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*Cherish the Past, Embrace the Future*

Issue No 27- 2021



Time may have changed their faces but not their iconic music. Greek musical legends, Mikis Theodorakis and Giorgos Zampetas, posing for a photo in Athens, 1961.



Culture Min. Lina Medoni: British Museum keeping Parthenon Sculptures under 'insulting & dangerous conditions'

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*Mikis Theodorakis conducting at a rehearsal on the steps of the Acropolis in 2001. Photograph: Orestis Panagiotou/EPA*

Greece mourns the passing of composer and political activist Mikis Theodorakis at the age of 96. A towering and prolific figure of the Greek and international music scene, in his lifetime he composed some of the world's most recognizable pieces of music, including the iconic 'syrтаки' dance from the film 'Zorba the Greek', which came to define Greece and Greek culture in the eyes of the world.

A legend in his own lifetime, Theodorakis was also very influential for his political action in support of democracy and his strong ties to the Left, including his resistance to the 1967-1973 military junta in Greece, which had him imprisoned and banned his music. He was instrumental in raising awareness of Greece's plight during that time and fuelling the international protest movement for the return of democracy to Greece.

A figure linked to the most important moments of Greece's contemporary history, Theodorakis left his stamp on an entire era of Greek culture and politics and his legacy and impact spread far beyond Greece's borders.

Over nearly a century of life, he had written almost every kind of music, from popular songs and film scores to classical symphonies and opera. A central pillar of his creativity was the setting of works of poetry to music, using works by major Greek and foreign poets, such as Angelos Sikelianos, Andreas Kalvos, George Seferis, Odysseas Elytis, Yiannis Ritsos, Pablo Neruda, Federico Garcia Lorca and Brendan Behan, among others. Theodorakis also wrote the filmscores to well-known films, such as 'Z' in 1969 that won the BAFTA award for original filmscore, 'Phaedra' in 1962 with lyrics by Nikos Gatsos and 'Serpico' in 1973, for which he had a Grammy nomination in 1975.

He was born on the island of Chios on July 29, 1925 to a Cretan father and a mother from Asia Minor. In 1937-1939 he had his first violin lessons at the Patras Conservatory and wrote his first songs, based on lyrics of Greek poets that he found in school books and his home library. In Tripoli at the age of 17 he performed his first concert, playing his work "Kassiani", and joined the resistance against the Nazi occupation. In 1943, he was arrested for the first time by the Italians during a great demonstration and tortured.

Between 1954-57 he studied music in Paris on a scholarship and wrote three ballets ('Antigone', 'Les Amants de Teruel' and 'Le Feu aux Poudres') that were successful in Paris and London. During the same period, he composed the work "Oedipus Tyrannus" and in 1957 received the gold medal in the Moscow Festival for his "First Symphony for Piano and Orchestra".

In 1963, together with Manos Hatzidakis, he founded the Little Orchestra of Athens that gave a number of concerts and continued his political activism. The military coup in 1967 led to a new period of political persecution, in which his music was banned. Throughout this period, he continued to compose music, much of which he managed to smuggle abroad, where it was performed by Maria Farantouri and Melina Mercouri. Major cultural figures, such as Dmitri Shostakovich, Arthur Miller, Laurence Olivier, Yves Montand, among others, formed an international solidarity movement demanding his release. During this period and up until 1980 he composed some of his best-known works, such as the song cycles, Canto General and others. He also composed the Hymn for the Barcelona Olympic Games.

Theodorakis's songs were always deeply political. He was repeatedly jailed for his beliefs and was sent into exile. He remained politically active throughout



*In the 1960s, Theodorakis recorded the Ballad of Mauthausen with the Greek section of the BBC World Service*



*Theodorakis in 2018 after making a speech at a rally.  
Photograph: Petros Giannakouris/AP*

his life. He was also elected to parliament as MP and in April 1990 he received his first governmental post.

