

ELENA PAPANDREOU

Curriculum vitae

Elena Papandreou was born in Athens on 7 March 1966. She studied the guitar with Evangelos Boudounis (with whom she received her diploma in 1985 from the National Conservatory with the highest mark) and with Oscar Ghiglia. She also studied with Gordon Crosskey at the Royal Northern College of Music, England, on a British Council scholarship, obtaining the Diploma in Advanced Studies in Musical Performance (1986). She played in master classes of Alirio Diaz, Julian Bream, Leo Brouwer and Ruggero Chiesa.

She has won the First Prize in three International Competitions, "Maria Callas" (Greece), "Gargnano" (Italy), "Alessandria" (Italy) and the Second Prize in the "Guitar Foundation of America" Competition. In the latter she was also awarded the "NAXOS" Prize, which gave her the opportunity to record two personal CDs with this company. In the past she had released five other records while now she collaborates with the Swedish BIS where she recorded three CDs (music by Nikita Koshkin and by Roland Dyens). In 1992 she was honoured by the Academy of Athens with the "Spyros Moutsenigos" Prize - a most important prize that is awarded to one outstanding performer every two years.

Elena Papandreou has performed in most European countries, as well as in the U.S.A., Canada, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Taiwan and Japan. Within the "Rising Stars" program of the "European Concert Hall Organisation", she gave concerts in some of the most prestigious halls in Europe, the Vienna Musikverein, the Koelner Philharmonie, the Birmingham Symphony Hall and the Athens Concert Hall. She has also played in the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall in Moscow and the Queen Elisabeth Hall in London. In 1998 she gave her debut in Carnegie Hall (Weill Hall) in New York.

She has collaborated with outstanding musicians, among others, the guitarists Oscar Ghiglia, Alirio Diaz, Roland Dyens, Nikita Koshkin, the violinist Leonidas Kavakos and the cellist Leonid Gorokhov. Elena Papandreou has played as a soloist with the State Orchestras of Athens and Thessaloniki, the Camerata Orchestra, the Orchestra of Colours, the Orchestra of Patras, the Orchestra of Alessandria, Italy, the Istanbul Chamber Orchestra, the Bucharest Philharmonic and the ESMDM orchestra in Monterrey Mexico. Performances of hers were recorded by the Greek Television and Radio, Radio France, Deutsche Welle and the Turkish Television.

Elena Papandreou is an Assistant Professor in the University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki and teaches in the summer course of Incontri Chitarristici di Gargnano, Italy, together with Oscar Ghiglia.

Composers who have dedicated their works to her are Nikita Koshkin (among others, a concerto for guitar and orchestra), Roland Dyens, Nikos Mamangakis (among others, a concerto for guitar and orchestra), Evangelos Boudounis, Giorgos Koumendakis and Dimitris Nicolau.

For her interpretations she has received laudatory comments from significant people of the music world and enthusiastic reviews from the Press in Greece and abroad. Leo Brouwer said about her: "If you want to hear music of the highest level of interpretation with poetical perfection you must hear Elena Papandreou." The Washington Post called her "a poet of the guitar" and the Greek newspaper "Ta Nea" wrote: "Now we see Elena Papandreou as one of the greatest interpreters [...] the critic becomes silent ... when the Music begins."

ELENA PAPANDREOU

Curriculum vitae (short version)

Elena Papandreou, "a poet of the guitar" according to The Washington Post, was born in Athens, Greece in 1966. She studied with Evangelos Boudounis and Oscar Ghiglia. In 1985 she received her diploma with honours from the National Conservatory of Athens. With a scholarship from the British Council she studied with Gordon Crosskey at the Royal Northern College of Music, England (Diploma in Advanced Studies in Musical Performance in 1986). She also had lessons with Alirio Diaz, Julian Bream, Leo Brouwer and Ruggero Chiesa.

She is the First Prize winner in three International Competitions, "Maria Callas" (Greece), "Gargnano" (Italy), "Alessandria" (Italy) and a laureate in the "Guitar Foundation of America" Competition where she was also awarded the "NAXOS" Prize. In 1992 the Academy of Athens awarded her the "Spyros Moutsenigos" Prize. She has released 10 records (BIS, NAXOS, SIRIOS, AKTI/SONY, LYRA).

Elena Papandreou has performed in most European countries, as well as in the U.S.A., Canada, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Taiwan and Japan. She was chosen to participate in the "Rising Stars" program of the "European Concert Hall Organisation", giving concerts in some of the most prestigious halls in Europe (Vienna Musikverein, Koelner Philharmonie, Birmingham Symphony Hall and Athens Concert Hall). She has also played in the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall in Moscow, the Queen Elisabeth Hall in London and the Weill Carnegie Hall in New York.

She has played as a soloist with the State Orchestras of Athens and Thessaloniki, the Orchestra of Colours, the Camerata Orchestra, the Orchestra of Patras, (all five in Greece), the Bucharest Philharmonic, Romania, the Istanbul Chamber Orchestra, Turkey, the Orquesta Juvenil de la ESMDM in Monterrey, Mexico and the Orchestra of Alessandria, Italy.

She is an Assistant Professor in the "University of Macedonia" in Thessaloniki, Greece.