

eXceptional Xenakis

'These performances constitute a special marriage of dance and music'

The Department of Arts of the European University Cyprus in collaboration with the Pharos Arts Foundation present the Iannis Xenakis – in Memoriam International Conference which began yesterday and continues today and tomorrow with presentations both at the university and The Shoe Factory, in Nicosia.

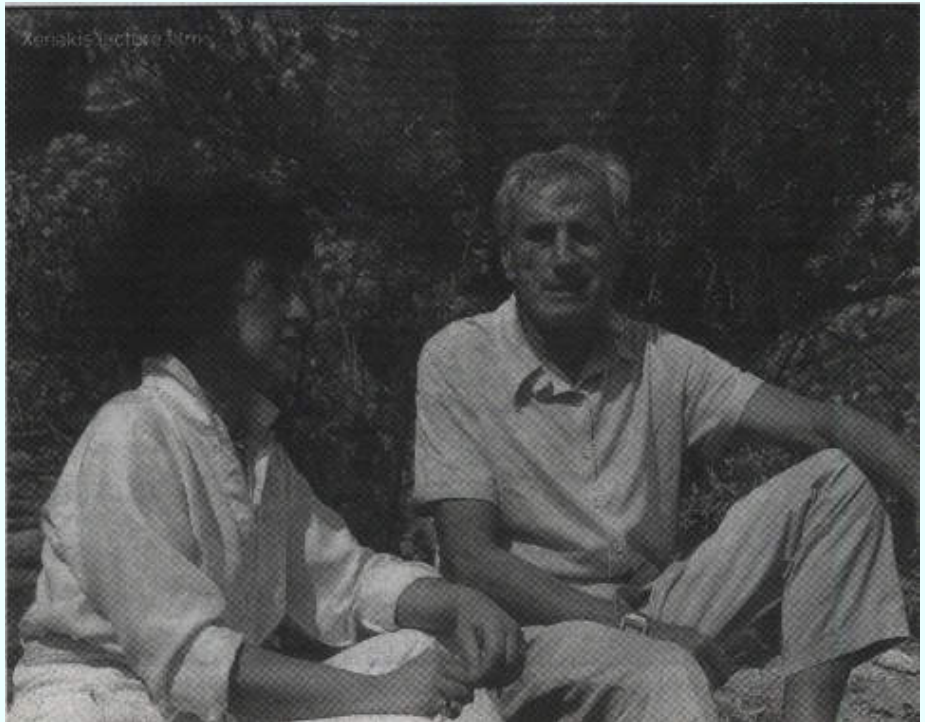
I am not ashamed to admit that I was not madly interested in Xenakis or his music, but decided to attend a concert and speech given a few years ago by Nouritza Matossian, a world expert on Xenakis and author of the first biography and study of his work. This was a result of ten years of close collaboration with him and so in her lectures, she literally brings this fascinating man to life through her extensive knowledge and experience.

Extremely eloquent (she speaks nine languages), Matossian keeps her audience riveted and I was enraptured. I say this so that those who believe that Xenakis and his music might be 'difficult' to explore, do at least attend one of the lectures or concerts. It is a way of approaching the unknown and allows a broadening of the mind and perspective.

Xenakis was not only one of the most celebrated composers and iconic figures of the twentieth century but one of the most influential.

He pioneered the use of mathematical models, statistics and physics in his compositions as well as integrating music with architecture by designing spaces to be integrated with specific music compositions. His various scientific pursuits have inspired a whole generation of composers and performers and this conference aims to highlight lesser-known aspects of his life and work.

The second installation tonight at the European University begins at 6pm and is one of sound created by Toronto based architect Mani Mani, composer Lodewijk Vos and mathematician Dan-



iel Hambleton. Together, they have selected certain segments of Xenakis' score *Mycenean Alpha* to constitute the physical or tangible aspects of their installation.

As in *Mycenean Alpha*, their visual representation is inseparable from the auditory experience thereby equipping the landscape with cameras and resonators which continuously play back sections of the music while the audience walks in and around the space.

This evening's concert at The Shoe Factory will feature the internationally renowned Sri Lankan cellist Rohan de Saram and Cypriot clarinetist Angelos Angelides.

The concert will include a selection of movements from the Bach Cello Suites as well as Sciarrino's *Ai Limiti della Notte*, Kodaly's *Sonata for Solo Cello* as well as works by Xenakis.

Recognised as a child prodigy, Rohan de Saram made his name as a teenager in the classical repertoire and performed with all the major orchestras of Europe, USA, Canada, Australia and the

former Soviet Union. Since returning to solo work in November 2005 though, Saram has pursued a most challenging exploration of repertoire, collaborators and venues driven by his profound desire to explore new modes, composers and musical cultures. He has had many works written especially for him and in August 2011, his latest CD, *Harmonic Labyrinth* was released by First Hand Records.

The conference at the European University will be a presentation of papers by selected participants with keynote speeches given by American musician Sharon Kanach who collaborated with Xenakis on his writings and Dr Professor Makis Solomos from 10am – 6pm. The second conference on November 5 will be given by Nouritza Matossian from 10am – 1pm.

Bookings for the concerts can be made online www.pharostickets.org or by calling 7000 9304 daily between 0930 and 1130. For further information, please call 22713081 or www.euc.ac.cy