Throughout his long life, he was the recipient of many awards, among them the Lenin Peace Prize from the Soviet Union in 1983, medals awarded by the Greek state and the medal of an Officer of the Legion of Honour awarded by France in March 1996. He was given an honorary doctorate of Musical Studies by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the 2002 Erich Wolfgang Korngold Award in Germany and the International Music Council-UNESCO International Music Prize of 2005. In March 2007 he was awarded the medal of Commander of the Legion of Honour by France, while in May 2013, he was named an honorary member of the Athens Academy.

### President Sakellaropoulou on the death of Mikis Theodorakis

The President of the Hellenic Republic, Katerina Sakellaropoulou, spoke of a “pan-Hellenic figure and at the same time a universal artist, an invaluable asset of our musical culture”, referring to the loss of Mikis Theodorakis.

“Mikis Theodorakis, whose loss we mourn today, was a pan-Hellenic personality and at the same time a universal artist, an invaluable asset of our musical culture. He was given a rich and fruitful life that he lived with passion, a life dedicated to music, the arts, our country and its people, dedicated to the ideas of freedom, justice, equality and social solidarity”, Sakellaropoulou noted.

She added: “Mikis was tested in all kinds of music - song, oratorio, symphonic music, music for the cinema - with great success. He wrote melodies that intertwined with the historical and social course of Greece in the post-war years, music that functioned as an incentive, as a consolation, as a

protest, as a support in the gloomy periods of our recent history.”

Sakellaropoulou said that he has always been a “politician” and linked political action with transcendence and struggle. He described himself as “lonely, independent, self-employed”.

“Dedicated to national dignity, humanity and solidarity, he has never ceased to be a profound, diverse artist, and an artist who insisted to the end on viewing the world with the romance and confidence of an eternal, indestructible youth.”

### Mitsotakis: Mikis Theodorakis is our history and we must continue it as he would like

“Unfortunately, our meeting today was overshadowed by very sad news: Mikis Theodorakis is now passing into eternity. His voice was silenced and with him the whole of Hellenism was silenced,” Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said during a cabinet meeting.

“As was written about Palamas, ‘we had all forgotten that he is mortal’. However, he leaves us a legacy of his songs, his political action, but also his national contribution at critical moments. All Greeks are crying today,” Mitsotakis underlined.

“I believe that the best way to honour this global Greek will be for us, in our daily work, to put exactly this message into practice. Mikis is our History and we must continue it as he would like.”

The body of composer Mikis Theodorakis was brought to the chapel of Athens Metropolitan Cathedral, where it lied in state for three days. Crowds of people arrived to pay their final respects. People of all ages, often holding a red rose or a carnation, waited their turn patiently to briefly touch the coffin which nests Greece’s luminary, and while there think farewell to him. The ceremony to bid farewell was concluded on 8 September



*Anthony Quinn and Alan Bates dance on the beach in Zorba the Greek (1964). Photograph: Snap/Rex Features*

## Statement by the Minister of Culture and Sports Lina Mendoni on the response of the British Museum to the conditions of the exhibition of the Parthenon Sculptures

The conditions under which the Parthenon Sculptures are exhibited at the British Museum are “insulting and dangerous,” and the marbles “cannot await the completion of the British Museum’s ‘masterplan’ like prisoners,” Greek Culture & Sports Minister Lina Mendoni said.

In a statement released by the ministry, following questions on flooding issues at the London museum and the conditions of the exhibition of the Parthenon Marbles, the Minister of Culture Lina Mendoni said :

“For decades, the main argument of the British, for the stay of the Parthenon Sculptures in London, was that in the British Museum the specific masterpieces are exhibited in more suitable conditions than those that Greece could offer.

For 12 years, in Athens there is the Acropolis Museum, one of the best museums in the world, which exhibits the Parthenon Sculptures in an excellent way, awaiting their final reunion with their parts illegally looted by Elgin. The British argument has long since been refuted.

