

AW

ANŌPOLIS
WORLD MUSIC
FESTIVAL

MF

OFFICIAL



PROGRAMME

20

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ANOPOLIS WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Anopolis World Music Festival returns for its sixth consecutive year and invites you to join us on 8, 9 and 10 September 2026 for a three-day celebration of contemporary musical creation in the public spaces and monuments of Ano Poli (Upper Town), Thessaloniki.

With its most extensive programme to date, this year's festival presents 13 concerts across 9 different locations in Ano Poli, all with free admission for everyone.

Over the past six years, the festival has transformed more than thirty different corners of Ano Poli into places of musical encounter, highlighting the unique character of a neighbourhood where history, memory and everyday life coexist. Each year, we return to beloved locations while also discovering and proposing new ones, continuously remapping public space through music and collective experience.

This year's concerts will take place in nine different locations throughout An Poli: courtyards, monuments, towers, gardens, squares, alleyways and balconies overlooking the city - spaces that carry the stories of those who once passed through them and those who live here today. Music becomes an invitation to wander through familiar and lesser-known routes, rediscovering the city through a different perspective.

This year's artistic programme brings together artists who draw inspiration from the musical traditions of the Balkans, the Black Sea region, Anatolia, the Mediterranean, the Middle East, Central Europe, North Africa and West Africa. Through original compositions, arrangements, improvisations, musical storytelling and intercultural dialogues, musical traditions meet contemporary creation and engage with elements of flamenco, jazz, electronic music and body music, revealing the countless ways in which musical cultures influence and transform one another.

Six years after its first edition, the Anopolis World Music Festival remains faithful to its original vision: to showcase contemporary musical creation inspired by the world's musical traditions and to provide a platform for artists exploring new ways of engaging with them. Rooted in Thessaloniki and its vibrant artistic community, the festival consistently highlights and supports local artistic creation while also welcoming musical voices and collaborations from across Greece and abroad.

In a neighbourhood historically shaped by the encounter of different communities, languages and cultures, the festival's concerts propose music as a shared space for expression and communication. Through sounds that travel across places and eras, the festival celebrates the value of multiculturalism, dialogue and coexistence in public space.

We look forward to meeting you in both familiar and newly discovered corners of Ano Poli and celebrating together the power of music to bring people, places and cultures closer.

Thank you for being with us throughout these years.

The Organising Team

Tessie Giannakina, Aris Magripis, Elena Moudiri Chasiotou, Eleni Christodoulou

The Anopolis World Music Festival is organised by olipoli non-profit civil organization, under the auspices and with the support of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and the Directorate of Culture and Tourism of the Municipality of Thessaloniki, with the support of the J.F. Costopoulos Foundation, the support of the Municipality of Neapoli-Sykies, with the participation of Kyklos - incommon's lab, and in collaboration with the Third Municipal Community of the Municipality of Thessaloniki and the Ephorate of Antiquities of the City of Thessaloniki.



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September 8



Mediterranean sound in progress

At the mulberries (5-7, Vlatadon Street)

Noizedelic Folk

Roule Café (Romfei Square)

Aorati Anatoli

Roule Café (Romfei Square)

L' Alma de Saloniko presents:

“Mediterranean Nightingales”

The Gardens of Pasha (6 Eleni Zografou St.)

Free entry

Time 21.30

08/09

ANŌPOLIS
WORLD MUSIC
FESTIVAL



Mediterranean sound in progress

Musicians:

Francisco Jimenez (guitar)

Nikos Papaioannou (cello)

Giannis Rizopoulos (percussion)

Location:

At the mulberries (5-7, Vlatadon Street)

“Mediterranean Sound in Progress” is a musical project featuring original compositions that explore and blend sounds of modal music with influences from flamenco and other musical idioms from various regions of the Eastern Mediterranean. It is a journey that traverses different places, seeking diverse harmonic and melodic paths.

08/09

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Noizedelic Folk

Musician:

Stamatis Fousekis (double bass, electric guitar, live electronics)

Location:

Koule Café (Romfei Square)

“Noizedelic Folk” is the unique musical project of Greek composer and sound designer Stamatis Fousekis.

