeitlin (chamber music), Harrison Birtwistle, Joseph Brody and James MacMillan (composition) and Renna Kellaway, Helen Krizos, Bernard Roberts and Alexander Melnikov (piano). In 2004 he played to Heli Ignatius-Fleet and had composition lessons with Jonathan Harvey, Ken Hesketh, Arlene Sierra, Richard Causton, Robin Holloway, Alejandro Viñao and Jeremy Thurlow. In 2005 he was a Lyra Zurich scholar at the prestigious Ftan International Festival for pianists where he studied with Peter Feuchtwanger and took part in Galina Vracheva's improvisation workshops as well as a scholar at the Chetham's International Piano Summer School where he learned with Anton Kuerti. Over the years Panos has also attended master-classes given by musical personalities such as Roberto Szidon, Martin Roscoe, Stephen Hough, Peter Donohoe, Angela Hewitt, Konstantin Scherbakov and Paul Lewis (piano), William Bennett (flute/chamber music) and Galina Pisarenko (voice).



Panos's debut professional public recital was given at the Edinburgh Society of Musicians in May 2000. Following this, he has been busy performing recitals and chamber music concerts in numerous music society venues and in international festivals in Edinburgh, Krakow, Vertiscus, Ftan, and elsewhere. In 2003-2004 Panos played a near 30 solo recitals and is now maintaining a busy performing life. As a chamber music pianist, he has established his own ensembles, the Tetractys quartet (RNCM 2001-2003) and the Anaeresis Ensemble (2001-). He is very much in demand as an accompanist and is a member of Ensemble New York. The list of premieres of new pieces he has given is growing and his performances have been broadcast on radio and recorded professionally by Dunelm Records on three CDs with more recordings scheduled for the future.

Mr Demopoulos's music has been commissioned and performed by amongst others the Britten Sinfonia, Sarah Nicholls, Harry Spaarnay, the Birtwistle Resonances Festival, Tui Clark, the Chimera Ensemble, the Thessaloniki State Conservatoire, Ensemble New York, Angelica Cathariou, the Quintessensis quintet, the Cambridge Gamelan, CUMIS, the Megaron new music workshops and the Anaeresis Ensemble. His works have been heard in Italy, Finland, the Czech Republic, Poland, Switzerland, the U.K. and Greece and his music is published by Anaeresis and recorded by Dunelm Records. Styx for solo flute was the set work in the 2000 Woodwind competition in Thessaloniki. In 2001 Panos won the Edinburgh International Festival Association competition in composition with Tetractys for solo piano and in 2003 he won the Britten Sinfonia competition with Music for a finer vesper which was consequently scheduled for a broadcast by the BBC.

In 2003 he was one of the composers-in-residence for CUMIS (Cambridge University Moving Image Studio); his work for CUMIS has been presented in biennale exhibitions in Italy and Prague as part of competition winning entries and he continues to collaborate with film makers from the area. Together with the poet Kai Fierle Hedrick whom he met in Cambridge, he wrote String Theories, a set of pieces for piano and electronics, which was premiered in York in 2005. The original director Emma Jussila from Finland also commissioned and played his music for her puppetry theatre in 2005 and he is now working with choreographers from the Northern School of Dance for a series of projects in 2006. His 88 etudes for the piano, commissioned by the Dutch pianist Jorrit van den Ham, are due for completion in early 2006 as is his song cycle Ktenody for the mezzo soprano Angelica Cathariou.

Panos is interested in all kinds of music. He has sung for college choirs, played for a gamelan ensemble, big bands and other small ensembles and has been a member of the Kozani-based experimental music group Benjerle for over 8 years. His musicological research and seminars have included work on Alois Hába, Brahms, Webern, Grisey, Gubaidulina, MacMillan, spectral music, music and language and microtonal music. Panos has published critical and literary texts in both English and Greek. He plays the point guard position for the University of York men's basketball team.