Today, the conditions for exhibiting the Parthenon Sculptures at the British Museum are offensive and dangerous. The Sculptures can not wait in prison for the completion of the “masterplan” of the British Museum, which does not in any way meet their capable and safe exhibition conditions.

“Greece’s constant and fair request for the return of the Sculptures to Athens is non-negotiable and today is more up to date than ever.”

The minister was responding to questions in a recent report by Art Newspaper, which said that the British Museum was leaking water following intense rainfall on July 25. The British Museum has said in a statement that rooms were shut to the public for conservation work delayed due to the coronavirus, adding that a strategic masterplan would transform the museum in the future.

### A fond farewell to historian William St Clair

William St Clair was a British historian, researcher and author. His research interests lay, in large part, in the history of books and reading, ancient Greece and biography. The British Committee for the Reunification of the Parthenon marbles has paid tribute to William St Clair, following the news of his death this summer:

Judith Herrin, BCRPM: “William St-Clair brought his profound appreciation of the Romantic writings of the early nineteenth century to his study of the Parthenon Marbles. It was this literary expertise in the world of the Godwins and the Shelleys, Byron and Keats, that imbued his work on the building with unusual qualities. Inspired by the poets’ passionate devotion to Greece, he was especially shocked by Elgin’s careless desecration of the Parthenon and dedicated a lifetime of research to the circumstances that had permitted it.

As early as 1967 he published *Lord Elgin and the Marbles*; the controversial history of the Parthenon Sculptures, which was revised in two subsequent

editions and translated into several languages. In 1998 the third edition incorporated the discoveries he had made concerning the treatment of the Marbles by the British Museum. Following the trail for reliable information, he prised open detailed accounts of the cleaning that whitened but disastrously damaged their surfaces.

By questioning the arrangements Elgin made with the local Ottoman authorities, William had revealed much greater detail of their illegality, which also sparked increased attention to the British Museum’s acquisition and guardianship of the



Photo: Peter Oglos/The Greek Herald

Parthenon Marbles. He presented his research in numerous lectures including the annual Runciman lecture at King's College London in 2012, when Nicholas and Matti Egon hosted a brilliant dinner in his honour. He was Chairman of Open Book Publishers, who also republished his classic study 'That Greece might still be free, The Philhellenes in the War of Independence' (1972) in a revised edition in 2008".

BCRPM's Honorary President Anthony Snodgrass knew William St Clair since the 60's and writes: 'At times, William St.Clair seemed to have lived more than one life. Even in our supposedly 'globalised' age, it came as a revelation to many of his fellow campaigners for the reunification of the Parthenon Marbles, to learn that he was also an acclaimed literary and historical authority on the Romantic Era - to the point where, on the strength of this, he had been elected a Fellow of the British Academy back in 1992. The same may have been partly true in reverse; and to both parties, it was surprising to find that he had served for years as a senior civil servant in the Treasury, whose research was at first a side-line. His later academic appointments are too numerous to list in detail here, but they covered Trinity College, Cambridge, All Souls at Oxford, the School of Advanced Study in London, Harvard and the Huntington Library in California.'

### New museum recognizes descendants of philhellenes in 1821 War for Greek Independence

The Philhellenism Museum in the northern suburb of Filothei held its opening ceremony, with an event including the presentation of the Lord Byron International Prize to descendants of philhellenes who helped in Greece during its 1821 War of Independence, reaching its bicentennial this year.

Representatives of families arrived from France, the German states of the 19th century, Haiti, Italy, Portugal, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Addressing the meeting online, Foreign Affairs Minister Nikos Dendias expressed the Greek state's and people's gratitude for all the help during those years, whether philhellenes fought themselves or provided funding or supported the welfare of the population. He particularly mentioned the contributions of Philhellenic Committees in Geneva, Paris, London and New York, who helped the war of liberation from the Ottoman Turks in any way



*The Philhellenism Museum in the northern suburb of Filothei.  
(Photo by Eurokinissi/Michalis Karagiannis)*

they could. The Geneva Committee, for example, assumed the raising and training of young Greeks who had suffered during the war, he said, citing documents in the Ministry's diplomatic archives.