It blends traditional Greek and world music influences with electronic elements, noise textures, and layered vocal harmonies. Its distinctive sound is built around original arrangements featuring double bass, rhythmic frame drums, E-bow and slide guitars, creating immersive atmospheric and drone-inspired soundscapes.

Live laptop processing and noise effects are performed and developed in real time, making each performance a unique sonic experience.

08/09

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Aorati Anatoli

Musicians:

Aris Magripis (Istanbul lute, electric lavta), Panormitis Boumpas (violin),
Elena Moudiri Chasiotou (voice, narration, percussion)

Location:

Roule Café (Romfeï Square)

The musical ensemble Aorati Anatoli (Invisible East) presents a unified, atmospheric musical performance that seeks to bridge the mysticism of Anatolian folk artists with the harshness and solitude of the contemporary urban landscape. The “Invisible East” encompasses both what we see and what remains unseen in this world. It is not a place but a feeling -one that exists within us, deeply rooted as a personal, lived experience.

Three musicians on stage (Istanbul lute/electric lavta, violin, and vocals/percussion/spoken word) create a sonic journey where music and narration intertwine. Through original compositions and arrangements by the trio, alongside traditional repertoire from a broad geographical region (including Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Algeria, Palestine, Greece and beyond) music becomes the narrative thread connecting literary voices, stories and images of the urban landscape.

The everyday stories of this journey across Anatolia and the Mediterranean unfold through sound: from sunlit Algiers and its sea, inspired by the existential reflections of Albert Camus, and the cosmopolitan Alexandria of Constantine Cavafy, to the underground chaos of contemporary Istanbul and other major urban centres, the old Thessaloniki portrayed by Kostas Tomanas, reflections on loss, identity, love, the relationship between humanity, nature and the Divine, through the language of the “aşık” culture -the folk poets of Anatolia- and contemporary Arabic poetry.

08/09

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L' Alma de Saloniko presents: “Mediterranean Nightingales”

Musicians:

Elsa Mouratidou (vocals), Thomas Natsis (flamenco guitar),
Thanos Stavridis (accordion, arrangements)

Location:

The Gardens of Pasha (6 Eleni Zografou St.)

The Mediterranean, the sea that unites East and West, has been a meeting place for peoples, cultures and ideas throughout history. Some of the world's most important musical traditions were born on its shores, while its great voices have managed to express in a unique way the dreams, sorrows, anxieties and joys of people.

L' Alma de Saloniko presents the performance “Mediterranean Nightingales”, inviting the audience on a musical journey that crosses the shores of the Mediterranean through emblematic songs and legendary performances.

The program will feature beloved songs by great artists, such as the Lebanese Fairuz, the Italian Milva, the Spanish Luz Casal, the French Édith Piaf, the Turkish Sezen Aksu, as well as our own great performers Marika Ninou and Vicky Moscholiou, among others, along with many other iconic female voices of the Mediterranean.

A performance dedicated to the female voice, which highlights music as a common language of the peoples of the Mediterranean and illuminates the deep cultural affinities that have united its countries for centuries.

ANŌPOLIS
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September 9



Banda Tsimerà trio

At the threshold of the Heptapyrgion
(Heptapyrgion, Naoum Panagi Street)

Liquid Bows

Church of Saint Paul the Apostle (16, Ochi Avenue)

Kor ye

On the balcony of the Trigonion Tower (146, Eptapyrgiou Street)

**Roma songs as a testimony of existence
and a way of reconciling with the uncertain**

On the balcony of the Trigonion Tower (146, Eptapyrgiou Street)

Free entry
Time 21.30

09/09

ANŌPOLIS
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Banda Tsimerà trio

Musicians:

Polys Efraimidis (Pontic lyra, vocals), Nikos Nerantzakis (lute, guitar, backing vocals), Christos Ntoumanis (double bass)

Location:

At the threshold of the Heptapyrgion (Heptapyrgion, Naoum Panagi Street)

Banda Tsimerà is a musical ensemble that moves between tradition and contemporary creation, with its main focus on the music of Pontus and the wider Black Sea region. Founded in 2024, its members bring years of experience from the traditional music scene in Greece and abroad, while also drawing influences from a variety of musical traditions.

