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# Evis SAMMOUTIS

(b. 1979)



Evis Sammoutis, composer and guitarist, was born in Cyprus in 1979, where he had his first musical lessons at the age of six. By the age of sixteen, he had already obtained both the LRSM and the Performance and Teaching Diploma with distinction before moving to England in 1998 for university studies.

Upon graduation from the University of Hull with a first class degree (BMus) in all disciplines and the Departmental Prize, he completed his PhD studies in Musical Composition at the University of York under the supervision of Dr Thomas Simaku. Evis has also furthered his studies at world-renowned festivals, seminars and workshops, including Darmstadt, IRCAM, Royaumont and Tanglewood as a composition fellow, working with leading composers such as Brian Ferneyhough, Georges Aperghis, George Benjamin, Johannes Schollhorn and Augusta Read Thomas.

Following his PhD studies, Evis was awarded a Wingate Foundation Scholarship (2005 - 2007) to pursue his compositional research more independently, whilst teaching Composition and

Orchestration at the University of Nottingham (2005 - 2007) and guitar performance at the University of York (2002 - 2007). Evis also taught composition at the University of Hull in 2006. He is currently Assistant Professor of Composition and Theory at the European University Cyprus, having also served as scientific collaborator to the same institution prior to this appointment.

Evis' works have been commissioned by festivals and organizations such as Venice Biennale, Klangspuren, Royaumont and ARD, performed at leading festivals and contemporary music series such as Tanglewood, MusicNOW, Gaudeamus, Music of Today and ISCM in more than forty countries throughout Europe, America, Africa and the Far East and broadcast on several national radio stations throughout Europe, America and the Far East such as BBC Radio 3, SWR2, Radio France and RAI3.

Sammoutis has received numerous accolades and over thirty-five compositional awards, prizes, scholarships and recognition at competitions including the Royal Philharmonic Society Award (England), the Irino Prize (Japan) and the Franz Liszt Scholarship (Germany); first prizes at the Andres Segovia (Spain) and Dundee (Scotland) competitions; second prizes at Concours Dutilleux (France), Jurgenson (Russia), Y.A Papaioannou (Greece) and Samobor (Croatia) competitions; special prize at the Fifth Annual Composition Contest of the Yvar Mikhashoff Trust for New Music (USA); an honourable mention at the IMRO Composers Competition (Ireland); a DAAD Research Fellowship (Germany) and a Fulbright Scholarship for Advanced Research (USA).

Performers include leading ensembles and specialists in new music such as the Ensemble Modern, the Arditti, KAIROS, Kreutzer, Doelen, Zephyr and Prometeo String Quartets, Ensemble

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Nomad, Ensemble Aleph, EXAUDI, Het Collectief, New York Woodwind Quintet, Arirang and Chantily Quintets, Les Percussions de Strasbourg, Endymion and members of Philharmonia Orchestra; orchestras such as London Symphony Orchestra, Holland Symfonia, the Orchestra of Opera North and the Athens Symphony Orchestra; as well as soloists such as David Alberman, Alan Thomas, Movses Pogossian, Rohan de Saram, Sarah Leonard, Julian Warburton, Adrian Spillett and John Potter, to name but a few. Conductors include Christoph Poppen, Elgar Howarth, Kasper de Roo and Franck Ollu, among others.

Evis is the Co-founder and Artistic Director of the Pharos Arts Foundation International Contemporary Music Festival, established in 2009. This annual festival, now in its fifth year, is the first of its kind not only in Cyprus but also in the Eastern Mediterranean region. The festival has already presented over forty commissioned world premieres by notable young and established composers, which were performed by some of the world's leading ensembles.

Evis was recently selected to continue to the third and final year of the San Fedele Prize in Milan, Italy, and has also served as Coordinator of the Iannis Xenakis - in Memoriam International Conference that was recently held in Nicosia. In 2012, he completed new works for the New York Woodwind Quintet commissioned by the Barlow Endowment, a new orchestral work commissioned by the Athens Symphony Orchestra, two new string quartets for the Arditti Quartet and Quartet Prometeo and a short work for the London Symphony Orchestra. Future works for the 2013 season include the set piece for the bassoon and piano category of the 2013 Internationaler Musikwettbewerb der ARD München in addition to new works for Klangforum Wien, Ensemble Modern and Neue Vocalsolisten.

