

## Monthly Newsletter, July 2014

## Report on "Greek Chamber Music Project" concert



On June 7, 2014 the Hellenic Center was graced with beautiful music from the Greek Chamber Music Project.

The elegant program began with Prometheas' VP Mrs. Barbara Kakaes introducing the three young musicians:

Ellie Falaris Ganelin, flutist, received double degrees in music and journalism from the University of Maryland, where she studied with William Montgomery and Kathleen Trahan. While at UMD, Ms. Ganelin performed in the University's symphony and wind orchestras, as well as the Latin jazz ensemble. She has performed and recorded with the 1959 Hat Company, based in Toledo, Ohio. She has also been active with Opera on Tap, a group that performs classical music in fun, informal settings. Ms. Ganelin is the founder of the Greek Chamber Music Project (GCMP), which started in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Past concerts have received funding from the Greek Department at the University of

Michigan, the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs, and the National Endowment for the Arts. This concert marks the Washington-area debut of GCMP.

Mary-Victoria Voutsas, is a young pianist who has studied under Tatyana Hearne, Julie Hahn, Ann Kang, and Yuliya Gorenman. Mary has also performed master classes and recitals for several acclaimed pianists, including Yuri Didenko, Dr. Joseph Banowetz, and Christopher O'Reilly. Mary has toured extensively as a pianist, and as a classical musician, she has performed at many notable venues including the Czech, Polish, French, and Thai embassies, Catholic University's Ward Hall, and the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage and Terrace Theatre. Mary and her duet partner, Ronny Thammasathiti, performed for the Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej's birthday celebration, and at an inaugural concert at Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, D.C. She was awarded the Watkins Prize in 2011, and Director's Musician of Achievement award in 2013 at American U.

Anna Matijasic Hennessy, is an eclectic violinist. She has performed with classical, jazz and rock ensembles in the United States, Europe and Costa Rica. She received her training at the University of Virginia and James Madison University, and currently studies with Dr. Laura

Kobayashi. She regularly performs with orchestras and chamber music ensembles across Virginia. Anna teaches violin and directs youth orchestras in Fairfax County.

The program consisted of music written by the following Greek composers: Mikis Theodorakis, Manos Hadjidakis, Manolis Kalomiris, Stavros Xarhakos, Yannis Constantinidis, and Joseph Benakis. The compositions ranged from modern compositions filled with abrupt, playful and discordant chords, to more traditional and popular, mellow songs like "Come Take My Sorrow Away" by Hadjidakis. The accomplished musicians' dynamic and powerful performance stirred the imagination and fed the souls. Ms. Ganelin's flute solo in Theodorakis's "Choros Asikikos" was superbly performed, with a particularly breathtaking passage of fast, feathery notes. Miss Voutsas's solo piano interpretation of Hadjidakis's "Ionian Suite, Op.7" was stunningly and memorably presented. The "Suite on Popular Dodecanese Melodies for Violin and Piano" by Yiannis Constantinidis portrayed the beautiful sounds of Ms. Hennessey's violin against the equally exquisite piano playing of Miss Voutsas. The audience participated whole-heartedly in singing along with Miss Voutsas, and at the end, gave the musicians a standing ovation.

On behalf of Prometheas, Mrs. Barbara Kakaes presented a plaque and flowers to the musicians. Yamas Restaurant generously donated the food for the reception that followed.

This article was prepared by: Mrs. Patty Apostolides