The project's repertoire includes traditional melodies from Pontus and Armenia, as well as contemporary arrangements that bridge the past and the present. Through the coexistence of authentic sonic textures and modern approaches to arrangement, Banda Tsimerà highlights the cultural connections between the peoples of the region and presents a vibrant, dynamic interpretation of their musical heritage.

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Liquid Bows

Musicians:

Onur Senturk (Pontic lyra), Alexandra Chrysikopoulou (lyra of Istanbul),
Stelios Pantechis (yayli tanbur, lyra with sympathetic strings)

Location:

Church of Saint Paul the Apostle (16, Ochi Avenue)

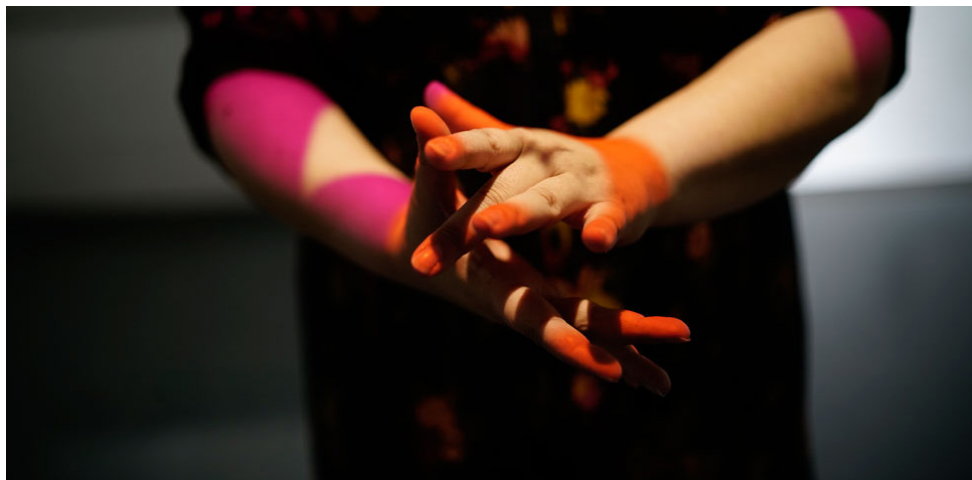
“Liquid Bows” is a trio formed through the meeting of three friends, lyra players, and co-founders of the music workshop Loupa in Thessaloniki. Within this shared creative space, their individual artistic and research journeys began to intersect. Although they come from different musical backgrounds, they are united by a common interest in modal music - not simply as a repertoire, but as a way of thinking that transcends diverse musical traditions.

The ensemble’s musical concept is based exclusively on the sound world of bowed string instruments. The Pontic lyra, the lyra of Istanbul, the yaylı tanbur, and the sympathetic-string lyra are approached not as representatives of distinct musical traditions, but as parts of a shared sonic body. Through their interaction, the musical material is continuously reshaped, seeking a unified sound that reveals both the unique characteristics of each instrument and the deep affinities that connect them.

The title Liquid Bows refers precisely to this sense of fluidity. Just as water creates pathways and connects distant places, the bows become a shared medium through which different musical experiences, aesthetics, and traditions converge in new ways. Rather than presenting music as a sequence of separate worlds, the ensemble embraces it as a continuous flow, where transitions are just as meaningful as destinations.

09/09

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Kor yε

Artist:

Natasa Chanta-Martin
(body music)

Location:

On the balcony of the Trigonion Tower
(146, Eptapyrgiou Street)

After a three-month artistic residency in Ghana, West Africa, Natasa Chanta-Martin brings a fresh perspective to the global body music repertoire, reminding us that the world's musical traditions are, at their core, embodied practices. What would we do if, one day, all the musical instruments in the world disappeared?

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Roma songs as a testimony of existence and a way of reconciling with the uncertain

Musicians:

Konstantina Samara (vocals), Kostis Palaigiannis (guitar),
Vasilis Andreas Skettos (accordion)

Location:

On the balcony of the Trigonion Tower (146, Eptapyrgiou Street)

The music project “Roma songs as a testimony of existence and a way of reconciling with the uncertain” is an intercultural performance based on traditional Roma songs from the Balkans, Hungary, and Russia. Through improvisation, experimentation, and live performance, it presents music as an expression of identity, existence, and human experience. The audience is invited to enjoy a deep, emotional, and contemporary musical journey.