In addition, artists also contributed to spreading the message of the Greek struggle, influencing public opinion and inspiring solidarity in the population at large. The work of philhellenes remains inspirational even today, the minister said, especially since it continued past the founding of the Greek state.

The Museum founded and is operated by the Society for Hellenism and Philhellenism to present the evolution of philhellenism from the Renaissance to the present day, with an emphasis on its contribution to the national independence of Greece.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Nikos Dendias, the Minister of Culture Lina Mendoni, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs in charge of Hellenes Abroad Konstantinos Vlasis, the Deputy Minister of National Defence General Alkiviadis Stefanidis, as well as the Ambassadors of the USA, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Belgium, Spain and Poland and the representative of the European Parliament in Athens.

**In his online greeting, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Dendias, stated:** "The Museum inaugurated tonight is an excellent initiative that should have been implemented a long time ago. It took place thanks to the tireless efforts of the Society for Hellenism and Philhellenism. We are grateful for their contribution in recording the history of the Greek Revolution. Hellenism is an important part of our history, which should never be forgotten. "Tonight we honour the sacrifices and the passion of all these people who helped us be free."

## The British School at Athens appoints Professor Roderick Beaton as its new Chairman



Prof. Roderick Beaton

At its most recent meeting the BSA's Council unanimously agreed to appoint Professor Roderick Beaton as its new Chairman with effect from next February's Annual General Meeting. One of the world's most distinguished modern Hellenists, Prof. Beaton is Emeritus Koraes Professor of Modern Greek and Byzantine History, Language and Literature at King's College London, where he directed the Centre for Hellenic Studies, and Commander of the Order of Honour of the Hellenic Republic. Widely respected in Greece, he is one of only three non-Greek members of the Greece 2021 Committee, appointed by the Greek state to promote the commemoration of the bicentenary of the Greek Revolution. His many books include works on modern Greek folk poetry, the authors Kazantzakis and Seferis, and Byron. His most recent book – Greece: Biography of a Modern Nation – appeared in 2019 and was recently announced as the winner of this year's prestigious Runciman Award, the fourth time Prof. Beaton's work has been recognised in this way. His next book – The Greeks: A Global History – will appear later this year to mark the 1821-2021 bicentenary.

Prof. Beaton has had a long association with the BSA and, from 2015 to 2020, chaired its Committee for Society, Arts and Letters on behalf of the Council.

Prof. Roderick Beaton commented on his new appointment: *I am thrilled and honoured to have been named as the next Chairman of the Council of the British School at Athens. The BSA is a unique British research institute in Greece, which has been operating with distinction since 1886. I have myself been associated with it for a modest proportion of that time, since I first went there as a student in the early 1970s. I look forward to serving the School once more when I take up my position next year, amid new challenges and with a deep personal commitment to fostering cultural cooperation and understanding between the UK and Greece.*

## Exhibition '20 Years of Artists at the British School at Athens'



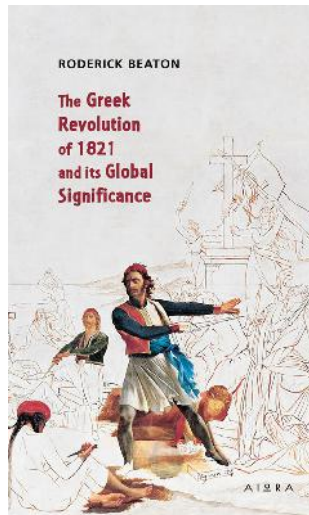
The opening private view of the exhibition '20 Years of Artists at the British School at Athens' took place on Wednesday 21 July at the 12 Star Gallery, Europe House. The exhibition celebrates two decades of the BSA's artist in residence programme, giving UK artists the opportunity to develop their practise by spending time in Greece.