Curriculum Vitae

PANAYIOTIS DEMOPOULOS

Bmus Hons, MMus (RNCM), Mphil (Cantab) Writing up PhD student University of York

(07/08/1977)

EDUCATION/QUALIFICATIONS

PhD (currently) 2004-Mphil in composition, University of Cambridge, 2004 MMus in composition, Royal Northern College of Music, 2003 (T. Gilbert) Post-graduate Diploma in piano performance, RNCM (M. McLachlan), 2002 Bmus hons in music (2.i), Napier University, Edinburgh, 2001 CCE certificate in philosophy studies, University of Edinburgh, 2001

AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS/RESIDENCIES

Gaudeamus Competition finalist (orchestral section, 2006) Elysian quartet national competition (2006) Athens Megaron Concert Hall composition competition (2005) ETH Zürich full scholarship Ftan International piano festival (2005) Britten Sinfonia/Cambridge University composition competition 2003/04 The Holy Orthodox Synod scholarship for doctoral studies (2003-2006) I.K.Y. (Greek State Scholarship Foundation) PhD scholarship in composition (2003-2006) Royal Northern College of Music student scholarship (piano performance 2003) Ian Tomlin bursary (2000-Krakow International Master Classes)

MASTERCOURSES/MASTERCLASSES

(piano, active) A. Pikul, Ian Brown, M. Roscoe, Ant. Kuerti, P. Feuchtwanger (composition, active) M. Stachowski, J. MacMillan, H. Birtwistle, J. Harvey

RESEARCH/PUBLICATIONS

Printed/conferences:

"The Anglo-saxon creative model" (Paremvasis, x.2005 [in Greek])

"A few birthday thoughts" (Paremvasis, v.2006 [in Greek] from a lecture in the Goethe Institut of Thessaloniki, v.2006)

"Music and propaganda in the post-wall era" (the Zahir, vol.1, York, i.2006, pp 17-20)

"The loss of musical instruments" (the Zahir, vol.2, York, vi.2006)

"The delusional state of global folklore" (8th International Symposium of the Department of Musicology and Ethnomusicology, Belgrade, iv. 2006)

"Theology and musical Time" (Music and theology – making connections, Royal Musicological Association, Durham, vi.2006)

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Recorded:

"Nuages", music by Liszt, Beethoven, Demopoulos Panayiotis Demopoulos: Piano CD DRD0213, Dunelm Records, 2003

"Anairesis", music by Cetiz and Demopoulos the Anaeresis Ensemble, dir. By Matt Coorey, CD DRD0214, Dunelm Records, 2003

"Piano recital", music by Brahms, Mussorgsky and Demopoulos Panayiotis Demopoulos: Piano CD DRD0251, Dunelm Records, 2003

Part of review in Gramophone

(p.71, vol. 84, No 1006)

"A contrasted recital that reveals a promising and sensitive young artist"

Panayiotis Demopoulos is a young Greek composer-pianist who shows himself in this sharply contrasted recital to be an exceptionally sensitive artist. In Brahms's Intermezzi he responds with a special interior magic to the composer's most bittersweet world. He is alive to every harmonic felicity...hauntingly poetic...so that like Wordsworth's the Solitary Reaper one bears the music in one's ear 'long after it was heard no more'. Demopoulos's Farewells show how music of severe economy can achieve a concentrated evocation...



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"Panayiotis Demopoulos is a young Greek composer-pianist who shows himself in this sharply contrasted recital to be an exceptionally sensitive artist. In Brahms's Intermezzi he responds with a special interior magic to the composer's most bittersweet world. He is alive to every harmonic felicity...hauntingly poetic...so that like Wordsworth's the Solitary Reaper one bears the music in one's ear 'long after it was heard no more'. Demopoulos's Farewells show how music of severe economy can achieve a concentrated evocation..."

-Gramaphone review (p. 71, vol. 84, No. 1006

"...an extremely talented ...deep thinking and warm musician...admirable sense of rhythmic energy...quintessentially sensitive..."

-Murray McLachlan, concert pianist

"...thoughtfully played...strong and acute technique ...considerable emotional depth..."

-Phil Scowcroft, Music Web international

"...a wonderful blending of the romantic, the modern and the post-modern to make a young man's masterpiece... Demopoulos is a shining light in the land of young composers..."

-Patrick Gary, Music Web international

"...great originality and daring..."

-Adam Gorb, Head of composition, RNCM

"high intelligence...an outstanding pianist and a very able presenter of his own work in lectures..."

-Anthony Gilbert, ex-Head of composition, RNCM

"...wonderful virtuosity at the piano... could have heard it all again...an awesome range of tone from the keyboard in a thrilling display..."

-Rochdale news

"...a promising artist with a great creative potential, a wide range of musical interests and impressive musicality..."

-Nina Orotchko Artistic Director – Ftan International Piano Festival (Switzerland)