This performance explores the timeless connection between music, identity, and the acceptance of uncertainty. It offers an intercultural story of reconciliation, memory, and shared human experience, bringing different musical traditions together in a live and meaningful performance.

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September 10



**Kormós - Tasos Kofodimos &
Yvonne Melissa w/ Mahyar Tahmasbi**
Latomos Monastery (17, Epimenidou Street)

Double bass duets
At the “Cultural Neighborhood”
(Refugee Museum, 49 Evrou Street, Sykies)

Iaimargos Aprilis (Voracious April)
At the “Cultural Neighborhood”
(Refugee Museum, 49 Evrou Street, Sykies)

Iakovos Moysiadis Solo: Modal Narratives
Tower of Manuel Palaeologus (5, Georg. Papadopoulos Str.)

XENIOS
Tower of Manuel Palaeologus (5, Georg. Papadopoulos Str.)

Free entry
Time 21.30

10/09

ANŌPOLIS
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Kormós - Tasos Kofodimos & Yvonne Melissa w/ Mahyar Tahmasbi

Musicians:

Tasos Kofodimos (lute, vocals), Yvonne Melissa (violin, vocals), Mahyar Tahmasbi (cello)

Location:

Latomos Monastery (17, Epimenidou Street)

“Kormós” is the new album by Tasos Kofodimos and Yvonne Melissa, created in collaboration with Mahyar Tahmasbi (Iran) and Laia Escartin (Catalonia).

The project consists of eight compositions and one free improvisation, written for a unique, specially designed chamber ensemble featuring four string instruments: violin, viola, cello, and the Greek mainland lute (laouto).

Each composition is inspired by a different tree and draws on the mythology, geomorphology, natural characteristics, and folk beliefs associated with it.

The musical language of Kormós can be described as world music, blending elements of Greek traditional music, the broader Eastern Mediterranean musical heritage, the Persian musical tradition, free improvisation, and the structure of a classical string quartet.

The concert at the Anopolis World Music Festival will mark the premiere presentation of Kormós, shortly before its official release in October 2026.

Alongside the compositions from Kormós, the program will also feature arrangements of traditional Greek songs that have inspired and influenced the music ensemble

10/09

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Double bass duets

Musicians:

Konstantinos Manos (double bass), Michalis Sapountzis (double bass)

Location:

At the “Cultural Neighborhood” (Refugee Museum, 49 Evrou Street, Sykies)

This project features a collection of miniatures for two double basses.

Inspired by Béla Bartók’s duets for two violins, Greek composers -including the two double bassists of the Thessaloniki State Symphony Orchestra- have created original miniatures for two double basses, drawing inspiration from jazz and the Greek musical tradition.

The programme includes works by Béla Bartók, Dimitris Svintridis, Alexandros Michailidis, Michalis Sapountzis, and Ntinios Manos.

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Iaimargos Aprilis (Voracious April)

Musicians:

Marina Rastrinou (vocals), Stelios Pantechis (oud, Istanbul lyra, yayli tanbur),
Kostis Palaioiannis (vocals, guitar, composition)

Location:

At the “Cultural Neighborhood” (Refugee Museum, 49 Evrou Street, Sykies)

The concert is a tribute to Greek songwriting, featuring the complete repertoire from Kostis Palaioiannis’ album “Iaimargos Aprilis” (Voracious April), alongside selected works by a variety of composers whose music served as a source of inspiration for its creation.

From the rhythms of jazz to those of the Balkans, from the folk music of Epirus to the blues, and from the spiritual traditions of the Eastern Mediterranean to the evocative world of Greek poetry, “Iaimargos Aprilis” unfolds across a multidimensional sonic landscape of progressive fusion songwriting and instrumental works. It is a musical vision that brings together technical virtuosity and intricate musical structures with the immediacy of singing and the expressive power of lyrics.

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Iakovos Moysiadis Solo: Modal Narratives

Musician:

Iakovos Moysiadis (Istanbul lute, voice)

Location:

Tower of Manuel Palaeologus (5, Georg. Papadopolou Str.)