During the opening of the exhibition, Elena Soupiana, Press Counsellor at the Embassy of Greece underlined the importance of the British School at Athens to Anglo-Hellenic relations, saying that "the British School is not merely a testimony of the Greek-British friendship, but an institution deeply connected to the history and trajectory of Greece, to its past and its future". She also highlighted the work of the current director of the School, Professor John Bennet, a great academic and researcher, that thanks to his contribution, the exhibition for the 20 years of Artists at the British School at Athens has come into life. Finally she stated that "the Embassy of Greece in the United Kingdom will always remain a supporter of the School's work and will assist it wholeheartedly and willingly to work together and collaborate to achieve much more".

The exhibition will last until the 17th of September and it is open for the public Monday to Friday 10.00 – 18.00 free entry.

Established in 2001, the Arts Bursary of the British School at Athens (BSA) offers artists the opportunity to develop their practice by spending time in Greece. Ranging across painting, film, sound, and sculpture, the artworks showcase the diverse ways in which these artists have engaged with and responded to the BSA, contemporary Athens, and the wider Greek landscape, often drawing on Greece's deep past and the archaeological activities of the BSA. By coincidence the exhibition also falls within the year in which Greece marks the 200th anniversary of its independence.

## 'The Greek Revolution of 1821 and its Global Significance' by Prof. Roderick Beaton



A new book 'The Greek Revolution of 1821 and its Global Significance' by Roderick Beaton has been published and is now available in bookshops in Greece (coming to UK bookshops in September). The book is based on a lecture given by Professor Beaton for the British School at Athens in November 2020.

Part of the 18 and the 19th century has been called the 'age of revolution'. The white heat of it came in the decades either side of the year 1800. But it lasted a full century: from the American Declaration of Independence in 1776 to the great national 'unifications' of Germany and Italy during the 1860s. Right in the middle of this long 'age of revolution' and, as it turns out, the pivotal point within it, comes the Greek Revolution that broke out in the spring of 1821.

2021 marks the bicentenary of the outbreak of the Greek Revolution, or War of Independence. Prof. Beaton's talk takes a long view, beginning with the European settlement reached at the Congress of Vienna in 1814-15, known as the 'Concert of Europe', and continuing with the disappearance of multi-national empires and their replacement throughout the continent by the nation states that we are familiar with today. International recognition for Greece as a sovereign nation-state, sealed by the Protocol of London in February 1830, according to Professor Beaton's analysis, represents a pivotal point in this continent-wide transition, and one that has been unjustly overlooked by historians. The presentation focused on those aspects of the Greek Revolution that explain how events in Greece in the 1820s contributed to this far-reaching change, whose consequences are still being played out today.

This little book sets out to explain what happened during the nine years - between the uprising in 1821 and the recognition of Greece as a sovereign, independent state nine years later, in 1830 - to bring about such far-reaching (and surely unanticipated) consequences, and why the full significance of these events is only now coming to be appreciated, two hundred years later.

The lecture given by Prof. Roderick Beaton for the BSA in November 2020 is accessible at the link: <https://bit.ly/3xs9MPm>

## Greek economy grew 16.2 pct in Q2, ELSTAT reports

The Greek economy grew by 16.2 pct in the second quarter of 2021 compared with the same period last year, with the country's GDP rising 3.4 pct compared with the first quarter of the year, led by consumption, private investments and exports, according to the Hellenic Statistical Authority.

The Greek GDP fell 2.3 pct in the first quarter compared with the same period in 2020 and grew by around 7 pct in the first half of the year.

Finance Minister Christos Staikouras, commenting on the data, said that the provisional figures for the second quarter would lead to higher GDP growth rate this year compared with initial estimates of 3.6 pct and noted that the economy will quickly regain losses suffered by the pandemic, while households' available income will improve significantly and the Greek economy will grow further for the benefit of all citizens.