## PRESS QUOTES

*"intimate new chamber music at its best!"*

Kees Arntzen, *Trouw*, on *Dimorphism*

*"the world premiere of his magical work Dimorphism, inscribed In memoriam Giacinto Scelsi, music which the great master would have been proud to acknowledge"*

Peter Grahame Woolf, *musicalpointers.co.uk*

*"The Cypriot Evis Sammoutis stood out, in Iri da Iri, a piece with a violent repetitive obsessive quality: an emphatic character reminiscent of Varèse, assimilated with instinctive immediacy."*

Mario Messinis, *Il Gazzettino*, on *Iri da Iri*

*"The rigorous, insistent work by Evis Sammoutis, Iri da Iri, inspired by a verse from Dante's Paradiso, was very well received."*

*Messaggero Veneto* on *Iri da Iri*

*"The dissonant sound fabrics and percussive noises nevertheless create a mood of roguish humour and intellectual spirit. The strong applause of the not too shocked audience proved that the watching alone of a performance of such experimental music can fascinate even a conventional audience"*

*Ausburger Allgemeine*, on *Metallaxis*

*"Sammoutis exploring microtonal harmonics in a strangely evocative manner. This piece also explored the guitar's percussive capabilities but in a sensitive way rather than for overt display"*

*classicalsource.com* on *Alter Ego I*

## LIST OF WORKS OVERLEAF

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### ORCHESTRA

**Iri da Iri (2004)** 15'  
2(1st=picc).1(=ca).2(2=bcl).1(=cbn) / 2.2.1.0 / pf., hp., timps.,  
2perc., / 10.8.6.5.3  
commissioned by the Venice Biennale 48th International  
Festival of Contemporary Music.  
first performance: Orchestra Sinfonica de Friuli, Venezia,  
cond. Giulia & Christoph Poppen, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2004.  
ISMN M 57036 433 6 score: £32.00  
performance materials for hire

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### LARGE ENSEMBLE (8 OR MORE PLAYERS)

**Engravings (2013)** 17'  
for large ensemble: **fl.** (=picc./a. fl.), **ob.** (=clay pot with  
two ping pong balls), **cl.** (=b. cl.), **bsn.** (=cbn./clay pot  
with two ping pong balls), **hrn.**, **tpt.**, **trb.**, **two**  
**percussionists** (percussion 1: 1 large Timpano [32" D-A],  
[1 Bongo near timpano], 2 Congas, 4 Woodblocks, Large  
Gong, Wind Chimes 1 Suspended Cymbal, Vibraphone,  
Glockenspiel [extension of Vibraphone], Maracas, 2 clay  
pots with two ping pong balls, Singing Bowl in G#,  
Chinese Cymbal. Percussion 2: 2 Bongos, Snare Drum, 1  
Tam Tam, 1 Suspended Cymbal, Sizzle Cymbal, Crotales,  
Vibraslap, 2 clay pots with two ping pong balls, Tam tam,  
Singing Bowl in G, Bamboo Chimes, Medium to small  
thundersheet, Marimba.), **piano** (=clay pot with four ping  
pong balls), **keyboard** (ideally second piano tuned ¼ tone  
higher) (=clay pot with two ping pong balls), **2 vln.**, **vla.**,  
**vc.**, **db.** (5 strings).  
first performance: Ensemble Modern, Hessischer Rundfunk  
Sendesaal, Frankfurt, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2013.  
ISMN M 57036 601 9 A3 conductor's score: £21.95  
ISMN M 57036 602 6 performance materials for hire  
ISMN M 57036 654 5 A4 study score: £21.95