Modal Narratives is a solo performance for Politiko Laouto (the lute of Constantinople) and voice that explores the shared musical heritage of the Eastern Mediterranean through a deeply personal artistic perspective. Drawing on autobiographical musical storytelling, Iakovos Moysiadis creates a sonic landscape where memory, tradition, and improvisation converge, inviting audiences to experience the interconnected histories that transcend national and cultural borders.

The performance begins with the emergence of the Politiko Laouto within the art and folk music traditions of Constantinople, where the instrument developed its unique identity through the musicians of the Rum (Greek Orthodox) community. From this point of departure, the musical narrative expands across the traditions of mainland Greece, the Balkans, Pontus, and Persia, tracing historical and aesthetic connections that continue to resonate today.

Using improvisation and taksim as its principal narrative tools, the performance weaves together these musical traditions with original compositions by Iakovos Moysiadis and selected contemporary composers, enriched by a polyrhythmic vocabulary. These elements come together to form a distinctive personal musical language, through which the Politiko Laouto becomes a multidimensional expressive instrument, unfolding a continuous thread from the past to the present.

The concert invites audiences on a sonic journey beyond geographical boundaries, where diverse musical traditions coexist in dialogue and are reimagined through a contemporary and deeply personal artistic vision. Rather than presenting these traditions as separate musical worlds, Modal Narratives reveal the cultural and emotional connections that unite them, offering a living perspective on the enduring dialogue between history, memory, and artistic creation.

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XENIOS

Musicians:

Giorgos Ventouris (double bass, vocals),
Giorgos Nikopoulos (electric and fretless electric guitar, vocals)

Location:

Tower of Manuel Palaeologus (5, Georg. Papadopolou Str.)

Giorgos Ventouris (double bass and vocals) and Giorgos Nikopoulos (electric guitar, fretless electric guitar and vocals) form the duo Latchó Biské.

Their debut release is the album XENIOS, featuring nine songs. The repertoire draws from the musical traditions of Thrace, Macedonia, Central Greece, Pontus, the klephtic tradition, as well as anonymous rebetiko songs, and also includes an original composition by Giorgos Ventouris with lyrics by Giorgos Nikopoulos. Several of the traditional songs have also been lyrically adapted by Giorgos Nikopoulos.

The concert will feature pieces from their debut, self-titled album, as well as unreleased material from their upcoming record.

The Locations

ANĀPOLIS
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TUESDAY 08.09

1. **Mediterranean sound in progress**
The Gardens of Pasha
(6 Eleni Zografou St.)
2. **Noizedelic Folk**
Roule Café
(Romfeï Square)
- Aorati Anatoli**
Roule Café
(Romfeï Square)
3. **L' Alma de Saloniko presents:
"Mediterranean Nightingales"**
The Gardens of Pasha
(6 Eleni Zografou St.)



WEDNESDAY 09.09

4. **Banda Tsimerà trio**
At the threshold of the Heptapyrgion
(Heptapyrgion, Naoum Panagi Street)
5. **Liquid Bows**
Church of Saint Paul the Apostle
(16, Ochi Avenue)
6. **Kor ye**
On the balcony of the Trigonion Tower
(146, Eptapyrgiou Street)
- Roma songs as a testimony of existence and a way of reconciling with the uncertain**
On the balcony of the Trigonion Tower
(146, Eptapyrgiou Street)



THURSDAY 10.09

7. **Kormós - Tasos Kofodimos & Yvonne
Melissa w/ Mahyar Tahmasbi**
Latomos Monastery
(17, Epimenidou Street)
8. **Double bass duets**
At the "Cultural Neighborhood" (Refugee Museum, 49 Evrou Street, Sykies)
- Iaimargos Aprilis (Voracious April)**
At the "Cultural Neighborhood" (Refugee Museum, 49 Evrou Street, Sykies)
9. **Iakovos Moysiadis Solo:
Modal Narratives**
Tower of Manuel Palaeologus
(5, Georg. Papadopoulos Str.)
- XENIOS**
Tower of Manuel Palaeologus
(5, Georg. Papadopoulos Str.)



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