More specifically, the statistics service said that final consumption spending grew 12.1 pct in the second quarter, compared with the same period in 2020 (households consumption up 13.2 pct and general government consumption up 6.1 pct). Private investments (gross fixed capital investments) rose 12.9 pct, exports of goods and services were up 22.6 pct (exports of goods up 17.1 pct and exports of services up 28.8 pct). Imports of goods and services rose 22.5 pct (imports of goods up 19.7 pct and imports of services up 35.2 pct).

On a quarterly basis, final consumption spending was up 0.2 pct (household consumption down 0.4 pct and general government consumption down 0.7 pct), private investments grew 4.3 pct, exports of goods and services rose 2.9 pct (goods up 2.9 pct and services up 0.8 pct) while imports of goods and services rose 5 pct (goods up 3.8 pct and services up 19.8 pct).



### Healing Classics: Medical Humanities and the Graeco-Roman Tradition

**When:** Thursday 9 September 2021, 12:50 to 10 September 2021, 12:00

**Where:** Online

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/events/healing-classics-medical-humanities-and-the-graeco-roman-tradition>

### Greek Dialogues Online - Early writing systems and practices in Greece and beyond

**When:** Tuesday, 14 September 2021 6:30 pm

**Where:** Online

<https://www.ccgscsah.cam.ac.uk/events/greek-dialogues-online-early-writing-systems-and-practices-greece-and-beyond>

### The Weird Wave of Greek Cinema: a Movement or a Moment?

**When:** Thursday, 16 September 2021, 7 pm

**Where:** Friends Room, Hellenic Centre

<https://www.anglohellenicleague.org/cultural-events/>

### Let's Sing Opera! – The Interactive Concert

**When:** Monday, 20 September 2021, 7 pm

**Where:** St Paul's Church (Actors Church), Covent Garden, Bedford Street, London, WC2E 9ED

<https://actorschurch.ticketsolve.com/shows/873619665>

### «Τα πιο ωραία λαϊκά» – Beloved popular songs

**When:** Friday, 24 September 2021, 7 pm

**Where:** The Hellenic Centre

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/-beloved-popular-songs-tickets-164003979317>

### Event with HE Kate Smith, outgoing UK Ambassador to Greece

**When:** Thursday, 30 September 2021, 7 pm

**Where:** The Hellenic Centre

<https://www.anglohellenicleague.org/cultural-events/>

### E-Book Launch | Greece and the Euro: from crisis to recovery

**When:** Thursday 30 September 2021, 4:00-5:30 pm

**Where:** Online

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/Events/2021/09/202109301600/greece>

### Historic Walking Tour of Greece-Related Sites and Sights in London

### Athens Democracy Forum in association with The New York Times

**When:** September 29 - October 1

**Where:** Athens and Online

The exciting speaker line-up includes experts such as: Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Yuval Noah Harari, Alberto Alemanno, Jean Monnet, Kostas Bakoyannis, Michael Berkowitz, Irina Bokova, Davide Casaleggio and more.

**Registration:**

<https://www.athensdemocracyforum.com/registration>

**When:** Saturday 2 October, 10.00 am

**Where:** Main Entrance of West Norwood Cemetery

<https://21in21.co.uk/events/>

### 1821 Visions of Freedom: The Hand of Zographos, The Mind of Makriyannis, The Zeal of Gennadius

**When:** From Tuesday 5 October 2021 to Wednesday 30 March 2022

**Where:** The Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/the-hand-of-panagiotis-zographos-the-mind-of-makriyannis/>

### Youth and Politics in Protracted Conflicts

**When:** Tuesday 5 October 2021, 4.00-5.30 pm

**Where:** Online

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/Hellenic-Observatory/Events/Research-Seminar-Series/2021-22/Youth-and-Politics-in-Protracted-Conflicts/Youth-and-Politics-in-Protracted-Conflicts>

### Film Screening: Queens of Amathus

**When:** Saturday 9 October

**Where:** Bush House, 30 Aldwych, London, WC2B 4BG (Bush House (N) Auditorium -1.01 and Arcade Café and exhibition area).

<https://21in21.co.uk/events/>

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