**Pixel (2013)** 1'20"  
for twelve pianists on six pianos.  
first performance: Piandaemonium, Thessaloniki Concert  
Hall, Greece, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013.  
ISMN M 57036 587 5 score and parts: £8.95

**Ευλογραφίες – Xylographies (2013)** 9'  
for large ensemble: fl. (=picc./a.fl.), ob. (=ca.), cl. (=b.cl.),  
bsn., hn., tpt., tbn., perc., pf., 2 vln., vla., vlc..  
first performance: Klangforum Wien, MiTo Festival,  
Auditorium San Fedele, Milan, Italy, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2013.  
ISMN M 57036 599 9 score: £19.95  
performance material for hire

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### SMALL ENSEMBLE (4-7 PLAYERS)

**Ηχοπραξία – Echopraxia (2006)** 15'  
for string sextet (2.2.2).  
first performance: Ensemble Modern, PASYDY  
Auditorium, Nicosia, Cyprus, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2006.  
ISMN M 57036 420 6 score: £17.95  
ISMN M 57036 421 3 parts: £22.95

**Μετάλλαξις - Metallaxis (2006)** 8'  
for wind quintet.  
first performance: Quintett Chantilly, Herkulesaal des  
Residenz, Munich, Germany, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2006.  
ISMN M 57036 425 1 score: £16.95  
ISMN M 57036 426 8 parts: £11.95

**Μετήρορον - Metioron (2010)** 15'  
for clarinet, violin, cello and piano.  
first performance: Peter Sheppard Skaerved, violin, Neil  
Heyde, cello, Roger Heaton, clarinet, & Jan Phillip Schulze  
piano, The Shoe Factory, Nicosia, Cyprus, 2<sup>nd</sup> September  
2010.  
ISMN M 57036 429 9 score: £15.95  
ISMN M 57036 430 5 parts: £16.95

**Ρίμες - Rhymes (2012)** 8'  
for string quartet.  
first performance: Arditti Quartet, International Music  
Institute Darmstadt, Germany, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2012.  
ISMN M 57036 427 5 score: £12.95  
ISMN M 57036 428 2 parts: £9.95

**Τριάς - Trias (2003)** 8'  
for clarinet (=bass clarinet), horn, percussion and cello.  
first performance: Tanglewood Music Centre Fellows  
cond. Laura Jackson, Tanglewood Festival, Massachusetts,  
USA, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2003.  
ISMN M 57036 431 2 score: £10.95  
ISMN M 57036 432 9 parts: £11.95

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### SOLOS, DUOS AND TRIOS

**Διμορφία - Dimorphism (2004)** 13'  
for two violins.  
in memoriam Giacinto Scelsi (1905-1988).  
first performance: Camerata and Friends of Music  
Orchestra, Athens Concert Hall, Greece, 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2004.  
ISMN M 57036 422 0 score and parts: £16.95

**Εμμέλεια - Emmelia (2015)** 9'  
for solo cello ("one cellist band")  
first performance: Brice Catherin, Lucerne, Switzerland,  
28<sup>th</sup> March 2015.  
ISMN M 57036 645 3 performing score: £8.95

**Μόγια - Particles (2015)****9'**

for flute (=picc./a.fl.), violin and cello

ISMN M 57036 643 9

score: £9.95

ISMN M 57036 644 6

parts: £24.95

**Νυξ - Nyx (2013)****10'**

for bassoon and piano.

dedicated to Bence Boganyi.

first performance: All semifinalists of the 62  
Internationaler Musikwettbewerb der ARD München,  
Munich, Germany, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

ISMN M 57036 498 5

score: £9.95

ISMN M 57036 496 1

score and part: £15.95

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**VOICE, UNACCOMPANIED****Sculpting air (2013)****14'**

for five voices: S M T Bar. B.

text: Homer, Ovid (trans. Brooks More, Arthus Golding),  
Shakespeare.first performance: Neue Vocalsolisten, ECLAT Festival,  
Stuttgart, Germany, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

ISMN M 57036 598 2

score: £8.95